



The
United
Reformed
Church



ST ANDREW'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
WALTON AND WEYBRIDGE



THE GRAPEVINE

OCTOBER 2023

Volume 2 No 8



Borough Market, Southwark

“The law of harvest is to reap more than you sow. Sow an act, and you reap a habit. Sow a habit and you reap a character. Sow a character and you reap a destiny.”

James Allen (1864-1912)

From The Manse

October 2023



Dear friends

October - the 10th month - is with us already! Where have the previous nine months gone? I always think of October as being a bit of a special gift from God. By the end of summer the gardens and countryside can be looking a bit jaded as things are beginning to go over and summer bedding is beginning to look past its best. But then October comes, suddenly seeing the colours changing so dramatically and so beautifully. Somewhat dusty greens become bathed in the glory of autumn golds and oranges and yellows and browns.

The weather can often be quite good in October too – crisper dawns giving way to bright days, frequently with unexpected warmth. I'm not sure if we are still allowed to talk about "Indian Summers". (Do forgive me if we're not.) There seems to be a "last fling" to the month before the clocks change and the dark evenings are upon us.

My father always used to think that a short family break in the autumn half term set us up for the winter. I should like to think that there is something in it and it's certainly a tradition I have kept up. Back in the early '70s, when Janet was training as a teacher in Rolle College, Exmouth, I was still at school. The school I went to only gave you Saturday morning and Monday for half-term and obviously Janet had no autumn half-term at all, so we would go down and stay in a small B&B for a long weekend. Last forays to the beach. All my adult life I've kept the idea of an autumn break going (except when I was at college) and there's something very nice about being free in October, able to enjoy the beauty of the changing seasons. Autumn breaks these days tend to be in Devon but for many years Isobel and I used to go to Scotland, particularly to Perthshire where the air could be so soft and gentle, and any midges seemed to have cleared off for the year.

Within a year or two of ordination, I started another tradition. I write my Christmas cards during my October break. November and December are very busy months and so getting them done in good time makes a lot of sense. I still send a lot of cards because I do like to keep in touch with people. I have been richly blessed by the friends I've made over the years and this is the opportunity to keep those friendships going. As I write the cards I also say a little prayer for each one, realising too that these days more are being crossed off the Christmas card list each year than are being added. It is sad crossing names off but, as I do so, it is also an opportunity to remember them one last time and to thank God for them (Philippians 1 verse 3).

October is also the time when the garden furniture gets put away over the winter. Next spring it can be oiled again, knowing that the wood will be dry and will therefore soak up the oil nicely. There's quite a bit to do in the garden as it sort of goes into hibernation.

Then, there's the laundry as well!!! Yes, I know that winter pullovers should be washed when they are being put away for the summer and, yes, I know that you will all be superbly organised and will all have done this task as a matter of course. I am not so efficient and am grateful for the warm, autumn sunshine to be able to do what I should have done months before. Is October God's act of forgiveness for the inadequacies of my housekeeping?

Covid did end one task though...Christmas Shopping. These days I only buy for Mum and for Janet. With the difficulty of shopping in 2020 various family and friends' conversations were instigated and Christmas presents were dropped, much to everyone's relief I think. That's one nightmare less – although what to get for my Mother is quite a challenge.

So, I look forward to October for all sorts of reasons and very much look upon the positive side of the month. I think that Dad was right. It does give the chance for a final fling before winter and the coming dark nights.

I like October and thank God for it.

With good wishes,





Remembrance Sunday

Like previous years, our Remembrance Sunday will include the parading and dipping of colours although it will not be a full parade service since the uniformed organisations are on parade for two services in the afternoon (a) at the War memorial in Weybridge and (b) the Civic Service at St James' Weybridge.

I know that people have found recent Remembrance Sunday services to be extremely moving. Do come - and might this be a service to which you'd like to bring a friend? (outreach)

So, 10.30am on Remembrance Sunday (12 November) to include the Act of Remembrance at 11.00am.

Michael Hodgson



Advent and Christmas Services



Advent Sunday this year is on 3 December and Christmas service details will all appear in the November issue. You may, however, wish to note that Dignity Funeral Services will be holding their annual, memorial Carol Service in our church on **Sunday 3 December**. Anyone who would like to come and remember a loved one is most welcome - the funeral does not have to have been organised by Dignity, nor does it have to have been taken in this area.

More details in the next magazine but, since it will only be out a few days beforehand, I thought it was a good idea to put in something this month. Following the service, Chitty's will be serving refreshments in the Church Hall.

Michael Hodgson

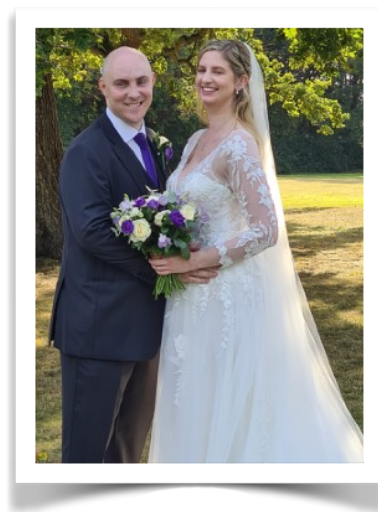
News of the Church Family

Marriage

9th September
by the Minister

Katharine Julia Maher and Adam John Whitaker

We send congratulations to Katharine and Adam on the occasion of their marriage and all good wishes for the future. Katharine grew up in Weybridge URC and it is a great joy to have this celebration in the church family.



Prayers

Please remember all these friends in your prayers – Brian and Kate Ashfield, David Cheeseman, John Langdon, Lilian Smith and Michael Stevens. Remember, too, those who are in hospital or unwell at home and those experiencing the sadness of bereavement.

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.

Welcome Home Zacc!

It was lovely to see Zacc back at the organ bench this month after his year-long adventures in China. Congratulations, Zacc, on your promotion to Assistant Headteacher of St John's Junior School in Hampton Wick.

Congratulations to Jean Rigden!





The BBC Make a Difference Awards Scheme is run by every local BBC radio station in England and celebrates people - often unsung heroes - who are going above and beyond to make a difference to the communities where we live. Nominations had to be submitted by 5 March and the winners were announced at a Make a Difference Awards ceremony hosted by BBC Radio Surrey on 25 September. There are eight award categories and we are absolutely delighted that Jean Rigden is the winner of this year's Volunteer Award, given to an individual who makes a real difference to the community by giving up their time voluntarily to help out a good cause. As we know, Jean has long been a leading light in the local MENCAP charity where she works tirelessly to make that real difference. A worthy winner indeed!

Jean says:

"I am still on Cloud Nine - to get an award from something I love doing and that gives me so much joy is unreal. There were so many amazing people at the Awards Ceremony doing such amazing things in the community. The messages I have received are overwhelming. I am rewarded every time I go to Burview Hall and see my friends enjoying themselves and the love they give me. Thank you for all the support I get from other volunteers, Trustees and staff: together we have made Burview Hall a place of excellence for our special people."

SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES OCTOBER 2023

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

Sunday 1 October (Zoom)	10.30 am		Morning Worship with Holy Communion followed by Church Meeting
Sunday 8 October	10.30 am		Harvest Festival to include Parade Service
Tuesday 10 October	8.00 pm		Elders' Meeting Bill Topping Room
Friday 13 October	12.30 - 2.30 pm		People Who Lunch, Church Hall - Advance booking essential! (<i>see page 7</i>)
Sunday 15 October (Zoom)	10.30 am		Morning Worship taken by Mrs Linda Lambert
	3.00 pm		Messy Church

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Sunday 22 October	10.30 am	Morning Worship taken by Mrs Anna Crawford
Sunday 29 October	10.30 am	Morning Worship

Wessex Synod - Prayer Calendar for October



1		Anniversary of the foundation of the United Reformed Church; South Hayling
8		Portsmouth Road, Guildford; Meeting of Synod (14th)
15		Broadstone; Grange, Reading
22		Westborough, Guildford; Shanklin, Isle of Wight; Cheap Street, Sherborne
29		Fovant; Park, Reading



Our theme for Messy Church was God's wonderful world and we should care for it. The children made seed bombs from soaking tissue paper and scattering seeds on the paper and then squeezing it into a ball. They were to go home to plant in the garden. We also planted hyacinth bulbs in preparation for Christmas.



The children coloured in printed copies of a person holding the word to which we attached a magnet on the back. These were designed to help the children remember their promise to care for God's world. One little girl painstakingly drew a marvellous world map and coloured it in beautifully.



The older boys took pleasure in discovering where our food comes from. This led to a lot of discussion with them. Some things were easy but some things had lots of ingredients.

We purchased a parachute and joined together to retrieve cards with things we might find under the sea, some good and some were nasty like plastic bottles. Beryl helped the children to make placemats, weaving strips of paper. The finished products looked super.



After the celebration in church we sat down for a meal of mince or pasta enjoyed by all. Grateful thanks to all the volunteers and to Paula who rushed from the Mencap Jumble Sale to operate the projector for us.

Anne Fitzgerald

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT A GLANCE

CHURCH MEETING

After the service on Sunday 1 October



CELEBRATING HARVEST



10.30 am - Sunday 8 October

A service for all the church family with Church Parade for uniformed organisations.

Please see last month's issue of The Grapevine for full details about our Harvest Celebration and how to make your gift whether of food or finance. Once again we are glad to support the Walton & Hershaw Foodbank.

In the present financial situation it is providing essential help to many people (families and individuals) in the area who are referred to it by local agencies/organisations.

The foodbank relies largely on food donated by the community and needs all the help it can get.

A paid attendant of one of the great English cathedrals was asked by an American tourist, 'Excuse me, is this place open on Sundays?'
(Holy Wit - Revd James A Simpson)



PEOPLE WHO LUNCH
Friday 13 October
12.30 - 2.30 pm - 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

A little boy came home from Sunday School and informed his mother that his new teacher was Jesus' Granny. When asked how he got that idea, he replied,
'Well, she never stops talking about Jesus.'
(Holy Wit - Revd James A Simpson)



MESSY CHURCH

Sunday 15 October at 3.00 pm

ADVANCE NOTICE



**SERVICE OF
REMEMBRANCE**



Sunday 12 November
at 10.30 am

BOROUGH MARKET

"Ordered that the clerk of the Market do ring or cause to be rung the Market bell every morning at nine of the clock and that notice be given to the hall porters that they do not set out their stalls or stands till the bell be done ringing."

One of the rules drawn up by the newly formed Committee of the Market at the Three Tun Tavern, Borough, on 29th August 1757.

There has been a local market in the Borough for as long as there has been a bridge across the river linking the south with the City and ensuring a regular flow of hungry travellers in need of refreshment or supplies. For several centuries the market crammed itself along the main highway starting at the foot of the bridge creating a chaotic hubbub of fishwives, local bakers, Kentish farmers and barely controlled livestock. As the market grew, so the congestion on one of London's most important arteries moved to ban trading on the high street. Local purchasers were instead given the opportunity to purchase land for a new market on a site known as The Triangle. This new project opened in 1756 and has been trading here ever since growing and evolving as the years have passed.



The ringing of a bell has long been closely associated with the formal start of a day's market trading. At the peak of the old market's congestion it was also used to mark the end of the day with the bailiff risking a fine of £2 if he failed to disperse the traders at 3 pm with a few hefty peals of his handbell. With today's traders a less anarchic bunch than those of the medieval market the ringing of bells is no longer needed to exert control over trading hours but the casting of a beautiful new bell for this historic space has allowed Borough market to create a welcome echo of an old tradition, with its chimes once again marking the start of each market day.

The bell was cast by the famous Whitechapel Bell Foundry - the makers of Big Ben and the Liberty Bell - and features the crest of the Trustees of Borough Market, the die for which is also on display.

(14 February 2013 - copied from the official description, hanging on the wall, of the origins of the market)



There is possibly no place better than Borough Market to get a flavour of Old London, albeit with a rather more cosmopolitan air about it than there would have been at its inception the 16th century and well after that. The food on display is as fresh as you will find it anywhere. The fish counter is mesmerising and the variety of cheese on offer draws you in for a sample followed by the inevitable purchase. The artisan bread stalls put paid to any thoughts of slimming and this spills over to the many food stands representing so many corners of the world - Thailand, Lebanon, Egypt, Argentina, Korea, China, Turkey (a very popular one, not least for the authentic and very delicious Turkish Delight) - just to skim the surface. And much more. The market nestles in the shadow of Southwark Cathedral which gives opportunity for a moment of quiet and a cup of coffee and home-made cake in its cafe, if you don't fancy street food. The site on which the Cathedral stands is rich in layers of history. In Roman times it was part of the settlement that existed over the river from Londinium. Its Christian history began with the Saxons and a small convent. It became an Augustinian Priory in 1106 and with Westminster Abbey and St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield is one of the three great monastic churches that have survived in London. Its shop has a special showcase for Art Peace sculptures and, if you are lucky, you might even spot Hodge the Cat, sauntering down the nave or curled up on a cushion in the choir stalls.

Norma Reid

PEOPLE WHO LUNCH



People Who Lunch in September was as popular as ever and it was lovely to see Margaret with us, still in recovery mode and so not quite yet back in the saddle. Willing helpers like Anne Fitzgerald, Caroline Gardner and Jean Rigden (to name but a few) have kept the standard high. Puddings were particularly eagerly anticipated and included trifle, apple crumble (with custard), Marianne chocolate cake (with cream), strawberry mousse and chocolate mousse loaf, not forgetting the cheese and biscuits.

The next lunch will be on Friday 13 October. Don't forget to reserve your place with Margaret Faultless (details on page 7).

Norma Reid



ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

DEVASTATED is the word that best describes Artpeace's reaction on hearing the election result. A quietness has descended over this dust-swept country. Zimbabwe's main opposition party, the CCC (Citizens Coalition for Change), allege fraud but will not pursue a legal challenge with the Constitutional Court saying 'the judiciary is fully and faithfully captured.' Prior to the elections, all the Constitutional Court judges received an 'ex gratia payment' from the Minister of Finance of US\$400000 making any legal challenge pointless. Artpeace and numerous other impoverished Zimbabweans therefore face another five years of misery whilst the world looks the other way.



Left: A desk near a voting station manned by Government supporters requesting personal details e.g. who did the electorate vote for etc. Thereby intimidating voters - one of numerous illegal practises that took place on election day. Photo taken by a friend.

GODFREY CANNOT WIN: The GOOD news is that his prayer for spectacles mentioned in my last article was answered, thanks to donations from a member of the congregation and 8 year old Scarlett from West Bridgford, Nottingham. Her grandmother Joyce, a keen supporter of Artpeace told her about Godfrey's plight and Scarlett gladly sacrificed her holiday pocket money to help as she also suffers from eyesight problems. Godfrey was touched and very appreciative of this kindness. These donations also covered the balance of his daughter Rutendo's school fees (left). He is now excitedly awaiting delivery of his spectacles which will make such a difference to his life. The BAD news is that on his way home from the optician in a Kombi (omnibus) the driver, for some reason, got chased at speed and was stopped by the police who insisted everyone exit the vehicle. In the general fracas, Godfrey's mobile was stolen. Photo above shows Fortune at home, consoling Godfrey (left) still recovering from his last prison ordeal and in poor health.



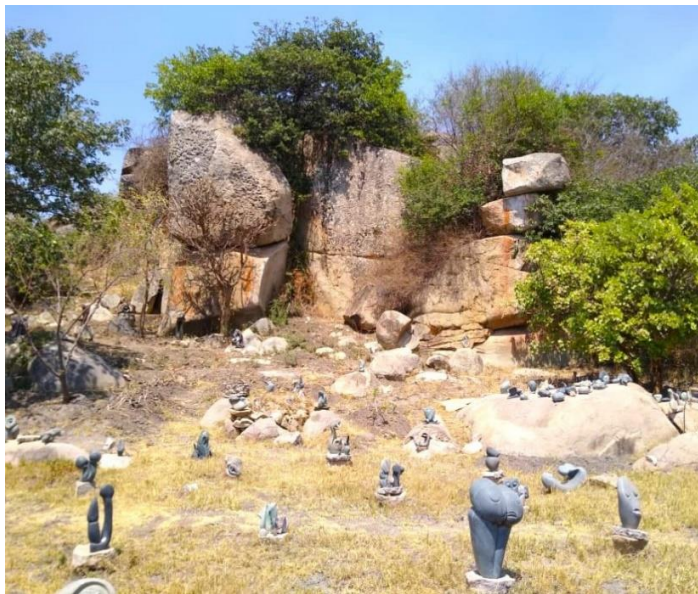
JOY: Artpeace were delighted with a very generous donation from another member of St Andrew's which raised everyone's spirits. Michael Masedza took this selfie and said: 'We would like to extend our gratitude to the lovely lady who religiously donated. Thank you very much for your great kindness and also those who give regularly. We now have food on our tables and our children will go to school on full stomachs. May God bless you. AP loves you'. I am often asked how they cope and the simple answer is without your support many could not survive the collapsed currency, inflation at 641% inflation along with 95% unemployment.

POVERTY, WHAT POVERTY? On their travels, many tourists may only see luxury lodges and sparkling swimming pools with large slabs of meat sizzling on barbecues and possibly unaware of so many living in squalor. Artist Herbert writes: [Lots of people near me are relocating from](#)



town as they cannot afford rents and are resettling by the bush. They build these mud houses with no facilities and pay 10\$ monthly. Brother and sister Tapiwa and Tariro (above) live in one of these homes – they cannot afford school so have no future. There are many like them’.

NEW WORKPLACE: For various reasons Artpeace have relocated from Silveira House to a site (below) occupied by other artists. Nearby caves are covered with ancient rock paintings drawn



by the San people or Bushmen who arrived from the south of the continent during the Stone Age. Artpeace sorely need raw stone which would involve an expedition to the mines in mountains 100kms away. They have two new members, namely Dickson and Panashe. Dickson proudly sent these photos of his new son Dexta plus a sample of his work. As the rainy season approaches, entire families are working burning stubble, preparing their fields for sowing seed the cost of which in past years has been kindly covered by Marlow URC. This has provided basic food for their extended families for much of the year. Photo left shows Shingi and his family hard at work.



Johnston Simpson

OUR THIRD UKRAINIAN FAMILY

It has taken me a while to write this final chapter in our Ukrainian adventure for two reasons. The main reason is that our third family arrived in the UK with just two suitcases; the father, Alexander, a soldier, is fighting for Ukraine in Bakhmut. This family is more typical of the Ukrainian refugee population than our two previous families where both fathers were able to leave Ukraine and drive to the UK in their own cars. Our third family has therefore needed more help and support. The other reason is that there is no doubt that this will be the last family that we host, so this is the final chapter.

Our second Ukrainian family, mum, dad and two children, made a quick, and unexpected (on our part) decision to return to Germany at the end of January. Following their departure, we took a holiday in Scotland for a week and during the journey home were contemplating returning to a quiet house. That Sunday afternoon, I received two text messages. The first was from a host living in Woking, who we already knew as there is an established network for hosts, and who had taken in a mum and two daughters from Kharkiv following their arrival in the UK in May. All three of our families were from this city. Unfortunately, relationships between the host family and the Ukrainian family had become tense and difficult for various reasons. Although the 'Homes for Ukrainians' was a good solution to finding places at short notice for these displaced people to live, no thought seems to have been given by the Government about what to do after the planned six month hosting period had ended. The host family wanted to find a way for the Ukrainian family to move out before the relationship deteriorated any further. Knowing that we had recently 'lost' our second family, we were asked whether we would be prepared to host again. A few minutes later, I had a text from Vika (Victoria), the mother of two girls, Katya (13) and Maryna (11) asking if we could help them. We knew the family as they were good friends with our first family. Vika had worked as a nanny for the first family and in fact from the very start of the war, the two families had lived together in a flat in Poland before visas were issued allowing the families to move to the UK.

So in January, there was talk about Vika and her family moving into bed & breakfast accommodation in Slough; Woking Borough Council simply had nothing to offer the family locally.

We replied to the text messages agreeing to think about the question, and of course within a few days, we had agreed a moving-in date, Saturday 4 March. During February, we took the time to think about an exit solution for this family – what could we do to make sure that they could move on into their own rented accommodation locally? Living in someone else's house is not easy for anyone even if there is plenty of space. Vika would qualify for housing allowance so her rental costs would be covered, and she was also working full-time.

What surprised us on 4 March, as well as Vika, was just how much stuff there was to move between the two houses - several car journeys were needed! Vika and the girls, having lived in Woking for about eight months, had acquired, amongst other things, a large collection of cuddly toys, a sewing machine, lots of clothes, food and various kitchen items. Everything was sorted out within the day and we agreed to do what we felt had worked so well with the previous families - sort out your own breakfast and lunch, but eat together in the evenings taking it in turns to cook.

Katya and Maryna didn't need to change schools when they moved in with us, and both were able to walk to school. The previous host family had done an excellent job in sorting out school places (Fullbrook and Pyrford C of E Primary), doctor, dentist et and had encouraged Vika to find a job. So right from the start of their stay with us, Vika was working in the kitchen of a local Italian café. Vika works incredibly hard and is very professional in everything she does. Not surprisingly, she has become a valued staff member at the café. Italian cuisine isn't well known in Ukraine, so we often joked with Vika about her returning to Kharkiv to set up an Italian restaurant business using her daughters to help! Vika arrived in the UK speaking no English but she takes regular lessons and continues to improve her language skills. She is planning to take on a few hours of book-keeping each week, as this was another job she had back home and is also starting a Psychology course in September.

The girls miss their father and long to return home, but it is difficult to organise even a short visit and this would not be without risk at the moment. Vika talks regularly with her husband, and also with her brother who is a drone operator. She has said that if either of them are badly injured she will return home immediately to take care of them. As time went on, we saw the family getting more settled with us. Maryna, who is very chatty and speaks good English, often got invites to play with local school friends. Katya is much more reserved. Being 14 can be difficult for anyone, and living in a foreign country just makes matters worse, but Katya is good at sport, particularly football, and we hope she will develop this interest as her confidence at school begins to grow. The girls are getting a good education here and Vika is very grateful for this.

Having heard how difficult it is for families to find rented accommodation in the Woking area, we decided from the outset that the simplest way forward for Vika and her family was for us to find a flat. After one false start, we managed to buy a flat in West Byfleet. The location is perfect as it is close to the train station, bus stops, Fullbrook School, which both girls will attend as from September, and the café where Vika works. Between us, we have found furniture and items for the flat, enough for the family to be comfortable. Family and friends have generously passed things on to Vika that were no longer needed and this all helped to her get her set up. The family moved into the flat in July and are delighted to have their own place at last – it is a significant step forward for them. The biggest problem we have encountered has been the electricity supply. The flat was already set up with a pre-payment smart meter. Unfortunately, the meter isn't that smart as it isn't working properly but getting anyone out to fix the problem seems nigh on impossible (I suspect because it is a pre-payment system). I'm sure if we had a problem with our own standard electricity meter at home, an engineer would turn up pretty quickly. Things are not easy for vulnerable people.

We are around as needed to help Vika e.g. setting up direct debits for payments, photocopying documents, making sure that she receives all the benefits to which she is entitled, and explaining about Economy 7 electricity. Vika and the girls are very happy in their new home and take a real pride in keeping it neat and tidy. Ian asked Vika recently what the girls missed about not living with us anymore, and the answer was sharing a meal together in the evening and the conversation. And there we were thinking that the girls weren't listening!

We have no regrets about hosting three refugee families. We have learned such a lot from all of them and it has been a privilege to play our part in helping them find their way around the many confusing and complicated systems here in the UK, to understand some of the quirky ways of the British, and to help them on their own journeys. Without any hesitation, I'd recommend hosting a refugee family to anyone should the opportunity arise.

Teresa Bacon



L-R. Katya, Vika and Maryna

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. We know how much they are appreciated by recipients be it for a happy occasion or to bring comfort in sad times. As always, a big thank you to all those 'flower fairies' who distribute the flowers after the service every week. They are enormously appreciated.



20 August, provided by Rosemary Topping



27 August - provided by Val Cave in memory of her husband



3 September - provided by Liz Grimsey in memory of her parents



Flowers for the wedding of Katharine and Adam on 9 September



17 September - provided by Anna Crawford



24 September - Flower Fund



A FRIEND REMEMBERED



MARIGOLD ELIZABETH KESSELL CRAMPTON



Marigold was a Scot, born and brought up in Ayr, which when she was a child was a bustling, popular and thriving seaside town in South West Scotland. She was an only child and was educated at the Ayr Grammar school. Leaving school her first job was in a bank and from there she moved to work in the tax office. Marigold was always excellent with figures and her mental arithmetic was first class.

It was on holiday that Marigold met a young man called Bill. They courted and were married in Cathcart Church in Ayr on 10th June 1964. It was a long and happy marriage that lasted until Bill's death in March 2008. They were blessed with a daughter, June, and as the years have grown so the family has expanded to include Nick and granddaughter Annabel. Her family was important to Marigold. Bill lived in Feltham and so after they were married Marigold got a transfer down to the tax office in Hammersmith. Workwise, from there she moved to Decca and when they were taken over by RACAL Marigold continued to work in the office, ordering parts for submarines in Scotland.

Marigold had many interests and she started attending this church after she moved to the area, formally becoming a member in December 1967. She was a very regular, faithful and popular member, involved in various things including the Badminton Club, the Women's Guild and helping with the distribution of flowers from the church. Now we can't talk about Marigold for very long without talking about her bike. She enjoyed fitness and was a well-known sight cycling round Walton and the area. The bike, by the way, is now in France with Sue and Ray Groves' daughter. Marigold on her bike, cycling round the area is a very fond memory which many people have of her!

Marigold was a very sociable lady, with a good sense of humour and she was also the master of the shrewd observation and the wry remark! Marigold really could be very funny – laughter was never far from her. She was so kind, so compassionate and she was also a lady who didn't like any fuss. She was always concerned for others and would do anything she could to help and so it is not perhaps surprising that voluntary work became an important part of her life. She volunteered in the Princess Alice Hospice coffee shop, she wrote bereavement cards and she volunteered in the hospice shop in Walton. She volunteered for the Hospice for over 25 years. Marigold loved playing sports, particularly badminton and tennis and she enjoyed playing doubles with friends. She was a champion knitter too – anything from Aran jumpers to babies' clothes which were then packaged up and sent to various neo-natal units. And let's not forget Marigold and Monopoly either. Her strategy was to try to buy the stations, the utilities and Mayfair and Park Lane first if she was able. There was definitely a competitive streak there.

Holidays! Bill and Marigold loved their holidays, including various canal holidays across the UK. They had a lot of fun, the occasional frustration, and they thoroughly enjoyed such a great way of visiting different places, using a different mode of transport and embracing a different pace of life.

Marigold was a great gardener and enjoyed the garden in Hurtwood Road. However, in December 2016 she moved to Meadows House in New Zealand Avenue which proved to be a very happy move. It was a beautiful, well-designed flat and she was no longer isolated there but, instead, was right in the heart of town. She soon established a very attractive container garden on the balcony, the cupboard at the end being an ideal garden shed.

Sadly, Marigold had not been well recently and had moved into a care home in West Byfleet a few months ago. She died very peacefully and really quite suddenly just the day after her birthday but she leaves behind a strong example of caring and of love.

Michael Hodgson



A postscript: If my memory does not fail me, I remember that Marigold for many years played a vital role in the distribution of the then St Andrew's Newsletter, before the advent of the electronic version, by running off the 150-odd hard copies on the old church Roneo machine (which apparently still resides in the office!). NFR

PRAYER CORNER



Harvest and Beyond

Prayer Pointers

- Please pray for everyone facing impossible decisions about what to buy.
- Pray that they will be given the support they need and their time of financial crisis will quickly be resolved.
- Please pray for all staff and volunteers at the Trussell Trust's network of food banks across the country. May they be given strength and grace to serve their community with joy and generosity.
- Please pray for politicians and decision-makers that they may have the will to make sure people who need to claim benefits are not forced into poverty.
- Please pray for everyone who donates food to our network of food banks or supports the Trussell Trust financially. Thank God for their continued efforts to make sure no-one in the UK faces hunger.



God of creation,
We thank you for feeding us with food
that brings us strength and health.
Help us to protect all that you have made
and to live in ways that do not damage the earth.
Make those of us who have plenty,
content with the things we need
and deliver us from greed.
Nudge those of us with power
to work for a more just and equal society.
Support those of us struggling with poverty
to find the provision we need
to live life in abundance.
We ask this in Jesus's name.

Amen

trusselltrust.org

A Prayer for Autumn

Grace and Thanksgiving

We thank thee, Lord, for quiet upland lawns,
For misty loveliness of autumn dawns,
For gold and russet of the ripened fruit,
For yet another year's fulfilment Lord,
We thank thee now.

For joy of glowing colour, flash of wings,
We thank thee, Lord, for the little things
That make the love and laughter of our days:
For home and happiness and friends, we praise
And thank thee now.

Amen

Elizabeth Gould

A Poem for Autumn

October

October is the treasurer of the year,
And all the months pay bounty to her store;
The fields and orchards still their tribute bear,
And fill her brimming coffers more and more
But she, with youthful lavishness,
Spends all her wealth in gaudy dress,
And decks herself in garments bold
Of scarlet, purple, red, and gold.

She heedeth not how swift the hours fly,
But smiles and sings her happy life along;
She only sees above a shining sky;
She only hears the breezes' voice in song.
Her garments trail the woodlands through,
And gather pearls of early dew
That sparkle, till the roguish Sun
Creeps up and steals them every one.

But what cares she that jewels should be lost,
When all of Nature's bounteous wealth is hers?
Though princely fortunes may have been their cost,
Not one regret her calm demeanour stirs.
Whole-hearted, happy, careless, free,
She lives her life out joyously,
Nor cares when Frost stalks o'er her way
And turns her auburn locks to gray.

Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906)

Paul Laurence Dunbar was one of the first African American poets to gain national recognition establishing himself as a well-known poet and writer. The son of emancipated slaves (who moved from Kentucky to Ohio in search of a better life) he showed early promise with these skills – composing his first poem aged six and having a poem published in a local newspaper aged nine. Wanting to help him with his schoolwork his mother learnt to read and they would often read the Bible together. (It seems that she hoped he might one day become a minister.) Family financial circumstances prevented him from going to college to study law as he wished and finding employment was imperative. A certain amount of racial discrimination meant opportunities were limited and his first job was operating the elevator in a local building. He persevered with writing poetry, got his first book of poems published (involving some personal investment) and boosted sales by selling copies himself including to people travelling in his elevator! Talent and determination were key to his ultimate success but, sadly, his life was cut short and he died at the age of 33 following a period of serious illness.

THE CHURCH GARDEN

September is my favourite month of the year bidding farewell to summer and ushering in autumn. Gardens become mellow and slightly frayed around the edges but are still glorious. The mixture of mauve, pink, yellow, red and orange colours of Michaelmas daisies, chrysanthemums, sunflower type daisies, salvias and cannas respectively look spectacular but will soon sadly fade. The sunflowers growing to a height of 5 to 7 feet by the front wall nod gently in the breeze at passersby, doubtless cheering their day. Their proper name is *Helianthus laetiflorus* originally from North

America flowering from late summer to mid-autumn producing numerous underground rhizomes that spread far and wide. Should anyone desire some roots, let me know and I will provide same when the flowers wither. **JS**



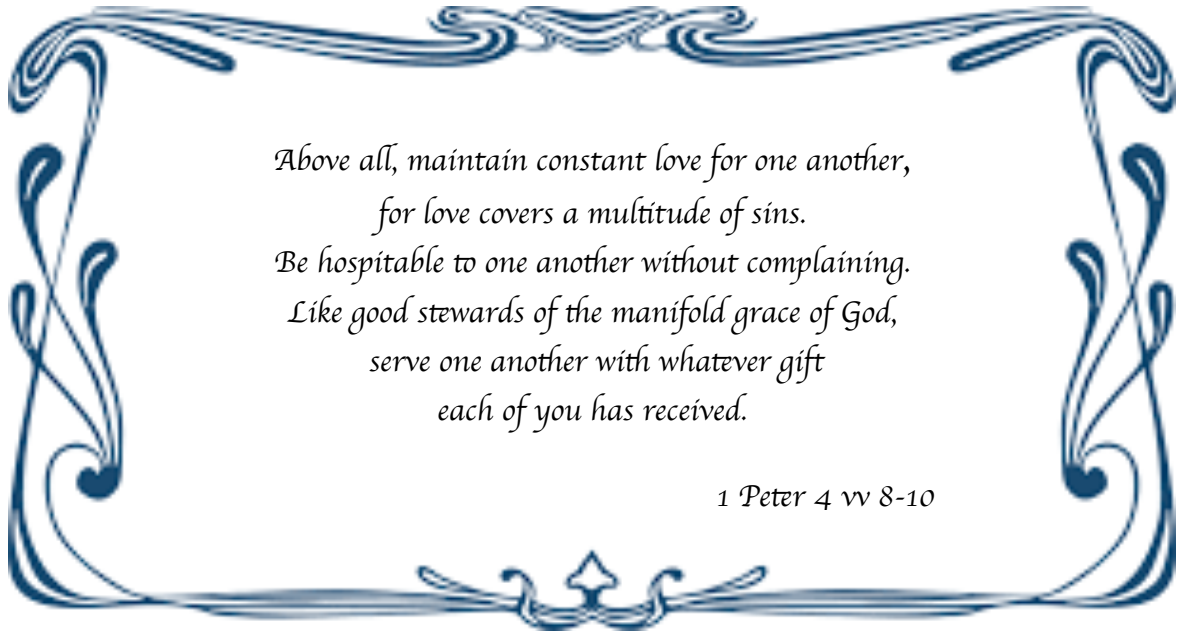
WHAT'S IN A PHOTO?

This photo, capturing the innocence of childhood, featured in this month's newsletter has touched many hearts and provoked responses from recipients outside St Andrew's. Some intend pinning the photo to their children/grandchildren's bedroom wall. One commented: 'I often feel many children in the West have simply lost the capacity for joy'. It is one of the best photos I have received from an artist using an old mobile I bought via eBay - Herbert from Kwekwe has excelled himself! Brother and sister Tapiwa and Tariro have nothing - zero, zilch, nada yet still manage to enjoy life as young children do – or rather used to. No iPhones, iPads or PCs for them. No expensive toys, bicycles, fashionable clothes, books, latest trainers, unlimited TV, expensive outings, pocket money, holidays abroad, schooling etc. etc. etc. - just simple childlike pleasures playing with an old tyre, bicycle wheel or using their imagination. Yet 20% of **our** children suffer from mental illness partly I guess from 24/7 access to social media and other issues. We live in a crazy consumer driven world and are beginning to pay the real price.

The one lasting memory I have of various visits to Zimbabwe is of poor children returning from basic schools with few facilities after walking many miles, is of their excitement, eyes alight and smiling with delight, enthusiastically discussing what they had learned that day before helping the family with numerous chores. Even at that young age they knew that without an education they had little or no future. They were so appreciative of the smallest gift – a sweet or a little book. There is a lesson to be learned from all this, but I fear our broken nation has left it all too late. If ever a miracle were needed it's now. Rant over!

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!