



ST ANDREW'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
WALTON AND WEYBRIDGE



*THE GRAPEVINE*

*OCTOBER 2024*

*Volume 2 No 8*



*Harvest in the Highlands and Ben Wyvis*

*“In seed time learn, in harvest teach, in winter enjoy.”*

*William Blake (1757-1827)*

October 2024



Dear Friends,

In the Prologue to the Clerk's Tale, Chaucer famously notes that, "Time and tide wait for no man." Never was a truer comment made and 2024 is hastening on. October arrives and I always think that it's one of those transitional months. For example, we start the month in one time zone and end it in another. We hopefully start the month without much in the way of heating on in our homes but usually end up with it coming on daily by its conclusion! We start the month with the autumn colours only just starting but by end the month the leaves will have been gradually turning and the trees become increasingly bare. Winter chores begin to take over as long, light evenings have become a thing of the past and, if we are honest, drawing the curtains each evening becomes a pleasure to shut out the dark and keep in the warm.

2024 has been a bit of a transitional year for us because during the summer months we have been trying to do some different events at church and to raise our profile a bit. We've done a number of things including several open-air 'pop-up' coffee mornings, a full-blown flower festival and a lunchtime concert. Our online presence has increased considerably, with our seeing some real benefits particularly from our Facebook page. At the time of writing, the website is being updated significantly. We have wanted to do some different things and I think that it's been a rather successful summer. As Chaucer said, though, "Time and tide wait for no man". Laurels make uncomfortable resting places! It's time to look forward.

Between now and Christmas we have a number of things in the calendar and a full programme of Christmas services is hurtling towards us. I think we know what we are doing for the next few months but what about next year? Thankfully, Easter is quite a bit later than it was this year. Easter Day 2025 is not until 20<sup>th</sup> April (only a few days before the latest it can be). I am imagining that next year we shall be holding a few 'pop up' coffee mornings again during the summer, building on their success this year. There may or may not be another flower festival (Church Meeting has not met at the time of my writing this letter) but have you any ideas for next year, and what about the post-New Year/pre-Easter period? May I pick your brains please? For example, do we want/are we able to do anything pre-Easter in 2025? This year that period was very short. The clocks only went forward on Easter Day so that period was entirely wintry. Maundy Thursday's service even took place accompanied by a named storm. 2025 will be different, though, because we will have three weeks of lengthening days before Easter and, if we are lucky, spring might even be thinking about putting in an appearance.

I am also wondering if we could do something one Sunday, after church, as a social something. Thinking aloud, do we want to try a 'People who Lunch' style lunch? Or what about a 'Soup and Sandwich' lunch? To be honest, I think that a full roast with 16 veg, roast potatoes and light-as-a-feather Yorkshire puds might be pushing our capabilities but would something along a simpler line be of interest and acceptable? Or what about something else? I'm just asking and throwing out a few ideas as a 'starter for 10'.

Do have a think. Do let me or one of the Elders know. And if it's something new or a bit different then all the better. Traditions have to start somewhere.

With all good wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style with a horizontal line underneath.

**SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES OCTOBER 2024**

*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.*

|                         |                 |  |   |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--|---|
| Tuesday 2               | 7.30pm          | Elders' Meeting  |   |
| <b>Sunday 6 (Zoom)</b>  | <b>10.30 am</b> | <b>Morning Worship<br/>with Holy Communion<br/>The Minister</b>                    |   |
| Friday 11               | 12.30pm         | People Who Lunch<br>Church Hall <i>(see p4)</i>                                    |   |
| <b>Sunday 13</b>        | <b>10.30 am</b> | <b>Harvest Festival<br/>and Church Parade<br/><i>(see p7)</i><br/>The Minister</b> |    |
| Saturday 19             | all day         | Meeting of Wessex Synod<br>United Church Winchester                                |   |
| <b>Sunday 20 (Zoom)</b> | <b>10.30 am</b> | <b>Morning Worship<br/>Linda Lambert</b>   |   |
|                         | 3.00 pm         | Messy Church   |  |
| <b>Sunday 27</b>        | <b>10.30 am</b> | <b>Morning Worship<br/>Vivien Gerhold</b>  |   |

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***All items (provided they do not contravene copyright regulations) should be sent to the  
Editor and Associate Editor. Please see back page for contact details.***

*Front Cover Photograph by the Editor*

# News of the Church Family

## New Home

On 26<sup>th</sup> September, following time in hospital and recuperation at home, **Margaret Drennan** began a new phase in her life when she moved to a care home in Weybridge close to her existing home. We send her good wishes in her new abode and hope that she will settle in quickly, be happy there, enjoy the social activities (especially those involving music) and make many new friends.

*(Details of Margaret's address etc are available but in line with data protection we no longer publish such information in the magazine.)*

## Happy Birthday

All good wishes to **Christine Carlile** on her celebration of a special birthday in September.

## Prayers

Please remember in your prayers – Kate Ashfield, Margaret Drennan, John Langdon, Lilian Smith and Michael Stevens. Remember, too, all those who are unwell in hospital or at home, all those in care homes and everyone for whom daily life is proving difficult.

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### A Timely Reminder

British Summertime ends at 2.00am

on **Sunday 29 October**

when the clocks go **back** one hour  
and we can all enjoy extra time in bed!

\*\*\*\*\*



## Coffee Morning

The 'pop-up' coffee morning on 27 July (report in last month's magazine) raised £118.75 for the Sam Beare Hospice. An email has been received from the hospice thanking us for our support.

## People Who Lunch

**12.30pm 11 October**  
**Church Hall**



This increasingly popular social occasion is now a regular fixture in the diaries of many people in the congregation. Held on the second Friday of the month it is the chance to enjoy lunch (soup, roll, dessert, cheese and biscuits, coffee/tea – all for £5) in a very friendly setting. If you haven't tried it yet why not do so this time?

Advance booking is essential – not least to ensure there is enough food – so please book your place (and those for any friends you wish to bring) by contacting Elizabeth Scharinger via email at [administrator@standrewsurc.org](mailto:administrator@standrewsurc.org) or Fiona Reardon on 07902 465933 / 01932 247119.

### Remember

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**  
**and this is a good opportunity**  
**to introduce and welcome**  
**new people to the church.**



## *News from the URC*

### **Prayer Calendar for October**

- 6 Anniversary of the formation of the URC  
Burton Cross
- 13 United Church Winchester  
Meeting of Synod at Winchester
- 20 Broadstone  
Faringdon United Church
- 27 Salisbury  
....Bournemouth International Church

### **URC Ministries & Mission Fund**

#### **A letter to all members and adherents of United Reformed Churches and our Local Ecumenical Partnerships from the URC Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer.**

*Dear Friends,*

*Firstly, thank you for all your contributions to your local church in 2023. This includes your financial contribution which plays an important part in the life of the whole church through the Ministries & Mission Fund.*

*As officers of the denomination, it's good for us to be rooted in a local URC (or LEP) congregation and to work out our faith in the local context, as well as across the entire United Reformed Church. On the other hand, it is good for you in local churches to know that those who serve you nationally understand the local church financial issues as well. And there have been some big issues over the last 12-18 months: inflation, a "cost of living crisis" for many, with energy costs rising to unprecedented levels etc. Churches and ministers have had the same challenges as so many others.*

*The M&M Fund of the URC pays for ministers' stipends, training, Assembly costs and all the central support functions for ministry in the URC across three nations. The M&M Fund's main income is contributions from the churches with some top-up from synods, together with investment income and grants etc.*

*In 2023 the churches continued to support the M&M Fund to a wonderful level but there also was significant and generous synod support. Overall, the giving to M&M Fund was slightly ahead of budget at £16.3 million. It was also only 2% down on 2022's result. However, we should note that these figures include the synods' extra contributions this year which amounted to £1.9 million, an increased amount compared to 2022.*

#### **The full M&M account for 2023 in summary:**

*Income – £18.2m – of which 16.3m was from churches and synods contributions*

*Expenditure – £19.3m*

*Deficit – £1.1m*

*2024 is not going to be an easy year either and we are again budgeting for a deficit. We have a commitment from synods to continue their support on top of church contributions and a plan for balancing the M&M budget over the next 5-7 years, including budget reductions of central costs of 3 to 5% p.a.*

*So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2023 in full and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could.*

*Stewardship of our resources, personally, as local churches and as a denomination is rarely easy but it is one of the challenges we are called to in making our faith real. As the Spirit directs and as our means allow, can the churches once more continue to respond to the call of our gracious, loving and ever-generous God? Again, thank you all!*

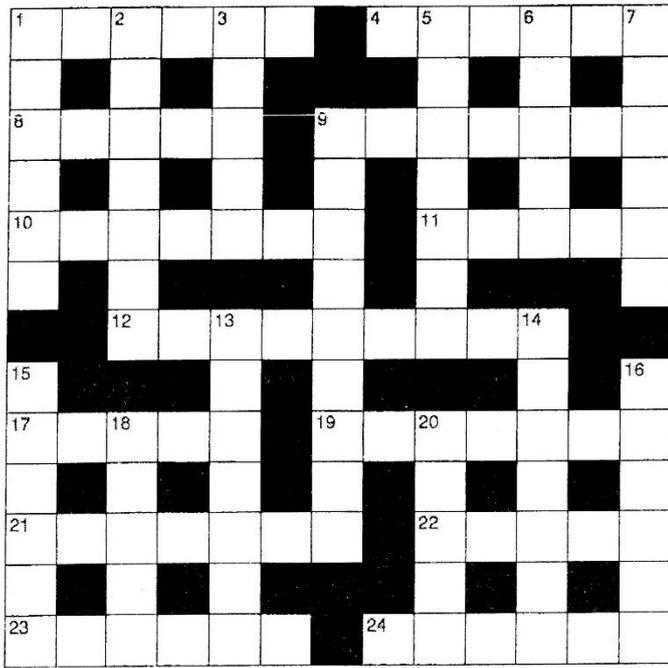
*If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.*

*Yours in Christ,*

*Alan Yates (Treasurer)*

*Vaughan Griffiths (Deputy Treasurer)*

**Test Your Knowledge**  
**Answers on page 10**



**Across**

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)  
 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 across (John 20:24) (6)  
 8 'Unless I see the nail marks \_\_\_ hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)  
 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)  
 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry \_\_\_\_\_ (6)  
 11 'Look here is \_\_\_\_\_. Why shouldn't I be baptised' (Acts 8:36) (5)  
 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)

**Across (continued)**

- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey (Acts 27:3-4) (5)  
 19 Moses was not aware that his face was \_\_\_\_\_ because he had spoken with the Lord (Exodus 34:29) (7)  
 21 Roonwit, C S Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)  
 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)  
 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)  
 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in \_\_\_ and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

**Down**

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)  
 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)  
 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)  
 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)  
 6 11 across is certainly this (5)  
 7 He reps (anagram) (6)  
 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)  
 13 Man who asked the question in 11 across was in charge of her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)  
 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)  
 15 The human mind or soul (6)  
 16 'O Lord while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is (Graham Kendrick) (6)  
 18 'We played the flute for you and you did not \_\_\_\_\_' (Matthew 11:17) (5)  
 20 Bared (anagram) (5)



# Celebrating Harvest

10.30am 13 October



## A service for all the Church Family and Church Parade for the uniformed organisations

Harvest Festival will be on 13th October at 10.30am. As usual, it will be a family service with the uniformed organisations present and taking part. The focus in this year's service will be on giving thanks for the harvest and thinking about what we can do to support and protect God's creation.

Gifts of tinned and packaged food will be welcome and they will be going to the Walton & Hersham Foodbank, as we have done in previous years.

Financial gifts (*see note on page 8*) are also welcome which this year will be going to a Christian charity called 'A Roche', as part of our application to become an Eco Church. The part of the charity which we shall be supporting is its environmental work to protect future harvests. That seems to fit well because effectively the food we collect this year will be going to help feed people now and the money we collect will be going to support harvests and feed people in the future.

*Michael Hodgson*

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Once again we are glad to support the Walton & Hersham Foodbank. In the continuing difficult financial situation it is providing essential help to many people (families and individuals) in the area who are referred to it by local agencies/organisations. The Foodbank relies mainly on food (tinned and dried foods covering all meal times) donated by the community.

**Background information:** The Walton & Hersham Foodbank is well-organised with an administrative office, food warehouse and three distribution centres – St John's CofE, Walton; St Peter's CofE, Hersham and our own church – between them open for a few hours over four days a week. This teamwork and the generosity of the community enabled the foodbank to provide 44,370 meals in 2023 while from January to June 2024 1,101 food parcels were distributed with 1,269 children being in families receiving those parcels.

**The Foodbank statement says:** *"We don't think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why we provide three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to us in crisis. We are part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK."*

(Over 90% of the food distributed by foodbanks in The Trussell Trust network is donated by the public.)

### **Clients said:**

*"This is a wonderful service. We are very grateful for it as we face a challenging month of reduced pay."*

*"This is my first time coming to a foodbank. I was very impressed with the service, the help, just everything I needed."*

*"The staff at the foodbank are very helpful and very respectful."*

*"I was so happy with the products received in my parcel."*

*"The foodbank was there when we really needed it. It was an absolute lifeline".*

*"The people at the foodbank were wonderful, they understood and saved us."*

## Deciding what to give

Stocks at the Foodbank Warehouse vary from week to week. As a guide the following list details the items most needed by the Foodbank at the end of September (when our magazine went to press). The list is updated as requirements change and full details may be found on the Foodbank website at [waltonhershams.foodbank.org.uk](http://waltonhershams.foodbank.org.uk)

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

#### Food

Rice  
Noodles (Plain)  
Tinned Sweetcorn  
Pasta Sauce and Pesto  
Long-life Sponge Puddings and Custard  
Ketchup and Mayonnaise  
Peanut Butter, Jam and Marmite  
Chocolate and Sweets

#### Non-Food

Toothpaste  
Shampoo  
Shower Gel  
Shaving Gel/Foam  
Nappies: Size 5, 7 and 8

This does not mean that you cannot give other items but please note that the

#### **Foodbank does not currently require**

*Baked Beans, Soup, Tea Bags, Tinned Meat, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Carrots, Tinned Peas, Tinned Potatoes, Tinned Spaghetti, Pulses, Nappies Size 1-3*  
as it has plenty of these items in stock.

**Importantly** the Foodbank always tries to adapt parcels to the particular dietary needs of the clients eg gluten-free, halal, vegetarian or vegan.

Please bring your gifts with you to the service on **13 October** or, if you are unable to be there, you may leave them at the church in advance.

## Financial Contributions to 'A Roche'

Some of you may prefer to make a monetary donation through the church as your Harvest gift which this year will be going to 'A Roche' (see note from the Minister on page 7). The Treasurer, Jem Ward, will be pleased to receive your donation which may be made via Bank Transfer to the church's bank account indicating that it is for 'A Roche', 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 'A Roche' and place it in the offertory plate at the back of the church. (This may be done in advance if you are not going to be present on 13 October.) 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.

## Refreshments after the Harvest Service

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

## Footnote

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

## Medieval Marvel – A Harvest Story

On a drive through the Essex countryside we came across Grange Barn in Coggeshall and recalled being told that it was worth a visit. This tithe barn was built by the lay-brothers of the nearby Cistercian Abbey in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century (with a 14<sup>th</sup> Century upgrade) to serve the Abbey and its farms and is one of the oldest surviving timber-framed buildings in Europe. It is 36.57m long, 13.71m wide and 10.67m high and is described as having a nave and two aisles (perhaps an echo of its ecclesiastical connections) with two mistreys (porches/waggon entrances) being added in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The 12<sup>th</sup> century Abbey, with its increasingly widespread work in the community, became an important focal point for local life. All this, of course, came to an end in the mid-1530s when Henry VIII embarked on his Dissolution of the Monasteries. At Coggeshall most of the estate's buildings eventually disappeared but amazingly Grange Barn remained in use until 1960 when it was left by its owner in a derelict state. (During the Second World War it also functioned as a social centre for the people of Coggeshall when their community hall was used as a recreation centre for forces based at nearby airfields.) Local people were determined to save the barn, which was eventually given Grade 1 listed status, and in 1982 it was compulsorily purchased by the local Council. Restoration work was completed in 1985 gaining a Europa Nostra Award (a European Heritage Conservation Award) and in 1989 it was given to the National Trust. Today visitors can see a small display of exhibits and information on the barn and its history. Something we found particularly interesting was this poem.



### On Dividing the Corn Harvest

One part cast forth, for rent due out of hand  
One part is for seed to sow thy land  
Another part leave parson for his tithe  
Another part for harvest, sickle and scythe  
One part for ploughwright, cartwright, knacker and smith  
One part to uphold teams that draw therewith  
One part for servant and workmen's wages lay  
One part likewise for fill-belly, day by day  
One part for thy wife, for needful things doth crave,  
Thyself and thy child, the last one part would have.

*Thomas Tusser (1524-1580)*

*From 'Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry' 1557*

Today this simple, historic gem is available to hire for special events so 11 centuries on from its foundation it is still serving the community albeit in a very different way.

*Associate Editor  
(Photos AH)*





## Shoebox Sunday

### Link to Hope

10.30am 3 November

We are going to take part in Shoebox Sunday again this year. The scheme is run by 'Link to Hope', who have a contact at Woking URC. Leaflets are available in The Gateway which are really helpful because they tell you all you need to know about how to prepare a shoebox – what to put in and what not to include. You can choose to prepare a box for a family or for an older person and as the charity says, "We want everyone to receive a fun and useful box of new, unused gifts".

If you would like to prepare a shoebox, there are some flat-pack boxes in The Gateway or you can use your own. If you use one from the church, please ensure that you cover it with wrapping paper as it came from a different charity. The charity would also like a donation of £3 per box to cover transport costs and details of how to do this are also on the leaflet. It can be as simple as sticking three pound coins on the leaflet when you attach it to your box. (Do you remember what cash was?!)

Completed boxes may be brought to church at any time but please ensure they get there by **Sunday 3rd November at the latest** – this will be our Shoebox Sunday. After the service that morning they will be taken to the collection point in the afternoon.

This is such a simple and inexpensive thing to do and yet it brings such joy to the recipients.

*Claire Ward & Michael Hodgson*

**NB Please see the note below headed 'Financial Contribution' if you are unable to fill a shoebox but would still like to be part of the church's support for 'Link to Hope'.**

#### Background Information on 'Link to Hope'

The 'Link to Hope' shoebox appeal has been running since 1992 and has delivered over 1,000,000 shoeboxes to the poorest people in hundreds of different locations in Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria and Romania. The website says *"Unlike many other shoebox appeals we collect boxes for entire families and the elderly, so nobody is left out. We believe that sending shoeboxes shows love from British people to those in war-torn or poverty-stricken circumstances, regardless of their background, colour, creed or religion. We are small, yet established enough to have personal relationships with the individuals in Eastern Europe who work hard delivering your boxes. For transparency, we also carry out spot-checks to confirm that the right people are receiving your boxes"*.

If you would to find out more about the charity go to [www.linktohope.co.uk](http://www.linktohope.co.uk)

#### Financial Contributions for 'Link to Hope'

If you would prefer to make a monetary donation to 'Link to Hope' through the church, instead of filling a shoebox, the Treasurer, Jem Ward, will be pleased to receive your donation. This may be made via Bank Transfer to the church's bank account indicating that it is for 'Link to Hope', 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 'Link to Hope' and place it in the offertory plate at the back of the church. (This may be done in advance if you are not going to be present on 3 November.) 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.

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#### Answers to crossword on page 6

##### Across

1: cosmic 4: Thomas 8: in his 9: Delaiah 10: Falwell 11: water 12: recovered  
17: Sidon 19: radiant 21: Centaur 22: broil 23: eleven 24: prison

##### Down

1: cliffs 2: scholar 3: issue 5: holy war 6: moist 7: sphere 9: deliverer 13: Candace  
14: deacons 15: psyche 16: stolen 18: dance 20: debar

## All about Autumn

### The Associate Editor looks at a well-known poet

Many of you will have had the experience at school of learning poems by heart and probably at the time that was not your favourite occupation. For many people, however, that was the springboard for developing an interest in poetry. As we are now in what John Keats called 'the season of mellow fruitfulness' I decided to have a look at some of the well-known traditional poems about autumn. In doing so I came across the works of John Clare.

John Clare was an unlikely candidate to become a poet. He was born in 1793 in a small village near Peterborough (where his father worked as a farm labourer) and neither of his parents could really read or write. He did receive some basic education attending school for a few months each year until he was around 12 years old. Through the necessity to contribute to the family finances he became a labourer with such jobs as ploughing, threshing and gardening. He was, however, keen to learn and attended a night school and also reading as much as possible in his spare time. He then began to write poetry which he read to his parents without telling them he was the author. That was his method of getting an honest opinion – he threw away anything they didn't like! He persevered with his poetry-writing eventually achieving recognition as one of the group of poets who became known as 'The Romantics'. For him, though, there was always a struggle between the literary life of London and the pull of his country life with his wife and children. Sadly, he went on to suffer bouts of delusional mental illness and was confined for periods in asylums. He died in 1864 leaving a legacy of great poetry for generations to enjoy. Below is his poem 'Autumn' and although he makes a reference to November in it what he describes can apply equally to October – certainly in our current experience of climate change!

### Autumn

I love the fitfull gusts that shakes  
The casement all the day  
And from the mossy elm tree takes  
The faded leaf away  
Twirling it by the window-pane  
With thousand others down the lane

I love to see the shaking twig  
Dance till the shut of eve  
The sparrow on the cottage rig  
Whose chirp would make believe  
That spring was just now flirting by  
In summer's lap with flowers to lie

I love to see the cottage smoke  
Curl upwards through the naked trees  
The pigeons nestled round the coat  
On dull November days like these  
The cock upon the dung-hill crowing  
The mill sails on the heath a-going  
The feather from the ravens breast  
Falls on the stubble lea  
The acorns near the old crows nest  
Fall pattering down the tree  
The grunting pigs that wait for all  
Scramble and hurry where they fall

*John Clare  
(1793-1864)*



Due to volunteers being on holiday we had to change the date of Messy Church and because of a hall letting we were upstairs in the Bill Topping Room. We took as the topic 'St Francis of Assisi' and our activities were all animal-based. We made origami jumping frogs, not easy but turned out well. We had model giraffes, we coloured fish, made butterfly prints (popular with both adults and children) and stamp prints of animals. We feasted on chicken drummers and salad and heard all about St Francis and the legends that have grown up around him. We talked about how we still must care about all living things. We all enjoyed a relaxing and enjoyable afternoon.

*Anne Fitzgerald*



### *Flower Power*

These lovely arrangements were on display in the church in recent weeks. Thank you to everyone who donated them.



**1 September Caroline Gardner**  
for her dear brother



**8 September Valerie Dow  
and Fiona Reardon**  
in memory of their father, David



**15 September Michael Hodgson**  
in celebration of his Ordination on  
13 September 1987



**22 September Anna Crawford**

## PRAYER CORNER

### *A Ten Finger Prayer for Harvest for all of us – young and not so young*

As you touch each finger remember and give thanks for

- 1 God's creation of our world;
- 2 Arable farmers who prepare the ground,  
plant, tend and gather crops;
- 3 Farmers who breed and care for livestock;
- 4 Fishermen who go to sea in all weather conditions;
- 5 Plant biologists, food technologists, nutritionists;
- 6 People working in food-preserving, processing and packaging industries  
guaranteeing a constant food supply;
- 7 Millers and bakers who provide daily bread and all those involved in maintaining a  
clean water supply;
- 8 Truck drivers who transport the food from its sources;
- 9 Supermarkets, small shops and markets which supply local communities;
- 10 Whoever does the shopping and cooking ensuring there is food for you to eat and  
enjoy every day.  
(If you are the person who does the shopping and the cooking give thanks for having  
the health and energy to undertake these tasks!)

*AH  
for Weybridge URC 2019*

### *Care for Creation*

Creator God

We praise you for the abundance of your harvest;  
the colourful berries and glossy nuts which adorn the trees and bushes,  
the ripe vegetables in all their wonderful variety,  
the fungi growing deep in the woods.

We thank you for the autumn colours which blaze with your glory,  
gladdening our hearts, even though the days grow shorter.

We thank you, too, for the resilience of the world you have created  
where even fruits that fall to the ground contain seeds for new growth.

Help us to take inspiration from the world around us,  
to care for the ground and living things which give us life,  
to do what we can, even though it seems a little;  
for in your eyes, nothing is disregarded  
and love surrounds the smallest as well as the greatest.

Warm our hearts with hope by your spirit which brings fire as well as peace  
and so fill us with love for this world that we overflow with care for all.

Amen

*URC Prayer for October*

# ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

**MORALE BOOSTER:** Whilst harvest time is almost upon us, ArtPeace families are toiling in baking temperatures preparing their fields for sowing. Photos below feature artists Mike in his



field, Lovemore [with](#) son and Shingirai's family burning dried maize stems. Last year's harvest was a disaster owing to drought apart from the few who took a chance and made an early sowing



gaining unexpected rainfall. This year, they plan to sow earlier in mid-October, followed by later sowings mid-November and will pray for rain.



**MARLOW URC** once again dug deep from church funds covering the cost of seed, various fertilisers and chemicals for the entire group! On hearing the good news that following a church meeting, Marlow's congregation had approved their Elders' recommendation, the sum of 5280US\$ was soon winging its way to the group who moved quickly to purchase these essential items.

**LIFE SAVER:** Some artists support up to twenty of an extended family. [Marlow's](#) tremendous generosity, [therefore](#), is deeply appreciated by our friends who also help other needy families if a

bumper harvest prevails. It is difficult for me to express how much happiness and relief this church's generosity has given over so many years.

**ALLOW ME** to expand a little on how your donations help people whom ArtPeace occasionally meet. From artist Godfrey: [‘Elizabeth is mother to baby boy, Moses. I caught her this morning](#)



[preparing some food before leaving for work as a vegetable vendor. She exists in a miserable shaky room made from metal sheets at a rent of 15\\$ a month’. 1\)](#) We were able to help Elizabeth



who was overjoyed by our support. 2) Youngsters Talent and his brother Munashe who fend for themselves (mentioned in the GV. Recently), also benefited from a donation from a St. Andrew’s lady moved by their plight She received this happy photo (left). 3) Artist Mike Mukolosi is going through a particularly hard time having lost his wife and carer last year. Mike, who carved our big Harvest sculpture in the church garden, suffers from a challenging mental health problem. To make matters worse he tries to look after his blind mother (right). These are just a few of the people we help by lifting their spirits. Your donations quickly



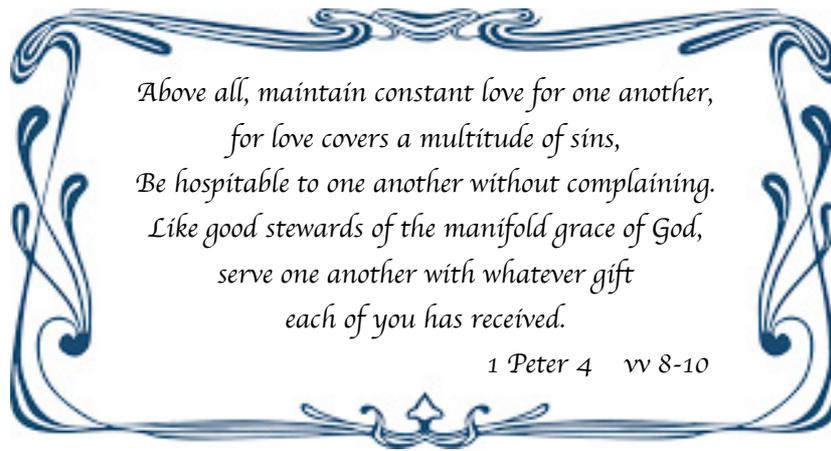
reach many people like these in dire situations giving them hope.

**THE NEXT BIG PROJECT** is to try and fund an expedition to procure raw stone as [artists’](#) supplies are exhausted. This would also cover travel, modest accommodation and food for the group as they make an expedition to mines in a mountainous region [over 100 miles away](#) to procure 11 tonnes of raw stone. The preferred stone is verdite (the green [stones](#) in photo). One



[arduous](#) trip many years ago brings back nasty memories as our friends were arrested, [tortured](#) and clapped in a [small foul police cell](#) over a weekend by police. Their crime - taking photos of poverty for our newsletter! They were released by bribing police officers. [We](#) will try and [avoid risks next time](#).

**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!