



ST ANDREW'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
WALTON AND WEYBRIDGE



## THE GRAPEVINE

APRIL 2023

Volume 2 No 3



*"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but  
in every leaf in springtime."*

*Martin Luther*

From The Manse

April 2023



Dear friends

I've just been doing one of my favourite jobs of the year. I'll admit that it doesn't sound exciting but I've just given Barbara (the caravan) a thorough clean inside, taking everything out, putting all the crockery, cutlery and pots through the dishwasher and generally using Flash liquid as if it's going out of fashion. The water system has been sterilised and everything is now back in the van, ready for this year's season. Those of you who are/have been caravanners may well appreciate why this is such a favourite job though. You see, as I'm getting the caravan ready for the season and as I start smelling the various caravan-related smells, memories of warm days, of summer days, of slipping the leash and of long summer evenings all come flooding back. It's as if your own sap is rising once again. It's amazing how evocative the smell is of Aqua Kem.

In the Gospels there are references to Jesus getting tired - to Jesus needing to get away, even if there isn't a direct reference to Mary and Joseph taking Jesus and the rest of the kids away to Skeggy for a week! We do read of Jesus needing to get away and to have some "down time". In the lovely post-Resurrection stories, we read of Jesus and the disciples spending time together and effectively taking a breather as well. There are conversations which need to be had. There are preparations which need to be made but the spotlight is now off Jesus and the disciples for a bit. The big meetings are over. The long journeys are over. (It never fails to amaze me how much distance they covered, mainly on foot, in so hot a country.) The horror of Good Friday is over and so, too, is the good but frankly mind-blowing discovery of Easter Day. Time is limited, of course. Ascension Day will soon come - probably with the speed that the last day of a fortnight's holiday sadly comes. The day when the Holy Spirit will come on the disciples is hurtling forward too and then there will be no peace for the wicked! But first there is a little time to stop, to enjoy, to chill over a beach barbecue, to talk and to get their heads around all that has happened.

An old hymn by John Ellerton begins with the words,

*"Behold us, Lord, a little space  
From daily tasks set free".*

That's what Barbara (and her predecessors) have always facilitated for me. I will admit that probably not many people think about the post-Resurrection stories whilst giving their caravan its annual spring-clean but, as I was pushing the J-cloth into all the most inaccessible corners, I was thinking of trips planned for this year which include a week on the Isle of Wight in June. That may not include a beach barbecue but it could well include a beach picnic. I've never towed abroad before. I've never taken a caravan on a ferry before (and you all know how bad a sailor I am). You've no idea how much I hope that I don't have to do complicated manoeuvres and that I don't ground Barbara's rear end as I pull off the quay. I may not be about to be told, "Feed my sheep" but probably various pastoral concerns will be mulling round in the back of my brain as one brain cell desperately searches to find another. In the autumn, when I go to Bideford for a couple of weeks, I may not be on the Emmaus Road but doubtless friends will invite me to stay for supper, and we'll "break bread" together.

Roll on those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer - and roll on those wonderful, post-Resurrection stories too. They always seem to have a special quality all of their own as we see the disciples preparing, and being prepared for what's to come.

With good wishes,



SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES APRIL 2023

God speaks to those who take time to listen
and God listens to those who take time to pray.
Author Unknown

On the first and third Sunday of the month services will also be on Zoom
For all the Easter services at a glance see page 4

Saturday 1 April 7.30 pm Treble Clef Choir, St Peter's Church, Hersham
(see page 5)



Sunday 2 April 10.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion
(Palm Sunday) with distribution of Palm Crosses

Thursday 6 April 7.00 pm Maundy Thursday service with Holy Communion
(Maundy Thursday)



Friday 7 April 10.30 am Good Friday Service of Meditation
(Good Friday)



Sunday 9 April 10.30 am Service for Easter Day with Holy Communion
(Easter Day)

Tuesday 11 April 7.30 pm Elders' Meeting

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NORMA REID, 3 GWALIOR ROAD, LONDON SW15 1NP
Email: aristocats.2000@gmail.com
Or ASSOCIATE EDITOR, Mollie Henham Email: 18amh65@gmail.com



Friday 14 April 12.30 - 2.30 pm People Who Lunch, Church Hall

Sunday 16 April 10.30 am Morning Worship

11.00-2.00 pm MENCAP Grand Jumble Sale
Burview Hall, Queens Road, Weybridge

Saturday 22 April 7.30 pm Genesis Chorale Concert at St John's Church,
Camphill Road, West Byfleet KT14 6EH (see page 5)

Sunday 23 April 10.30 am Morning Worship

Sunday 30 April 10.30 am Morning Worship



## Holy Week and Easter Services

### **Sunday 2 April: Palm Sunday**

10.30am Morning Service with distribution of Palm Crosses

### **Thursday 6 April: Maundy Thursday**

7.30pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service

### **Friday 7 April: Good Friday**

10.30am Service of Meditation for Good Friday

### **Sunday 9 April: Easter Day (Zoom)**

10.30am Service for Easter Day with Communion



## ELDERS' ELECTIONS

This issue of The Grapevine is due to come out on the day of the AGM which includes the election of Elders. This will be our first election as St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Walton and Weybridge because, so far, we've been running with the combined Eldership from the uniting churches.

When two churches unite it is inevitably an unsettling time but all the Elders stayed on in order to "steady the ship" and to be a caring, stabilising influence. This is very much appreciated and has certainly been hugely successful for us and this is a perfect opportunity to thank all the Elders for what they have done.

Following the election, Peter Duncombe, Sarah Keenan, Jan and Moira de Kok and Irene Pearson will join the ranks of our "non-serving" Elders and we are certainly going to miss keenly their skills and insights. Thank you for all that you have done in the past. You have all served faithfully and with great grace and kindness. We wish you well in your "retirement" and hope that we might still be able to "pick your brains" in the future.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone for engaging with the new election process this time. We had a lot of nomination forms returned which was really encouraging to see. We also had a number of names suggested, which makes me think that it's important to make it clear that the names coming to Church Meeting will be those with the most nominations but that there were other names suggested, some with good support, which augers so well for the future. A few "tweaks" can be made to the process next time but, basically, it has worked well this time and has certainly included the whole of the membership  
*Michael Hodgson*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT A GLANCE



### PEOPLE WHO LUNCH

**Friday 14 April  
12.30 - 2.30 pm  
in the Church Hall**

If you are someone who enjoys having lunch with a group of friends then People Who Lunch is definitely the place for you. Everyone is welcome at this monthly get-together held on the second Friday of the month in the Church Hall. For just £5 you can have soup, a roll, dessert, cheese and biscuits and coffee/tea.

#### **Advance booking essential!**

To book your place please contact Margaret Faultless either in church or by email [margaret.faultless@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:margaret.faultless@blueyonder.co.uk)

*Remember, today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.*

(Dale Carnegie, quoted in the 'Indian Express')



**Sunday 16 April**

**MENCAP Grand Jumble Sale**

from 11.00 am  
at Burview Hall, Queens Road  
Walton-on-Thames KT12 5AB

**Come and Buy!**



**Genesis Chorale Concert**

**Saturday 22 April at 7.30 pm**

St John's Church, Camphill Road,  
West Byfleet KT14 6EH

At the Spring Concert, as it is a Coronation Year, Genesis Chorale will be singing several pieces which are appropriate to that special occasion.

The programme features Handel's "Four Coronation Anthems" (including 'Zadoc the Priest'), Mozart's 'Ave Verum Corpus', Parry's 'I was glad', Purcell's 'Chaconne' from "King Arthur", Elgar's 'Nimrod' from Enigma Variations' and a new piece commissioned by the Royal School of Church Music 'Sing for the King'.

Tickets (£18.00 adults/£9.00 students) and interval-drinks vouchers may be purchased on line <https://genesischorale.wordpress.com> or on the door with payment by cash or card.

*Brian Ashfield*

*The cover picture was taken by your Editor, in the Wild Garden at Hampton Court*

## *News of the Church Family*

### **Change of address**

Chris Goddard has now moved permanently into Norfolk House. His new address is Norfolk House Care Home, 39 Portmore Park Rd, Weybridge KT13 8HQ

### **In Memoriam**

It is with much sadness that we record the recent death of Nan Mercer. We send our love and condolences to her daughters Jean and Jennifer and their families and to her wider family and friends. An appreciation of Nan's life will appear in the May issue.

### **Prayers**

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



## *Church and Community*

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

I'm delighted to tell you I have recently delivered **19** 12"x12" blankets and **5** 18"x18" hand knitted blankets to St Peter's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit this week. Our grateful thanks to those who've been knitting over the past few months and encouragement for them to continue a thoroughly worthwhile activity.

The blankets given to each new baby in the unit to take home with them on discharge brings hope and pleasure to those parents who've not had the usual amount of time to prepare for a birth alongside a worrying time. Should anyone (this activity is gender neutral) be interested and need more information, please don't hesitate another moment - just ask me!

*Gwenda Cochrane*

### **Congratulations on Music Examination success**

Our talented, resident organist, Teresa Bacon has recently passed her Grade 8 organ examination with merit and we offer her huge congratulations! You can read all about it on page .....

### **Gift Aid**

Most of you who are eligible have now kindly signed forms allowing us to claim Gift Aid on your offertory and donations to the new church, making them worth 25% more. If you wish to do so, but have not yet received a form, please ask me for one when you are next at church, or contact me and ask for one to be sent to you by post or e-mail.

Thank you.

*Jem Ward, Treasurer*

## BABIES GALORE



It occurred to me recently that the Weybridge URC Cradle Roll should be amended to include the name of the church in order that there should be no confusion about origin in our new situation. This led to reconfiguring the whole layout – not such a simple task as I had imagined because space was tight but, after lots of measuring, re-spacing and re-aligning of the columns of names, everything now fits exactly. It was a worthwhile exercise, however, and in the process I became intrigued by the incidental information it revealed.

This Cradle Roll covers the years from 1978 to 2021 and records the names of all the children (aged 0 – 3) baptised in that period. Unfortunately it is the only Cradle Roll in our possession as its immediate predecessor was damaged beyond repair and there is no trace of the earlier rolls. The Cradle Roll Secretary (a post undertaken by Audrey Duncombe for many years) had the responsibility of organising a crèche on Sunday mornings and keeping in touch with the children (and their families) until they were 3 years old when they had the opportunity of joining Junior Church. The total number of babies listed on the Cradle Roll is 200 – 95 girls and 105 boys. Some years were ‘bumper’ years for entries on the Cradle Roll, eg 1987 with 14, (when the congregation became very familiar with the wording of the Baptismal Service!) while in 2007 and 2017 there were no under-3s baptised.

Most of the babies were given two names but 16 girls and 18 boys had three names and one girl was blessed with four names! By contrast four girls and two boys received just one name each. It was also interesting to see that many names only occurred once while seven years were ‘boys only’ and four years were ‘girls only’.

One particularly unusual feature is that the Cradle Roll begins and ends with children bearing the same surname – Woods – although there is no connection between the two families. The baptism in September 2021, however, was of particular significance. Not only was it the last baptism to take place in the Weybridge building but it was also the first time since the church was founded in 1865 that a great-grandfather (the Revd Roy Bones) had baptised his own great-grandchild (Florence) though there were several earlier occasions when grandfathers had baptised their grandchildren.

It is important to note that the names of the 0 – 3 year olds listed on the Cradle Roll do not represent the total number of baptisms in those years because several older children were also baptised in that time. The complete records of all baptisms are, of course, contained in the church’s Baptismal Registers.

One other point which gave me personal satisfaction was to discover that Alexander was one of the two most popular names for boys being equal with James, although the latter could claim two extras by including a Jamie and the French version Jacques. There were also four girls called Alexandra but they were a long way behind Catherine with that name appearing as well in other formats – Katharine, Katherine, Kathryn – including the diminutives of Kate, Katie and Katy.

*Alex Henham*

## NEWS FROM WESSEX SYNOD

### Wessex Synod - Prayer Calendar for April



- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 2  | Ryde, Isle of Wight;<br>St Colomba's, Oxford  |
| 9  | St Peter's, Guildford;<br>Cornerstone, Hythe  |
| 16 | Buckland, Portsmouth ;<br>Verwood   |
| 23 | Isaac Watts Memorial, Southampton<br>Merton, Oxford;<br>Church on the Heath, Elvetham Heath |
| 30 | Trinity, Abingdon;<br>Christchurch, Somerford;<br>High Cross, Camberley                     |

### FOND FAREWELL FROM THE MODERATOR

The last few months have sped by and suddenly we've reached the point where the final "Sharing the Vision" of my time in Wessex has arrived.

I just want to take this opportunity to thank everyone - individuals, churches, committees and staff within the Synod - for your support and love over the last twelve years. It's not always been an easy ride and there are plenty of challenges ahead for both you and me, but, with God's help, we will continue to share in God's mission.

You will hear separately about the plans that are in place to cover various parts of the Synod Moderator role during this period not transition. Do, please, support those taking on extra work and pray, too, for those who will be taking forward the process for appointing a successor.

I have enjoyed my time with you and will miss Wessex - the people and the places - a great deal. I hope that I will have just as good a time in North Western Synod!

*Clare*

### LAST CHANCE TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE! URC ANNIVERSARY SERVICE - 15 APRIL

The URC Anniversary Service will take place on Saturday 15 April . Despite the short gap following Easter, we hope that as many members and friends of the URC will be able to join us for our delayed anniversary celebrations. The Open Church House event at 86 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9RT, will also take place on April 15 from 10 am-12 noon.

Tickets : If you have a ticket and are able to come to the event on April 15, please do nothing - your ticket is still valid. Please bring it/them on the day. If you would like more tickets, please visit <https://bit.ly/urc50> and amend your order. If you are no longer able to attend, please <https://bit.ly/urc50> and select Cancel Order. This will free up your tickets for others. Or email [50@urc.org.uk](mailto:50@urc.org.uk) and we can cancel the order for you.





## ORGAN CORNER



Organ playing is the manifestation of a will filled with the vision of eternity.

*Charles Marie Widor*

I took my Grade 8 organ exam towards the end of last year and passed with a good merit (127/150). This was a pleasing result given that I had rather less time to practise than I would have liked because we were hosting our second Ukrainian family, so practising either had to be done by playing through headphones or playing when the family was elsewhere. The exam took place at home where I have a 'virtual' pipe organ set-up (see photo above). The examiner came to my house for the exam, which felt rather different from taking the exam at Woking URC where I had taken all of my previous organ exams.

The three pieces I chose for the exam were the Toccata in F (Buxtehude, BuxWV 157), Nun danket alle Gott (Karg-Elert) and Hymne d'Actions de graces (Langlais). I also had the fun of playing scales, pedal exercises and doing some transposition, sight reading and an aural test to finish with!

Some very clever software (Hauptwerk) on a Mac computer allows the player to replicate the sounds of many different organs from around the world, which is why it is called a virtual pipe organ. My 'go-to' organ is the Father Willis organ at Hereford Cathedral; this comes with a very traditional 'English' sound. I have also installed a Baroque organ (the Michaelskerk organ from Zwolle in the Netherlands) and a romantic organ (the Cavallé-Coll organ from the Abbey of Saint-Étienne, Caen, France). Now that the exam is behind me, I am keen to get to know these very different organs and to widen my repertoire over the next few months.

*Teresa Bacon*

There is nothing to playing the organ.  
You only have to hit the right notes at the right time and the instrument plays itself.

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

## HOT CROSS BUNS – A SHORT HISTORY



We are all familiar with a hot cross bun, a spiced, sweet bun made with currants or raisins and marked with a cross on the top, traditionally eaten on Good Friday in the UK, and some other countries but now popular all year round.

In many historically Christian countries, buns are traditionally eaten hot or toasted during Lent, beginning with the evening of Shrove Tuesday (the evening before Ash Wednesday) to midday on Good Friday, with the cross traditionally made of short-crust pastry, standing as a symbol of the Crucifixion. The buns were traditionally eaten at breakfast time, hot from the oven. They were once sold by street vendors who sang a little song about them.

*"Hot cross buns, Hot cross buns,  
One a penny, two a penny, Hot, cross buns."*

There are many superstitions surrounding hot cross buns. One of them says that buns baked and served on Good Friday will not spoil or go mouldy during the subsequent year. Another encourages keeping such a bun for medicinal purposes. A piece of it given to someone who is ill is said to help them recover.

Sharing a hot cross bun with another is supposed to ensure friendship throughout the coming year, particularly if "*Half for you and half for me, Between us two shall goodwill be*" is said at the time, so some say they should only be cooked one at a time. Because there is a cross on the buns, some say they should be kissed before being eaten. If taken on a sea voyage, hot cross buns are said to protect against shipwreck. If hung in the kitchen, they are said to protect against fires and ensure that all breads turn out perfectly. The hanging bun is replaced each year.

The Ancient Greeks may have marked cakes with a cross. In the times of Elizabeth I of England (1592), the London Clerk of Markets issued a decree forbidding the sale of hot cross buns and other spiced breads, except at burials, on Good Friday, or at Christmas. The punishment for transgressing the decree was forfeiture of the forbidden product to the poor. As a result of this decree, hot cross buns at the time were primarily made in home kitchens. Further attempts to suppress the sale of these items took place during the reign of James I of England/James VI of Scotland (1603-1625).

Even before the great Mediaeval expansionism of religion and ceremony into almost every part of everyday life, marking baked goods (like breads, buns and cakes) with the sign of a cross was a common thing for a baker to do. The cross was said to ward off evil spirits which could affect the bread, and make it go mouldy or stale, so bakers used it, and customers looked for it. In this, it can be said that both marketing and devotion played a part.

Should you toast or grill or just heat in the oven? Just remember that not all hot cross buns are suitable for toasting so check the packet instructions. Grilling is good. Typically hot cross buns are enjoyed slathered in butter but there is no end to variations on this theme (for example, why not be daring and try a hot cross bun buttie with bacon and eggs for breakfast or with yoghurt and berries and peanut butter?).

*Information taken from the Internet (this is a variation on an article that appeared in the Newsletter of April 2014)*

## FLOWER POWER

Here is a selection of the lovely floral tributes that we were able to enjoy over the past two months. If anyone would like to donate flowers, please sign in for the relevant date on the chart in The Gateway.



26 February provided by Val Cave in memory of her father



5 March Communion provided by Fiona McDonald in memory of her brother, David



12 March provided by Caroline Gardner



19 March (Mothering Sunday) provided by Moira de Kok



## MOTHERING SUNDAY

One of my bêtes-noir is "Mothers' Day" instead of Mothering Sunday. Mothers' Day is an American invention, kept in May, purely to honour the mother of the family. Nice!

Mothering Sunday is quite different, it being part of the church's calendar. It's the day when the rigours of the Lenten fast could be relaxed and was the day when the servants, particularly young servants and labourers, were allowed to return to their home to visit their mothers; to take them gifts - often Simnel Cake; and for the family to worship together in their Mother church. So, with Olivia and Emily (*right*) in the church for Mothering Sunday, I certainly wasn't going to pass up the opportunity to explain something about Mothering Sunday and its origins and meaning in this country, rather than let it be totally taken over by the American cuckoo. Of course, the little toy guinea pig they'd given to their Mum, and were looking after for the day, had to get a special mention too - I'm a sucker for a cuddly toy. He was rather sweet and beautifully soft to hold whilst I chatted to him.



Flower girls handed out daffodils to everyone - many thanks Olivia and Emily!

You'll not be surprised to know that each year I look for a "Mothering Sunday" card for my Mother - and refuse even to consider one that says, "Happy Mothers' Day" (particularly since many of them omit the possessive apostrophe. Each year I manage to find one - even if, like the wise men, I sometimes have to search diligently

So, I felt that thanks to Olivia and Emily, I had the chance to uphold the honour of Mothering Sunday again and to share with them the meaning from this side of "the pond." *Michael Hodgson*



## THE LIGHTER SIDE...

If you wish to glimpse inside a human soul and get to know a man ... just watch him laugh. If he laughs well, he's a good man.  
*Fyodor Dostoevsky*

I know the vicar believes the Pet Service is part of the Church's 'mission'. But what pays for cleaning afterwards? Church funds, that's what. £74.22 this year. I demanded that the vicar ceases this annual ruining of the 18th century wooden floor. But he refuses. I therefore have no alternative but to resign as Church Treasurer.  
Norbert Dranesqueezer

*from 'Writes of the Church' by Gary Anderson*

A child who was describing the difference between Jews, Protestants and Catholics said. "They are all just different ways of voting for God"

Dear Sir

I fear that when Revd Joanna is fully trained and gets her own church she may be terribly overstretched. How can she run a parish, look after her children and still do all the housework and look after her husband? The baking will suffer, believe me.

*Ciara Meringe*

An English church publication received the following reply to a Help Wanted advertisement. I am applying for the advertised position for an organist and choirmaster, either lady or gentleman. I have been both for many years....'

An Edinburgh minister was horrified when he was quoted in the local newspaper as having expressed his delight with the 'nudist play in the church hall'. What he had actually said was 'I am delighted with the new display in the church hall.'

The birth notice in the local newspaper read.'To Mr and Mrs John Mackay, a son, a bother [brother] for Susan.'

*Quotations from Holy Wit by the Revd James A Simpson*

### CHAIN VICARS

If you are unhappy with our vicar, simply have our Church Warden send a copy of this letter to six other churches who are also tired of their vicar. Then bundle up our vicar and send him to the church on the top of the list in the letter. Within a week you will receive 16,435 vicars and one of them should be all right! Have faith in this chain letter for vicars.

Do not break the chain. One church did - and got their old vicar back!

*(from a Salisbury Theological College leaflet)*

# HOLIDAY MEMORIES

## A HIDDEN TREASURE - THE CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN



I wonder how many of you know about the Chelsea Physic Garden? It nestles behind the King's Road in London, a stone's throw from Sloane Square underground station and the Royal Hospital Chelsea, occupying four acres of land on the edge of the River Thames. It was founded in 1673 and first established by the Worshipful Society of the Apothecaries in order to grow medicinal plants. Its role was to provide a place in which young apothecaries could learn to identify key medicinal plants. The Garden's primary benefactor was Sir Hans Sloane, a famous physician, naturalist, collector and founder of the British Museum. He purchased the Manor of Chelsea from Charles Cheyne in 1712 and leased the Garden to the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London for just £5 a year, in perpetuity. This sum is still paid to Sir Hans' descendants today.



Sir Hans (*statue left*) had trained as an apprentice at the Garden in the early 1680s under John Watts. He went on to have great success as a society physician serving the Governor of Jamaica. Whilst in Jamaica, Sloane acquired a stock of quinine, which was used to treat malaria (actually common in marshy areas of Britain at the time). Sir Hans also observed local women in Jamaica mixing cocoa with milk to treat stomach ailments, and he brought back the recipe with him. The recipe would eventually be bought by Cadbury's and would help Sloane to become very wealthy, allowing him to purchase the Manor and lease the Garden where he had received his training, ensuring its survival for years to come.



Among its notable curators are Philip Miller, appointed as Head Gardener in 1722 by Sir Hans himself. Mr Miller served for almost 50 years to be followed by William Forsyth (relative of the late Sir Bruce Forsyth), who joined the Garden in 1771 and created the Grade II listed Pond Rockery that still stands today. The Garden was headed up later, in 1846, by renowned Scottish plant hunter, Robert Fortune, who made dramatic changes to the Garden that are still appreciated today, including Fortune's Pond. The Victorian curator, Thomas Moore, made the Garden the foremost collection of medicinal plants in Britain.

The garden is divided into areas where you can learn about the different plants that are used to treat different illnesses - respiratory problems, cancer, heart disease, malaria and more. Plants form the basis of around a quarter of all modern western medicines. Here, each bed represents a different medicinal discipline, including Oncology and Dermatology. There are around 60 plants, all of which are vital to modern medicine. Herbal remedies prepared directly from plants are relied on by over 80% of the world's population despite having little scientific evidence. There is a wonderful pomegranate tree (*right*) and what is said to be the most northerly fruiting grapefruit tree, both of which display an impressive abundance of fruit when, in season. I can also highly recommend the cafe/restaurant (with home-made cakes to die for) and the shop.



Anyone can spend time in this wonderfully peaceful, fascinating haven by either paying to go in or becoming a Friend (as I am) for a modest annual donation. It makes a Grand Day Out.

*Norma Reid (and with thanks to the Chelsea Physic Garden's website)*

## ELMBRIDGE MENCAP - DAY SERVICE

We started our Day Service for adults with a learning disability at the end of November 2022, knowing that at the beginning we would be running at a loss.

We have two excellent staff Val and Lisa; more staff will be recruited as the number of clients grows.

We run the service three days a week and people can either do a whole day or a half day. Lunch is included with clients helping prepare and cook the meals and we are going to update our kitchen later this year. The plan is to increase our client base to 20 people per day.

We are delighted with the progress being made and the variety of activities we can offer.



*Antony and Liam having their first ever game of table football*



*Enjoying playing the Chime bars in the new sensory garden*



*David just loves coming to Burview Hall*



*It's great to see Antony (a good cook) supporting Liam*



*Could it be that a romance is brewing ...?*

If anyone has any special skills they would like to come and share with our clients do come and have a chat with Paula Walsh or me - we would love to see you!

*Jean Rigden*

**PS** Don't forget our Grand Jumble Sale on Sunday 16 April, 11.00 am at Burview Hall! *JR*



## PAWTRAITS

"Animals are such agreeable friends - they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms."  
*George Eliot*

We thought you might enjoy catching up with some of our pets which keep our spirits up when nothing else can (not forgetting, of course, that 'dog' is 'God' backwards!).

If anyone would like to contribute news of their pet(s), please send it in! Ed



Jimmy-Georgie Reid is thriving after his adoption from Battersea in January 2015. Having survived a brutal attack by a Bengal (cat!) in his own kitchen only six weeks later, he has a wonderfully chilled purrsonality and brings a welcome calm to his Putney home.



Siblings Scout (golden) and Kona Swanson are happy to be reunited in Houston, Texas, after Kona had tried living with Sophia and Rob's daughter for three weeks. Kona couldn't wait to unpack her bag (packed with daily essentials like toys, leash, vitamins and bedding). Furry friends forever.



Little One Netherwood adopted her human, Hilary, last September after making sure she was around to help water the garden. She laps up the undivided attention, having been one of six cats and living outside for some time - not to mention having been originally called Wednesday!



Rosie Simpson was adopted by Susan and Johnston eight years ago as her owner had become highly allergic to her fur. Her favourite pastimes are eating and sleeping in front of the fire.



Benji de Kok, mostly resident with Moira and Jan, loved having Half Term with their nephew Luke and his family and is settling in well to his training programme. He has a lot to learn and does his best to be a good student.



Billy-Bob Smith (RIP) lived in Gwalior Road in Putney until he had a fit and sadly died at the Wharf Café where he used to go with his human every day to relax with a coffee and some doggie treats. Some 30 of his neighbours and admirers, as well as four-legged friends, attended his wake to remember one of the street's much-loved characters.



Messy church this month led by Margaret Faultless, took place on Mothering Sunday. We thought wrongly that no one would come, but we actually had 11 children. The theme was Mothering Sunday and the children were making gifts for Mummy. Some definitely wanted to give Mum a surprise and weren't too happy if she was around as they worked.

They enjoyed icing cakes, making a card, colouring a jigsaw and sewing a felt flower brooch. One boy was determined to thread the needle himself and eventually managed the task. Several children having coloured a jigsaw broke it up and put it together. It was great to see the Mummies wearing their present with pride. Margaret played a card game involving the family, which they enjoyed.

The children listened well to the story Margaret told them and joined in the hymns. I was glad we had Jem to sing along! As usual, before they left we enjoyed having something to eat. *Anne Fitzgerald*





## PRAYER CORNER



### *A Traditional Hymn for Easter Day*

Christ the Lord is risen today  
*Alleluia!*  
let creation join to say:  
*Alleluia!*  
raise your joys and triumphs high,  
*Alleluia!*  
Sing, ye heavens, thou earth, reply:  
*Alleluia!*

*Charles Wesley  
1707-88*

### *A Contemporary Prayer for Easter Day*

When our faith  
stands at the grave,  
grieving  
for a stone that's rolled away,  
forgive us.

When our faith  
is short of  
understanding  
though the truth is there to see.  
forgive us.

When our faith,  
beset by doubt, sees  
no further  
than an empty tomb today,  
forgive us.

Bring to mind  
the cry of Mary,  
'I have seen the Lord!'  
and grant us faith to believe!

Amen

John Birch  
[faithandworship.com](http://faithandworship.com)

# ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

**JOURNEY'S END:** Godwin Nasho's elephant featured in the March newsletter, attracted



several enquiries, but David Schmidt from America was first with an offer I could not refuse on behalf of Godwin. So, after a journey of over 11000 miles, Jumbo has taken up residence in his new home of Leesburg, Virginia, looking out onto a large garden and wood with lots of wildlife including bears. I met David and his wife Arlene a few years ago whilst gardening at church. They stopped for a chat and left with two giraffes! They are so impressed with their



elephant in stunning unakite stone that they want a rhino and a lion to keep Jumbo company.

**GOLFERS** made from metal and stone by Luke Jimu (right) took a trick with Jeremy Chapman, a table tennis colleague



and legend sportswriter and musical theatre-cabaret-movie reviewer. Jeremy thought them ideal golf tournament prizes. Luke excels in metal and stone figures. Many other examples of his work are on display in the Southwark Cathedral shop. Married to Rosa Beni and blessed with five children, he trains other young artists. A few years ago, one of Luke's

lovely Nativity creations was selected by Dean Andrew Nunn as Southwark Cathedral's official Christmas card (right).



**MARCH SALE PROCEEDS** were modest as were donations with artists receiving 15\$ each but greatly appreciated. From Godfrey William: [Thanks John, the US15 donation covered my](#)



[daughter Rutendo's grade 7 summer term exams. God Bless - it was really appreciated as I am having big problems with food and medicine. As you know, I am suffering with eczema not to mention rent arears. We are surviving through the last of our](#)

ZIMBABWE GOVERNMENT RECEIPT/LICENCE		Serial	539272	cc
From	William Rutendo	to	Godh	
State method of payment (cheque etc) and write in serial number where applicable.				
Credit	Expenditure	Computer code	USD	15
TOTAL				15
Zimsec Grade 7		Date-stamp		
7-4		02 MAR 2023		
Aileen Allis		P.O. BOX 9, JAFARA ZIMBABWE		
to the conditions imposed by the Act and Regulations as amended from time to time.				
				Issuing Office

[maize crop. Hope the situation re sales will improve as life just seems to be getting worse here.'](#)

**WESTBOROUGH URC:** Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March promises to be interesting as Susan and I have been invited to an evening at Westborough URC, Guildford where their congregation will get feedback



following a visit to Zimbabwe by members of their congregation. For over thirty years, the Church has supported both the work of Kuwadzana Uniting Presbyterian Church and that of Rev. Jonah Masaka, who was minister until his retirement and continues to run a Bible School and Christian Training Centre for pastors and lay people. The



Training Centre also welcomes people in need who collect fresh water from the bore hole. The Church in Kuwadzana is very much the focus of aid and distribution of food as well as running a secondary school and pre-school for local children. Hopefully, the evening will prove an ideal opportunity to sell Artpeace sculptures including this splendid horse by Tennyson Murukwa.

**DRUG ABUSE:** Artist Godwin who has two young children is concerned by local drug abuse. He said: 'Many youths have become psychotic and even died. The reason for this spike in addictions is crystal meths., often used in the ghettos. My photos show street children openly inhaling glue, highlighting the fact that policing is virtually non-existent. Police corruption is the order of the day. Peddlers and abusers are rarely arrested. When they are, they pay bribes and go scot-free.'



**ONE HAPPY ARTIST:** The item about Peter Kananji in my March article touched one member of St Andrew's who quickly responded to the lack of funds to repair his bicycle (a few others also kindly donated).



Peter borrowed a friend's mobile to send a thank you video - the photo on the left is a clip from this video showing Peter on a fishing trip with his bicycle loaded with firewood collected on route to the lake in the background. He can now cycle the twelve miles to catch bass and bream providing vital protein for his family of seven - yet another example of how readers' support is quickly put to good use making such a difference to our friends' lives. Peter is delighted! He is one of the group's most talented artists and hardest workers.

**Johnston Simpson**



*Above all, maintain constant love for one another,  
for love covers a multitude of sins.  
Be hospitable to one another without complaining.  
Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,  
serve one another with whatever gift  
each of you has received.*

1 Peter 4 vv 8-10

#### **MINISTER**

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

Tel: 01932 841382  
Email: [michael.mah@btinternet.com](mailto:michael.mah@btinternet.com)

#### **THE SECRETARIAL TEAM**

Mrs Carol Lee  
Email: [secretary@standrewsurc.org](mailto: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](mailto:roomhire@standrewsurc.org)

Website: [www.standrewsurc.org](http://www.standrewsurc.org)

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

Anyone who wishes to take part in the Zoom service should contact the Minister  
who will be able to send them a link to enable easy participation.

You are all most welcome to join us!