



ST ANDREW'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
WALTON AND WEYBRIDGE



THE GRAPEVINE



NOVEMBER 2023

Volume 2 No 9



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*As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.*

Lawrence Binyon - from 'For the Fallen'



Dear friends

From The Manse

November 2023

The clocks have altered and sadly, the long winter nights are with us again. It's not a time of year I particularly enjoy but earlier this year I was reading a Scottish story which set me thinking. Apparently, there was an old superstition in the north of Scotland which believed that when the fire went out in a house, or else when it wouldn't catch and give out any heat, the evil fairies and the kelpies had stolen the fire. There was also a saying that arose from this which, translated from the Gaelic, runs along the lines of "He who steals the fire, steals the blessing".

I love an open fire and have enjoyed them for most of my life. Growing up there was always a fire in the back room during the winter. This was back in the days when most people only heated one room, when the front room only had a fire at Christmas and a fire in the bedroom meant that someone was seriously ill – probably dying! Growing up the back room was the only warm place in the house.

I love to watch the flames dancing, hear the crackles and sometimes see the little bits of soot on the back of the grate glow orange, like stars twinkling against the black. If it's raining heavily and it's coming down the chimney there is that hiss as the water hits the fire and evaporates – the fire repelling the storm. Having lived for 12 years in the Welsh mountains I can also think of many times when the rain has been battering the windows and the slates have been rattling on the roof as the weather tries to do its worst. What a wonderful thing a fire in the grate is then, with its bright comfort and cheer and feeling of security. "He who steals the fire, steals the blessing" caught my imagination. I immediately understood that saying and identified with it. Many are the occasions that I have had to wrestle back the fire from those evil fairies and pesky kelpies. I am no stranger to sitting on my haunches, holding a couple of sheets of newspaper across the grate in order to get the fire to draw properly.

Central heating may be much cleaner and it may also be much more efficient. Drawing pictures in the ice on the inside of your bedroom window may well have been great fun at the time but I certainly don't hanker after it now. I certainly, too, hold no nostalgia for the smell of paraffin but, when "the north wind both blow and we shall have snow", there is certainly something very cosy about making up a good fire and settling down as a real sense of blessing fills the room.

One of the churches in my first pastorate was Appledore URC. We only held a couple of Church Meetings a year and they were in the schoolroom which had two grates at one end. We always made up a good fire for the evening and put the kettles on, too. People used to bring bread and butter and jam and toasting forks. When the meeting was over we used to do toast on the fire, make a cup of tea and have a bit of a sing-song. Looking back, I don't remember the meetings being long or difficult. I suspect that everyone just wanted to get on to "tea and toast" and have a good warm by the fire. Happy memories.


"He who steals the fire steals the blessing." I know exactly what that means and somehow, when the wind howls, and the rain batters this winter, I know that saying is going to go through my mind. A gas boiler and a fan heater may be easier but they still feel a rather meagre blessing when compared to a nice, blazing fire on the hearth with a pile of bread and a toasting fork all ready for a treat.

With good wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "The Rev. Paul". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends across the width of the signature.

SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES NOVEMBER 2023

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

Sunday 5 November (Zoom)	10.30 am		Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Friday 10 November	12.30 - 2.30 pm		People Who Lunch, Church Hall - Advance booking essential! (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sunday 12 November (Zoom) (Remembrance Sunday)	10.30 am		Morning Worship
Tuesday 14 November	8.00 pm		Elders' Meeting Hershams Room
15-19 November	WALTON ART CLUB EXHIBITION Wed-Sat 10.00 am - 4.00 pm Sunday 10.00 am - 3.00 pm		Riverhouse Barn, Manor Road, Walton (<i>see page 5</i>)

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All items to the Editor (provided they do not contravene copyright regulations)

Norma Reid: Email: aristocats.2000@gmail.com

Or Associate Editor, Mollie Henham Email: 18amh65@gmail.com

Sunday 19 November (Zoom)	10.30 am		Morning Worship
	11.00 am - 2.00 pm		Mencap Christmas Fair (<i>see page 9</i>)
	3.00 pm		Messy Church
Sunday 26 November	10.30 am		Morning Worship

ERRATUM

In the October issue article about Borough Market, I wrote that the market as we know it today originated in the 16th century, whereas the new project opened in 1756 which is, of course, the **18th** century. My apologies! *Ed*

News of the Church Family

In Memoriam

Revd Cecil Macaulay

We were so sorry to hear the news that Cecil had died suddenly on 12th October while he and his wife, Pat, were on holiday in Southern Ireland. Cecil trained for the ministry at Mansfield College, Oxford and was ordained and inducted as Minister at Weybridge URC in 1989 where he served until 1995. He was the first Minister to be ordained in the church since the Revd Horatio Pack in 1891. We send love and sympathy to Pat and their children, Hilary and Ian, as they mourn Cecil and face this great change in their lives. A tribute to Cecil will appear in the December/January issue of The Grapevine.

Prayers

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

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

Church and Community

Harvest Festival

In addition to the many gifts of food items you brought to Harvest Festival on 8th October for the Walton and Hersham Foodbank there were also monetary donations amounting £551.25 (including Gift Aid).

Thank you to everyone who contributed – your gifts will help to make a difference to the lives of many local families in need.

Jem Ward

Following his letter to Nina Malyon, Walton and Hersham Foodbank Manager, letting her know that we had been able to make a donation of £551.25 in addition to the gifts of food, Jem has received this most appreciative letter of thanks.

"Dear Jem

Thank you for your email and the very kind and generous financial donation by your members. I can confirm that the funds have been received into the CAF account.

I can assure you that those funds will be used to help us support local people experiencing crisis as we brace ourselves for what is predicted to be a challenging winter ahead.

We very much appreciate the support of the St Andrews members and feel very at home running our foodbank sessions there every Monday, thank you for hosting us. For your information, this year so far from St Andrews Foodbank sessions, we have distributed 114 food parcels and fed 240 people (155 adults and 85 children). Last week alone across all the sessions we fed 152 people which was our busiest week to date!

Thank you again for your support, it is much appreciated.

Best wishes,

Nina

Nina Malyon

Walton & Hersham Foodbank Manager"

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT A GLANCE



PEOPLE WHO LUNCH
Friday 10 November
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



! ADVANCE NOTICE !

Genesis Chorale Christmas Concert
7.30 pm. Saturday 2 December

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

For their Christmas Concert on 2 December the choir will be singing the following pieces under the baton of our Music Director, Yvette Murphy:

Messe de Minuit (Airs de Noël) by Marc-Antoine Charpentier accompanied by a string quartet and with four soloists;

Fantasia on Christmas Carols by Ralph Vaughan Williams;

Born a King (A Christmas Cantata) by William Lloyd Webber including several audience carols throughout the piece all accompanied by the church organ.

The venue as always is St John's Church in West Byfleet. Tickets are £18.00 and may be purchased on the door or online together with a voucher for an interval drink of wine or squash.

Do please let me know if you are able to come that evening - it would be so good to welcome you!

Brian Ashfield

**SERVICE OF
REMEMBRANCE**

Sunday 12 November at 10.30 am



MESSY CHURCH

Sunday 19 November
3.00 pm - Church Hall



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Sunday 19 November
Burview Hall 11.00 am - 2.00 pm

Our New Administrator



From the day I was born (not literally!), I have been attending Trinity URC Wimbledon where my grandparents were members and my parents and aunt still are members. My sister and I were confirmed into Church Membership in our teenage years and my daughter, Olivia, who is 14 was confirmed on Easter Sunday this year.

I did a Theology degree at Exeter University and then moved to South Africa for three years to study Hotel Management. I met my husband while over there. I worked as a Hotel Front Office Manager for the Accor Group until my daughter was born in

2009. The 24/7 industry meant that I couldn't sustain the career and moved to part-time in their accounts department. When my son was born in 2012, the position as Church Administrator became available in Wimbledon and I got the job which was a perfect, part role in a church I knew well and I am still there to this day!

My role there slowly became more of an unofficial centre manager role and now I am the line manager to the two caretakers, I deal with invoicing and banking, church admin, the day to day running of the property which involves dealing with the cleaning company and the contractors and I manage all the room hire bookings and all that goes with that role. I absolutely love my job and that's why when the opportunity to increase my hours and work for St Andrew's Walton and Weybridge presented itself, I jumped at it. My son is now at secondary school and so, once again, the timing is perfect.

As a member at Trinity Wimbledon, I am a Junior Church helper, a welcomer and I run the Traidcraft and Eco Living stall which has helped us to gain a Silver Eco Church Award. I am passionate about the Eco Church Scheme and would really like to help St Andrew's get started on their journey.

I feel that my roles in Wimbledon and here are answers to prayer as both became available at just the right times in my life and they combine my interest in Theology with my background in the hotel industry and dealing with people.

You have all been very welcoming and it's been a lovely month of meeting people and getting to grips with the new role.

Elizabeth Scharinger

Elizabeth has already set up Facebook and Instagram on a new Social Media page on our developing website - a work in progress. Ed

Social Media at St Andrews URC Walton & Weybridge



Facebook = @StAndrewsURCWW

Instagram = #standrewsurcww

If you are on Facebook or Instagram, please follow/like our new social media pages. This will help the Church with:

- Outreach to the local community – reach new audiences
- Foster stronger connections with the audiences who already know us
 - Advertise ourselves as a venue to hire
 - Encouraging the sharing of faith
 - Support fundraising

News from the URC

Wessex Synod



Prayer Calendar for November

5	Twyford (Berks); Drayton United, Portsmouth
12	Romsey Abbey (URC) Mere
19	Tilehurst, Reading; Wonersh
26	St Andrew's, Walton and Weybridge; Braishfield, Romsey

New Synod Moderator



The Revd Dr Michael Hopkins is to be the next Moderator of the Wessex Synod. Michael graduated from Durham University in chemistry, biology, and geology in 1997. He went on to train for ordination at Mansfield College, Oxford and graduated with a theology degree from Oxford University in 2002, just before his ordination. Most recently, Michael undertook an MPhil research degree in church history at the University of Birmingham and in 2021 gained a PhD by studying through the Archbishop of Canterbury's Examination in Theology writing a thesis on the history of the Presbyterian Church of England, particularly after 1876. He is currently Minister of The Spire Church (URC/Methodist) in Farnham and at Elstead URC as well as in the Hants-Surrey Border Methodist Circuit.

"I am excited, delighted, privileged, and humbled, to receive and accept a call to serve as the next Moderator of the Wessex Synod," Michael said. *"God is clearly at work among the people and churches in Wessex, and I look forward to joining in with that and to sharing in the leadership of this part of the United Reformed Church family."*

Michael's wider service in the URC has included Convener of one of the Wessex Synod's Area Pastoral Committees from 2007-2014, many years' volunteering on the Assembly Arrangements Committee becoming Convener in 2014 (from which he was appointed Clerk of the General Assembly), many years' service on the Wessex Synod Listed Buildings Advisory Committee and, currently, Ecumenical Officer for Surrey since 2019. Michael's other contributions include serving as Trustee of the URC History Society since 2001, and as its Secretary since 2019. Since 2016, Michael has been a Trustee of the Coward Trust, which funds ministry in the dissenting tradition and a Trustee of Dr Williams's Trust, which funds scholarship and education and a research library of Protestant Dissent.

Speaking on behalf of Wessex Synod, Karen Bell, Synod Clerk, said: *"We have been privileged to have Michael as a minister in our Synod for a number of years. We have benefitted from his vast Assembly and Synod experience in committees and at Synod meetings and are delighted he has accepted the call to be the new Wessex Synod Moderator. We look forward to sharing this next stage of his ministry and supporting him in his leadership as we discern where God is leading our church in 2024 and beyond."*



HARVEST FESTIVAL



Our Harvest Festival on 8 October with Parade by the uniformed organisations was a joyful and entertaining occasion. The colours were presented during the first hymn 'Come ye thankful people come' and followed by gifts being brought to the front of the Church. It was something of a surprise to see an ironing board with iron and a basket of clothes sitting by the piano, the reason soon to be revealed by Michael who is not a stranger to surprising (in the nicest way!) his congregation.

The uniformed organisations, looking smart as always, seemed happy to be part of the service and gathered by the Communion Table to take it in turns to read the story of Creation from Genesis Chapter 1. It was a *tour de force* of concentration and a triumph of coordination on the parts of all concerned.



Telling the Story of Creation



Order is returned!

Then came Michael's address and the ironing board came into play. "Who doesn't like emptying the dishwasher?" asked Michael. There was an immediate response by show of hands. Clearly not everyone's favourite task. The iron plugged in and nicely heated up, Michael took an item out of the basket and started to iron it as he talked. Methodically he went through the basket until everything was beautifully pressed and folded. Folding the sheet proved more difficult, especially the fitted one! The theme was how God created order from chaos, aptly illustrated by the chaotic state of the clothes and linen in the laundry basket that was transformed into an orderly pile ready to be taken home and put away.

The Colours were returned during the last hymn, a favourite and obligatory for any Harvest service, "We plough the fields and scatter".



A job well done



Guides and Rainbows after the service

The weather was kind for photographs and there were plenty of chocolate biscuits (which didn't last long!) with tea, coffee and soft drinks to reward the young who had made such an important contribution to our Harvest Service.

Norma Reid



Elmbridge Mencap
Burview Hall,
Queens Road,
Walton on Thames KT12 5AB



CHRISTMAS FAIR
Sunday 19th November
11am to 2pm

COME AND MEET SANTA IN HIS GROTTTO

Lots of Bargains

REFRESHMENTS
Gifts
Toys
Tombola
Raffles
Crafts & Cushions
Toiletries
Jewellery

Do try to pop in after church!

If you are able to donate something for the Tombola, Jean Rigden would be delighted to hear from you!

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.” *Dr Seuss*



A TIME FOR REMEMBERING

Remembrance Sunday

10.30am 12 November

*Red and White Poppies
for Remembrance and Peace*



We remember all those who have died in the wars of the 20th and 21st centuries and innocent civilians both adults and children who died through acts of terrorism. We remember, too, those who have to live with the horrific consequences of war – the bereaved and those who suffer physical and mental disability. While the destructive violence of war remains a part of daily life for so many people around the world we continue to pray for peace and an important part of all our services is the lighting of the Peace Candle.

A Note from the Minister Remembrance Sunday

Like previous years, our Remembrance Sunday will include the parading and dipping of the 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' Church, 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 would like to bring a friend? (Outreach) So, 10.30am on Remembrance Sunday (12th November) to include the Act of Remembrance at 11.00am.

Michael

Remembrance Sunday Offertory

Once again we are very pleased to support Combat Stress as part of our commemoration on Remembrance Sunday. Combat Stress is the leading UK charity for veterans' mental health and was founded in 1919 (opening its first care facility in Putney in 1920) as the Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Society. It seeks to achieve a return to positive health for ex-service men and women suffering from mental health issues such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), anxiety and depression.

On average Combat Stress helps 14,000 veterans a year with 11,000 using its telephone helpline. It employs its own clinical staff to provide highly specialised treatment for UK veterans at its centres in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. 81p of every £1 raised is spent on veterans' treatment and support, 16p on fundraising and 3p on raising awareness and improving access.

The Treasurer, Jem Ward, will be pleased to receive your donations for Combat Stress and these may be made via Bank Transfer to the church's bank account indicating that it is for Combat Stress, or by cheque made out to St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Walton and Weybridge or by cash. Please put your cheque/cash in an envelope marked 'Combat Stress' and place it in the offertory plate by the door. (This may be done in advance if you are not going to be present on the day.) The Treasurer will add Gift Aid 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.

Two Significant Minutes

This report of the first Two Minute Silence in London (11 November 1919) appeared in the Manchester Guardian the next day.

The first stroke of eleven produced a magical effect. The tram cars glided to stillness, motors ceased to cough and fume and stopped dead, and the mighty-limbed dray-horses hunched back upon their loads and stopped also, seeming to do it of their own volition. Someone took off his hat, and with a nervous hesitancy the rest of the men bowed their heads also. Here and there an old soldier could be detected slipping unconsciously into the posture of 'attention'. An elderly woman, not far away, wiped her eyes and the man beside her looked white and stern. Everyone stood very still. The hush deepened. It had spread over the whole city and become so pronounced as to impress one with a sense of audibility. It was a silence which was almost pain and the spirit of memory brooded over it all.

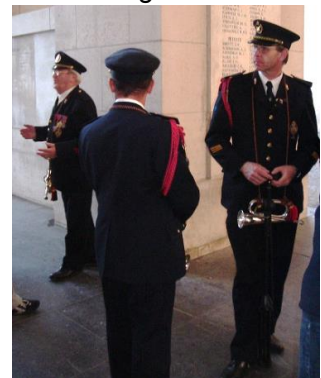
A Personal Recollection

The Associate Editor reflects on a moving occasion



Driving back from a business trip/holiday in Italy we decided to do a detour and spend a couple of days in Ypres (known as Ieper to the locals) – a town so central to the history of the First World War. The result was an experience we shall never forget and the most significant part came in the form of two very special minutes. Shortly before 8.00pm along with other diners we left the restaurant (where we were having supper) and made our way along the road to the Menin Gate. Crowds of people (locals and visitors) were already gathered around the impressive arches of the Gate waiting patiently for the Ceremony of Remembrance to begin.

Suddenly all traffic in the immediate area was stopped and silence descended as the flag bearers and buglers (members of the local Fire Brigade) approached. In perfect formation they marched to their central position under the arch, the Last Post was played, the Colours were dipped and for two minutes we all stood deep in thoughts of remembrance. Then the triumphal sounds of the Reveille echoed around the walls and out into the streets, the Colours were raised, the ceremony was over and the noises of daily life resumed. Yet many in the crowd remained looking at the names of the vast numbers of soldiers (almost 55,000 with over 40,000 being from the UK) from countries of the then British Empire (the UK, Canada, Australia, South Africa, British India and the British West Indies) who lost their lives in several strategic battles in the Ypres Salient and who have no known grave. (Soldiers from New Zealand and Newfoundland lost in other battles are commemorated elsewhere.) The buglers very kindly stayed behind after the ceremony talking to the people and answering their questions about the memorial.



The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing was unveiled in July 1927. It was built and is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and every evening since the 1920s the Ceremony of Remembrance has taken place. During the Second World War the occupying German forces banned the ceremony in Ypres but it continued in a new, temporary location – in the Military Section of Brookwood Cemetery near Woking – returning to its original home at the Menin Gate on the evening of liberation – 6 September 1944 – despite the fact that heavy fighting was still continuing in other parts of the surrounding area.

The Ceremony at the Menin Gate remains an important and precious part of daily life in Ypres and its impact on those sharing in it is incalculable. Ypres has a long and fascinating history which makes it an interesting place to visit. Our spontaneous decision to make that detour proved to be more rewarding than we could ever have imagined.

Advent and Christmas

A Note from the Minister Advent Sunday

Advent Sunday this year is on 3rd December and details of all the Christmas services will appear in next month's magazine.

Memorial Carol Service

3 December

You may wish to note that Dignity Funeral Services (Chitty's) will be holding their annual Memorial Carol Service in our church on Sunday 3rd 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 need to have been held in this area. Following the service Chitty's will be serving refreshments in the church hall. 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.

Michael

Church Christmas Post

The Post Box

If you would like to send Christmas Greetings to other members of the congregation there are two ways of doing so. You can send Christmas Greetings to everyone by putting a message in The Grapevine and if you want to send cards to your personal friends in the congregation you can put them in the church's Christmas Post Box. So you can use either or both of these options.



- The Christmas Post Box will be in The Gateway on **19 and 26 November and 3 December** for any cards you wish to send to other members of the congregation.
- Please ensure the name of the recipient is written clearly on the envelope.
- The cards will be sorted into 'packs' for the individual recipients and ready for collection from The Gateway on **10 December**. If you are unable to be in church on that day please arrange for someone to collect your cards for you.

The Grapevine

To have your Christmas Greetings included in The Grapevine please send your message to the Editor, Norma Reid, by the deadline for the December 2023/January 2024 issue, **Wednesday 14 December**.

GIFT SERVICE AND CHURCH PARADE

10.30 am 10 December

Last year the Church Meeting made the decision to continue the Weybridge practice of having a Gift Service in support of children in need who are under the care of the team at NE Surrey Children's and Families' Services. Your generous response helped to make Christmas special for several children and their families. The service (including the traditional nativity presentation by the children) proved to be a popular and important part of the Christmas celebrations for all ages in our church family. Your support will again be very welcome this year and since the service takes place on 10th December it was thought that early information would be helpful and give you time to pass the details on to anyone else who might be interested. Below are some ideas for possible gifts for children up to 18 years old. **Please note that only new gifts can be accepted.** The Children's and Families' Services Team will ensure that all your gifts are distributed in time for Christmas.



- 0 – 5: *bright-coloured toys, cloth picture books, trucks and cars;*
- 5 – 10 *Lego, colouring-in activity books, craft activities, play figure sets, puzzles, games, books;*
- 10 – 18 *model kits, activity sets for girls and boys, puzzles, games, books, gift packs of toiletries.*

***Please do not wrap your gifts as this delays the sorting process
for the Children's and Families' Services Team***

Some of you may prefer to make a monetary donation through the church. These donations will be used by the church to buy vouchers which the families can use to purchase food etc at a local supermarket. The Treasurer, Jem Ward, will be pleased to receive your donations and these may be made via Bank Transfer to the church's bank account indicating that it is for NE Surrey Children's and Families' Services, or by cheque made out to St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Walton and Weybridge or by cash. Please put your cheque/cash in an envelope marked 'NE Surrey Children's and Families' Services' and place it in the offertory plate by the door. (This may be done in advance if you are not going to be present on the day.) The Treasurer will add Gift Aid 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.

from Rules for Reverends by Jeremy Fletcher

Christmas happens on 25 December every year. It is amazing the number of times you will not realise this until it's too late.

The Crib Service - instant church growth!

FLOWER POWER

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



30 September - Norma Reid
In memory of her mother



8 October - The Flower Fund
Harvest Festival



15 October - Liz Grimsey
For Betty Serman, born 18/10/1923



22 October - Margaret Faultless
In memory of her parents

DISTRIBUTION OF FLOWERS

It was mentioned at the last Church Meeting that help was needed in the weekly dismantling and distribution of our Sunday flower arrangement. You need a certain amount of skill and flair to arrange flowers. However, you need very little skill to dismantle an arrangement and put the flowers into bunches. These flowers are given to members of the pastorate who may appreciate them. Some may be attending that day, whilst others may need them delivered. The two tasks (dismantling and delivering) are separate, so you do not need to do both, as, often, someone can be found who has been at church on the day, to deliver what you may have dismantled!

This is a small but important job, which would only take up ten minutes of your time. Perhaps this is something you could help with? If so, please sign up on the rota in the Gateway.

Please chat with Claire, Irene or Moira if you need further details of what is involved. *Claire Ward*



The theme at Messy Church was the story of the good shepherd and the widow's mite.



Activities included making purses on the old sewing machine and we put a chocolate coin in the purse to represent the widow's mite.

Sue drew some lovely sheep which were filled in with cotton wool, we also did Harvest and autumn with stickers, leaves and glass painting. Icing cakes (always a favourite) and decorating with carrots made from icing.



The sewing machine...the sewing machine...

A great image of the shepherd with his sheep



We're all ears!

In church we talked about how we can be a good shepherd in our area without having any sheep. Being kind to others and looking out for people who are troubled or lonely especially at school.

We play acted a story to represent the story of the widow's mite. We had a millionaire footballer drawing out £500 from the hole in the wall and giving it to a homeless girl, making sure everyone could see him, including the paparazzi. We then had a boy who had been saving all his pocket money for weeks for something he was desperate to have. He sees a young teenager crying in an empty shop doorway. She tells him she had a row with her mother four days ago and had run away from home. She is hungry, tired and afraid and is sorry for running away. The boy takes his hard-saved money and buys her a meal. Then he phones her mum to come and collect her. He has spent all that he had - his precious pocket money.

If you are rich you can afford to give more and not miss it. If you have little to give but give it all, you have given everything that you had. And Jesus said "Who gave the most?" *Jean Rigden*



Colouring leaves to put on a sheet and laminate



...and we mustn't forget the importance of admin and feeding the hungry and thirsty!



PRAYER CORNER



St Thomas

All Saints Day 1 November

Almighty God
We pray and give thanks for
all the saints of the past
who from their labours rest.

We pray for the saints of today,
many unknown,
who through their love and kindness
try to make this world a better place.
Amen

*Written by a church member
for Weybridge URC 2021*



Remembrance Day 11 November Remembrance Sunday 12 November

Ode of Remembrance

They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun,
and in the morning,
We will remember them.

Response: We will remember them.

*Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)
From his poem 'For the Fallen' written
in 1914 and first published in The Times
in September of that year.*

A Prayer of Petition for Justice and Peace

God of justice and peace we remember before you the people of many nations who have died through war – members of the armed forces, innocent civilians (men, women and children) caught up in unwanted conflict. All of them missed as part of a family circle or someone's friend. At this time we think especially of those who died in the two World Wars and many more lost in conflicts since. We remember, too, the dangerous situations currently occurring in Ukraine and in the conflict between Israel and Palestine, where so many lives are being needlessly destroyed or damaged and countless people are trying to survive in desperate circumstances. Bring comfort to those who mourn, strength and healing to the injured and hope and resilience to those struggling to live in impossible conditions. May justice and peace prevail in this troubled world.

Amen

A Church Member



Christ the King 26 November
(Stir-up Sunday) The last Sunday of the Church Year

Collects for the Day

God the Father,
help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory. Amen

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people,
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,
may by you be plenteously rewarded
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Common Worship C of E

A Prayer for Christ the King Sunday/Stir Up Sunday

Lord Jesus,
as we come humbly before your throne today
in worship and awe,
we give thanks
that you are the Lord of our lives
and know us better than we know ourselves.
We ask that you stir us up afresh
to seek your will
and play our part
no matter what the cost
and without asking any reward.
Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer. Amen

The Prayer of Humble Access

*First used in the Order for Communion in the 1548 Book of Common Prayer
published in the reign of Edward VI (reigned 1547-1553).*

The Feast of Christ the King

In 1922 when Pope Pius XI began his papacy he made the declaration that his aim as Pope would be "*The re-establishment of the Kingdom of Christ by peace in Christ*". To strengthen and further that mission in 1925 he established the Feast of Christ the King in the calendar of the Roman Catholic Church as a challenge to the church to refocus its energies on its true ruler and away from unquestioning fidelity to earthly powers. The festival was celebrated on the last Sunday of the church year immediately preceding the first Sunday in Advent. In later years the festival was adopted by the Anglican Church and more recently has been recognised by other denominations including the URC.

Stir-up Sunday

This name was derived from the words at the beginning of the Collect for the Day in the 1548 Book of Common Prayer (and later versions) and is a translation of the Roman Catholic Missal's "Excita quaesumus" used on the last Sunday before Advent. Traditionally this is also the time of the year for making the Christmas Pudding when family members are invited to give it a stir whilst making a wish – an exciting moment especially for the children. Hence the use of this invocative, informal name for this particular Sunday. It was George I who brought the fruit-filled, meat-less recipe for the Christmas Pudding to Britain from Germany in 1714 despite later claims made by supporters of Prince Albert.

ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

WHILST THE UK is in the midst of autumn, Zimbabwe's dry season reaches its peak when elephant numbers around the water holes increase to the detriment of other animals. However, like us, climate change has caused heavy rains to arrive early which caught them by surprise. Some artists are still in the process of preparing their fields although others are ready to sow seed. Mike Masedza jumped the gun and sowed early but his small patch of maize) has been attacked by the dreaded Army worm so there will be few cobs to pick. Artpeace anxiously await the result of **Marlow URC's** meeting on November 5th where a decision whether to approve Elders' recommendation to again cover the considerable cost of seed, fertiliser and chemicals from church funds will be made. Church income has fallen sharply so the artists will have to sweat it out as this support is the bedrock of basic food for families over ten months.



PETER KANANJI is a hard working man and superb artist whose work (right) is on display in the Southwark Cathedral shop. His field is ready to sow: 'See now I put all the burnt weeds etc and some chopped up dried maize stems into holes which will help as manure, so for now I have finished my land preparation. It's good it's raining so I hope we get seed and fertilisers'. Peter



knows protein is essential for the health of his large family (below). To this end he cycles miles to a dam to catch fish and also travels into the wild bush. 'In the bush I search for various wild fruits for the children and I am happy the rains have arrived as this will swell the fruit'.



BOYS' DAY OUT – Norman Bell has always wanted to visit Southwark Cathedral so when I happened to mention over coffee that I was due to take some sculptures to their shop, he



willingly offered to assist. We rendezvoused at Waterloo and, armed with weighty loads of stones, set off for London Bridge. We passed the Shard and wandered through the old Borough market full of enticing food smells (covered by our Editor in the October edition of 'The Grapevine') to the Cathedral shop. Whilst he toured the sanctuary, I worked

with the staff labelling goods for display in the Artpeace cabinet (left). We chanced to bump into **Michael Lewis** the head server and a member of the Cathedral's link with their



diocese in Masvingo (Zimbabwe). He was keen to be kept fully in the picture re. the Artpeace project and will circulate articles to his team. **Mark Oakley**, currently Dean of St John's College, Cambridge, and a former residentiary canon of St Paul's Cathedral is to become Dean of Southwark - his installation is scheduled for 3rd December. Let's hope Mark is as enthusiastic a supporter

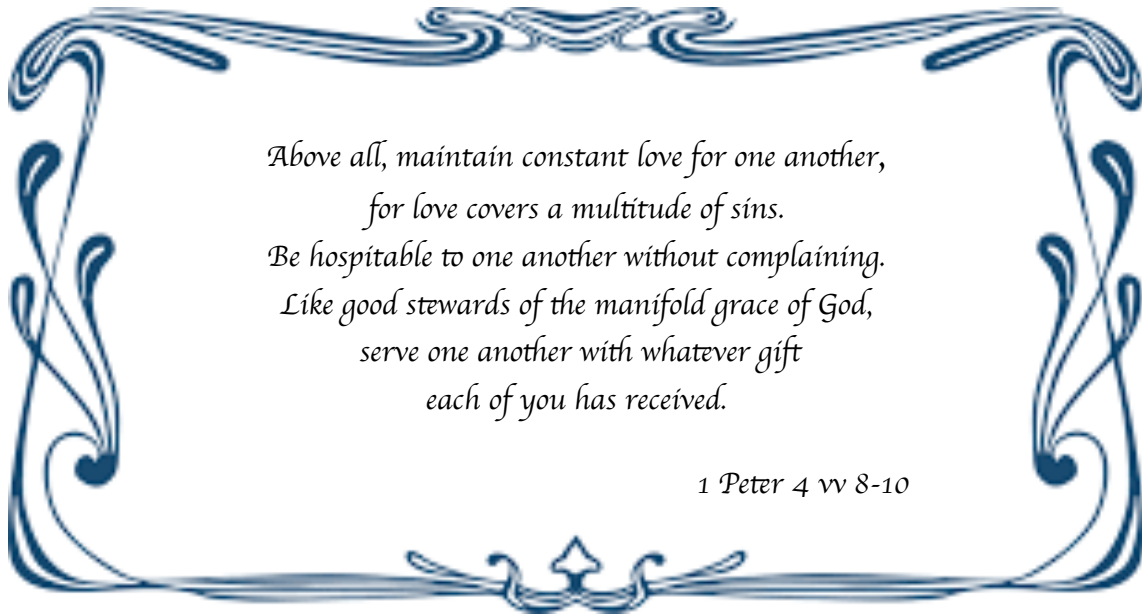
of Artpeace as Andrew Nunn his predecessor. Norman and I returned to Waterloo via Bankside stopping occasionally for some liquid refreshment – all in all a productive day out!

ARTPEACE were delighted to learn of **Elizabeth**, our part time administration appointment, and of her enthusiasm to give the group more exposure to the public via Facebook. They have sent her a welcoming video! I hope to mount another sale at St Andrew's in early December but it is becoming increasingly difficult getting their work over to the UK. However, Verity, my invaluable CAFOD contact will take some parcels (left) to a meeting in Nairobi where two colleagues will take them on to the UK.



LIZENI, who has had a terribly hard life supporting her extended family is making slow progress since her stroke. Photo (left) shows her being visited by fellow artists Mike and Shingi but she is now able to get up and enjoys listening to services I transmit via WhatsApp. Photo right, with her brother Godwin and their nephew listening by mobile to one of our services. She can't afford physiotherapy and, sadly, may be unable to work again which will be a major blow. Her work is in great demand at Southwark. **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!