



ST ANDREW'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
WALTON AND WEYBRIDGE



THE GRAPEVINE

MAY 2023

Volume 2 No 4



*“And all the people rejoiced and said:
God save the King! Long live the King! God save the King!
May the King live for ever. Amen. Hallelujah.”*

from the Lyrics of Zadok the Priest



Dear friends

From The Manse

May 2023

It's May! Maytime! Be warned, my brain automatically moves to "singing mode".
*" Maytime! Play-time, God has given the Maytime!
Thank Him for His gift of love, Sing a song of Spring."*

Written by a Baptist Minister, Fredrick Jackson, that hymn appeared in Carey Bonner's "Child Songs" - the red book that in days gone by no self-respecting Sunday School piano would have been seen dead without a copy on its top. It also appeared in Sunday School Praise - but to the wrong tune. As a child, I used to love its happy words and lilting tune, and I still find myself mentally singing it whenever I hear the term, "Maytime"! A memory which lifts the spirits.

I like May. The evenings are lengthening. With luck, the days are pleasantly warm and everything is coming on in the garden nicely. We gardeners do need to be careful of any sneaky, late frosts but by the end of the month my pots and tubs will all be planted up and the herbaceous beds too. I love an evening potter in the garden - such a relaxing way to end a day. When the work of the day is over a little spuddling (West Country word) is an absolute delight. Everywhere seems bursting with life and vitality and potential.

*" Blossom on the hedgerows, Sunshine on the hills
O! The happy Maytime all my being fills."*

This May we also see another new beginning when, on 6th May, King Charles III is formally crowned King in Westminster Abbey. Yes, I know that the reign of Charles III actually began last September but the Coronation still feels a bit like a beginning. I'm looking forward to experiencing one. So many people have never experienced a Coronation in this country before because it's 70 years since the last one. So many of us have only learnt about them as historical events, not current affairs. I wonder if a new "Coronation Chicken" will emerge on the catering front? As Prince Charles, the King was always known as a kind and caring man, bringing a strong sense of duty to his role, but also with a great concern about subjects such as ecology and conservation, sometimes using his position to speak out passionately in support of them, trying to do what he could to make a difference for good. Lots of events are being planned to mark the Coronation, both nationally and locally.

I always think of May as being an optimistic month with winter behind us and the summer lying before us. The central heating can go off. Winter woollies can be washed and put away. Summer clothes can take their place and heavy coats can go to the cleaners.

Jesus said to us,
"Come unto me all that labour and are heavy-laden, I will give you rest."

May always makes me think of that and I can almost feel my shoulders lifting as the weight of winter is finally lightened - the burden is gone.

On 6th May I shall be waving my flag and cheering with the best of them. I may even have a potter in the garden in the evening because the devil always finds weeds for idle soil. And there will be a great feeling of thankfulness in my heart as well. As another of the old school hymns used to affirm, *"Glad that I live am I".*

With all good wishes,

Phil Lad

SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES MAY 2023

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

Tuesday 2 May	8.00 pm	Elders' Meeting Bill Topping Room (Revd Ray Stanyon, our Synod Training and Development Officer will be present at the meeting to help us think further about outreach and evangelism)
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Thursday 4 May	LOCAL ELECTIONS POLLING DAY
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Saturday 6 May	THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III
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Sunday 7 May (Zoom)	10.30 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
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Friday 12 May	12.30 - 2.30 pm	People Who Lunch, Church Hall - Advance booking essential! (see page 14)
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Sunday 14 May	10.30 am	Morning Worship
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CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - 14-20 MAY

Sunday 21 May (Zoom)	10.30 am	Morning Worship
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3.00 pm		Messy Church
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ALL ITEMS TO THE EDITOR (provided they do not contravene copyright regulations)
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Sunday 28 May (Whit Sunday)	10.30 am	Morning Worship
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The official Coronation emblem on our cover celebrates the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III on 6 May 2023.

The emblem pays tribute to The King's love of the natural world, unifying the flora of the four nations of the United Kingdom; the rose of England, the thistle of Scotland, the daffodil of Wales and the shamrock of Northern Ireland. Together, the flowers create the shape of St Edward's Crown, with which His Majesty The King will be crowned during the Coronation Service at Westminster Abbey on Saturday, 6th May. The emblem has been designed using the red, white and blue of the union flag.

The official emblem has been created by the internationally revered British designer Sir Jony Ive KBE and his creative collective, LoveFrom. It symbolises and celebrates the historic beginning of the new Reign.

Speaking about the design of the Coronation emblem, Sir Jony Ive said:

"It is such an honour to be able to contribute to this remarkable national occasion, and our team is so very proud of this work. The design was inspired by King Charles' love of the planet, nature, and his deep concern for the natural world.

"The emblem speaks to the happy optimism of spring and celebrates the beginning of this new Carolean era for the United Kingdom. The gentle modesty of these natural forms combine to define an emblem that acknowledges both the joyful and profound importance of this occasion." (taken from the Lord Chamberlain's official website)

News of the Church Family

In Memoriam

It was with sadness that we learnt of the death of David Edney. He was one of our newest members having come on to the roll only last year. His beloved wife, Dorothy, was a member at Weybridge and he was always supportive of special occasions there. He missed Dorothy so much when she died shortly before the union of the Weybridge and Walton churches and later became a regular member of the new congregation. Please remember David's family (especially his children and grandchildren) at this time of further change in their lives. A tribute to David will appear in the June issue of the magazine.

We were also very sad to hear of the death on 23 April of Keith Fitzgerald. We send our love, thoughts and condolences to his wife, Anne, to their children David and Gillian and their families, as well as to their wider family and friends. A tribute to Keith will appear in our June issue.

'Happy Birthday to All of Us'

The Associate Editor has been looking at some notable dates

When churches join together to form a new church there can be unexpected benefits such as having more than one birthday to celebrate. On 1st January this year we celebrated the first birthday of our new joint church of St Andrew's URC, Walton and Weybridge.

On 17th May we celebrate 158 years since the opening of the church building at Weybridge Congregational Church in 1865. The opening of the church had been delayed by several weeks when the spire collapsed during construction! The actual constitution of the church, therefore, took place at Heath House (the home of its founder, Benjamin Scott) on 5th April when 31 people were received into membership.

Then we have the foundation in Walton of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church of England. From June 1928 a group of people (mainly Scots) held regular Sunday services at The Playhouse and the status of a 'Preaching Station' was granted by the PCofE. In 1930 a site for a permanent church building was acquired and on 23rd October that year it was decided the church should be called St Andrew's. The next significant date was 23rd February 1932 when the church building we know today was opened and dedicated.

Trinity URC, Hersham was founded as a Congregational Church in 1839 and erected various church buildings in the village at different stages in its history. In 2005 the church united with St Andrew's. Its last building – a small, contemporary, imaginative structure – still stands in the village.

So much to celebrate! As we develop as a new church we have the opportunity of remembering and giving thanks for all these different origins and backgrounds and their positive effects on our church life today.

News from Hungary

In the 1990s a link was established between the Reformed Church in Kiskunhalas and Weybridge URC and at Easter 1999 the Minister, Károly Mikesi, together with his wife, Éva, and daughter, Tünde, spent a few days in Weybridge. Károly shared with our Minister, Don Macalister, in leading the services and we were also able to enjoy an organ recital by Tünde as part of a programme of social events. In his student days Károly had spent time at Westminster College, Cambridge and even with a packed schedule it was important to find time for a nostalgic visit there. In a letter and card received this Easter Károly recalled the

happy time in Weybridge and sent greetings to those who remember him. This occasion was a forerunner of two-way visits by other people – members of both congregations; the Weybridge Minister, Phillip Jones, (who led worship in Kiskunhalas – with the aid of an interpreter!) and two young women Ministers from Kiskunhalas who took part in a service at Weybridge. Károly is long retired but still spends much of his time as a Hospital Chaplain in Kecskemet where he now lives. He and the other Chaplains produce a regular newsletter for the patients (including the outpatients) which seems to be appreciated. He is also part of a group of retired Ministers who meet bi-monthly for Bible study, prayer and the study of a particular theological subject. He and fellow Ministers also occasionally attend meetings of a similar group in Budapest. He says, *'You see, we are not going to become lazy intellectually or spiritually'*. Károly says, too, that everyone is very pleased the Hungarian Reformed Church has produced a new hymnbook (the previous one being 75 years old) which contains many English and American hymns and tunes. He appreciates now being able to sing 'Great is thy faithfulness' and another hymn (with words written by a Hungarian Baptist poet) to the tune of Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance March No 1" ('Land of Hope and Glory'). In the midst of a still busy working life, Károly enjoys spending time with his children and their families but misses Éva (who died last year) so much and is sad that she is not there to share these times with them all.

Alex Henham

Prayers

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

If you know of anyone who would like to be included in this prayer list, or if you wish to be included yourself, please let the Editors know.

Church and Community

Elmbridge Community Eco Hub

When reading an excellent article in the April issue of the local magazine 'Life' (Weybridge & Brooklands) by a volunteer at the Elmbridge Community Eco Hub (on the Elmgrove Estate in the centre of Walton) I was impressed by the number of different activities and initiatives undertaken there. Then suddenly a significant phrase caught my attention – 4th Weybridge Cubs. It transpired that the Cubs had been busy potting-up some tomato plants as gifts for the Eco Hub. Each plant had its own name eg Harry which perhaps signified the child who had planted it. I felt so pleased that our Cubs were once again doing something for the community and for the encouragement they were obviously receiving from their leaders. Well done to them all.

In an earlier issue of our own magazine Anne Fitzgerald wrote an account of her visit to the Eco Hub and gave us some idea of what went on there. You can check it out for yourself on its website at www.elmbridgeecohub.org.uk or on its Instagram page where details of its opening hours may be found. Perhaps you, too, will be encouraged to make a visit or even become a volunteer. You will certainly be amazed by what you find out.

Mollie Henham

Welcome to Vika!

We were delighted to be able to welcome Vika to our Easter Communion service on 9 April. Vika (Viktoriia Yurchyk) who hails from Kharkiv in Ukraine, has been in the UK for almost a year with her two daughters, Katya (13) and Maryna (11). Her husband is a soldier fighting on the frontline at Bakhmut. She arrived speaking no English but has worked very hard so that she can now hold a good conversation and has a full-time job. Vika and her daughters have been staying for the past few weeks with our organist, Teresa Bacon, and her family until such time as a flat is sorted out for them, hopefully in June or July. *Ed*

NEWS FROM WESSEX SYNOD



Wessex Synod - Prayer Calendar for May

- 7 Bitterne, Southampton;
Trinity, Lower Earley, Reading
- 14 Havant and Emsworth;
The Beacon Church, Canford Heath, Poole;
Normandy, Guildford
- 21 St Francis, Banbury;
St Saviour's, Guernsey, Channel Islands;
Three Legged Cross
- 28 Faringdon United Church;
Fordingbridge



Wessex Summer Camps are open for bookings

Do you know a child aged 7–12 or a young person aged 11–17?

Please consider passing on information about the Wessex Synod Summer Camps.

This year the Children's Camp will take place at Oakwood Activity Centre in Wokingham and is extended by an extra 24 hours of fun, 30th May – 2nd June 2023. It's a great event for children to have fun with others through a mixed programme of worship, activities, and workshops. The children will be enjoying many of the activities that the site offers including kiwi flying, bouldering, low ropes, bush craft and mountain boarding. Workshops will be creative and very interactive, with a mix of arts, crafts, music, outdoor games, sports and much more!

Children will be staying in the Lodge which has rooms that sleep up to 6, in three bunk beds – and every room has ensuite facilities!

We will be exploring the URC theme of 'Love is...'

More than hearts and squishy stuff. Thinking about what Jesus' love actually looked like.

The Youth Camp will take place 14-16 July 2023 at an exciting new venue, The G.B. Outdoor Centre, Hook.

It's a great event for young people to come together, relax, make new friends and explore a Bible based theme through a varied programme of worship, outdoor activities and workshops. The venue offers many of the favourite activities, high and low ropes courses, bouldering, archery, and campfire cooking. New to this year are laser tag and a host of resident animals, big and small. We will be following the URC theme of 'Love is...', focusing on how far God went to show the extent of His love for us. There will be group time to explore the theme creatively, and there will also be plenty of time for games and challenges. There are opportunities for young people to get involved with leading aspects of worship and music. Young people will be staying in 'teepee' style bell tents, each with 6 camp beds, and decking.

Check out the Website for more details: <https://www.urcwessex.org.uk/wsc23/>



URC (FINALLY) CELEBRATES ITS JUBILEE



Members, ministers and friends of the United Reformed Church gathered in London on 15 April to mark the denomination's 50th anniversary.

Around 1,200 people attended the rail strike-postponed celebrations at Methodist Central Hall Westminster, the same place that English Congregationalists and Presbyterians gathered on 5 October 1972 to vote the URC into being. Decorations created by members of the URC hung around the hall, a sounding trumpet heralded the beginning of the service, as in 1972, celebration of communion, and artwork from across the denomination was displayed in colourful presentation.

Led by the Revd John Bradbury, General Secretary of the URC, and the Moderator and Moderator-Elect of the URC General Assembly, the Revds Fiona Bennett and Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, the service reflected the denomination's past, present and future, as well as its place in the world Church.

The Revd Richard Church, former Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship) who four years ago helped to start conversations about how to celebrate the URC's 50th anniversary said: "It's great to be here and it's great to see that it's actually happened and I'm massively admiring of the people who have gone through two false starts to get us to this point, but then the URC is a church that's used to false starts. "We thought we were being set up for the unity of the wider Christian body in the country and it hasn't quite worked out that way. So, this is a good 50th birthday party."

Former General Secretary the Revd Dr David Cornick, URC and Council for World Mission (CWM) scholar Victoria Turner, and the Revd Professor Jooseop Keum, CWM's General Secretary, each delivered a sermon, and a specially formed Jubilee Choir sang 'Always trust the star that guides us on the way', Neil Thorogood's winning poem in the 50th Anniversary Worship Resources Competition, in a setting by Scott Stroman. Other music in the service also included Colin Thompson's competition-winning hymn, 'God of the Pilgrim Way'.

The range of those leading worship reflected all generations within the URC, both lay and ordained, including Church Related Community Workers and leaders of the URC Youth Assembly. Lundie Memorial Award winner Poppy Thorpe and trainee minister Joe Amoah read from scripture, while Karen Campbell, URC Secretary for Global and Intercultural Ministries, performed her own poetic cry of welcome – 'A table for all'.

The Revd Margaret Ali, Minister of Islington and Rectory Road URCs, said:

"It's a pleasure to be here. I think I am adding colour to the URC because it's a diverse church and I represent diversity. That's what I am here for and praising God, and I'm able to do ministry wonderfully."

Two hundred and forty people also toured Church House, the URC's London office and Lumen URC to experience the wide-ranging life of the URC, represented by different ministries, exhibitions, and creative and learning opportunities for all ages.

FLOWER POWER

Teresa Bacon writes:

"Many thanks to all the church family for the beautiful flowers that I was given at the end of March. It's been a difficult time following the unexpected death of one of my nephews - I do very much appreciate your kindness."

Here is a selection of the lovely floral tributes that we were able to enjoy over the past two months.

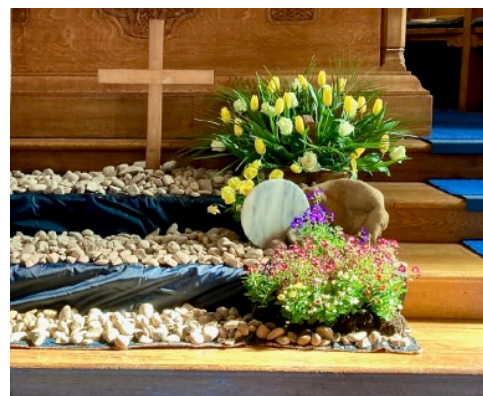
If anyone would like to donate flowers, please sign in for the relevant date on the chart in The Gateway. We know how much they are appreciated by recipients be it for a happy occasion or to bring comfort in sad times.



*26 March (Passion Sunday) given by
an anonymous donor*



*2 April (Palm Sunday)
provided by Liz Grimsey for
Colin*



*9 April - Easter Sunday, provided by
Claire Wood for wedding anniversary
with husband Jem*



*16 April provided by Anne
Fitzgerald*



*23 April, provided by the family of
David Edney*



A FRIEND REMEMBERED



AGNES ('NAN') LAMB MERCER

Nan was a Scot, born on 21/02/1924 to Alexander and Jean Sharp in Falkirk, Scotland. She attended the local Primary School before going on to Falkirk High School, along with her younger brother, Bill. It was at school that Nan formed three lifelong friendships and it was also at school that Nan met her future husband, Alexander Mercer, or Alec as he was more normally known.

Nan was 15 when the 2nd World War began. A couple of years later, in 1941, she went to study at Edinburgh University but she also did her bit for the war effort as a Land Girl, helping to bring in the harvest on a farm near Stirling. We think that she must have done this during the academic holidays whilst in term-time she was studying at university. She completed an MA in Maths and French in 1944 and became a Maths teacher until her marriage to Alec in 1948. It was the start of a good marriage. She and Alec were together for 41 years until his death in 1989.

After marrying Alec and Nan moved to Sunbury-on-Thames. Jean and, later, Jennifer, were born there, and it was at that time Nan started coming to this church, having met and become friendly with the Nobles. Nan formally became a Church Member of St Andrew's on 5th July 1953 and, at the time of her death, was our longest serving member. She was an active member, too, having taught in the Sunday School and was a regular at worship and at other church events. I know that I always enjoyed visiting her because Nan was such a lovely person to visit, full of life and full of fun.

Alec's job took the family to New York for two years in 1956. It was an exciting time with much-remembered holiday trips around the States but when they came back they eventually settled into their new permanent home in Weybridge, where they found they had wonderful neighbours in Blanche, Ted and Howard Barlow. Nan, of course, was fully occupied in looking after the family, apart from a short time back in teaching in Chertsey.

Now one can't talk for long about Nan before coming to golf - a passion that she developed and which matched that of Alec. Together, they had many wonderful golfing trips. Nan was a good golfer and became the Lady Captain of Burhill Golf Club where, as everywhere with her lively sense of fun and humour, she made many friends.

Nan, however, was first and foremost a family person who kept in touch with all her close and her extended family members. She delighted latterly in all her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, but she always had time for others and often went well out of her way to stand by friends who needed a helping hand. Nan was very proud of her family.

The thread linking all of Nan's long life - and she did live to be 99 - was the Church. From her earliest days, the Church was where she made many dear friends. The Church and her faith was always Nan's rock and reference point in all things. Her deteriorating health and her consequent move to Kent a few years ago may have meant that she's not been to church for a bit but it seemed so right to hold her thanksgiving service and to remember Nan, in the church she attended for over 70 years and of which she was formally a member for 70 years, all but a few months. It seems a bit mean not to round her membership up but on this occasion we do have to be accurate over the figures. Let's face it, we can't get the maths wrong for a maths teacher!

Michael Hodgson

OUR EASTER STORY

Michael had an inspired idea to make our Easter services a bit different this year. This was to display various tableaux to illustrate the Easter story, starting with Palm Sunday and ending with the Second Sunday of Easter. We saw his concept realised most beautifully through Anna's creativity, and it did much to bring our Easter services to life.



On Palm Sunday, a palm tree was placed by the pulpit and, alongside, there was an upturned table and some gold coins to represent Jesus having visited the Temple in Jerusalem (at the time it would have been packed with Jews who had come for Passover) and having driven out the money changers and overturned their tables, declaring that they had turned a house of prayer into a den of thieves.

The Maundy Thursday evening service, in past years always held at Weybridge, was a thought-provoking and symbolic re-enactment of the last night that Jesus spent with his disciples. Starting in the church, we then followed Christ's request to the disciples to go and prepare the Passover supper. Taking the tablecloth, bread and wine we moved to the Gateway and prepared the table. The story in seven parts was read aloud, including the reason for the Passover Supper.

After the supper, we moved to the Garden of Gethsemane, alongside the Communion Table, and remembered the last moments of Jesus' life as a free man. Standing there, beside the bare stones and a sword, it brought to life the bleakness of what was happening. The last hymn summed up the reason for Easter.

*"My song is love unknown
my Saviour's love to me*

.....

*O who am I
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die."*

On Good Friday, the service of quiet reflection was moving, as always. It began with the much-loved hymn 'There is a green hill far away' and our newly-formed quartet sang Mozart's 'Ave Verum'.



A poem 'The Rowan Tree' by Euros Bowen spoke emotively,

*"... Its branches are arms
outstretched, darkened by
a wound in the chest,*

*Rough and harsh as the
ribs of Christ..."*



Michael spoke in his reflection of Handel's oratorio, *The Messiah*, surely the most well-known choral work in the world. It was composed in 1741 and first performed in Dublin on 13 April 1742. In Christian theology, *The Messiah* is the Saviour of Humankind. The title itself is an Old Testament Hebrew word meaning 'the Anointed One', which in New Testament Greek is translated as Christ. Handel's oratorio is actually a commentary on Jesus' Nativity, Passion, Resurrection and Ascension, beginning with God's promises as spoken by the prophets and ending with Christ's glorification in Heaven. The three-part structure of *The Messiah* approximates to that of Handel's three-act operas. Act 1 is the story of the Messianic predictions and his story of his birth concluding with the affirmation 'His yoke is easy and his burden is light'. Part II tells the story of Christ's passion, his death, his resurrection and his ascension. The final part begins with the promise of redemption 'I know that my Redeemer liveth'. followed by a prediction of the day of judgement and the 'general resurrection' ending with the final victory over sin and death and the acclamation of Christ. Being Good Friday, Michael picked up at the start of Part 2 of the oratorio which begins with the words of John the Baptist spoken on the banks of the River Jordan as he saw Jesus coming towards him 'Behold the lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world.' Of the three choruses that follow, Michael selected the first 'Surely he hath borne our griefs', as portraying very carefully and very powerfully the agony of the crucifixion and ended his reflection with a recording of it.

Easter Day dawned with a joyful Communion Service. We were invited (weather permitting - which it did) to start out in the church garden with the Easter Hymn 'Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!' and then made our way into the church to continue the service. The stark stones representing the Garden of Gethsemane of Good Friday had been transformed with flowers and we enjoying singing the rousing Easter Day hymns.



On the second Sunday of Easter, we saw the final addition to the tableau that had built up over the preceding weeks: three large sheep. The main message was Jesus telling Peter to "feed my sheep". This was then expanded to all Jesus's followers to do likewise. There is a plan to meet up with Ray Stanyon at our next Elders' meeting to discuss ways of



taking this message further by way of our outreach. At a community audit of Walton and Weybridge it was found that 52% of the population professed to be Christians (albeit not many of these people actually go to church), while 35.6% said they had no religious belief. We are invited to reach out to them and to "feed my sheep". Ed

(and with thanks to all those who contributed to the text)



THE CEREMONY

The Coronation ceremony is an occasion for pageantry and celebration but it is also a solemn religious ceremony and has remained essentially the same over a thousand years. For the last 900 years the ceremony has taken place at Westminster Abbey, London. The ceremony is conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury whose task it has almost always been since the Norman Conquest in 1066.

The Coronation of the new Sovereign follows some months after his or her accession following a period of mourning and after an enormous amount of preparation required to organise the ceremony.

During the ceremony the Sovereign takes the Coronation Oath. The form and wording have varied over the centuries. Queen Elizabeth II undertook to rule according to Law, to exercise justice with mercy, promises symbolised by the four swords in the Coronation Regalia (the Crown Jewels) - and to maintain the Church of England. Following the Oath the Sovereign is then 'anointed blessed and consecrated' by the Archbishop whilst the Sovereign is seated in King Edward's Chair (made in 1300 and used by every Sovereign since 1626). After receiving the orb and sceptres the Archbishop placed St Edward's crown on the Sovereign's head.

THE CONSECRATION OF THE CORONATION OIL

The Chrism oil which will be used to anoint His Majesty The King on 6 May 2023 has been consecrated in Jerusalem. The oil has been consecrated in a special ceremony at The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem by the Patriarch of Jerusalem, His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III, and the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, The Most Reverend Hosam Naoum. The oil has been created using olives harvested from two groves on the Mount of Olives, at the Monastery of Mary Magdalene and the Monastery of the Ascension. The Monastery of Mary Magdalene is the burial place of His Majesty's grandmother, Princess Alice of Greece. The olives were pressed just outside Bethlehem. The oil has been perfumed with essential oils - sesame, rose, jasmine, cinnamon, neroli, benzoin and amber - as well as orange blossom. The Coronation oil is based on the oil used at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, the formula of which has been used for hundreds of years. It will also be used for the anointing of Her Majesty The Queen Consort.

THE PROCESSION

On the morning of the 6th May, Their Majesties will travel from Buckingham Palace in The King's Procession to Westminster Abbey in the Diamond Jubilee State Coach. Created for Queen Elizabeth II to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Her late Majesty's reign in 2012, the coach has only ever conveyed the Sovereign, occasionally accompanied by the consort or a visiting Head of State. The gilded crown on the top of the Diamond Jubilee State Coach was carved from oak from HMS Victory, and the coach's interior is inlaid with samples of woods, metals and other materials from buildings and places with specific connections to Britain and its history; Royal Residences including Buckingham Palace, Kensington Palace, Windsor Castle and the Palace of Holyroodhouse; cathedrals including St Paul's and Westminster Abbey; and historic ships, such as the Mary Rose. The coach will be drawn by six Windsor Greys.

The King's Procession, accompanied by The Sovereign's Escort of the Household Cavalry, will depart Buckingham Palace through the Centre Gate, and proceed down The Mall, passing through Admiralty Arch and south of King Charles I Island, down Whitehall and along Parliament Street. It will travel around the east and south sides of Parliament Square to Broad Sanctuary to arrive at the Sanctuary of Westminster Abbey, where the Coronation Service will begin at 11 o'clock.

Their Majesties will travel in the Gold State Coach on the return journey. The coach, last seen during the Pageant of the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in June 2022, was commissioned in 1760 and was first used by King George III, to travel to the State Opening of Parliament in 1762. The coach has been used at every Coronation since that of William IV in 1831. The coach will be drawn by eight Windsor Greys and, due to its weight of four tonnes, will travel at walking pace.

THE MUSIC

A life-long music enthusiast and champion of the arts, His Majesty has overseen, influenced and been personally involved in the commissioning process and the detail of the music programme, which will showcase and celebrate musical talent from across the United Kingdom and further afield. A total of 12 newly-commissioned pieces of music will be performed: six orchestral commissions, five choral commissions and one organ commission. The musical commissions offer contemporary interpretations of centuries of musical tradition, bringing together world-class composers, who are some of the most esteemed living artists from across the Classical, Sacred, Film, Television and Musical Theatre fields. They have taken varied approaches to their compositions - whether for orchestra, solo voice or choir - resulting in a diverse and accessible musical programme.

At the request of His Majesty, in tribute to his late father His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Greek Orthodox music will also feature in the Service performed by the Byzantine Chant Ensemble. Six of the new commissions have been composed for orchestra and will be performed before the Service, prior to Their Majesties' arrival at the Abbey, complemented by a programme of mainly British music spanning 350 years.

Did you know

Queen Victoria's coronation did not go as smoothly as it might. The coronation ring, which had been made to fit her little finger, was forced on to her fourth finger by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Queen had to bathe her hand in iced water after the ceremony before she could remove it.

Despite that, the Queen later described the day - 28th June 1838 - as "the proudest of my life".

All of the above taken from the Official Website of The Monarchy



Elmbridge Mencap had another successful jumble sale on 16 April making a grand total of £1133.72p.

It's a lot of hard work but great fun and we have some wonderful helpers. The worst bit is clearing away - the best bit is counting the money! Paula helped me and said it was very therapeutic. A big thank you to all those who donated items.

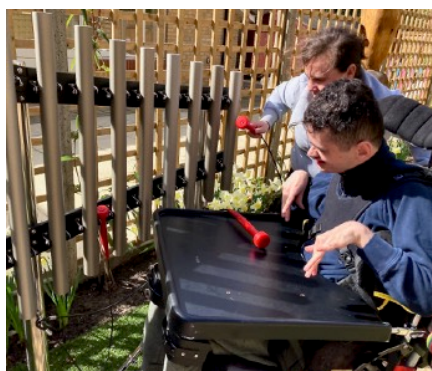
Save the Date for our next Jumble Sale which will be on **Sunday 17 September.**

The Sensory Garden is going from strength to strength. The daffodils were bulbs donated by Hersham Squires who have made us their charity this year. The garden is very popular with all our users, especially the musical instruments. We hope that in the better weather (which surely will come!) people with mobility problems due to a stroke or for any other reason and those with dementia will visit and be able to enjoy all that the garden has to offer.

Jean Rigden



Rain Wheel



Chimes



Jean and friends showcasing the daffodils from Squires Hersham



PEOPLE WHO LUNCH - IN CELEBRATION OF THE CORONATION

Friday 12 May - 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. **Advance booking essential!** For just £5 you can have soup, a roll, dessert, cheese and biscuits and coffee/tea.

To book your place please contact Margaret Faultless either in church or by email margaret.faultless@blueyonder.co.uk



At Messy Church this month we concentrated on Easter-related activities. The children produced some lovely art work. Using a fork and yellow paint they painted a chick adding a beak and legs.



We laid on a masking tape cross and they painted a wash in several colours. When the masking tape was removed, the cross stood out in a sunset background. Some of the children experimented using different colours.



Some made Easter bonnets using kits and they experimented dropping different coloured food colouring on to coffee filter papers and watching how the colours merged. We were amused as one young girl took over the teaching role with her younger brother.

During the celebration, we enjoyed watching an Easter story video with the commentary in a Scots accent, and no, Michael, they didn't need an interpreter! Many thanks again to all our volunteers and special thanks to Fiona Reardon who came to work the presentation equipment.
Anne Fitzgerald



Prayer Corner

Prayers Across the Centuries

Lord, be with us this day,
Within us to purify us;
Above us to draw us up;
Beneath us to sustain us;
Before us to lead us;
Behind us to restrain us;
Around us to protect us.

St Patrick (c387-461)

Patrick came from a Romano-British family living in Northern Britain and as a youth he worked on the family estate. His original name was Maewyn Succat – he took the name Patrick when he was ordained. Aged 16 he was captured by Irish pirates and was forced to work as a slave in Ireland herding sheep and cattle. Six years later he escaped and returned to Britain by boat enduring harsh living conditions before reaching his home. In 433 he returned to Ireland as a missionary (having studied and been ordained in France) and spent 40 years travelling the countryside preaching and converting large numbers of people and establishing churches. As the Patron Saint of Ireland his Feast Day is celebrated on 17th March.

May God the Father bless us;
may Christ take care of us;
the Holy Ghost enlighten us all the days of our life.
The Lord be our defender and keeper of body and soul,
both now and for ever, to the ages of ages.

Æthelwold (c908-984)

Æthelwold was born to a noble family in Winchester and served in a secular capacity in the Royal Court as a young man. He was later ordained and held various appointments within the church before becoming Bishop of Winchester (963-984). He lived an austere life and was known as a friend of the poor. He was a leading activist in the monastic reform movement in Anglo Saxon England and the abbey at Chertsey was among the institutions featured in these reforms. He died on 1st August 984 at Beddington – another fairly local connection.

Christ has no other hands but our hands to do his work today;
Christ has no other feet but our feet to lead men on his way;
Christ has no other lips but our lips to tell men why he died;
Christ has no other help but our help to win men to his side.

St Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

The prayer above was used by the Minister in a recent service. The hymn 'Nothing distress you, nothing affright you' (R&S 548) is based on another prayer of St Teresa.

Teresa grew up in a wealthy family in Avila, Spain when the effects of the Spanish Inquisition and Counter Reformation were prevalent. After home-education and a period at a Catholic boarding school Teresa lived a self-indulgent life but gradually developed a deep interest in religious practice and prayer. She entered a Carmelite convent but was shocked to discover that the nuns had adopted a highly social life-style at variance with their calling! This led her to found several Reformed Convents (starting with St Joseph's in 1562) based on the original Carmelite concepts of a life of prayer, simplicity and austerity. Teresa had experienced many powerful visions and became known for her mystical writings and her understanding of the spiritual evolution of what was known as 'mental' or 'full' prayer. Despite extremely poor health she travelled widely espousing her ideas. Canonised in 1622 by Pope Gregory XV she was also declared a Doctor of the Church in 1970 by Pope Paul VI in recognition of her impact on generations of Christians. She is Patron Saint of Spain with her Feast Day being celebrated on 15th October.



As we approach a time of national rejoicing, the United Reformed Church (URC) prays that Almighty God will bless Their Majesties the King and Queen when they are crowned at Westminster Abbey on 6 May and grant them every happiness in their new roles. We pray that they will feel God's presence as they are anointed and throughout His Majesty's reign.

We hope that they will use their office well and use their voices at the centre for those on the margins of our bitterly divided society. We pray that His Majesty The King reminds us of the importance of spirituality and religion in the lives of our nations. Above all, the URC commends their Majesties, The King and Queen, to God's care and protection.

A CORONATION PRAYER

Eternal God,
You order and govern our world and all that is therein,
bless, we pray, Charles and Camilla today
as they are crowned and anointed,
that amid the pomp and ritual,
they may feel your loving presence,
that they may fulfil the roles prescribed for them,
and that we may, in this kingdom, be better governed,
and always reminded of your eternal Kingdom which is to come.
Amen

from the URC Official Website

ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

A PRODUCTIVE ZIMBABWE THEMED EVENING was held at Westborough URC., Guildford last month where Susan and I were made to feel very welcome. A presentation of a



congregational visit to their own very worthwhile Zim. project (covered in our March issue) was made by the Rev. Graham Hoslett (left) in their lovely sanctuary (photo of tables set). A delicious hot Zimbabwean style meal sadza and all, was provided and enjoyed by the congregation many of

whom were clad in Zimbabwean clothes. This was followed by an Artpeace sale which raised £675 – all in all, a splendid evening in good company. Artpeace were delighted with the result.

Over 90% of Zimbabwe's adult population are employed in the informal sector. Most Zimbabweans, including the artists' families, are forced to scratch a living from selling surplus vegetables – anything in fact - by the roadside. Artist Lovemore James recently travelled to Fern

Valley in Mutare to build a crate for his old sculptor friend Levy Mazura who was commissioned to carve a massive family piece for a customer in South Africa. Lovemore has had considerable experience in building and packing crates. He said:

'John, I didn't make much, just enough to put some food on the table and buy new pairs of shoes and dresses for my kids. I thank the Almighty for this temporary job.' Photos from top left: Lovemore with Levy's huge carving and crate. Top right his daughter and her friend dancing with joy at their new clothes and shoes and left, the family at home waving to their UK friends.



LOVEMORE (below) continued: 'John, despite our poverty, the lifestyle of a stone sculptor is so worthwhile to see people appreciate your work even without sales. The photo below shows our art on display at our workplace in a natural beautiful environment adding value to the surroundings. I came across these children fetching wood in the bush. They do not attend school and were turned away for non-payment of school fees. Without education they have no future.'



HARVEST PROGRESS: Artist Shingi is delighted with the harvest from his early sowing of maize boosted by compound fertilisers funded entirely by **MARLOW URC**. (below left: Shingi with 13-year-old son Takudzwa. However, the group's main sowing has suffered badly from torrential rain leeching out fertilisers so these yields may prove far lower - which is a major worry.

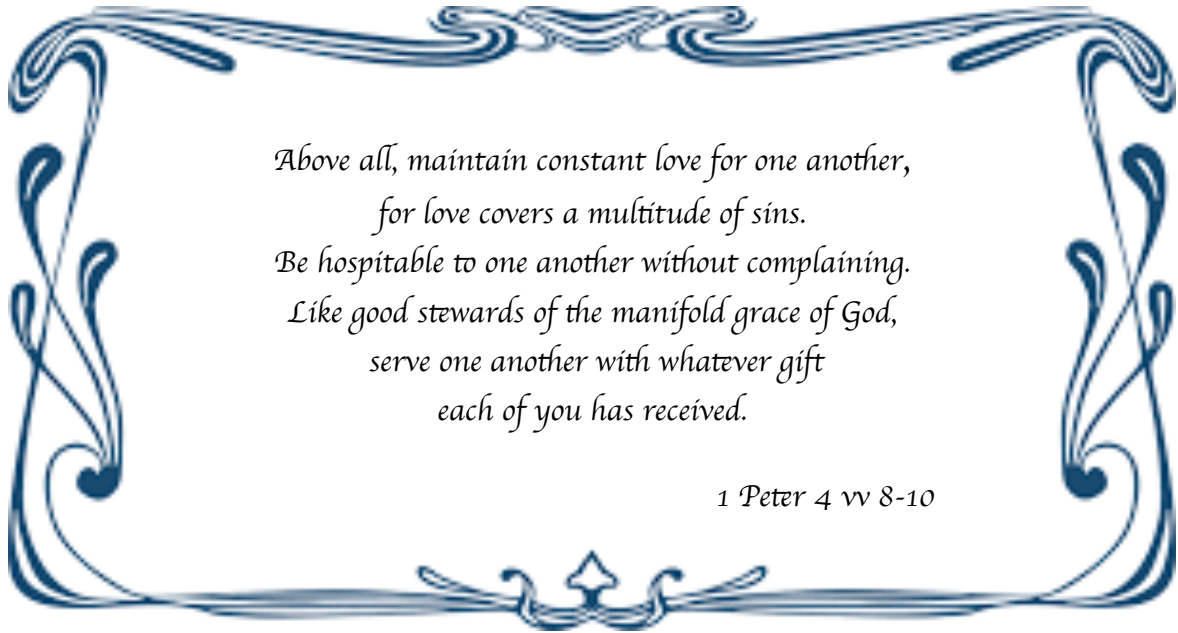


MORE GOOD NEWS: Last month, **TOLLER URC**, Kettering were concerned by the plight of the artists and sent a £300 donation. This proved a godsend as Lizeni had become ill and was rushed to hospital (right). This more than covered her treatment including medicines, and she is home again feeling much better and so grateful to Toller. Toller Elders further agreed to run a sculpture sale later in May, so I duly despatched a large well packed box of small pieces. It gets even better as one kind lady from the congregation, a long-time supporter of Artpeace,



agreed to cover the value of the pieces 'up front' irrespective of whether some pieces sold or not. So, only a few days ago, Artpeace and Friends received another big surprise in the form of £735. To say they were thrilled by this kindness is an understatement.

REALITY: Eighteen-hour power cuts continue daily. Inflation is now 480%. Many professional people have emigrated to support their families. Most hospitals are without medicines. This once thriving country has turned into a dark hole of corruption. Revelations of gold smuggling by individuals affiliated with Zimbabwean government officials and the ruling party in an Al Jazeera documentary have triggered outrage. The four-part documentary titled 'The Gold Mafia' - see link below - was filmed by Al Jazeera's Investigative Unit based on dozens of undercover operations spanning three continents and thousands of documents. It exposed how huge amounts of gold are clandestinely smuggled every month from Zimbabwe, Africa's sixth-largest gold producer, to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, aiding money laundering through an intricate web of shell companies and fake invoices. Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=evWEuVR1XIs> An election is imminent but how on earth can oppressed Zimbabweans ever win? **Johnston Simpson**



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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!