



ST ANDREW'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
WALTON AND WEYBRIDGE

THE GRAPEVINE

JULY/AUGUST 2023

Volume 2 No 6



A stormy August in Ullapool, nestled on the shores of Loch Broom

“Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer’s day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time.”

Sir John Lubbock (1834-1913) ‘The Use of Life’

From The Manse

July/August 2023



Dear friends

40 years on! I write this month, sharing with you some personal reflections because **40 years ago** 1983 was a year that saw my life change for ever.

I'm sometimes asked if I always wanted to be a Minister or else when did I first feel the call to Ministry? It's hard to answer that. I can remember at junior school it always seemed perfectly possible that I would end up being a Vicar! (Remember that I was brought up C of E). I vaguely raised the subject in a careers' interview at school but I don't think that either the teacher or I took it terribly seriously. I decided to go in to teacher-training instead – and then changed my mind – and went to the BBC instead! Mind you, that was a change of mind I have never regretted for a moment.

I suppose it was whilst I was working for the BBC and was being interviewed for jobs that I was often asked, "Where do you see yourself in 10 years' time?" I had gone to work at the BBC, in what was then called the Music Division, primarily working for Radio 3. It was great fun and a super place to work. We were all musicians, most of us performing professionally, and I was lucky to have some incredible opportunities there. I also started to follow options into more "coalface" broadcasting, both as a presenter and as a programme editor but the question of going into the church kept raising its head again. "Where do you see yourself in 10 years' time?" I decided to find out a bit more.

By now I had joined the URC but I was still on the Electoral Roll of my local Parish Church so which denomination should I make enquiries of? I wrote to both. The response to my letter from the Diocese of London was very formal, difficult to understand and not terribly encouraging. I did nothing and there was never any follow-up. The URC's response was very different, much more friendly, and all sorts of things began to happen. I therefore began 'candidating' with the URC.

Following the local interviews I was invited to attend the URC Assessment Conference to be held at Congregational College, Manchester on 15th April 1983. **(40 years ago)** I passed that but in those days the Synods (or Provinces as they were then) had the final interviews and 'say'. Mine was held on 6th May 1983 **(40 years ago)**. At the end of the interview I was asked to leave a phone number where I could be contacted with the decision. That evening I was playing bridge with friends from church and so I gave that number. During a hand of bridge I was called away to take the phone call which told me that I had been accepted and would be training at The Congregational College, Manchester, starting in September that year (1983). **(40 years ago)** I thanked them for telling me the news and returned to pick up the hand of bridge again

I will admit that I was startled to be told I was being sent to Manchester but there was certainly no question of challenging that. In those days you went where you were sent – end of! I'd just assumed that, living in London, I would be sent to Westminster College, Cambridge but Manchester it was. My College Assessment took place on 4th and 5th July **(40 years ago)** and I started my training on 19th September 1983, having finished as Organist at Muswell Hill on 31st July and having left the BBC on 3rd September 1983. (The day war broke out!) A lot happened in my life since **40 years ago!**

Throughout all this process I never had any doubt that I was being called to the ministry. I never doubted that it was God's will, nor that it was to the URC I was being called. It always felt that God was with me

and ahead of me. Once I started the ball rolling it always felt right and I have certainly never regretted leaving the BBC for the URC but I did once get the chance to re-visit that decision.

In the first part of 1998 I took my first sabbatical. I was lucky enough to be able to spend it with BBC Religious Broadcasting, studying different presentation formats, styles and techniques. (It was only because I was a former BBC employee and that the then Head of Religious Broadcasting was a URC Minister this was able to be arranged.) At the end of that sabbatical the Producer who had been supervising indicated that if I wished there was a place for me in BBC Religion as a producer. It was tempting – very tempting – but after much thought and prayer I decided that God was still calling me to pastoral ministry and so I never followed the BBC option further. Again, that’s another decision I have never regretted. I shall never lose my interest in broadcasting but I am a pastoral minister, not a broadcaster.

Thankfully I have always retained music as a significant hobby and I enjoy being able to play the organ on the 3rd Sundays when Teresa is elsewhere. I accepted that I would be giving music up as a career without much thought if I were accepted for the church. I have never regretted that decision either, nor ever wished to return to being a professional musician, but when I retire in a few years’ time I am not intending to continue preaching or anything like that. That’s when I hope to re-cross the floor of the house and return permanently to the organ bench.

So, I thought that I would share with you this month that **40 years ago** a lot of things were happening in my life which would shape the rest of it. Thinking back, perhaps what strikes me most is the strength of conviction I had then that I was doing the right thing – that I was responding to God’s call. **40 years on** I believe that I still am. The hymn-writer, John Whittier, once wrote:

“I know not what the future hath, or marvel or surprise.”

Well, that’s certainly true! If I am totally honest there have been a few marvels and surprises I could have well done without. In the same hymn though Whittier affirms:

“I only know I cannot drift beyond his love and care.”

40 years on from ‘candidating’ and being accepted for the ministry I certainly know that to be true and am thankful for that rock and anchor.

With all good wishes,



A response to Jem’s article in the last Grapevine

Following Jem’s concern, expressed in last month’s Grapevine that the bailiffs might burst into church one Sunday morning to “kidnap Michael and hold him to ransom”, I feel I should say that I am under no illusion on this subject. It would be a pointless exercise on the part of the bailiffs. No way would Church Meeting agree to paying a ransom demand to get the minister back! *MH*

News of the Church Family

In Memoriam

It was with sadness we learned that Chris Goddard died on 5 June. He spent the last few months of his life in a care home in Weybridge and really appreciated the kindness he was shown there. Chris was received into membership at Weybridge URC in May 1983 although he had already been very active in the life of the church for several years particularly in connection with the Scout Group. Not long after he became a member he was elected as an Elder and served with great dedication and diligence from 1984 to 2009. Alongside his extensive work within the church he was very involved in voluntary work in the wider community as well as 'running' family life after his beloved wife, Diana, died many years ago. A tribute to Chris will appear in the September issue of The Grapevine and we shall have the opportunity of sharing in a Service of Thanksgiving for his life to be held in the church on Thursday, 27 July at 11.00am. Please remember his sons, David and Robin, and their families at this time of great change in their lives.

Prayers

Please remember these friends in your prayers – Brian & Kate Ashfield, Marigold Crampton, David Cheeseman, the Goddard Family, 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.*

A reminder that there will be a Service of Thanksgiving for **Holms Carlile** in the church on **Tuesday 4 July at 2.30 pm.**

It's lovely to see **Eva Ramage** back with us at Zoom services!

Change of Address - Marigold Crampton

Marigold has moved to the Cranmore Care Home, 151 Old Woking Road, Pyrford, Surrey, GU22 8PD (telephone number 01932 344090) and would love to have visitors. See page 13 for more news of her.

Beryl Brown writes of a family wedding:



On Saturday 10th June our family celebrated the wedding of my brother Philip's grandson, Ryan, at Silvermere Inn on the Lake in Cobham. It was a wonderful day as I hadn't seen a large number of the family since before COVID.

People travelled from Florida, Sri Lanka, Canada and all over the UK, including my sister Ross and her husband David from Scotland. When they lived in Walton they were both leaders with the St Andrew's Cub pack and David Fitzgerald was a Cub at the time!

Proud Granny Beryl with the grandchildren and parents, also Ross and David. Unfortunately son Chris missed the wedding as he was in Brunei.

SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES JULY 2023

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

Sunday 2 July (Zoom)	10.30 am		Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday 9 July	10.30 am		Morning Worship
Tuesday 11 July	8.00 pm		Elders' Meeting Bill Topping Room
Friday 14 July	12.30 - 2.30 pm		People Who Lunch, Church Hall - Advance booking essential! (<i>see page 7</i>)
Sunday 16 July (Zoom)	10.30 am		Morning Worship
	3.00 pm		Messy Church
Saturday 22 July	7.30 pm		Genesis Chorale Summer Concert St John's Church, Camphill Road, West Byfleet KT14 6EH
Sunday 23 July	10.30 am		Morning Worship
Sunday 30 July	10.30 am		Morning Worship

SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES AUGUST 2023


There is no Elders' meeting and no Messy Church in August

Sunday 6 August (Zoom)	10.30 am		Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday 13 August	10.30 am		Morning Worship

COPY DATE FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE SUNDAY 13 AUGUST

*PLEASE NOTE TO SEND ALL ITEMS (provided they do not contravene copyright regulations)
FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE TO THE **ASSOCIATE EDITOR** (your Editor will be on holiday in August)*

ASSOCIATE EDITOR, Mollie Henham Email: 18amh65@gmail.com

Sunday 20 August (Zoom)	10.30 am		Morning Worship
	3.00 pm		Messy Church
Sunday 27 August	10.30 am		Morning Worship



NEWS FROM WESSEX SYNOD

Prayer Calendar for July

*Prayer is an act of love; words are not needed.
Even if sickness distracts from thoughts,
all that is needed is the will to love.
Saint Teresa of Avila*

- | | |
|----|---|
| 2 | Maidenhead;
Trinity, Bournemouth;
Tadley |
| 9 | Bell Street United, Shaftesbury;
Collinwood Road, Oxford |
| 16 | Trinity, Totton, Southampton;
St Paul's, Bracknell
Christ Church, Chineham, Basingstoke |
| 23 | Blandford Forum;
Aston Tirrold |
| 30 | Banbury URC @ The Haven
London Street, Basingstoke |

Prayer Calendar for August

- | | |
|----|--|
| 6 | Bournemouth International Church;
High Cross, Camberley |
| 13 | Brill;
East Cliff, Bournemouth |
| 20 | St John's, Jersey, Channel Islands;
United Church, Egham; |
| 27 | Christ Church, Henley-on-Thames;
Fareham;
Hope, Weymouth |

"Not in doing what you like, but in liking what you do is the secret of happiness."

J M Barrie

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT A GLANCE



PEOPLE WHO LUNCH Friday 14 July 12.30 - 2.30 - 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!

PLEASE NOTE - IMPORTANT!

Margaret will be out of action for the months of July and August as she recuperates from surgery. During Margaret's convalescence, Jean Rigden and Anne Fitzgerald will be stepping up to host People Who lunch on Friday 14th July.

Please let one of them know if you would like to attend.

Any contributions of puddings especially welcome, to help keep up the high standards!



STOP PRESS

Provisional Diary Date 2024

We have received notice of a provisional date for the opening recital of the former Weybridge organ, at St Barnabas Church, Morecambe. It will be on **8th or 9th June 2024** (tbc). There is a warm welcome from the church to anyone who would like to go to that service. They are currently raising the funds for the work to begin and there is a webpage dedicated to the project.

<https://stbmorecambe.org/>

So if you are interested, do please pencil this date in.

Genesis Chorale Summer Concert Saturday 22 July - 7.30 pm

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

Tickets £18 for adults and £9 for students
available from choir members or online
www.genesischorale.org.uk

After our very successful Easter Concert we hope that this Summer Concert will be just as well supported and we look forward to welcoming our friends once again. *Brian Ashfield*

Genesis Chorale presents:
Water, Water Everywhere!
Saturday 22nd July at 7.30pm, St John's Church, West Byfleet

Featuring:
Songs of the Fleet,
Charles Villiers Stanford

Excerpts from *HMS Pinafore*,
Gilbert and Sullivan

Musical Director, Yvette Murphy

Tickets £18 for adults, £9 for students, available from
choir members or online at www.genesischorale.org.uk

IHRCT

ADVANCE NOTICE

Harvest Festival will be celebrated on
Sunday 8 October and, as last
year, there will be a parade and
family service



A VISIT TO RYDAL ST MARY'S CHURCH, AMBLESIDE, GIVES FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Whilst on holiday in the Lakes recently, Susan and I visited this church in Ambleside where William Wordsworth had been Chapelwarden in 1833. The Wordsworth family had their own pew for a quarter of a century. We had an interesting chat with the vicar, the Revd David Wilmot. I bought the local Grasmere Parish Magazine which included the following article written by David, who has kindly given permission to use same in our magazine. I thought it might provide food for thought.

Johnston Simpson



LIFE IS NOT A REHEARSAL

I met a man who very much wanted to stay in his job but his boss warned him if he didn't move on fairly soon he'd become labelled as 'lacking in ambition'. 'You need to develop your CV', he was told. But to him, this wasn't the point. He liked the place, the people, the job and he really wanted to stay.

I've spoken with a lot of people who have experienced this sort of thing. The pressure to move on, move up, climb the 'greasy pole' or as they say, 'better ourselves', seems to be part and parcel of the way we live now.

Perhaps you've also come across those rather footloose people who give the impression that they are just passing through or on the way to the 'next big thing'? They seem anxious to find another place where they can re-invent themselves and perhaps chalk us off as another item on their CV!

Sadly, this same mindset is also reflected in our relationships. The apparent freedom and open-endedness of what's become known as co-habitation is basically just another manifestation of this same rootlessness and provisionality; and often it leaves great heartbreak in its wake. Because beneath all of this seems to lurk the assumption that wherever we are is some kind of rehearsal for the real event yet to come; and after all, I might get a better offer. So, it's hardly surprising that (especially when it comes to relationships) this

instinct to move on kicks in at the first sign of trouble or difficulty. Yes, we might rationalise it by telling ourselves that we must have made some mistake or that we ought to be somewhere else `better suited to our talents`, but this is immaturity and foolishness.

In my experience, this life of perpetual motion is countered in the Christian tradition by two things in particular. The first is in the Old Testament Book of Esther (4.13-14) where the Queen is told, "Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this". Esther is invited to see this place, this moment as God`s will for her; despite its self-evident discomfort and uncertainty.

And then, I recall the wisdom of St Benedict (remembered on the 11th July) who, alongside the vows of Chastity, Poverty and Obedience, called his communities to take a vow of what he called `Stability`.

Essentially, his monks were not allowed to move off to another monastery at the drop of a hat or at the first experience of a falling out. Benedict knew that it was only by living with and working through the difficulties that a Christian would arrive at any kind of maturity.

These two examples are the perfect antidote to the `fidgets` which we see in our work and family life; and even more so in the Church. I`ve seen so many people hop from Church to Church in search of that ideal Christian community and, of course, they never find it. And they never grow to maturity because life does not consist in accumulating a `bucket list` of experiences or people that we have used in order to burnish our image of ourselves. Life is not about the creation of a CV and neither is it a rehearsal; we are not designed for perpetual motion but for stability.

The poet R S Thomas said:

"... Life is not hurrying
on to a receding future, nor hankering after
an imagined past. It is the turning
aside like Moses to the miracle
of the lit bush, to a brightness
that seemed as transitory as your youth
once, but is the eternity that awaits you."

from '*The Bright Field*'

Every Blessing, David

Ronald Stuart Thomas (29 March 1913 – 25 September 2000), published as R S Thomas, was a Welsh poet and Anglican priest (Church of Wales) noted for nationalism, spirituality and dislike of the anglicisation of Wales. Recognised as one of the leading poets of modern Wales, R S Thomas writes about the people of his country in a style that some critics have compared to that nation's harsh and rugged terrain. The son of a sailor, Thomas spent much of his childhood in British port towns where he and his mother would live while his father was away at sea. His early education began late and was only sporadically pursued until his father found steady work with a ferry boat company operating between Wales and Ireland, and the family was able to settle in the Welsh town of Caergybi. After graduating from school Thomas studied for the Anglican priesthood, a career first suggested to him by his mother.

(taken from Poetry Foundation website)

HOLIDAY MEMORIES

Recent hot, sunny days and the words of the old hymn by William Walsham How, "Summer suns are glowing" (R&S 120), remind us that it is peak holiday time and we are grateful to Jem Ward for this account of a short-break he and Claire enjoyed in Somerset. If you have been away on holiday, or on a short-break or had a good day out to an interesting destination please share your experiences with us. Not everyone is able to get out and about and reading your stories brings a great deal of pleasure, so please send them in.

Associate Editor

Cricket St. Thomas



When I lived in Bristol in the late 1980s the local TV would carry adverts encouraging people to visit "Cricket St. Thomas, near Chard" which was then a family entertainment venue, built around Cricket House. Nowadays, it is a hotel but it retains, within the grounds, the fourteenth century church of St. Thomas.

Because of the support of the hotel guests in attending services it is able to stand independently as the smallest parish in the country. It has its own priest, who takes a service each Sunday

at 10.00 am – late enough that the hotel guests will have had breakfast but early enough to give them most of the rest of the day to themselves. Indeed, the priest thanked us for being enthusiastic to come to church rather than taking the coach trip to Lyme Regis! (I can't help thinking of how much of a dilemma this might have been to the Revd John Whitton who regularly took services at Weybridge and whose favourite seaside town is Lyme Regis.)

The service followed the standard Anglican liturgy, with four hymns – but we did also sing the words of "The Gloria" to the tune "Cwm Rhondda" before communion and "Be still, for the presence of the Lord" after it. The music was played by their tech team through the sound system and there is also a speaker in the tower, which allowed the sound of church bells to be played to the local area before the service started.



The building itself is shaped like a letter "T" and is relatively small – 80 people might be seated, if squashed together – but this lends it an intimacy in the service. Inside are memorials to the Bridport owners of Cricket House, descending on one side from the eldest brother of Admiral Nelson and on the other from Admiral Hood, another of the nation's eighteenth-century naval heroes, for whom HMS Hood was named. Outside is a sword-bearing angel as a memorial to General Alexander Nelson Hood, who served in the household of Queen Victoria, and whose namesake is the current Viscount Bridport.



You may already know the wording of the notice which I found on the church door:

*"Church is
Where your parents bring you to be christened;
Where your friends bring you to be married;
Where your relations bring you to be buried.
Why not try coming on your own some time?"*

Jem Ward

40 YEARS ON - THE SONG

Michael's Pastoral Letter this month makes many references to '40 years on'. I wonder if anyone knows of the song "Forty Years On", written by Edward Ernest Bowen and John Farmer in 1872? It was originally written for Harrow School, but has also been adopted by many other schools. My school was one of those and it was sung with gusto and emotion on the last day of term, especially by those of us who were leaving and saying goodbye to their friends of the past six years.

Here is the first verse of the lyric and chorus. "With the tramp of the twenty-two men" refers to the 22 players on the field during a game of Harrow football, a game that is ancestral to association football and played exclusively at Harrow School. Do google it for the other verses - I think they might speak to us all!

*Forty years on, when afar and asunder
Parted are those who are singing today,
When you look back and forgetfully wonder
What you were like in your work and your play.
Then it may be there will often come o'er you
Glimpses of notes, like the catch of a song;
Visions of boyhood shall float them before you,
Echoes of dreamland shall bear them along.*

*(Chorus) Follow up! Follow up! Follow up! Follow up! Follow up!
Till the field ring again and again
With the tramp of the twenty-two men -
Follow up! Follow up!*

Norma Reid (and with thanks to the internet)

THE LIGHTER SIDE

A minister once asked an elderly man who had moved into the district if he participated in any sports. To the astonishment of the minister, he replied, 'No, my parents won't let me.' 'Your parents?' questioned the minister. 'Yes,' he replied. 'Mother Nature and Father Time.'

At an especially long church service on Sunday, a service in which the minister exhausted time and encroached upon eternity, a small voice was heard asking at the back of the church, 'Mummy, is it still Sunday?'

A Mrs Booth from Preston tells how her husband, a Methodist minister, once went to visit a church member who had gone into hospital for an operation. Her arrived in the ward to discover the man still shaking off the anaesthetic and promised to come back the next day. Do you remember me coming yesterday?' he asked on his return visit. 'Yes,' came the reply, 'I vaguely recall seeing you and thinking, 'I can't be in Heaven because there is Mr Booth.'

from 'Holy Wit' by the Revd James Simpson



Despite fearing low numbers because it was Father's Day we had a reasonably good attendance. Our theme was Love using the story of the Good Samaritan.

We started off with what we thought would be a bang, but it was less spectacular. We were experimenting with a bottle of coke and mentos sweets. We gave up trying with smaller bottles and used the whole bottle. One sweet added to the bottle and there was a spectacular whoosh which died down very quickly - a bit of a disappointment for all.

Cooling off



The Spectacular Woosh

Margaret helped the children ice heart shaped biscuits, various colouring activities were provided and some made dream catchers using heart shapes and shiny tape but a lot of the children spent much of the afternoon kicking a ball.



A little guidance from an expert never goes amiss



Love all over the world



Making a dream catcher

In the Celebration we watched the Good Samaritan on video and talked about how we can show love to one another. While the Mums and volunteers cleared and tidied the hall the children were out playing football again, this time in the rain.

Anne Fitzgerald



FLOWER POWER

Irene Pearson recently visited Marigold Crampton and has sent in this news of her.

"Just to let you know Anne Fitzgerald and I went to see Marigold on Sunday 11 June in the Cranmore Care Home, Pырford, where she now lives. She was delighted to see us. We took her flowers that were donated by Nancy Hampton and she wishes to say 'Thank You'. She hadn't seen anyone from church but says she misses coming and especially Margaret's lovely lunches. She is a bit confused but recognised Anne and me. We were so pleased we went. Marigold is very much missed in church as she was always good company and such a regular attender. We know that she would welcome visitors!"

Beryl Brown says:

"It was a lovely surprise to receive some beautiful flowers after the service on Sunday 18th June. Thank you, it made my day!"

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.

A big thank you to all those 'flower fairies' who distribute the flowers after the service every week.



28 May, provided by the Flower Fund



4 June, provided by Valerie Dow and Fiona Reardon in memory of their mother, May



11 June, provided by Nancy Hampton in memory of her husband Jim



18 June, provided by Fiona MacDonald in memory of Dad

Prayer Corner

Climate Change

Climate Change concerns us all today and will continue to be a concern for future generations. Scientists know that the Earth's climate has changed throughout its history with rises and falls in global temperatures over millennia but say "Since systematic scientific assessment began in the 1970s the influence of human activity on the warming of the climate system has evolved from theory to established fact."

"The scientific evidence is unequivocal: climate change is a threat to human wellbeing and the health of the planet. Any further delay in concerted global action will miss the brief, rapidly closing window to secure a liveable future."

*Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
the United Nations' body established to assess the science related to climate change*

Creator God, who placed this planet
and all its resources into our care,
encourage those who now remind us
of our responsibilities, both to you
and future generations, to do all
that is necessary, whatever the cost,
to save this world that we call home,
so our children and theirs might not
look back, both in shame and anger,
at what we, in denial, have failed to do.
Amen

As we contemplate the damage that we,
over so many years, have inflicted upon
this beautiful garden created for us,
give us the wisdom to know where we,
as individuals, can make a difference,
by the things we do, and by speaking out.
We give thanks for those whose courage
has awoken the world, in part, into action,
and ask that the eyes of all be opened
to the task before us, to make good again
that which has been badly spoiled,
and live as stewards of this fragile world.
Amen

John Birch
faithandworship.com

Both prayers are written by John Birch who is a Methodist Local Preacher and well-known writer. He very kindly waives copyright restrictions when churches wish to use his work, including publishing it in their magazines, providing his website is acknowledged as the source.

ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

UNHAPPY TIMES: There has been scant news from our friends this month. They cannot afford to top up their mobiles by a few dollars to cover two-or three-days usage. In other words,



they are all flat broke. This came home to me when artist Michael Mukolosi had to beg for money to cover his wife Faina's (left) funeral costs. Faina was only 42 and died from Butterfly skin cancer. The funeral was held at her rural home as is the custom. Artpeace (right) were very upset as only Godfrey could afford the



fare to pay his last respects. They all wanted to



support their friend. Michael is the artist who

carved 'Harvest' outside our main entrance. I sent him the lion's share of the few donations I had which will help him and his children. Left - some of the mourners.

THEIR FAITH keeps them from total despair as the situation for most Zimbabweans is worsening by the week. The statistics below provided by a friend tell their own story:

791% – latest inflation rate.

23 August 2023 – date of the next general election.

70% –how much the value of the Zimbabwe dollar has fallen since January.

18 – Russian helicopters have just arrived in Zimbabwe, three months before elections, for 'policing, wildlife management and disaster management.'

14 – more Russian helicopters are still to come.

US\$400,000 – the sum judges have each been given (three months before elections) as 'housing loans.'

US\$500,000 – the sum Cabinet Ministers were each given in December as 'housing loans.'

US\$40,000 – the sum each MP was given in December as 'housing loans.'

US\$350,000 – the sum CIO (Central Intelligence Organisation) directors were each given in January as 'housing loans.'

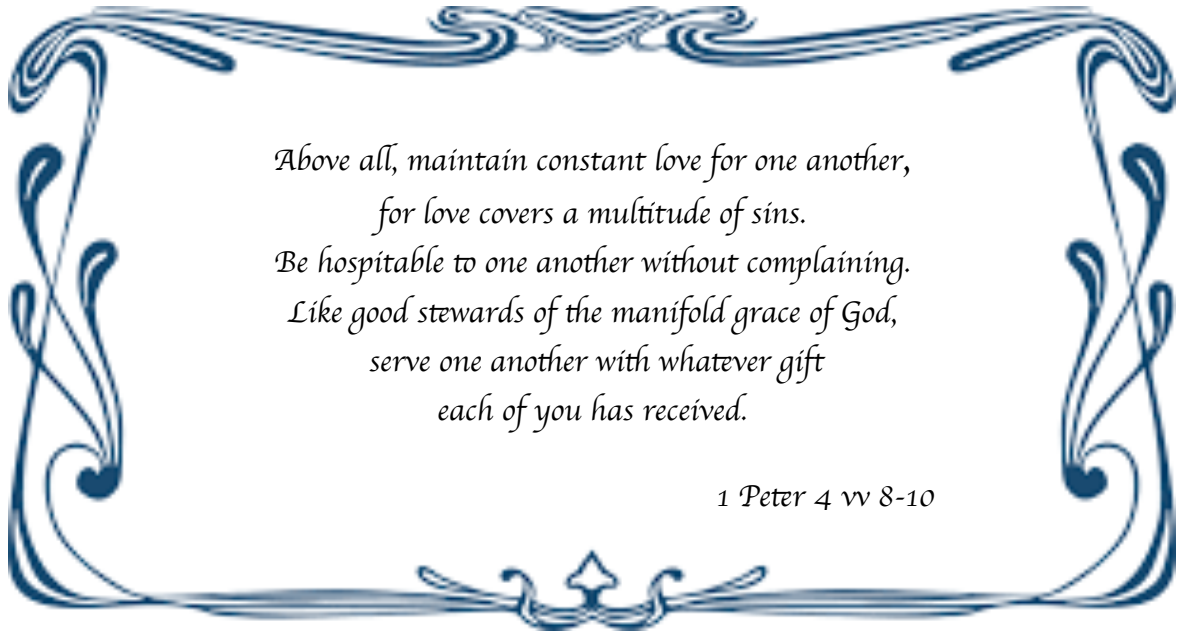
Readers will draw their own conclusions.



POPCORN: Supermarkets are suddenly full of shelves and shelves of popcorn known as maputi. It is sun-dried maize (corn) exploded into popcorn using a pressure gun and now almost the only affordable thing in supermarkets. It has become the staple diet, included in lunch boxes, sold on roadsides, outside hospitals and at bus stops.

HOWEVER, there is some good news in that St Peter's Church, Hersham, have kindly agreed to Susan and I holding an Artpeace sculpture sale after their 10am service on Sunday 9th July so let's hope this raises some funds for our beleaguered friends.

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

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Website: 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!