

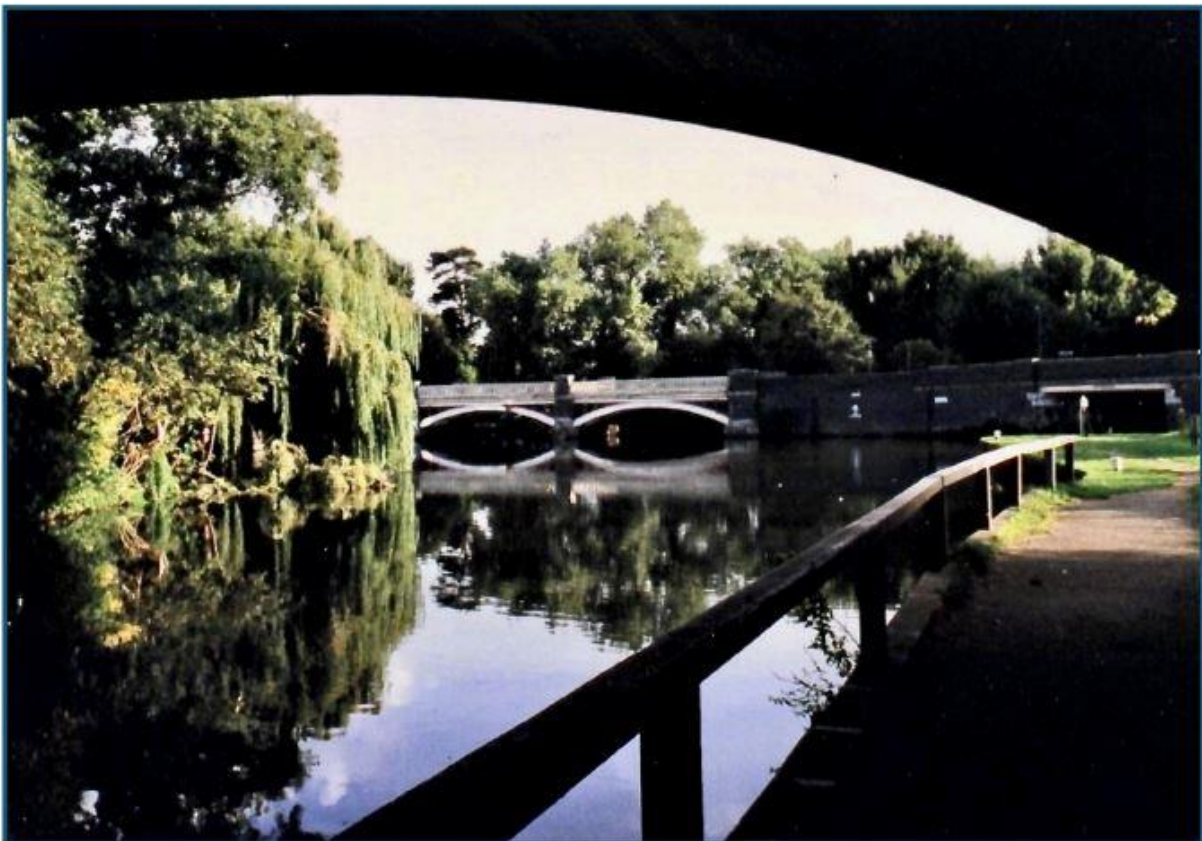


ST ANDREW'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
WALTON AND WEYBRIDGE

THE GRAPEVINE

SEPTEMBER 2023

Volume 2 No 7



The Old Wey Bridge, Weybridge

"Sometimes, if you stand on the bottom rail of a bridge and lean over to watch the river slipping slowly away beneath you, you will suddenly know everything there is to be known."

A A Milne

SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES SEPTEMBER 2023

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

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month unless stated otherwise.

Coffee/Tea is served in the hall after the service.

Sunday 3 (Zoom)	10.30 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion The Minister
Friday 8	12.30pm	People Who Lunch Church Hall (see p15)
Sunday 10	10.30 am	Morning Worship The Minister
Tuesday 12	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting
Sunday 17 (Zoom)	10.30 am	Morning Worship Anna Crawford
	3.00 pm	Messy Church 
Tuesday 19 (Zoom)	6.45 pm for 7.00 pm	URC Wessex Synod Reports on General Assembly (see p18)
Sunday 24	10.30 am	Morning Worship Revd David Downing Minister of Marlow and Maidenhead URCS

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Items for the magazine are always welcome provided they do not contravene copyright regulations.

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Cover Photograph by AH: The Old Wey Bridge



Dear Friends,

Our Church Meeting at the end of June included some very significant discussions about mission and outreach. (see *Minutes pp 6-7*) We didn't have the time to go through each group's findings during the meeting and so each of the groups was asked to produce some notes about their discussions. This month's Grapevine will, therefore, contain all the notes as they were handed in, including Jake's contributions. No attempt has been made to try and put them into a sort of 'house style' so that you can see exactly what each group was saying and what it was that they wished to share with the whole church. (see *pp 7-10*)

Firstly, sincere thanks to all those who took part in the discussion groups. Your discussions have produced lots of ideas and much food for thought. For those not there, we used a diagram which split the local population down into 5 groups:

- (a) those who live in Walton and Weybridge but who have no idea there is a URC here;
- (b) those who know of us, possibly even coming to the premises for events, but have never been to a service;
- (c) those who know of us and who come to a service occasionally;
- (d) those who are part of the regular Sunday congregation;
- (e) those who are key, core members who are also part of the leadership.

The question was how we might move each person forward one group and how we support those in (d).

Lots of discussion was generated all of which is helpful so, from your lists, where do we start? Certain things leap out from the page.

We need to publicise things better and to make greater use of the web and of social media. We are not actually very good at this at the moment and I think we all know that addressing this is really important. Realistically we shall need to employ some help on this since we don't have the necessary skills/time within the congregation. We are also going to look actively at a computerized noticeboard which can be updated at least weekly.

We shall try to build up the way in which we welcome people coming to our church in general, and the way in which we welcome people on a Sunday. Making visitors feel welcome is something in which we all play a vital part. It's the responsibility of us all to welcome visitors and strangers, not just a few. We all have a role.

Coupled with this, we shall look at better 'internal' signage in the building. For a simple example, anyone coming to the church for a service has no idea where the toilets are, meaning that they have to ask. That can be embarrassing and telling people to go through the door at the front right doesn't help because there are two and one of them takes you straight outside and to the electricity meters! So we can improve the basic signage.

We shall pick up ideas for future events, some of which can be easily achieved and some of which will take a bit more planning. The discussions brought forward lots of ideas; we just have to be realistic about how much we can do and when. Rome, as they say, wasn't built in a day but we can begin to plan more for the future, focussing our energies where they might be most successful.

We shall look at how to develop closer links with our hall hirers. They are already part of our existing wider church community, so it would be good to see how we can look to build any bridges there as well as seeing them as being part of our income strain.

Finally, the appointment of an administrative assistant is important. It is becoming really obvious that this is no longer a luxury but a necessity and there is so much that such a person could achieve. The

warmth of the meeting's reaction to the idea, together with subsequent comments, makes it clear that this need is keenly appreciated.

So, once again, sincere thanks for those discussions in June and for the subsequent feedback. Much more will come which arises from them but this is what we are going to do for a start. Do please take a minute or two to read through what everyone was saying.

With all good wishes,



News of the Church Family

In Memoriam

Geof Coaker

We were so sorry to hear that Geof died on 3rd July and we send our love and sympathy to Tricia and their children, Alastair, Christine and Annette, and grandchildren, Nathan, Alec and Zoe, at this sad time. A Service of Thanksgiving for Geof's life was held in the church and you will find a tribute to him on page 14.

Marigold Crampton

We were much saddened to learn of the death of Marigold on 1st August and send our love and condolences to her daughter, June, and to her wider family and friends. There will be a Service of Thanksgiving for Marigold in the church on Friday 1st September at 2.30pm and an appreciation of her life in the October issue of the magazine.

Tributes to **Holms Carlile** and **Chris Goddard**, whose passings were noted in the July and August issue of the magazine, are on page 11 and page 13 respectively.

Reception into Membership

It was a great joy to welcome Jackie Rodwell into church membership on 2nd July by Reaffirmation of Faith.

Birth

Margaret Drennan is delighted to welcome a second great-grandchild into her family following the birth in New York on 15th July of a daughter, Pania Ray, to (grandson) Daniel and Eleni Cary – a granddaughter for Barbara and sister for Toula Mara. The name Pania is a link with Eleni's home country of New Zealand. We send love and good wishes to all the family.



Dedication

Eden Mortimer-Cleevley

23 July

Following the Dedication Service for Eden we received a lovely card from his parents, Mark and Stephen.

"To Michael and all at St Andrew's. Thank you for making Eden's special day so lovely. The service was delightful and the addition of activities for the kids was very much appreciated. As always it was a joy to be part of your church and all felt the love and joy that exudes from St Andrew's. With love, Mark, Stephen, Caspian and Eden."

It was lovely to see the church so full on this occasion and it was a reminder of Caspian's Service of Dedication at Weybridge in 2019. Following the usual 'coffee and biscuits' in the hall after the service the family had a celebratory party with some lively entertainment from 'Crazy Hazy' (aka Tracy) to the delight of the many visiting children who were able to dance off their surplus energy in style.

Forthcoming Marriage

The marriage of Katharine Maher and Adam Whitaker will take place in the church on 9th September at 1.30pm. We send love and best wishes to them for this very special day.

Happy Birthday x 3

Barbara Fielding, Jan de Kok and Norma Reid all reached milestone birthdays in August. We hope they enjoyed their celebrations and send good wishes for many more years among us.

New Home

Good wishes to Brian and Kate Ashfield who have moved to a ground-floor flat in Woking. They are so glad to say goodbye to living with two stair-lifts! We hope they will be very happy and comfortable in their new home. If you want to contact them their email addresses and mobile numbers remain the same.

A Good Result

Beryl Brown writes: *"In early July I went into Harefield Hospital for a heart procedure to eliminate atrial fibrillation. It was very successful, my heart going back into normal rhythm straight after. I also found out the first time I went upstairs the next day that I could go up a whole flight without getting breathless, which was amazing! The staff at Harefield were fantastic, very efficient but very friendly and quite laid back. Nothing was too much trouble. When I was admitted into the ward at 7.30 in the morning, feeling more than a little nervous, son Chris was allowed in and sat with me while they did all the paperwork and some of the pre-op tests. It made things a lot more relaxed and a lot less stressful. I was very tired afterwards and it took a few days to get the general anaesthetic out of my system. However I was well looked after, staying in Rugby for a week with Chris and his family.*

Welcome Back

It was lovely to see Margaret Faultless back in church on 20th August and to know that she is now making significant progress following surgery and her subsequent treatment.

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.

CHANGE OF DATE CHURCH MEETING

Please note the **Church Meeting**
will now be held on **1 OCTOBER**
immediately after the service.

Cover Photo: The Old Wey Bridge

This bridge was built in 1865 – the same year that Weybridge Congregational Church was opened. The need for a crossing at Weybridge (other than by boat) was recognised early on by the monks of Chertsey Abbey (founded 666). Vast tracts of land totalling 50,000 acres were owned by the Abbey stretching out to the edge of London and it became an increasingly important place generating lots of 'traffic' – particularly as a place of pilgrimage following the internment there of King Henry VI after the Wars of the Roses. (His body was eventually moved to Windsor.) Thus a safe and reliable bridge crossing was essential. The Abbey fell victim to Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1537 and some of the stones were used to build Oatlands Palace. Subsequently the royal occupants were said to have used the bridge to access part of their hunting grounds. By 1571 the simple mediaeval 'horse bridge' from the 1200s was deemed unsafe and a new wooden bridge (5 ft wide) was built. In turn this bridge was replaced in 1809 by one with 13 wooden arches and wide enough for horse-drawn carts and carriages. It had a comparatively short life being replaced in 1865 by the 7ft wide single carriage-way, stone and iron bridge we use today. Driving over this bridge and along the lane could be seen as travelling through history – slightly slower but more interesting than taking the main road. AH

Minutes of Church Meeting 25 June 2023

This meeting was run concurrently with the Sunday morning service, with discussion interspersed with hymns, prayers and readings. This was particularly appropriate as the main focus of the meeting was to be on outreach, which needed to be firmly anchored in our worship and our identity as a church. The meeting was led by the Minister, and attended by 35 other members and adherents. Apologies had been received from 13 others.

Pastoral Matters

The meeting sadly recorded the deaths of Keith Fitzgerald, Holms Carlile, Chris Goddard and Margaret Parker, and stood in memory of them. This was followed by a prayer.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 March, 2023.

These were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

Outreach

Following the reading from St. Matthew Ch. 13, about the sower and the seed, the Minister reminded the congregation of key aspects of the mission charge at the end of St. Matthew's Gospel, which we had been examining in recent weeks. Jesus had instructed his disciples to pass on his teaching to others, and promised always to be with them. At the moment, St Andrew's URC congregation comprised four groups: those who attended services in person; those who attended services via Zoom; members of Artpeace, listening via WhatsApp in Zimbabwe; and those who attended Messy Church, held on the afternoon of the third Sunday in each month. Taken together, those four groups meant that the church had one of the larger congregations in our area, though we needed to plan to add fresh faces if the church was to have a long-term future. But the primary aim of outreach was to fulfil the instruction to share our faith with others, and that was something in which everyone should participate, not just the most committed. Jesus promised we would be provided with the skills we need.

The Minister said that the Elders had recently been discussing these matters with Ray Stanyon, our Synod Development and Support Officer. At his suggestion, a community audit had been done of the local area, and the results had now been shared with the St Andrew's congregation. The audit told us quite a lot about the nature of the community of which we are part. The Minister now drew attention to two charts given to those attending as they came into church before the service. These presented the same information in different ways, either as columns or concentric circles. The columns and circles represented five groups of people.

- i) The Community, defined as people who live in this area but have nothing to do with the church. They might not even know of our existence, but if they do, they have little knowledge of what we do and might even harbour misconceptions.
- ii) The Crowd, defined as people who are aware of St Andrew's, and may have attended events on the premises, but have no real connection with the church.
- iii) The Congregation, defined here as people who come to church occasionally, or have done so in the past. They may well regard this as "their church", even though we do not see them often.
- iv) The Committed, defined as those who are regular worshippers.
- v) The Core, defined as those who not only worship regularly, but undertake a range of functions to ensure that the church can continue to operate – the Elders and other office holders, and those who regularly volunteer for duties.

The Minister invited those attending the meeting to form small discussion groups, to look at one of these categories, and to consider ideas about how those within that category might be encouraged to move into the next one. There followed some lively discussion, after which the person taking notes in each group was asked to provide the material to Liz Grimsey, so that it could be circulated as a basis for ongoing discussion. Any additional thoughts which arose over the next few days should also be passed to Liz so that she could incorporate them in the circulated material. The Minister would also draw on the material in future written notes for the congregation.

[The material provided from the group discussions, and subsequent individual contributions, is attached.]

Possibility of some administrative help

The Minister mentioned that an opportunity had arisen to explore the possibility of some paid administrative assistance to help the church run more smoothly. The administrator of another URC church not too far away was interested in increasing her working hours. She had a very good knowledge of the URC and its procedures. Exactly what she might be asked to help with was very much open to discussion, as were the hours for which she might work for St Andrew's, but possibilities would include support for Hilary Bennett on managing the hall hiring (with the possibility of increasing revenue from that); managing the church website and keeping it up to date: and producing the weekly service sheet. It was suggested that support should be sought not only for the website, but also Facebook and other internet options.

The Minister and Elders did not want to explore these matters in any detail without knowing whether the Church Meeting would in principle support the seeking of paid administrative help. If it was decided to proceed, the possibility of the administrator continuing to be employed by the church for which she currently worked, but with additional hours which St Andrew's would purchase from that church, would be examined. The meeting agreed unanimously that the opportunity of securing some paid administrative support should be explored further.

Pastoral care

The Minister said that new lists had now been drawn up, and the Elders would be contacting those on their lists shortly. If there was any confusion, people were welcome to ring him. The new church directory would be published as soon as those who had not yet returned their signed GDPR forms had been given a chance to clarify their position. No one had to sign a GDPR form, but unless they did so, they could not be included in the directory.

There being no AOB, the meeting closed with the Grace.

Date of next meeting: tbc.

IDEAS FOR OUTREACH

Notes from group discussions on 25 June 2023 and subsequent individual contributions.

Goals/Objectives/Outcomes:

Why, Who, What, How, When, Where

To provide support/encouragement, companionship, comfort, help/guidance, knowledge, expertise, skills sharing through a variety of events and activities for the local Community, within the church environment but outside church services?

To bring the word of God to the Community?

To increase congregation numbers?

Topic A

Encouraging Movement from the Community to the Crowd

Two groups discussed this.

Bit of outreach as church is lit up.

What we could do:

- Community Café
- Toddler Groups
- Children's swap shop for clothes, equipment and toys
- Better notice board that reflects who we are and states clearly what is going on, including: Messy Church and uniformed organisation meetings.
- Make garden available to families who don't have their own outdoor space.

Other ideas include:

- Pot Luck Lunches
- Books/Jigsaw Library
- Story/Rhyme-time Sessions
- Digital Buddy (help with online banking, shopping etc)
- Car Pool (shopping, GP/Hospital/Dentist appointments)
- Knowledge/Skills Exchange (Meal Planning, Recipes, Budgeting, Financial Planning, CV Writing, Interview Techniques)
- Community Prayer/Support Group

But – how sustainable is it if it relies on volunteers?

Topic B

Discussion about Community (all the residents of our area)

by James Zhang, Alan Crawford, Val Cave, Claire and Jem Ward

Aim: To get people to notice that the Church is Here

- The church's presence needs to be promoted more widely. This should mean the further development of the website, including promotions to families as well as to those seeking to overcome loneliness.
- The church's presence on social media (Facebook, TikTok) needs to grow, to advertise services, Messy Church and special events.
- Could free coffee be advertised to passers-by after the Sunday service?
- Are we able to arrange community lunches, given that there may be a need arising from the increase in demand for the Foodbank?
- Can we put up a Messy Church banner on the garden wall? A timetable notice board in the grounds? This could be important as lots of people walk and drive by and could receive an immediate and readable message.
- More provision of things to do for visiting children, including active things like table tennis.

Topic C

Encouraging Movement from the Crowd to the Congregation

This was discussed by two groups.

- There are all sorts of reasons why people who know about church may not wish, or may find it difficult, to come to church services. These include lack of interest among other members of their family (they may be married to someone of a different faith or no faith) and other pressing demands on their time at weekends (families, catching-up with a range of non-work activities, sports events, including those for children).

Ideas for encouraging greater involvement included:

- Increase the number of services involving the uniformed groups.
- Offer more flexible timing of services.
- Conduct services in local church schools to inform children.
- Should we go to where children are on Sundays eg sports fields?
- Encourage people to come to Messy Church.
- A church in Claygate opens its doors to all during the week, from tiny tots to the elderly.
- 'Mums, bumps and babies'
- Invite neighbours.
- Welcome people through the door on their initial visits in the hope that they will feel encouraged to return.
- Elders and indeed others could facilitate getting to know non-churchgoers better.

Topic D

Communicate – How can we use our resources to attract the Crowd?

How do we become relevant to the Crowd?

Can we be part of a bigger group eg Synod to address the problem of declining numbers?

- Share why we come here ie to meet our friends and God.
- Different types of service/event: eg St Peter's, Hersham had a Sunday evening 'Music to calm the soul' event once a month, with wine and soft drinks available for those who wanted them. Weybridge URC had offered lunchtime organ recitals which had got people into the building, but they did not necessarily get people to come to church. Might some messages about the church have been added?
- Visit the Road to Emmaus Church which meets at Guildford Theatre on Sunday mornings to see how they do things. They have coffee before church and a range of activities for children of different ages. Very evangelical.
- Use music to target the audience and energise them. Include happy music eg Mission Praise.
- Include performances during the service.
- Use an electric signboard in front of the church – people are less likely to walk past without looking.
- Use Facebook as well as the church website to let local people know what is going on here. If we succeed in getting some paid admin support, this is the sort of thing the administrator could take some quick action on.

Topic E

Encouraging Movement from the Congregation to the Committed

Who are the Congregation group? They attend but not regularly. They would describe themselves as churchgoers and St Andrew's as their church.

Why are people in this group?

- Different life stages
- Sunday can be the only day to catch up with family
- Other Sunday activities

How might we encourage this group onwards?

Our examples here relate to people's past experiences of re-establishing a relationship with a church and are not current.

- The warmth of our welcome is important.
- Regular contact from others in the church – the committed and the core – face to face, by telephone and pastoral visits. Greetings cards, distribution of flowers if appropriate.
- Not making anyone who does come back after an absence feel bad – welcome them instead.
- Ensure everyone is aware of the different ways to worship and can be assisted if necessary – Zoom etc.
- LET THEM KNOW WE CARE

Other Points:

- Pastoral visits do not need to be confined to the Minister and Elders – there are others in the congregation who may like to do this also.
- What do we offer? – as well as services, social activities, Messy Church. We also discussed past events that have been offered such as coffee mornings at people's homes – this may draw in neighbours also.
- We finally looked at the good example of the Polish community who have joined Messy Church, through word of mouth.

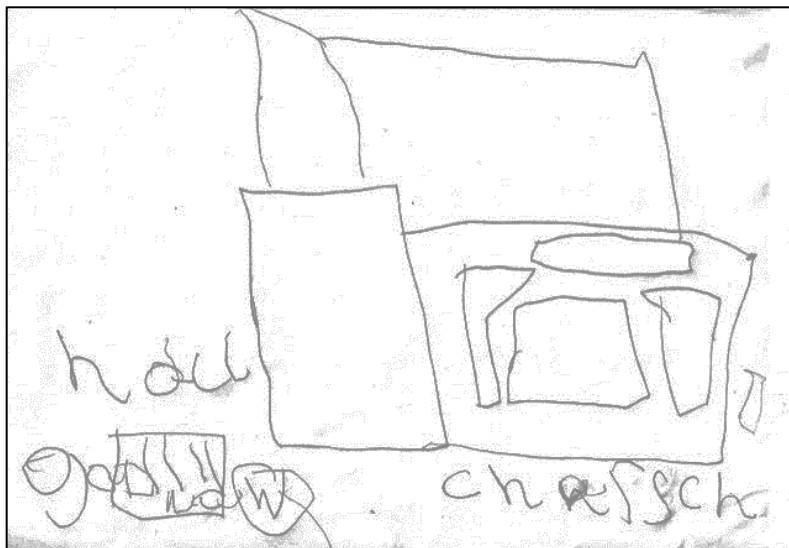
Topic F

Encouraging Movement from the Committed to the Core

Notes of our group 'committed': Jake (aged 5), Shirley & John and Alistair & Gwenda

- Jake got us going, he thought we needed a picture of our church, including the hall and the Gateway and the bit between. He considered what he could do to reach out and suggested he could ask his sisters to come with him and share in church. He also thought he could bring his best friend to join in Messy Church. He wondered if two other friends at school, who are both 'very fast', might come too. And we pondered on whether a youth club might be a good next step to encourage teenagers to join us. All of these are great ideas for encouraging early contact with the church.
- We went on to consider how we, (we agreed we are 'committed' to being in church), could do more. We looked back on previous experiences in both Weybridge (years ago) and in Walton (not that long ago) where we had been involved in identifying and offering our skills for use in projects but no action had been taken and we were left wondering why nothing had happened and if our skills were not needed, so what else we could come up with.
- We persevered by looking at ourselves and recognising that we are not in church every Sunday for a variety of reasons and this can cause reluctance to commit to being on a rota when life causes disruption to plans at short notice. However, we also recognised that being in church could be seen as being willing to be asked to step in at short notice to do something eg welcoming others as they enter the church, maybe pouring the coffee/tea or anything else.

Author's postscript: The last sentence can be seen as a serious offer to help on an ad hoc basis and a way of including others who are physically present on the day. It may also answer a need to be included.



Jake's Drawing



Wessex Synod: Prayer Calendar for September

3	Iford, Bournemouth; Elstead
10	Hungerford; St Columba, Gosport
17	Immanuel, Southbourne, Bournemouth; Fleet
24	Marsh Gibbon; United Church Bridport

Friends Remembered



Holms Carlile

Holms' daughters, Alison, Kate and Lindsay, have provided the following tribute to "the wonderful man we are proud to call Dad".

Holms Junior was born in Paisley on 27 June 1932, the son of Holms Senior and Mary Carlile and a loving brother to his sister May. The Carlile family was a very happy one with loving parents who brought their children up in a traditional Scottish home. Educated at the John Neilson Institute in Paisley, he enjoyed his school life, with a keen interest in sports, especially cricket where he captained the school's first eleven. He also always had a great love of music and a good boy soprano voice, becoming a leading choir boy at the Coates Memorial Church in Paisley. His Scottish roots remained strong throughout his life – and it used to make us laugh, he even sneezed in Scottish so Atishoo in English would be translated into Och Poocha.

After school, as a management trainee he studied mechanical engineering at Royal Glasgow Technical College. He joined the RAF for his National Service and chose "photographic intelligence" as his Air Force Employment in Cyprus. Although a busy and successful business life were important to Dad, his primary interest was always his family. He was 20 years old when in Brodick on the Isle of Arran he met a young blossoming actress, Christine – she was almost 18. There was never anyone else as far as Dad was concerned and some seven years after meeting, they married in April 1959. Following his National Service, Mum and Dad moved south to England where he embarked on his career as a design engineer. Two years later, he entered the world of sales, followed by a long and successful management and consultancy career in the reprographics industry.

In 1964 Alison was born, followed by Kate in 1968 and Lindsay in 1970. These were very happy family times in a lively, extremely loud and, of course, female-dominated household, apart from the beloved family dog, Hamish, who did what he could to try and redress the balance! With three pretty opinionated daughters, Sunday lunch sometimes became a political, social and economic debating forum, often very heated – in hindsight, a lot of fun!

Dad had a great sense of humour which many of you will have experienced. He loved to tell jokes at home and during the many business and golf club speeches he gave. Although he was a very level-headed, fair-minded and calm individual, he was tested many times in the past with three teenage girls and was often to be found out late at night in his pyjamas, duffle coat and flat cap marching into a night club to bring home a daughter! He was an inherently funny man, both intentionally and unintentionally.

He enjoyed an immensely successful business career gaining huge respect from colleagues and counterparts alike. In 1979 he was appointed Managing Director of Aarque Systems in Australasia, as a result of which the family spent several very happy years living in Sydney, bringing us wonderful experiences and creating memories which we all cherish. One stand-out memory is of a small child of around 3 years old being dramatically swept out to sea while her parents were chatting on the beach. Although Dad was not a strong swimmer he leapt into action and, in very difficult conditions, definitely saved a life that day. Our Dad, the hero!

The family returned to the UK in 1983, Dad as Chairman of both the UK and Australasian companies until his retirement in 1989. During his career he was well known for giving wise counsel and guidance, was a considerate and unpretentious colleague with a much-admired generosity of spirit.

The Church has always been a very important part of Dad's life. He and Mum joined St Andrew's when they moved to England and have been active members for over 60 years. Dad played an involved role both as a church member and as an Elder and both he and Mum were members of the Choir and the Badminton Club. St Andrew's not only provided spiritual nourishment but also cherished lifelong friends with a wonderful social life and memories for all the family.

Dad was an extremely keen sportsman. Whilst living in Scotland he played league cricket and, after moving South, played for Sunbury Cricket Club for many years. However, his sporting passion in later life was golf. Originally a member of Paisley Golf Club, he joined St George's Hill Golf Club in 1974 and has been described by fellow members as one of the Club's greatest servants. He was Captain in 1994 and Chairman from 1996 to 2003. After retiring as Chairman, he was a trusted unofficial advisor, and since 2011 was the Club's

popular and highly respected President. His golfing career took a slightly dramatic turn in 2011 when he was forced to turn professional after winning a car at the Nelson Trophy with an unexpected hole in one at the 8th hole! He has been described by some of his club mates as a true gentleman with countless fine qualities, hugely respected, enormously admired and a privilege to have known.

Mum and Dad enjoyed many happy years together – travelling far and wide with friends and family. They enjoyed a busy social life, singing in the church choir, playing golf both in the UK and in Florida with Mum's sister Libby and husband John. Dad also thoroughly enjoyed his many boys' trips golfing in Portugal. Of course, spending time with his seven beloved grandchildren brought Dad enormous joy and pleasure over many years. Katy, Emma, Isla, Scott, Cameron, Jake, and Christina all know how incredibly lucky they were to have known and spent time with such an amazing Grandpa. He was immensely proud and supportive of his grandchildren, who all enjoyed the interest he took in all their endeavours, his humour, and unconditional love.

Over many years at home in Tower Grove and Broadwater Place in Weybridge, Mum and Dad enjoyed great relationships with many good friends and neighbours. Dad moved to Signature in Weybridge in March this year where he received wonderful care from amazing staff and, shortly after, was joined by Mum in time to celebrate their 64th wedding anniversary, a milestone that not many achieve and a testimony to their enduring love, commitment and friendship.

Dad fundamentally believed that separations are temporary and that we will all meet again in a better place, a belief which we as a family are now focussing on. As a father he always provided unconditional love and support to all three of us for which we are truly grateful. He provided Mum with unwavering love, care and support throughout their married life – true soul mates. His was a life rewarded by the immense love of his family as well as countless friendships.

So the man Holms: husband, Dad, Grumpa, Uncle, friend and colleague – we are so proud of him! The letters and cards we have received since his passing have been utterly overwhelming in their praise of his character. Mum has found such support from numerous letters, calls and visits and to see you all here at his Service of Thanksgiving is testimony to the man that he was. He would be thrilled and humbled at the same time. He was so lucky to have had such a long life, almost 91 years, which he really made the most of. He had an enormous zest for life, and stoically braved his way through every medical issue over the years with determination and a hugely strong will to live. We are lucky to have had him with us for so long and would like to believe that our sadness at the gaping hole he has left behind will in time be softened by the wonderful memories of the life we all shared.

Thank you Dad, we love you.

From the Minister

Holms was an incredibly special person and although we mourn his death there is so much about his life to celebrate. The poet John Donne famously wrote:

*No man is an island,
Entire of itself,
Every man is a piece of the continent,
A part of the main.*

It strikes me that Holms certainly lived by that maxim. I shall miss being able to tap his brain for wisdom and advice – and I shall also miss his company – his charm, his graciousness and his humour – but I'm reminded of something that Kahil Gilbran wrote in his book, 'The Prophet'. About death, Gilbran said:

*When you are sorrowful, look into your heart and you will see,
that for which you weep has, till now, been your delight.*

That is so true of Holms. Holms has very much been our delight and that is why we are all going to miss him very much. I leave the final words, though, to an Ayrshire man, Robert Burns, who wrote:

*An honest man here lies at rest,
As e'er God with His image blest:
The friend of man, the friend of truth;
The friend of age, and guide of youth:
Few hearts like his, with virtue warm'd,
Few heads with knowledge so inform'd:*



Cyril Goddard (Chris): Tributes from his sons

Cyril was known by many friends as Chris as he was not very fond of his given name (used by the family). He was also known as Opa or Granddaddy to his Grandchildren and Great Grandson. He was born in Reading in 1924 and educated at Reading Grammar School. He had no siblings but did have a number of cousins close to Reading and he recalled that he had frequently cycled out to visit them during his childhood.

Cyril possessed good skills in languages and mathematics. He gained his School Certificate in 1942, during the Second World War, and was called up to join the Army. He spent some of it in Manchester in a regimental pay office and later, just after the war ended, he was posted to Kenya, East Africa. Like many of his generation, military service provided him with an opportunity to see countries he might not have expected to visit. He sailed to Mombasa, Kenya on a troopship via Freetown in West Africa and Cape Town. He then spent a year in Nairobi, again working in an Army pay office. From reading his diary, he spent a lot of his time overseas studying for an accountancy qualification, but also learnt Swahili so he could speak to the Kenyan's working in the camp where he was stationed and when travelling around Kenya. He returned to the UK in the autumn of 1946 on board the SS ORONTES via the Suez Canal.

After being de-mobbed, he worked as an accountant conducting audits in various locations around the UK. He had met Dianne, Robin's and my mother, during the war and they were married on 25th March 1953. They initially lived in London before moving to Manchester for about five years. Both Robin and I were born in Manchester, but we moved to Weycroft Lodge in Weybridge in 1961.

Cyril was very practical and an avid DIY enthusiast and after moving to Weycroft Lodge he set about building cupboards, wardrobes and several other items, including a large garden shed, all of which survive today. He was a capable cook and took on much of the cooking at home. He enjoyed helping people and when I joined the Scouts in 1968 he volunteered to assist at the summer camp, where his practical skills were used to good effect when building shelters and some pioneering projects such as building rope bridges.

Sadly, Dianne died in 1973, and he remained a widower for the rest of his life. He single-handedly brought up Robin and myself whilst continuing to work as an accountant.

In the mid-1970s he decided on a change of career and trained to become a chef, and then worked for a while in the kitchen at Whitely Retirement Village before embracing his hobby of DIY and starting his own decorating business. There must be many houses in the local area that he will have decorated.

At about the same time Cyril was encouraged to become the Group Scout Leader to the 4th Weybridge Scout Group. He gained his Wood Badge in 1975 after successfully completing his leader's training and took an active involvement in the running of meetings, events such as the District Scout Swimming Gala and various camps under canvas, including a successful joint camp with a German Scout group in Bonndorf in the Black Forest. He was awarded the Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service, the Award for Merit and the Silver Acorn for his long and distinguished service to Scouting. In addition, he served as an Elder to the Weybridge United Reformed Church, managed the church hall bookings and assisted with cleaning the church for many years.

After retiring from regular work, he also volunteered to deliver meals for the local Meals on Wheels team and transported people to hospital and other appointments. As well as helping members of his local community, he also helped Robin and myself as our families were growing up.

Cyril enjoyed travelling, and Germany was a country he loved to visit. In typical form he chose to understand as much as he could about the culture and joined a German language class, through which he made new and lasting friendships. He regularly visited Norway and Austria. In addition, he visited my family when the Royal Navy posted me to the US Naval Academy at Annapolis in Maryland and later to Sydney in Australia. He independently made further visits to Australia and Canada.

Cyril loved classical music and built a considerable collection of LPs and reel-to-reel-tapes. He also had a great affection for cats, he took on Whisky from Wheats Farm owned by his cousins, so named as she was black and white like the name of the brand of whisky, then later Scoobie a jet-black cat from Robin and most recently became a part-time owner of a neighbour's cat that was a regular day visitor.

Cyril enjoyed good health for most of his life and was fortunately able to remain living at Weycroft Lodge until just before Christmas last year.

Cyril was a humble and self-effacing man, who looked to find solutions to problems. He most enjoyed getting his hands dirty and helping others. He joked about hanging on for his 'telegram' from Buckingham Palace, but unfortunately he did not quite make that milestone. As a family we look back with pride and fondness on all that he achieved during his long life and what he gave to others.

David Goddard

You were more than a father.
You inspired us with your commitment and compassion.
You helped and encouraged us and others.
You cared for those around you and you never realised how much that meant.
You shared your skills and time.
You made a difference to so many and asked so little of anyone.
But most of all you were you.
So with pride and love we thank you for everything.

Robin Goddard

From the Minister

The Weybridge church records tell us that Chris was appointed Group Scout Leader for 4th Weybridge in May 1973 and served until 1987. 4th Weybridge remains a big Scout Group, meeting as Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, and has nearly 100 young people as members and about 20 adults and young leaders as well – very much a thriving concern and they are represented here today by Southy, the current GSO. Mention has already been made of Chris's service in the church as well and he served as an Elder from January 1984 to December 2009. Again, he is fondly remembered by the former members from Weybridge. He is remembered for his kindness, his helpfulness, for his smile and for living out his Christian faith.

At the invitation of the Minister at the close of the service Graham South (Southy) led former members of the Scout Movement in the congregation in a renewal of their Scout Promise as a tribute to Chris.

Geof Coaker



Geof was born in Chingford, having an older brother, Peter, who sadly died a few years ago now. He moved to Walton in September 1939, when he was still only three, and has lived here ever since. 3rd September 1939, by the way, may be remembered by most as being the day war broke out but for Geof it was the day he lost his shrimping net at Walton-on-the-Naze!

After prep school, Geof went to Tiffin School in Kingston and then began his working life with Sanderson Fabrics before being called-up for National Service in 1955 with the RAF. Most of his service was undertaken in Germany on a forward radar station guarding the Berlin corridor – and so at the service at Randalls Park Crematorium we recognised this by leaving to the RAF March! The first triumphant notes rang out much more loudly than expected (the sound system seemed to be set at full volume) and made everyone jump to their feet in great surprise and then burst into laughter! When the undertaker opened the doors of the chapel the sound of laughter was obviously not what he had expected. Geof, though, would definitely have been amused – the laughter a gift from him to us.

De-mobbed, Geoff returned to London and worked for Victor Bladgen Chemicals where he became responsible for the shipment of chemicals all over the world. In 1965, however, Geof joined Shellabear Price Contractors in Walton as their Accounts Manager, moving in 1978 to join Esso Exploration and Production UK, finally retiring in September 1995 from Esso Petroleum. Geof's career always involved working with numbers which made him the perfect scorer at Danesfield Sports Days when Tricia was working there.

Geof and Tricia met at 'Young Conservatives', also known then as the local 'marriage market'! They courted and were married in this church in September 1961. The first hymn sung at Geof's service in the church (Praise, my soul, the king of heaven) was chosen specially by Tricia because it was the first hymn sung at their wedding almost 62 years ago. The flowers in church were also the same colour as at their wedding – yellow and white.

Tricia and Geof were blessed with three children – Alastair, Christine and Annette and as the years have gone by so the family has expanded to include three grandchildren – Nathan, Alec and Zoe. Family was so important to Geof and was the source of so much joy to him. Geof was a gentle man, not one to make a fuss, but a man with a smile and a sense of humour. Never known to wear a pair of jeans, Geof was happy to don a turkey hat at Christmas!

Geof was always a keen sportsman. He joined Walton Tennis Club in the '50s where he also served as Treasurer for 21 years. He also played squash at Walton Squash Club and played at Walton Hockey Club and he was a demon Badminton player at the club here at St Andrew's, where he was also Treasurer for many years. Geof, by the way, became a member of this church back in June 1963. Tricia came into membership here in 1956. Geof was a member of the Golf Clubs at Abbey Moor, Silvermere and also Surbiton. He only gave up participation in sport and of going to events when his mobility became an issue.

Away from work and from sport Geof was a keen gardener, not only having the garden at home in Rydens Avenue but also an allotment. One of Tricia's memories is that there always seemed to be a glut of veg which needed immediate attention the night before they went on holiday!

Driving was also something that Geof enjoyed, happy to drive for family things such as holidays – and as the kids' taxi service. He was an eager participant in church 'car treasure hunts' and he also drove doctors on 'out-of-hours service' around Surrey and for the Farnborough Air Show.

And then there's his love of military band music which he shared with friends at concerts and at the Bandstand in Eastbourne.

There are also all the holidays that Geoff enjoyed – leisure trips – Guernsey, golf-links by the sea, train trips in Scotland and in Spain as well as canal holidays, although these were not always without incident, including driving into a lock gate; and then the time when the accelerator jammed (whilst trying to moor), causing a few boats to be crashed into.

Geof certainly had a very active life. There are so many stories which could be told but we also know that the last few years have not been easy for him as his mobility deteriorated. He ultimately went into West Hall, where he was extremely well cared for, and where he passed peacefully away in July.

Michael Hodgson

People Who Lunch Church Hall

12.30pm 8 September

Everyone is welcome at People Who Lunch which is held on the second Friday of the month in the church hall. For just £5.00 the menu covers soup, roll, dessert, cheese and biscuits and coffee. It is a very sociable occasion and if you have not been before you might like to try it out this month. Remember, too, that if you have friends who may be interested in coming, or if you know of anyone who is lonely and would appreciate an opportunity of meeting people, they will be very welcome. Please note that advance booking is essential as otherwise there might not be enough food to go round! So book your place (and theirs) by contacting Anne Fitzgerald.

Messy

Messy Church in July occurred at the Wimbledon. Not sure if this was the lovely that two of our regulars brought Wise and Foolish builders. We used experience the story. The children blocks and sand and watching the ones on the sand crashing down as they added water to the bowl. We provided salt dough for the children to make hand prints and suggested they took them home and hardened them in the oven to compare with the size of their hands when they were more grown up. Also I experimented making magic sand with flour and oil which was quite pleasant to drizzle or even model into shapes. Jean brought along the railway set which was very popular and, of course, we had colouring sheets.



Church

same time as the finals day at reason we had few children, but it was along friends. Our theme was the sand and blocks to experiment and had great fun building houses on

After the Celebration, during which we looked at a video of the story and trooped out to observe the foundation stone of the church, we had a picnic out in the garden.



Railways need strong foundations



Building on sand and rock



Hand Prints in salt dough



Drizzling the magic sand

Anne Fitzgerald



Celebrating Harvest

10.30am 8 October



A service for all the Church Family with Church Parade for the uniformed organisations

Since our Harvest Celebration is near the beginning of October it was thought this early information would be helpful and give you time to pass it on to anyone else who might be interested. Once again we are glad to support the Walton & Hersham 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.

To give you some background information: The Walton & Hersham Foodbank is well-organised with an administrative office, a food warehouse and three distribution centres – St John's CofE, Walton; St Peter's CofE, Hersham and our own church (between them open for a few hours covering four days a week). This teamwork and the generosity of the community enabled the foodbank to provide 20, 979 meals from January to June 2023.

A client said: *"The foodbank was there when we really needed it, it was an absolute lifeline."*

The Foodbank statement says: *"We don't think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why we provide three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local*

people who are referred to us in crisis. We are part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.” (Over 90% of the food distributed by foodbanks in The Trussell Trust network is donated by the public.)

Below is a list of the items currently most needed by the Foodbank.
The list is updated as requirements change and full details may be found on the Foodbank website.

Most Needed Items – (Please check best before’ dates – long-dated items only.)

Tinned Tomatoes	Tinned Tuna	Tinned Carrots	Tinned Peas	Instant Pot Noodles
Ketchup	Mayonnaise	Instant Coffee	Tinned Fruit	Tinned Rice Puddings
Crisps/Savoury Snacks	(FamilySize)	Long Life Sponge Puddings		Long Life Custard

This does not mean that you cannot give other items but please note that the **Foodbank does not require Baked Beans, Cereal, Toothpaste or Toothbrushes** as it has plenty of these items in stock. **Neither can it accept fresh food, out-of-date or opened food and no bottled water, alcohol, bleach, mouthwash, hair colour or medicines and supplements** and also **cannot use large catering packs.**

**Financial Contributions to the Walton & Hersham Foodbank as a Harvest Gift
How to make your donation through the church.**

Some of you may prefer to make a financial contribution to the Foodbank, rather than a food donation

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

a) Bank Transfer

If you don't have the details of the church's bank account, please contact the Treasurer – Jem Ward.

or by

b) a cheque made out to 'St Andrew's URC, Walton and Weybridge'.

Please put this in an envelope marked 'Harvest' and addressed to the Treasurer. It may be placed on the offertory plate as you leave. If you are not going to be present at the Harvest Service you can do this on any Sunday beforehand.

or by

c) loose cash

Please put this in an envelope marked 'Harvest' and addressed to the Treasurer. It may be placed on the offertory plate as you leave the church. If you are not going to be present at the Harvest Service you can do this on any Sunday beforehand.

Please ensure that whichever method you choose you indicate your donation is for the Walton & Hersham Foodbank.

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

Refreshments after the Harvest Service

Coffee, tea and soft drinks will be available for everyone – children and adults – in the main hall after the service. Join in and welcome the visitors who will be with us on this occasion.



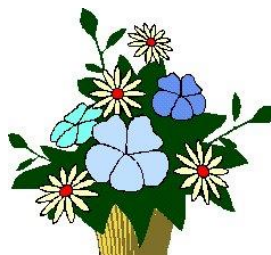
Footnote

The Foodbank can't operate without volunteers. If you would like to join the team and make a difference to people's lives (and are available during the working week) please download an application form through info@waltonhersham.foodbank.org.uk [Application form 2023](#)

Would you like to help



by joining in preparing and serving coffee/tea after the service? If so, please sign the rota (on the stage in the hall) for your chosen date(s).



by providing the flowers on the Communion Table for the service one Sunday? If so, please sign the rota (on top of the cupboard) in The Gateway.



NEWS FROM THE URC

URC General Assembly

The Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson was inducted as the new Moderator of the URC General Assembly for 2023-2024. The Assembly was held



from 30 June to 3 July at The Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire. Her induction was part of a joyous closing act of worship led by the two Chaplains to the Moderator – Karen Campbell and the Revd Stephen Ansa-Addo.

Tessa's career began in the 1990s in Trinidad and Tobago and continued in the UK when she worked with students in primary, secondary and tertiary education, including those for whom English is not their first language. Tessa began training to be a Minister of the Word and Sacraments in 2014 and was ordained in 2018. She is currently Minister of four URC congregations in East London – Wanstead, Trinity Walthamstow, Grange Park and Gants Hill. Her husband is also a Minister and they have four grown-up children and three grandchildren.

In her Assembly Moderator's Blog Tessa introduces herself and outlines what she hopes to do in her year as Moderator. It begins: *"Friends, I am Tessa Henry-Robinson – Minister of the Word and Sacraments in a four-congregation pastorate in Thames North Synod. I am the present Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church. I am also a spouse, mother, grandmother, sibling, and colleague I am interested in listening to and sharing stories, insights, and experiences as part of my commitment to assist in helping to guide the denomination to become a Church where all God's people are embraced with grace, peace and the knowledge that they are seen and heard."* You can read the blog in full by clicking on the link below.

<https://assemblymoderators.urc.org.uk/>
[Introducing the Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, General Assembly Moderator 2023-2024](#)

Wessex Synod – General Assembly Feedback Session on Zoom 7.00pm Tuesday 19 September (Zoom link opens at 6.45pm)

Meeting ID: 841 0289 0375 Passcode: 875586

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84102890375?pwd=UGVGa25NKzQwdnE1WEhSQzFrcEdoQT09>

This is an opportunity for you to share in informal discussions on some of the topics covered at the recent URC General Assembly with other churches in the Wessex Synod. Wessex representatives who attended the Assembly will also be present. Below is a link to an Assembly Business Digest from Church House Communications. You may find it useful to check this in advance of the Zoom discussions to gain general background information on the Assembly.

<https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Assembly-Business-Digest-2023-FINAL.pdf>

Flower Power

These photographs show some of the recent beautiful flower displays in the church which have been very much appreciated by the congregation.



25 June Margaret Faultless
In memory of Gordon



2 July Jackie Rodwell
For coming into membership



9 July Anna and Alan Crawford
For their Wedding Anniversary



16 July Paula Walsh
To mark her mother's birthday



23 July Jean Rigden
For John with Love



30 July The Flower Fund



6 August Norma Reid
In memory of her father



13 August The Coaker Family
In memory of Geof

Thank you

"I received a lovely assortment of flowers - orange gladioli, blue iris, pink stock and cream lisianthus from the display on the Communion Table on 30 July and which I enjoyed for the rest of that week. Thank you so much for both the flowers and, perhaps more importantly, for the friendship that they represented. My luck was in this month, as on 12 August I was presented with a beautiful arrangement from the flowers donated by the Coaker family (for my birthday!)"

Norma Reid

"I was very pleased to receive some of the flowers donated by Jean Rigden on my return to church after my heart procedure. Greatly appreciated."

Beryl Brown

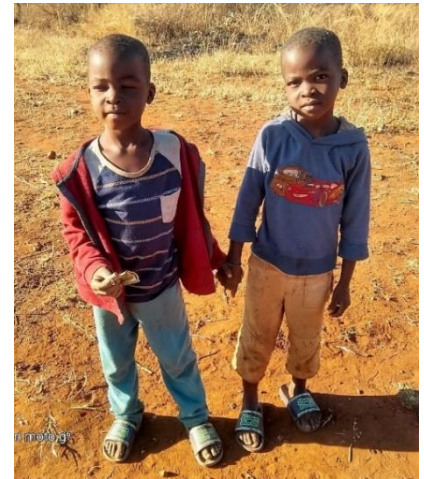
ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

GREAT EFFORT BY ST PETER'S! The sum of £900 was raised through a sale of sculptures at St Peter's CoE., Hersham after their well-attended morning service on 9th July. A



comprehensive flyer had been issued weeks before, so the congregation were well clued up on the plight of our friends. Artpeace were delighted to receive proceeds in full on July 11th. Many thanks to Rev. Jackie, Sarah, Martin and others for their support. Artpeace sent a joyful

appreciative video (clip photo above) which Sarah promptly added to their Facebook page attracting 150 views to date. Right: Two beneficiaries from a donation were brothers Dumusani (5) and Thembinkosi (4) who stay with their parents but do not attend school as they cannot afford fees. They have no proper shelter or food. Dumusani is seen holding 20\$ artist Herbert gave from our sale. His grateful mother rushed to buy food and soap to wash their clothes – every little helps!



GODFREY'S ORDEAL: It was so unfortunate for me when I got arrested by plain clothes police after taking some photos. I resisted arrest at first, but they handcuffed me and produced their IDs. It was around 11am when they threw me in the cells without taking any statement. My mobile and shoes had been surrendered in the charge office. They deleted the photos I took and confiscated my SIM card. I spent the whole day and night in the cells which were stinking due to



a toilet in the corner of the cell room which was only flushed once a day – it has to be done by someone outside the cell! We were 14 in the cell and were joined by another 7 at around 9pm – all 21 cooped up in an area around 16ft x 16ft. There was no view with a barred window near roof of cell. I braved the cold night with no blankets. At 6am I heard the noise of the cell door being unlocked. We were told to come out for counting. After some 30 mins we were locked up again with no food or water. During the afternoon when I peeped through a keyhole, I saw a cop putting some food onto the big lid of a rubbish

bin. The food stayed uncovered for almost half an hour when some pigeons took turns to feed. Come 3 pm, they unlocked the gate of the fence surrounding the cells and told the inmates to come and feed. The food was sadza which wasn't properly cooked with half cooked beans and no salt. I only had a pinch and couldn't continue feeding as I felt like vomiting. At 3.15pm we were locked up again to the next day. There were now 13 of us left as some relatives had paid fines for some inmates. It was extremely cold during the night, and we shared one blanket among five people and tried to sleep on the cold hard rough concrete floor. The blankets were infested with lice which were biting. It was so unbearable as the conditions are hard and harsh. On the third day my uncle had borrowed US\$160 and paid the fine as he was worried I was not taking my medication as I suffer badly from various ailments. I was released at around 5pm on Day 3, feeling ill and afraid.'

Godfrey's crime? He took some photos for our newsletter – showing Zanu PF (the Govt. political party) giving maize to poor people – the Govt. hate any publicity like this. Often food is given in exchange for votes - an election is due on 23rd August! Godfrey was never informed of his charge and never given a receipt for the fine. Zimbabwean voices are again muzzled through the recently legalized Patriots Act which has left them not knowing which words are safe to say or to whom.

QUITE A MENAGERIE! David and Arlene Schmidt who chanced to pass St Andrew's a few years ago whilst on holiday from Virginia, USA and became fascinated with the Artpeace project, cannot get enough of Godwin Nasho's work. Their latest arrivals sent via WoT - a rhino and a fierce lion in Unakite, a very attractive hard semi-precious stone. Godwin, needless to say, is delighted with the sale proceeds. The Schmidts enjoy a very large garden which includes a wood. David said:



In addition to turkeys, deer, and an occasional black bear, we have been blessed with four adult cottontail rabbits plus six baby ones, so had to fence in our vegetables (below).



SNIPPETS: More from Godfrey: 'Photo left - my mother-in-law seen cleaning two buckets of maize ready to go to the grinding mill. The last harvest has lasted us two months and hopefully will last until next season. Many thanks to our friends who donated maize seed and fertilisers. Your donation is going a long way. God Bless'. Godfrey, our oldest artist, is struggling to carve due to a medical condition – he suffers a lot, and his steadily deteriorating eyesight does not help. He prays for support to cover the cost of an eyesight test and spectacles.

GROUP NEWS: Coster and Lizeni are ill. Artpeace have virtually run out of stone as it is many years since their last trip to mines 100 kms away in the mountains to buy raw material kindly funded by Marlow URC. The outlook on many fronts is unclear, but we have been in this dire situation before and usually a little miracle happens, so we live in hope. **Johnston Simpson**

Words to Ponder

Over supper with friends recently the conversation turned to the fact that in the past people seemed to be able to commit so much to memory with comparative ease eg long poems, historical facts etc whereas in today's computerised world the same need doesn't exist – all we have to do is press a button or tap a screen and everything is there. Someone then commented on the fact that his grandmother really 'knew' her Bible and could recite various psalms, the 10 Commandments and so on. Mention of this last item prompted us to see if we, too, could list all these 'instructions' and to our chagrin we failed. (We couldn't quite recall all seven of the Deadly Sins either!) A few days later from one of my dining companions I received a copy of the 'Ten Commandments of Worship' – passed on to her some time earlier by a friend – and it seemed appropriate to include it in our church magazine.

The Ten Commandments of Worship

- 1 Thou shalt not come to service late,
 nor for the 'Amen' fail to wait.
- 2 When speaks the organ's sweet refrain
 thy noisy tongue shalt thou restrain.
- 3 But when the hymns are sounded out
 thou shalt lift up thy voice and shout.
- 4 And when the anthem thou shalt hear
 Thy sticky throat thou shalt not clear.
- 5 The endmost seat thou shalt leave free
 For more must share the pew with thee.
- 6 The offering plate thou shalt not fear
 But give thy uttermost with cheer.
- 7 Thou shalt to the Minister give heed
 nor blame him when thou art disagreed.
- 8 Unto thy neighbour thou shalt bend
 and, if a stranger, make a friend.
- 9 Thou shalt in every way be kind,
 compassionate and of tender mind.
- 10 And so, by all thy spirit's grace
 Thou shalt show God within this place.

Anon

A Church Member

PRAYER CORNER

A Hymn, Prayer, Poem of Joy

- 1 Joyful, joyful, we adore you
God of glory, Lord of love.
Hearts unfold like flowers before you
opening to the sun above
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the dark of doubt away
Giver of immortal gladness
fill us with the light of day.
- 2 All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays.
Stars and angels sing around you
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain
praising you eternally.
- 3 Always giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest.
Well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest.
Loving Father, Christ our Brother,
let your light upon us shine.
Teach us how to love each other.
Lift us to the light divine.
- 4 Mortals join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began.
God's own love is reigning o'er us
joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music lifts us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

Henry van Dyke (1852-1933)

This gloriously expressive hymn formed part of a recent service commemorating the life of one of our treasured members who had specifically requested it. An unusual choice it stood out among the much-loved hymns we are used to on such occasions. It was written in 1907 by Henry van Dyke Jr with the intention that it should be sung to Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy' from his 9th Symphony which had been composed a few years earlier. Henry van Dyke was a hugely cultured and talented man – academic, pastoral minister, author, poet, musician, diplomat – but he was also an 'outdoor' man with an overwhelming love of the natural world which he took great pleasure in sharing with his wife and children. He was an undergraduate and post-graduate at Princeton University (graduating in 1873 and 1876 respectively). After two years studying at the University of Berlin he returned to the USA and in 1879 was ordained as a Presbyterian Minister. Interestingly his first charge was at the United Congregational Church in Newport, Rhode Island. Several years later he chaired the Presbyterian Committee which in 1906 produced 'The Book of Common Worship'. In 1899 he took up an appointment as Professor of English Literature at Princeton but his stint there was interrupted in 1913 when President Woodrow Wilson appointed him as Ambassador to Holland and Luxembourg. The outbreak of the First World War a few months later meant that he had the massive task of providing help for the vast number of Americans based in Western Europe who fled to Holland for sanctuary.

This hymn is sometimes known as the 'Hymn of Joy' and Henry van Dyke certainly saw it as such but I think it can also be seen as a prayer of thanksgiving, of hope and conviction. On reflection it was so fitting for the occasion and definitely a joy to sing.

Associate Editor

Footnote: You have probably read or heard of 'The Story of the Fourth Wise Man' (sometimes known as 'The Story of the Other Wise Man').

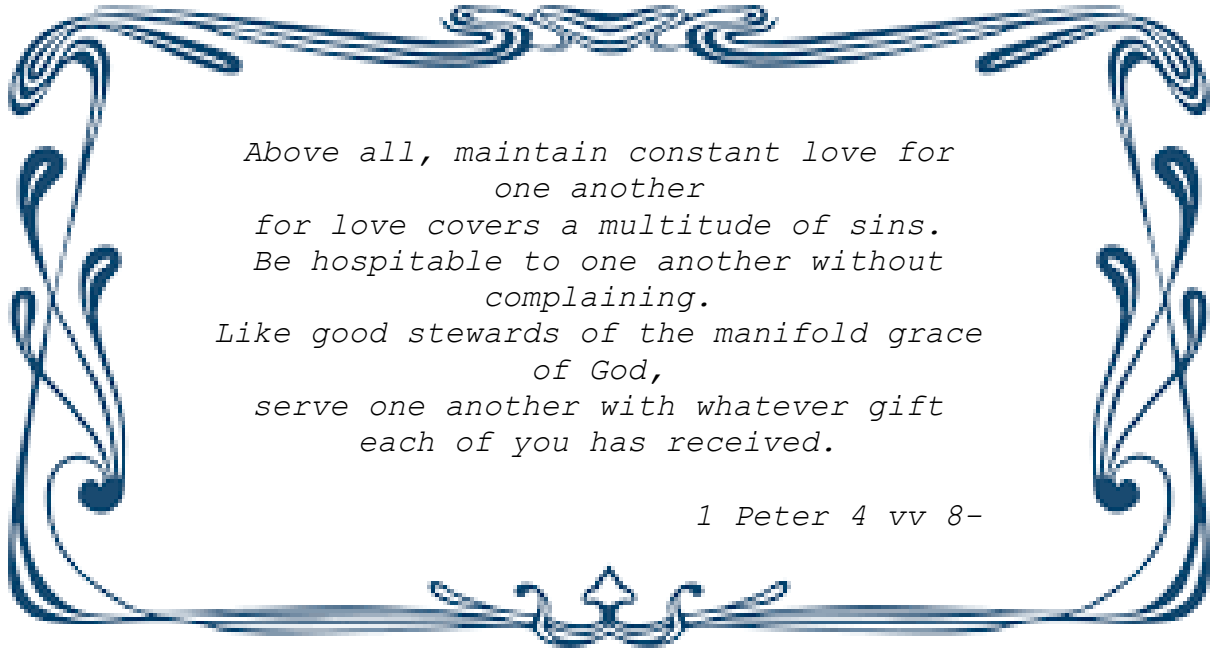
Henry van Dyke wrote the original story in 1896

and various versions have appeared over the years.

It recounts the unexpected experiences of Artaban on his journey to the Manger.

Christmas is coming!

If you are not familiar with this story you might like to read it in advance.



MINISTER

The Reverend Michael Hodgson
The Manse
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Weybridge
KT13 8SN

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Email: michael.mah@btinternet.com

Hall Hire at St Andrew's URC, Walton and Weybridge: roomhire@standrewsurc.org

Website: www.standrewsurc.org

THE SECRETARIAL TEAM

Mrs Carol Lee
Email: secretary@standrewsurc.org
Mrs Gwenda Cochran
Mrs Liz Grimsey
Mrs Shirley Morley

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

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

You are all most welcome to join us!