



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

ST ANDREW'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
WALTON AND WEYBRIDGE



*THE GRAPEVINE*

*DECEMBER 2023/JANUARY 2024*



*Volume 2 No 10*



*'Thanks be to God for his unspeakable Gift.'*

*2 Corinthians 9:15*



From The Manse

December 2023/January 2024

Dear friends

Happy New Year- times two!

Happy New Calendar Year, when it begins on 1<sup>st</sup> January and Happy New Ecclesiastical Year which begins on 3<sup>rd</sup> December (Advent Sunday). In the new Ecclesiastical Year we move from Matthew's Gospel to Mark's and I will write a bit of an introduction to Mark's Gospel in the next Grapevine. This issue, however, is the Christmas issue so I ought to write a Christmas message – shouldn't I? Giving a Christmas message inspired by Mark's nativity narrative immediately creates a problem though. There isn't one. Nothing about his childhood either. Mark goes straight into the ministry of John the Baptist and it is through John's ministry that Jesus is introduced to us. The beginning of Mark's Gospel, by the way, always raises the scholastic eyebrow since the quotation attributed to Isaiah actually comes from Malachi!

The word, "Gospel" is the Old English translation of a Greek word meaning, "Good News". Mark isn't writing a biography and so it's perhaps worth reflecting that for him the good news of Jesus is brought directly from the prophetic line of what we would call the Old Testament.

Let's put that alongside some words from a well-known Advent hymn, *Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free*. In that hymn Wesley reflects upon Jesus as being the release from our sins and fears; upon his being the hope of the earth, the heart's joy and the source of our ultimate rest. Quite a lot – but it's not hard to see how that might all reflect back to the messages of the prophets, where Mark begins his work.

Quiet moments for quiet reflection can be few and far between as the rush of Christmas hits us with the gentleness of an Inter-City 125 going at full speed. I have just noticed something about Charles Wesley's hymn, though, and that's where it appears in our hymnbooks. Our current book *Rejoice and Sing* puts it in the Advent section, along with things like *On Jordan's bank* and *Hark the glad sound*. It's where you would think it would be. Congregational Praise (R&S's predecessor from the Congregational side) puts it in a section headed, "His reign and coming in power", alongside hymns such as *Jesus shall reign* and *Rejoice the Lord is King*. Similarly Church Hymnary, both revised and 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, (R&S's predecessor from the Presbyterian side) doesn't put it in the Advent section either but follows the same sort of line that Cong P does. That set me thinking. Obviously we tend to sing hymns from the Advent section of our hymnbook during Advent but grouping this one with hymns about Christ's presence and power, which we might sing throughout the year, does make sense. I am left reflecting just how much this message is not time-limited to Advent alone.

After the shepherds have returned to their flocks, the wise-men have pressed 'home' on their star-nav and Mary and Joseph get on with the task of bringing up their son, the 'message' of the prophets to us is key. John the Baptist may have had too narrow an understanding of Jesus' work but he did recognise that Jesus was coming imminently and set about preparing the way. So, drawing a Christmas message from Mark's nativity account may not be possible but Mark does affirm that the Good News of Jesus comes directly from hopes and prophecies. Christ's coming sets his people free and that is certainly well worth celebrating.

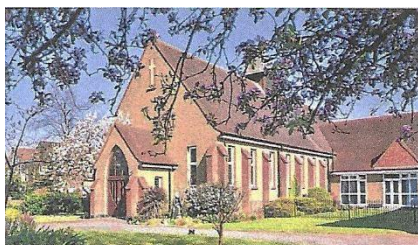
My good wishes to you all as we celebrate Christmas together – and my good wishes to you for a Happy New Year, both the Calendar Year and the Ecclesiastical Year, during which we shall discover more of Mark's Gospel together.

Jim Lad



# *Celebrating Advent and Christmas*

## YOUR CHRISTMAS – YOUR CHURCH



*Come and celebrate  
Advent and Christmas  
with the Church Family.  
Bring your friends and be  
ready to welcome every  
visitor who joins us.*



### ADVENT SUNDAY

**Morning Worship (Zoom) 10.30am 3 December**

**Dignity Funeral Services (Chitty's)  
Memorial Carol Service (p9) 3.30pm**

**Church Christmas Post – Last Post Date**

**Christmas 'People Who Lunch' (p7) 12.30pm 8 December**

### ADVENT 2

**Gift Service and Church Parade (p8) 10.30am 10 December**

**Church Christmas Post – Distribution Date**

### ADVENT 3

**Short morning service with Holy Communion 10.30am 17 December  
(This service will be held in The Gateway.)**

**Mulled wine and mince pies in The Gateway (p8) 3.30pm**

**Carols by candlelight (NOT Zoomed) (p8) 4.00pm**

### CHRISTMAS EVE ADVENT 4

**Christingle Service (p8) 4.00pm 24 December  
NB there is no 10.30am service**

### CHRISTMAS DAY

**Christmas Family Service (p8) 10.30am 25 December**

<b>SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES DECEMBER 2023 AND JANUARY 2024</b>
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*On the first and third Sunday of the month, services will also be on Zoom  
Coffee/Tea is served in the Hall after the Service - all welcome!*

***Please also see complete list of Advent and Christmas Services (page 3)***


## DECEMBER

*A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL!*

Saturday 2 December	7.30 pm	Genesis Chorale Christmas Concert St John's Church, Camphill Road, West Byfleet KT14 6EH. <i>(see page 21 for the programme)</i>
<b>Sunday 3 December (Zoom)</b> (Advent Sunday)	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Morning Worship with Holy Communion</b>
Tuesday 5 December	10.30 am	Bible Study, Hersham Room <i>(see page 24)</i>
Friday 8 December	12.30 - 2.30 pm	Festive People Who Lunch, Church Hall Book early to avoid disappointment! <i>(see page 7)</i>
	7.30 pm	The Weybridge Male Voice Choir St James Church, Weybridge <i>(see page 7)</i>
Saturday 9 December	12.30 for 1.00 pm	Stratus lunchtime concert with Zacc Rodwell and friends at St Andrew's Walton and Weybridge. <i>(see page 7)</i>
<b>Sunday 10 December</b> (Advent 2)	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b> <b>Gift Service and Parade</b>
Friday 15 December	7.45 pm	A Christmas Concert - Ian Engelmann Singers St Peter's Church, Burwood Road, Hersham KT12 4AA <i>(see page 7)</i>
	8.00 pm	A Christmas Carol Concert - The Treble Clef Choir St James Church, Weybridge <i>(see page 7)</i>
<b>Sunday 17 December (Zoom)</b> (Advent 3)	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Short Morning service with Holy Communion</b> <b>(in The Gateway)</b>
	3.30 for 4.00 pm	Carols by Candlelight preceded by mince pies and mulled wine in The Gateway (no Zoom)
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> (Advent 4)	<b>4.00 pm</b>	<b>Christingle Service</b> (NB: There is no 10.30 am service)
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Christmas Family Service</b>
<b>Sunday 31 December</b> (First Sunday after Christmas).	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b>

## JANUARY 2024

*A HAPPY NEW YEAR AND ALL THE VERY BEST FOR 2024!*

<b>Sunday 7 January (Zoom)</b> (Epiphany 1)	<b>10.30 am</b>		<b>Morning Worship with Holy Communion</b>
Friday 13 January	12.30 - 2.30 pm		People Who Lunch, Church Hall - Advance booking essential! ( <i>see page 7</i> )
<b>Sunday 14 January</b> (Epiphany 2)	<b>10.30 am</b>		<b>Morning Worship</b>
Tuesday 9 January	7.30 pm		Elders' Meeting Hersham Room

***COPY DATE FOR FEBRUARY 2024 ISSUE: WEDNESDAY 17 JANUARY 2024***

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

Norma Reid: Email: [aristocats.2000@gmail.com](mailto:aristocats.2000@gmail.com)  
Or Associate Editor, Mollie Henham Email: [18amh65@gmail.com](mailto:18amh65@gmail.com)

Saturday 20 January	7.00 for 7.30 pm		Burns Supper ( <i>see below for details</i> ) St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Byfleet KT14 7NF
<b>Sunday 21 January (Zoom)</b> (Epiphany 3)	<b>10.30 am</b>		<b>Morning Worship</b>
			Messy Church
<b>Sunday 28 January</b> (Epiphany 4)	<b>10.30 am</b>		<b>Morning Worship</b>



### **Addlestone & District Scottish Society**

#### ***Burns Supper***

**Saturday 20 January 2024 - 7.00 for 7.30 pm**  
Carriages at 11.00 pm

St Mary's Church Hall  
Church Road  
Byfleet  
SURREY KT14 7NF

Bring your own wine (glasses provided)  
Dress - Highland/Black Tie/Lounge Suit

3-course Haggis Dinner

The Immortal Memory  
Address to the Haggis  
Toast to the Lassies and Reply  
Piper - Dancing



Tickets £34.00

All enquiries to: Peter Smith - [peter1234smith@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:peter1234smith@yahoo.co.uk)  
Joyce Denny - [joyce.denny@btinternet.com](mailto:joyce.denny@btinternet.com)

# News of the Church Family

## In Memoriam

A tribute to the **Revd Cecil Macaulay**, whose death on 12 October was recorded in last month's magazine, appears on page 17.

## Sheila Colverson

We were very sorry to hear that Sheila died on 18 November. For many years she was an active and lively member of Weybridge URC having joined the church in 1973. After her husband, Keith, died, she moved to Wells in 2015 and found a welcome in the fellowship of Wells United Church (URC/Baptist). Please remember her children, Ann and Richard, and their families at this sad time in their lives.

## Pat Sims

We were much saddened to learn of the death of Pat on 17 November. Our condolences and love go to her daughters, Susan and Carol, and to her wider family and friends. Pat had been a loyal member of St Andrew's before she became too unwell to attend. We will have a tribute to Pat in our February issue.

## Retirement

We send our good wishes to the **Revd Don Macalister and his wife, Eddy**, as Don retires from full-time ministry at the end of the year. Don was ordained and inducted at Weybridge URC in 1996. It was a great joy to welcome him, Eddy and their two young daughters, Laura and Heather, into the Church Family and we shared six happy years with them. Don is currently Minister at Christ Church, Barnstaple (URC/Methodist) and Sticklepath Methodist Church. We wish Don and Eddy a long and happy retirement in their new home at Thornbury near Bristol. We know they will enjoy having more time to spend with the family – not least on grandparent duties!

## Prayers

Please remember all these friends in your prayers – Brian and Kate Ashfield, David Cheeseman, the families of Sheila Colverson and of Pat Sims, John Langdon, 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.*

## Good News!

**Katie Reardon and Tom Ward** have just become engaged, much to the delight of the Ward-Reardon families. It is a time of much celebration and great happiness. Many congratulations from all your friends at church, Tom and Katie!

Also, It was lovely to see **Shirley McGrath** back in church on Remembrance Sunday with John and her grandson Jake (now proud to be a Beaver) and his Mum. We hope that you will continue to make good progress, Shirley, albeit that it could take some time.

*Thanks to Patricia and Leon Goldstone for our cover picture, a winter view from their home, Church Mill in Standlake, Oxfordshire, taken from an upstairs window*

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT A GLANCE



## Genesis Chorale Christmas Concert 7.30 pm. Saturday 2 December

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

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. (See page 21 for programme details.)

Do, please, let Brian Ashfield know if you are able to come- it would be so good to welcome you!

Come and celebrate  
**CHRISTMAS**  
In Concert with  
**The Weybridge Male Voice Choir**  
And featuring special guest choirs from  
St James CofE Primary School  
and Cleves School  
**Friday 8th Dec 2023 at 7.30pm**  
St James Church, Weybridge KT13 8DN

Adults £15  
Under 12's Free

Tickets available from Choir Members, or at  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/weybridgemvc](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/weybridgemvc)



Registered Charity  
No: 1030024

Retiring collection in aid of



Refreshments will be served  
After the Concert



## PEOPLE WHO LUNCH Friday 8 December (festive) Friday 13 January 2024 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 enjoy 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

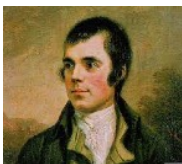
[margaret.faultless@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:margaret.faultless@blueyonder.co.uk)

Treble Clef Choir  
invites you to our  
**Christmas Carol Concert**  
A wonderful festive evening of singing, congregational carols, mulled wine and mince pies.  
Musical director: Emily Lesther  
Accompanist: Hannah Stanley  
Organist: Lindsay Bridgewater  
Reading: Nerys Hughes  
**Friday 15th December 8PM**  
St. James' Parish Church, Weybridge KT13 9DE  
Tickets £15 including refreshments  
Accompanied children under 12 free  
From [www.ticketsource.co.uk/trebleclef](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/trebleclef) and available at the door  
There will be a retiring collection for Weybridge Foodbank



**Stratus** returns after a worldwide adventure. Come join us on **Saturday 9th December** as we reunite for an afternoon of treasured hits and festive favourites, all with our unique Stratus twist.

**Date: Saturday 9th December**  
**Time: 1pm (drinks available prior to the concert)**  
**Tickets: available on the door**



**BURNS SUPPER**  
Saturday 20 January 2024  
7.00 for 7.30 pm  
St Mary's Church Hall, Byfleet,  
KT14 7NF (see page 5 for details)

*Carols for Choir & Audience*  
*A Christmas Concert*  
*of Music and Readings by*  
*The Jan Engelmann Singers*  
*Musical Director: John Fudhope*  
*Organist: Duncan Faulkner*  
*Friday 15th December 2023*  
*at 7:45 pm in*  
*St Peter's Church, Burwood Road*  
*Nersham, Surrey KT12 4AA*  
*Admission free*  
*A collection will be taken, and a contribution*  
*made to the Sam Beare Hospice Charity.*  
*Mulled wine and mince pies*  
*will be served after the Concert.*



## GIFT SERVICE AND CHURCH PARADE



10.30 am Sunday 10 December

This service is a popular part of our Christmas celebrations. It is an opportunity for us to help make Christmas special for children in this part of Surrey whose families are in particular need. The NE Surrey Children's and Families Services Team are always pleased to receive our gifts for babies and children up to 18 years old. Examples of possible gifts are:

- 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.*

***NB Only new gifts can be accepted.  
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 them 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.



## CHRISTMAS TREATS IN STORE!



We are much looking forward to our Christmas services and all that they bring to make our Christmas what we would wish it to be.

We start off with a festive People Who Lunch on 8 December (12.30 pm), when it is rumoured that the tables will be seasonally decorated and there is a strong hint that Christmas pudding might be on offer. We set the scene before the Carol Service by candlelight on 17 December in the Gateway (3.30 for 4 pm), with mulled wine to lubricate the vocal chords and mince pies to line the tummy. Then there is the Christingle service on Christmas Eve (4.00 pm) where we all enjoy re-living our childhood days, making Christingles with the children and marvel at their enthusiasm as they carry out whatever task Michael sets them (last year it was finding the Holy Family scattered around the church to place in the empty crib). Finally, the Christmas Day Family Service (10.30 am) is a lovely way to start the day and there is an opportunity for Christmas presents to be brought along to be shown to (if not exactly shared with!) the congregation. Last year some of the adults joined in!

We hope to see you there!



## MEMORIAL CAROL SERVICE

**Sunday 3 December at 3.30 pm**

Dignity Funeral Services (Chitty's) will be holding their annual Memorial Carol Service in our church on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 3.30pm. The service will be led by the Minister. Anyone who would like to come and remember a loved one is most welcome – the funeral does not have to have been organised by Dignity, nor does it have to have been taken in this area.

Following the service Chitty's will be serving refreshments in the Church Hall.

## CHRISTIAN UNITY



**Sunday 21 January 2024**

A Week of Prayer for Christian Unity can be celebrated in January or May. In 2024 the churches of Weybridge are marking the January Octave and holding a special service on 21<sup>st</sup> January at 2.30pm. Churches Together in Weybridge recognises that we cover both Walton and Weybridge even though the URC no longer has a building in Weybridge. Churches Together respects this and wants to support us as we try to make this a reality. So we, the URC, are leading the service and St James's have generously 'lent' us their building to hold the service on behalf of Churches Together.

So, please put this in your diary and make every effort to support this service. It will be the first URC-led service physically held in Weybridge since the closure of our building in summer 2021 and holding it in St James's is a lovely example of ecumenical working and support.

**Really important !**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2.30pm**

URC-led service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, held at St James's Church, Church Street, Weybridge. Parking is available in the Churchfields car park immediately behind the library from which there is direct access to the church via the footpath alongside the Parish Centre.

*Michael Hodgson*

## PASTORAL VISITS

As you are probably all very aware, travelling around the Walton/Weybridge area at the moment can be quite difficult. With the roadworks on the M25 and A3 a lot of traffic is now trying to use local roads instead. Then, we seem to have had an incredible number of sets of temporary roadworks popping up absolutely everywhere. This is creating a big problem for me in pastoral visiting. Travelling is currently taking a lot longer than normal, reducing the number of visits I can do in an afternoon. Then, on various occasions, roads around me have been virtually gridlocked and I have had to give up. So, please be patient and understanding if you've been thinking that I might visit and I haven't done so. I know that I have a backlog and am not sure that I can catch up very easily so I hope that you will understand if it's a phone call instead of an 'in-person'. I really am working against a great difficulty at the moment.

*Michael Hodgson*



## News from the URC

### Wessex Synod

#### Prayer Calendar for December

- 3 Parkstone;  
Twyford (Bucks)
- 10 Christ Church, Windsor;  
Rowland's Castle
- 17 Skinner Street, Poole;  
Woodley Airfield Church
- 24 Thatcham;  
Synod Staff
- 31 Woking;  
Avenue St Andrew's, Southampton

#### Prayer Calendar for January

- 7 Wimborne;  
Drayton United Church, Portsmouth
- 14 Womersh;  
Brill United Church;  
Fareham
- 21 Wareham;  
Portsmouth Road, Guildford
- 28 Trinity, Abingdon,  
Radipole, Weymouth

#### Induction of the new Moderator (*see also page 23*)

##### Wessex Synod Choir

It is hoped to form a choir of people from around the Synod to sing at the Induction of the Revd Michael Hopkins as Moderator on **Saturday 23 March 2024 at Basingstoke**. There will not be auditions and you don't need to sing in a choir at the moment. There will be one rehearsal at Basingstoke on the morning of the Induction and there may be a brief rehearsal or two via Zoom if that is deemed helpful.

If you would like to offer to join the choir please talk to our own Minister (he is in charge of the choir!) by **Monday 4 December at the latest**. He will need to know which part you sing.

## SAVE THOSE STAMPS!

### For the “Save the Children” Fund

Claire Ward’s brother, Ian, a keen stamp collector, continues to sort and sell stamps in aid of the “Save the Children” fund.

He has raised approximately £265 this year, partly through your generous donations. He will, once again, be pleased to receive the used stamps from your Christmas cards.

However, the changeover, by Royal Mail, to new-style stamps with bar codes on them means that he can only make use of commemoratives. These are stamps with pictures (e.g. Christmas stamps showing the Magi or reindeer) rather than those which only show the King’s, or the late Queen’s head, on them. He can also sell foreign stamps. (Please leave the overseas stamps on the envelope and send the whole envelope.)

Commemorative stamps like these can be sold for “Save the Children”:



These stamps **cannot** be sold for charity:



He has, however, got a contact to whom he can pass used new-style stamps **with bar codes**:



The money will go to a different children’s charity.

If you have any commemorative or foreign stamps, collections, first day covers or postcards that you no longer want, please pass your contributions to Claire or me and they will forward them to him. Thank you!

*Jem Ward*

### **STOP PRESS:** OUR CHOSEN CHRISTMAS CHARITY

Crisis at Christmas was voted as the charity our church will support with the Christmas collection this year. Most of you will be familiar with Crisis, the national charity for people experiencing homelessness. Anything you can give will go towards changing a life for the better.



## WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Our Remembrance service took place on 12 November when we were delighted to have representation from the 4<sup>th</sup> Weybridge Beavers, Cubs and Scouts who, as always, did us proud.

The Colours were presented during the hymn 'God is our strength and refuge'. Michael in his address reminded us of the dates of important conflicts, going backwards in time and asked for a show of hands as to whom in the congregation had memories of that particular event. It was revealing - although not unsurprising - to see how many of us could go back to WWII, albeit some of us with the haziest of recollections due to having been war babies.



*I'm sure this will be easier when I'm, a Scout...*



Michael stood before our War Memorials and read out the names of those lost from the three churches (Hersham Congregational, Weybridge Congregational and St Andrew's Presbyterian) from which our present church is formed, followed by the Two Minutes' Silence. The Last Post and Reveille on the organ sounded remarkably as though played on the trumpet. The Colours were returned to the hymn 'For all the Saints' and the service closed to the National Anthem.

There was a good gathering in the Church Hall afterwards where the chocolate biscuits went down

particularly well with the Cubs and Beavers!

NFR



*How many have you had?*



*Outside the church - duty well done!*



## CHRISTMAS FAIR



*The Tombola*

WOW! WOW! WOW! What a day we had!

We raised a record £2,800 at our Christmas Fair on 19 November. The place was buzzing, lots of children and the young at heart visiting Santa in our sensory room grotto. It was lovely to see so many of our special friends there with their families and carers and to get a visit from Norma. Every stall took a record amount. At the end of the day I was tired, but I was also a very happy bunny. *Jean Rigden*



*Before ... and after*

*Ben meets Santa*

*Norma (delighted with her purchases) and Jean*

## FOOD BANK



When I tell people I help at the Food Bank many are surprised and shocked that there is such a need in affluent Walton-on-Thames. My eyes have certainly been opened over the last few months and I have encountered many really lovely people who through circumstances beyond their control have had to attend our sessions. Some have been evicted by landlords wanting to increase their rates forcing young families apart and having to sofa surf, others fleeing from abusive relationships, refugees housed in local hotels with only a kettle for cooking with, old age pensioners unable to cope on the basic pension and - yes - the homeless. Even people who are in regular employment may have to resort to help from the Food Bank.

All our clients have to be referred through an agency, perhaps Social Services, the CAB, doctors or schools and have a certificate to present on arrival. Families are given four pre-packaged bags and singles two, containing basics such as long life milk, tea, coffee, cereal and tins. They can then choose extras which are on display. This can vary considerably depending on what local shops have donated. This week we had a lot of fruit and vegetables plus eggs. We also always offer toiletries, sanitary supplies, nappies, and cleaning products and even dog and cat food. So please keep your donations coming! There really is a great need in this area and it is much appreciated and very welcome.

*Anne Fitzgerald*



**Michael** sends warmest greetings to everyone for Christmas and wishes you all the very best for the New Year ahead.

**Susan and Johnston** wish all their friends a Merry Christmas and a peaceful 2024.

**John Langdon** remembers his many friends from his years at Weybridge URC, and would like to wish everyone at St Andrew's a very happy Christmas.

Thank you very much to all who have given me help and support over the past difficult months. Wishing you a happy time at Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.  
**Christine Carlile**

Greetings and good wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year  
**Alex and Mollie**

**Valerie Dow and Fiona and Vic Reardon** would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year

**Liz Grimsey** wishes everyone a happy Christmas, blessed by God's love.

Wishing you all a 🌲 Merry Christmas and a 🎁 Happy New Year.  
**Hilary Netherwood**

Wishing you joy and peace at Christmas.  
**Gwenda and Alistair**

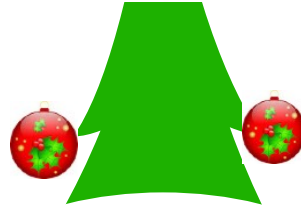
Warm Christmas greetings from Texas  
**Rob and Sophia, Kona and Scout** 🐶 🐶

**Ghislaine Stevenson** would like to wish all her friends at St Andrew's a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

We wish all our friends and neighbours at St Andrew's a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. **Rachel and Mike x**



HAPPY  
NEW YEAR



**Anne Fitzgerald** would like to thank everyone for the love and support she has received this year and wish all a very happy Christmas and good New Year.



I wish all my friends at St Andrew's Walton and Weybridge a Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year!

**Irene Pearson**



**David and Mavis**

**Netherwood** send their greetings and seasonal good wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all members and friends at St Andrew's Walton and Weybridge

**Alan, Anna and Brodie** send very best wishes to all readers for a wonderful Christmas!



A Merry Christmas to all of you! We are cutting down the number of cards that we send - partly influenced by the difficulty in finding cards that are actually about the Christmas story - but we would like to thank you for all the support you have given to us as Bible Story co-ordinator/Elder/Treasurer during the year. We will be making a donation to Save the Children in lieu of the cost. We wish you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year. **Claire and Gem Ward**



We wish all our friends at St Andrew's Walton and Weybridge, a very Happy and Joyful Christmas, together with our good wishes for a blessed and healthy New Year.

**Margrit and Norman**

**Carol and Chris Lee** would like to wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year!



**Norma** would like to thank you all for your support with The Grapevine this past year. Poppy 🐱 joins with her in wishing you good cheer at Christmas and health and happiness in 2024





***The Associate Editor has devised this quiz for you to tackle when you want a break from your round of Christmas preparations. You will find that it is slightly different this year as there are ‘descriptions’ (rather than questions) relating to carols for you to work out. Have a go – the answers are on page 23.***

- 1 Residents of this census-centred town do not let its activity disturb their nocturnal peace.
- 2 A pregnant Mary adopted a slow but dependable and loyal mode of transport.
- 3 A manger and hay are substitutes for a real crib.
- 4 Bells and angels create a melodic heavenly sound.
- 5 A rocking motion guarantees success in a baby’s sleeping pattern.
- 6 Bleak winter weather conditions are linked to the nativity.
- 7 Seated animal-watchers have their night-time vigil disturbed by an unexpected visitor.
- 8 The faithful of today are invited on a virtual visit to Bethlehem.
- 9 A popular processional carol for choirs at Christmas services has a regal sound.
- 10 Listen! to the angels’ song heralding the new-born king.
- 11 The silence and holiness of the dark hours set the scene for the nativity.
- 12 Christians are commanded to wake-up early and celebrate a special day.
- 13 The entire constellation will join in singing carols.
- 14 ‘Holy’ and ‘lowly’ are descriptive words for the new-born infant.
- 15 Learning of an apparent royal birth some monarchical travellers take directions from a celestial constellation.
- 16 Spread the news across the highest points of the earth.
- 17 Positive weather conditions prevail for the angels’ midnight song.
- 18 A prickly plant has a pivotal role.
- 19 ‘Gentlemen, may God keep you in harmony and happiness’ is the original meaning of the greeting expressed in this carol.
- 20 A King of Bohemia walks in harsh winter weather on 26<sup>th</sup> December to take gifts to the poor of his land.

### **Reindeer Revelation**

*“According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, whilst both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid-December. Female reindeer retain their antlers till after they give birth in the spring. Therefore, according to every historical rendition depicting Santa’s reindeer, every single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen, had to be a girl. We should have known! Only women, while pregnant, would be able to drag a fat man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night and not get lost.”* pedagonet.com (2004)

(The above quote was contributed by Claire & Jem Ward)





## A FRIEND REMEMBERED



REVD ROBERT CECIL MACAULAY

Minister of Weybridge URC 1989-96



*At a wedding*

Cecil died very suddenly on 12<sup>th</sup> October while on holiday in the Irish Republic with his wife, Pat. He grew up in Northern Ireland and he and Pat visited both areas regularly.

In his young days he was involved with the Boys' Brigade and as a leader he enjoyed organising various activities including the annual camp. Such was his enthusiasm for this latter activity that he even managed to persuade his then fiancée, Pat (a Home Economics teacher), to do the catering for a camp held in the week before their wedding! Professionally Cecil's first career was in personnel management (now known as human resources) and he and Pat lived in various parts of the country when they always became actively involved with a local church. It was through that kind of involvement that he first visited Weybridge as a member of a team giving a presentation on the provision of an ecumenical church centre in Milton Keynes (now known as Christ the Cornerstone) to a meeting of the URC District Council.

Cecil was ordained and inducted as Minister at Weybridge URC in 1989 following training for the ministry at Mansfield College, Oxford. His was the first ordination to take place in the church since that of the Revd Horatio Pack in 1891. Cecil was blessed with a prodigious memory for people and events and great organisational skills which, along with his sense of humour, proved to be great assets in his ministry. He also seemed to have an endless supply of energy and apparently existed on relatively little sleep. I was his Church Secretary and when the doorbell rang late in the evening I knew who would be on the doorstep. It was amazing how straightforward church business became when we dealt with it whilst relaxing with a glass in hand!

Responding to the pastoral needs of the congregation was high on his list of priorities – so fast was his response on one occasion that he arrived at the hospital before the patient. Several families in the congregation were grateful for Cecil's help and support when they were trying to cope with some very distressing situations – as one young mother said "I am eternally grateful to him for all his care and everything he did for us". Personal care like this continued (when requested) even after he had left Weybridge during the periods when we were without a Minister. His 'caring' spread wider than the church and he was a Director of the Surrey Care Trust and an active member of the Rotary Club locally. He was also a Hospital Chaplain and Chaplain at a local school and college. As a magistrate he chose to serve on the Staines Bench feeling it would not be wise to serve more locally.

Cecil moved from Weybridge to Woking in 1995 with the special task of integrating the congregations of the church in York Road (originally a Congregational Church) and St Andrew's (formerly Presbyterian) as Woking URC, which he did successfully. He retired from Woking in 2005 and was always so pleased and proud to see how significantly the church has developed under the leadership of his successor.

Cecil and Pat had a house in a village in Buckinghamshire which they retained during his time at college and in Weybridge and Woking. After retirement in 2005 they returned to live there. Initially they became members of Newport Pagnell URC but then Cecil was asked to serve in the LEP based in their village, assisting the Anglican priest and taking services. He was also involved in leading services for other URCs in the area. It was at this time, too, that they were able to indulge their interest in world-wide travel.

Cecil's last public activity at Weybridge was preaching the sermon when the church celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Sesquicentenary) in May 2015. He and Pat looked back on their time in Weybridge with great affection. They both enjoyed reading the Weybridge News and, later, The Grapevine and keeping in touch. Weybridge was, after all, an important turning point in their lives.

AH

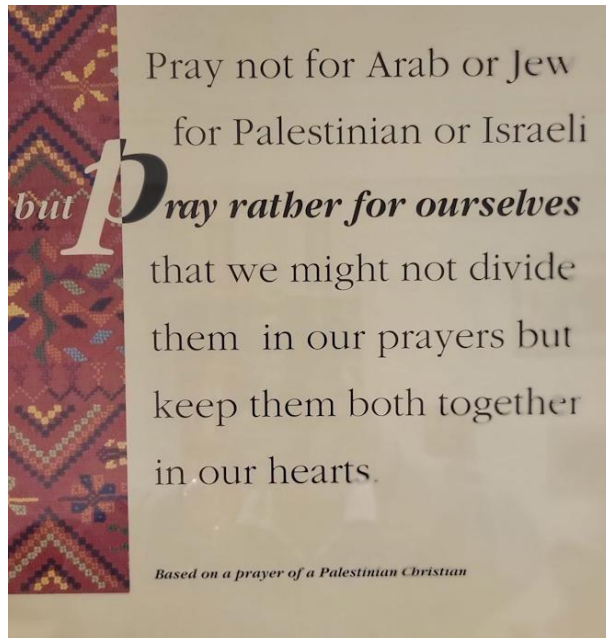
## PRAYER CORNER

### *A Prayer for Today and Beyond*



This is a Christian Aid prayer – now more than 30 years old – which is pinned to a notice board in St George's Cathedral in Jerusalem. It is based on a prayer by a Palestinian Christian.

Comment from Christian Aid: *"It may not adequately express everything we feel and hold for the people who are deeply hurting across the region but it reminds us of our unshakeable belief that all people are created in God's image and have inherent value and worth."*



We are grateful to Teresa Bacon for contributing this prayer. You may remember that it was used by the Minister in the service on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

\*\*\*\*\*

### *Advent*

#### **An Advent Antiphon**

Turning the year around,  
Advent is here again:  
long dark nights waiting  
for cold, frosty dawn.  
Into this cold, dark, world  
we'll welcome Christ again:  
flesh of our flesh  
right through to the bone.

*Janet Lees*  
URC Prayer Handbook 2008

### *Christmas Day*

Sing aloud on this day!  
Children all raise the lay.  
Cheerfully we and they  
hasten to adore thee  
sent from highest glory.  
For us born, born, born,  
for us born on this morn  
of the Virgin Mary.

All must join him in praise  
All must gather voices raised  
on this day of all days.  
Angel voices ringing,  
Christmas tidings bringing.  
Join we all, all, all,  
join we all, "Gloria  
in excelsis" singing.  
14<sup>th</sup> century German carol

## God's Surprise

Who would think that what was needed  
to transform and save the earth  
might not be a plan or army  
proud in purpose, proved in worth?  
Who would think, despite derision,  
that a child should lead the way?  
God surprises earth with heaven,  
coming here on Christmas Day.

Shepherds watch and wise men wonder,  
monarchs scorn and angels sing;  
such a place as none would reckon  
hosts a holy, helpless thing;  
stabled beasts and passing strangers  
watch a baby laid in hay:  
God surprises earth with heaven,  
coming here on Christmas Day.

Centuries of skill and science  
span the past from which we move,  
yet experience questions whether  
with such progress we improve.  
In our search for sense and meaning,  
lest our hopes and humour fray,  
God surprises earth with heaven,  
coming here on Christmas Day.

*John Bell (1947 - ) & Graham Maule (1958-2019)*

*Tune: Scarlet Ribbons (English Traditional Melody arr. John Bell)*

© WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland. wildgoose.scot.  
Reproduced by permission.

Written in 1987 by John Bell and Graham Maule this contemporary carol (see Rejoice and Sing 178) poses two questions right at the beginning but is actually contemplative in approach, linking past and present in the wonder and surprise of the Incarnation. The music (John Bell's arrangement of the English traditional melody 'Scarlet Ribbons') – a tune we all know – provides a gently flowing accompaniment. John Bell is a Church of Scotland minister, hymn-writer, broadcaster, author and international lecturer but you will probably know him best through his work with the Iona Community alongside his friend, Graham Maule. Initially they both worked among the young in deprived areas of Glasgow in the cause of social justice. Eventually they were able to form a group of young people to share in leading and extending this vital work. Their common interest in music and involvement with the Iona Community led to the formation of a worship group for young adults and ultimately the development of liturgical material and resources based on the everyday experience of ordinary people. These resources were made available world-wide. Sadly this long collaboration came to an end in 2019 when Graham Maule died. In 2018 John Bell received the Cranmer Award for Worship from the Archbishop of Canterbury for his outstanding Christian witness, through hymn-writing, broadcasting and social action.

**2024**

The year is closed, the record made,  
The last deed done, the last word said,  
The memory alone remains  
Of all its joys, its griefs, its gains,  
And now with purpose full and clear,  
We turn to meet another year.

*Author unknown*

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

The new Church Directory is now published and available in The Gateway. This is the first one for the united church. For a number of reasons, the task of producing it has been far more challenging than could ever have been imagined. Apologies that it has taken so long but it really has taken a lot of time and effort. As far as we know, though, it is correct and up to date. Please let Elizabeth, our church Administrator, know of any errors so that she can correct future editions.

**So, do please collect a copy from the Gateway!**

And above all ... please - although we have already been made aware of one or two changes - try not to move, change telephone number, change email or die in the near future! The Directory production team are currently lying down in a darkened room.

*Michael Hodgson*

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Our new Facebook and Instagram pages are doing well. Some members of the congregation have already 'liked' the page and can therefore interact with it. It is important that posts are 'liked' and/ or commented on so that we can raise the profile of the page amongst the local community. Please mention it to friends and family too. The more people who 'like' and follow the page, the more success the page will have. The ArtPeace community are following the page from Zimbabwe and making some lovely comments so please do have a look.

Instagram is proving to be a good way of getting us noticed in the Walton and Weybridge community because it's easier to interact with companies, shops, schools...so if you do have access to Instagram, please do follow the page.

*Elizabeth Scharinger*

### 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



### Church Christmas Post

**3 December** is the last date for posting any cards in the Church Christmas Post Box (in The Gateway) which you wish to send to other members of the congregation. After that date all the cards will be sorted into 'packs' for the individual recipients.

**10 December** (Gift Service and Church Parade) is the day the cards will be ready for collection from The Gateway. If you are unable to be in church that day it would be helpful if you could arrange for someone else to collect your cards for you.



Dear Friends,

**ADVANCE NOTICE! Synod Big Day Out 2024 – bookings now open!**

Following the success of the last Synod Big Day out at **Hollycombe Steam in the country**, we have booked the site again for our exclusive use on **Saturday 4 May 2024, 10am – 5pm**. There will be more steam rides open this year and additional programme activities provided by Wessex Synod.

**We invite all churches, church user groups and community groups with links to URCs and LEPs in Wessex Synod to come and enjoy a day of fellowship, fun and worship.**

**Ticket prices** are the same as in 2022 - £8 per adult, £5 per child for up to 10 rides on the attractions. New this year are tickets for unlimited rides on the attractions: adult £10.50 and child £7.50. A free ticket can be booked for an accompanying carer. Hollycombe's fabulous new café will be open this time and there will be other food and refreshment outlets. You are welcome to bring your own picnic.

We have listened to feedback and so this time the layout for the Synod activities will be more central and accessible for all. Synod activities include a large marquee with worship, stories and entertainment, as well as a marketplace with crafts, Synod Youth Executive, and church connections, forest church and a nature walk.

We look forward to sharing the day with you.

Site link: <https://www.hollycombe.co.uk/>

Best wishes,

**Ruth Heine**

**Development Team Administrator**

United Reformed Church - Wessex Synod

120 Alma Road, Southampton, Hampshire, SO14 6UW

Email: [development@urcwessex.org.uk](mailto:development@urcwessex.org.uk)

**GENESIS CHRISTMAS CONCERT - 2 DECEMBER 2023**



**THE PROGRAMME** (*see also page 7*)



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)

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 at £18.00 may be purchased on the door or online, 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*

## ANYONE FOR A FOXTROT?

The Church garden is looking rather bleak now although autumn tints are still wonderful and more vivid than usual. I thought to brighten up the small Harvest sculpture area by the entrance, including pots and a trough, with tulip bulbs. I find planting bulbs therapeutic and it seems to bring Spring a little closer, although the wrath of winter is just round the corner. Hopefully in April the congregation will be cheered by a variety of blooms, with unusual names like Ice Cream, Greenstar and Foxtrot, which should add a nice splash of colour. **JS**



## MEET PANASHE

Panashe, along with his friend Dickson, recently joined Artpeace. Many of his sculptures are of cormorants, also known as rain birds (photo left), for their ability to predict rain. Raised in



Guruve, he was surrounded by an artistic community of well-known first and second generation sculptors including his famous uncle, Bernard Matemera. He began sculpting in 1991 while still a secondary student and by 2000 was an apprentice to Maganiso Vissensio in Harare, developing his own style of artwork. Panashe enjoys teaching and sharing his African cultural traditions and art knowledge with others, including younger generations of sculptors. He works with most of the hardest stones found in



Zimbabwe - Fruit serpentine, Verdite, Opal, Cobalt, Serpentine, Springstone, and Lepidolite - his use of the stone's colour and texture is stunning. Panashe's work has been exhibited in Holland and Germany. Photo: Panashe with his wife Penina and son Kupakwashe (God - given). His Nativity set (above right) is now on its long journey to Walton. **JS**

# CHOLERA OUTBREAK

Zimbabwe declares state of emergency in Harare.

The outbreak has so far killed dozens of people with more than 7,000 suspected cases. The city authorities state that the outbreak, spreading throughout the city, has invoked memories of a deadly outbreak in 2008, which resulted in the deaths of over 4,000 people, with at least 100,000 infected. Health authorities have been struggling to contain the high number of admissions, according to the International Federation of the Red Cross. It cites a lack of health workers to manage the cases, as well shortage of supplies to stop the transmission. Zimbabwe has been battling the deadly cholera outbreak in recent months amid poor access to clean water. The



stench of sewage is overpowering in many areas (photo above right). **ARTPEACE** artist Coster's wife Emma, is down with the illness and he is very worried. Godfrey's friend Stembeni, (left) is very ill. He said: 'She washes clothing in a badly polluted river flowing into our high density suburbs of Tafara and Mabvuku where everyone does their Laundry'. **Johnston Simpson**

## Answers to Christmas Quiz on p16

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem
- 2 Little donkey
- 3 Away in a manger
- 4 Ding dong! merrily on high
- 5 Rocking Carol/Little Jesus, sweetly sleep
- 6 In the bleak mid-winter
- 7 While shepherds watched their flocks
- 8 O come, all ye faithful
- 9 Once in royal David's city
- 10 Hark! the herald angels sing
- 11 Silent night, holy night
- 12 Christians, awake, salute the happy morn
- 13 Every star shall sing a carol
- 14 Infant lowly, infant holy
- 15 We three kings of Orient are
- 16 Go tell it on the mountain
- 17 It came upon the midnight clear
- 18 The holly and the ivy
- 19 God rest you, merry, gentlemen
- 20 Good King Wenceslas



**The General Assembly  
of the United Reformed Church  
invites you to the induction of the  
Revd Dr Michael Hopkins  
as Moderator of the Wessex Synod**

**3.00 pm on Saturday 23 March 2024  
at London Street United Reformed Church, Basingstoke**

The service will be led by the Moderator of the General Assembly,  
the Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson,  
and the preacher is the General Secretary of the United Reformed Church,  
the Revd Dr John Bradbury

*The church address is: 20 London St, Basingstoke RG21 7NU  
There is no parking at all at the church, please use public car parks. On Saturdays only the Eastlands Car  
park is available and near to the church.  
Public transport is easy with many local buses, and the railway station is a half mile fairly level mainly  
covered walk.  
We encourage car sharing and use of public transport as much as possible.*

**RSVP by 1 March 2024** *Email replies appreciated where possible*  
The United Reformed Church Wessex Synod Office  
120 Alma Road, Southampton, SO14 6UW  
Tel: 023 8067 8570  
office@urcwessex.org.uk



## Lent Course 2024

Easter 2024 is quite early (end of March) and so Ash Wednesday is quite early as well (14<sup>th</sup> February). Following the spectacularly impractical course I opted for last year I have learnt (!) and am returning to Plan A – writing my own. At the moment I'm not quite sure what form it will take – more in the February Grapevine – but something will be happening.

*Michael*

## Bible Study Group



The last meeting for this session will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am in the Hersham Room. (Meetings will recommence in January – exact date to be notified.) The group meets fortnightly and new members are always welcome. If you would like any further information please contact the co-ordinator, Claire Ward.





In November at Messy Church we have always celebrated Christmas because on the third Sunday in St Andrew's Walton and Weybridge we have the Carol Service.



*There's a lot to learn!*

One of the most popular activities was making a candle using beeswax sheets. I thought the children might find rolling the sheets up difficult but all managed to produce beautiful candles and model a base for them using air-drying clay. It was great to watch their concentration as they tightly rolled the sheets.

*A perfect candle*



I purchased wooden construction kits to make tea light lanterns or nativity scenes which the children made up and coloured. We also had scratch cards of nativity scenes, lavender bags to make and felt needle cases to decorate. Some children were happy to colour in sheets or make Christmas cards using nativity stickers.



*Tea lanterns looking great*

*... and a lovely lavender bag*

After the celebration, in which I suggested the first Christmas was a messy time when God sent His Son to sort out the messy world, we had a choice of pasta or shepherd's pie to eat. Everyone went home with lots of goodies they had made, including iced cakes and crispy babe-in-the-manger cakes. We tried to make candle cakes covering a sponge roll in icing. One girl managed a beautiful one, while mine was a trifle lopsided!

*Anne Fitzgerald*



## FLOWER POWER

**Ghislaine Stevenson** says:

*"I was very pleasantly surprised after the service on 29th October to receive a lovely posy of flowers from the display on the Communion Table. I was all the more delighted that the Flower Fairy had remembered an earlier conversation when I remarked that I only possess small vases, and made it up to fit perfectly! Thank you."*

**Christine Carlile** was delighted to receive a selection of pastel-coloured flowers from the Communion Table recently. They kept beautifully fresh for about a week and she much appreciated the caring thoughts that accompanied them.

**Irene Pearson** much appreciated the lovely posy of Communion Table flowers she received recently, donated by Caroline Gardner.

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.

***If you feel that you can help with the distribution, please speak to Claire, Irene or Moira.  
Your offer would be most welcome!***



*29 October - Flower Fund*



*5 November - Caroline Gardner  
In memory of her brother*



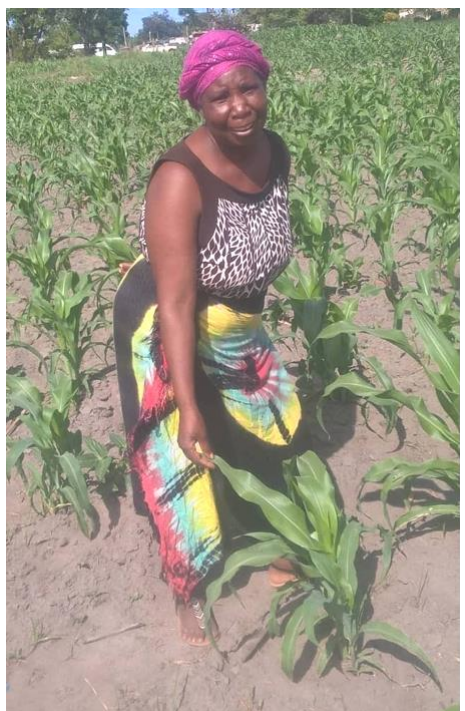
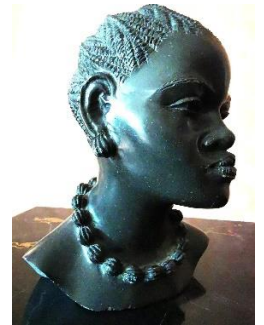
*12 November - Remembrance Sunday  
- Claire Ward*



*19 November - Val Cave  
for her brother*

# ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

**MERCY DASH:** Lizeni Nasho sadly took a turn for the worse on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October and was rushed into hospital. I received a plea for help to fund ECG and CT scans plus ambulance costs, so raced to Walton to transfer money which arrived within the hour. No NHS meant that patients must pay for treatment we take for granted. Scans were taken but all to no avail as she died on Tuesday. Her funeral took place on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Lizeni (55) had a tough life being widowed when young. Husband Levi was a superb artist. In desperate times, she was forced to send me the last of his work to sell (right). She supported an extended family of eleven and laboured in her field. Her beautiful art was in great demand – some readers will own her work. These photos show Lizeni over the twenty years I have known her. The photo (below right) shows her holding a St Andrew’s ‘Good News’ Bible I sent many years ago. **Verity Johnson**, CAFOD’s Head of Region Africa said: [It is shocking and tragic how many people here die early from poor treatment or other causes](#)’.



**A BIG THANK YOU** to all those who supported Lizeni over the years, from covering the cost of her father’s eyesight operation so he could see his grandchildren more clearly - to school fees (a child she ‘adopted’ went on to University) - to buying her sculptures - to providing seed and fertilisers etc. Your support enriched this family’s lives in more ways than you can ever imagine and was deeply appreciated. She had a strong faith and attended church and prayer groups regularly. She managed to listen to St Andrew’s service via

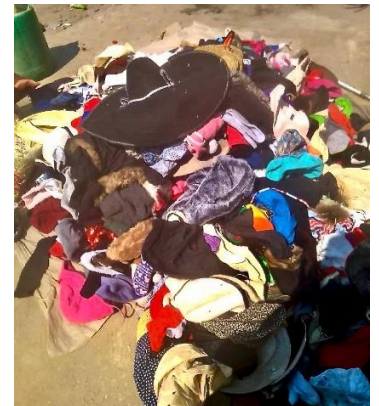
WhatsApp a week before she died and so enjoyed feeling part of our church. Lizeni belonged to many women's groups and dozens greeted her with moving singing and dancing as she arrived home two days before her funeral. Mike Masedza said: 'John, a dark cloud has settled on Artpeace. Liz was our sister and a very important, popular artist because she was the only active woman stone sculptor in Tafara and Mabvuku'. It almost feels like the end of an era.



Mike Masedza said: 'John, a dark cloud has settled on Artpeace. Liz was our sister and a very important, popular artist because she was the only active woman stone sculptor in Tafara and Mabvuku'. It almost feels like the end of an era.

**NEW VENTURE:** Artist Fortune is not a well man and has never recovered from being tortured by Mugabe's thugs many years ago

which crippled him. He struggles to make ends meet. However, with our donations he has bought some old used clothing (right) which he tries to sell earning a few dollars.



**CHEERFULL NEWS:** About a week later, despite suffering a big hit to their income, **Marlow URC's** congregation agreed to donate £3000 from Church funds to cover 25kgs. maize seed, 125kgs of varied compound fertilisers and chemicals for each member. Two days later this generous donation arrived and the artists purchased the products which, weather and other



factors permitting, should ensure basic food for their extended families for around ten months. A truck made multi drop deliveries to their scattered homes. Lovemore James said: 'We are all so happy happy today, and are about to go and become farmers again as well as sculptors'. From Dickson: 'Thank you very much Marlow URC for the seeds and inputs - may God bless you'. From Coster: 'We thank our Marlow friends for their great effort which will change our lives.' Mike sent an appreciative video for their congregation. Marlow URC continue to punch above their weight and are a lifeline for Artpeace and their extended families where hundreds benefit!

**SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL'S OCTOBER SHOP SALES** were good - an extra bonus with many artists and friends benefitting. Life is full of ups and downs for Artpeace, but these resilient folk are lifted with our support. The Nasho family send heartfelt thanks to those who helped with donations after their grievous loss. Sales coupled with Marlow URC's generosity has undoubtedly boosted morale but Christmas is looking rather bleak with little funds left. However, they will do their best to celebrate the festive season and wish their UK friends a very Happy Christmas.

**Johnston Simpson**





For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.  
And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.  
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,  
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

*Luke 2, vv 11-14*

#### **MINISTER**

The Reverend Michael Hodgson  
The Manse  
3 Elgin Road  
Weybridge  
KT13 8SN

Tel: 01932 841382  
Email: [michael.mah@btinternet.com](mailto:michael.mah@btinternet.com)

#### **CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR**

Mrs Elizabeth Scharinger  
Email: [administrator@standrewsurc.org](mailto:administrator@standrewsurc.org)

#### **THE SECRETARIAL TEAM**

Mrs Carol Lee  
Email: [secretary@standrewsurc.org](mailto:secretary@standrewsurc.org)

Mrs Gwenda Cochrane  
Mrs Liz Grimsey  
Mrs Shirley Morley

#### **HALL HIRE**

Email: [roomhire@standrewsurc.org](mailto:roomhire@standrewsurc.org)

Website: [www.standrewsurc.org](http://www.standrewsurc.org)

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

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

You are all most welcome to join us!