



ST ANDREW'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
WALTON AND WEYBRIDGE



## THE GRAPEVINE



MARCH 2025

Volume 4 No 2



*“Daffodils,  
That come before the swallow dares, and take  
The winds of March with beauty.”*

*William Shakespeare - 'The Winter's Tale'*

From *The Manse*

March 2025



Dear friends

My letter this month may, on the face of it, appear a little random but it is intended to, sort of, fill a gap and complete a series. When you prepared your pastorate profile back in 2016 you said that one of the things you were looking for from your next minister was a commitment to Biblical teaching and over the years I have been here I have tried to do that. I am not a good Bible Study leader but I have tried to make my preaching strongly Biblical, often including a bit of a commentary on the Bible readings. I've also written various Biblically-based study courses and leaflets. Over the last three years, though, in the February magazine, I have written an introduction to the Gospel from which most of our readings would be taken in the coming year (February 2023 – Matthew, February 2024 – Mark, February 2025 – Luke). This is where a gap creeps in, though. The lectionary commonly in use at the moment runs over a 3-year cycle and sadly the 'set' Gospel is always a Synoptic Gospel (Matthew, Mark and Luke). There is never a year where the set Gospel is John's. Instead, John is just inserted where lectionary compilers thought it appropriate. This month, therefore, let me give you a general introduction to John's Gospel, like those you already have for the others.

The author names himself as "*the disciple whom Jesus loved*" (the Beloved Disciple) although it has never been quite certain what this means or unequivocally which one of the disciples it was. Tradition held that it was John, hence his name being given to it. However, this is far from certain, which is why it's also frequently referred to as being "*The Fourth Gospel*" instead. It was probably written in the last decade of the first century, although some date it a bit earlier at about AD 70.

Rather helpfully the author tells us that he is writing an openly evangelistic work: "*These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name*" (20:31). It is, therefore, always worth asking of each story what it is about it that might make you believe. During the book the author brings various people to 'centre stage' to give their testimony to the reader and to say why they have come to faith/come to believe. These testimonies culminate with Thomas (20:28) who, just a little earlier (20:25), had said that he would not believe.

The first and last chapters are believed to be later additions, possibly by different authors, and are generally referred to as being "*The Prologue*" – don't think of Frankie Howard! – (1:1-18) and "*The Epilogue*" (21). Viewed this way, the Gospel originally began with John the Baptist's testimony and ends with the ultimate testimony from Thomas. *The Epilogue* was necessary, though, because the wrong person ended up being 'centre stage' for what happens next. So, part of the purpose of *The Epilogue* is to get Thomas off and Peter on.

Where did John get his material? He appears to have known of Mark and Luke but, to be honest, this is the subject of much debate and many PhD papers! I think I'll pass on it. Google it if you can't sleep one night.

John orders his material differently from the other writers and gives a different chronology, too. Don't ask me which is right! What is rather more interesting is the way in which the question "*Who is Jesus?*" is explored and answered. He is – "*the Word of God*" (1:14); "*the Lamb of God*" (1:29 & 36); "*The Messiah*" (1:41); "*the Son of God*" (1:49); "*the King of Israel*" (1:49) and "*the Saviour of the World*" (4:42). Seven signs are also recorded as revealing the person and mission of Jesus – turning the water into wine; the healing of an anonymous official's son; the healing of the paralytic; the feeding of the multitude (feeding the 5,000); walking on water; giving sight to the blind and the raising of Lazarus.

There are also the seven great "*I am*" sayings. "*I am*" – "*the bread of life*" (6:35); "*the light of the world*" (8:12); "*the door of the sheep*" (10:7); "*the good shepherd*" (10:11); "*the resurrection and the life*" (11:25); "*the way, the truth and the life*" (14:6) and "*the true vine*" (15:1).

Finally, throughout the fourth Gospel is a building of tension which starts at the Wedding Feast of Cana when Mary asks Jesus to sort out the wine shortage and he responds "*My hour has not yet come*" (2:4). This 'waiting for something' is reinforced many times in the coming chapters until just before his arrest when Jesus says "*Father the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you*" (17:1).

John's Gospel really can't be used as a sort of 'pick and mix' and be blended with the other three. That simply doesn't work which is why I am sad and frustrated that the normal lectionary doesn't devote a whole year to it. The fourth Gospel has to be appreciated in its own right which leads me to a final suggestion.

Put the kettle on and make a nice pot of tea (coffee if you must) or else pour a glass of wine or fix a G & T and settle down with it (and a plate of chocolate 'hobnobs'). Read through the whole of the fourth Gospel. Do that and use the key "*These things are written that you may believe*". I think that you will find it has been a rewarding hour. Let John stand alone and let his characters come forward and tell you why they came to believe in Jesus.

With all good wishes,



Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives.  
Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

*John Ch15, v 27 NSRV*

## News of the Church Family

**Jennifer Bush** is now back at home and thanks her friends at church for their thoughts and support while she recovers.

### Prayers

Please remember these friends in your prayers – Kate Ashfield, Roy Bones, Val Cave, Margaret Drennan, Alex Henham, John Langdon, Lilian Smith and Michael Stevens. Remember, too, all those who are unwell in hospital or at home, those living in care homes and those for whom daily life is proving difficult.

*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.*



### OPENING RECITAL FOR FORMER WEYBRIDGE ORGAN

We have received the following message from St Barnabas's Church, Morecambe.

*"As you will probably already be aware, during the last two years the PCC of St Barnabas have been involved in a very exciting project to install a redundant two manual Willis organ which was formerly at Weybridge URC. There are more details on our website here: <https://stbmorecambe.org/>.*

*This installation is very near to completion and the organ has been playing since just before Christmas. It already sounds superb and is a testament to Gary Owens and his team of organ builders.*

***The purpose of this email is to invite you to the opening recital which will take place on Saturday 10th May at 7.00pm.***

*The recital will be given by Mr John Robinson FRCO, who is Director of Music at Blackburn Cathedral, and will be followed by refreshments. Admission will be free with a retiring collection towards our organ fund. This promises to be a wonderful evening and an important milestone in the life of our parish. More details and a poster will be circulated nearer the time but please do make a note of the date and we hope you will be able to join us. Please forward this email to anyone you know who might also like to attend.*

*With my best wishes and prayers,*

*Fr Michael Childs  
Parish Priest of St Barnabas, Morecambe"*

Michael Hodgson

The Church knew what the psalmist knew: Music praises God. Music is well or better able to praise him than the building of the church and all its decoration; it is the Church's greatest ornament."

*Igor Stravinsky*



## SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES MARCH 2025

*There will be a service on Zoom on the third Sunday of the month*

**Sunday 2 March**                      **10.30 am**                      **Morning Worship with Holy Communion**

Tuesday 4 March                      7.30 pm                      Elders' Meeting    Hersham Room

**TUESDAY 4 MARCH - SHROVE TUESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY 5 MARCH - ASH WEDNESDAY AND FIRST DAY OF LENT**

Friday 7 March                      10.00 am                      Women's World Day of Prayer (Cook Islands)  
Walton Methodist Church Terrace Road,  
Walton-on-Thames, KT12 2SR  
followed by refreshments

**Sunday 9 March**                      **10.30 am**                      **Morning Worship**

Friday 14 March                      12.30 - 2.30 pm                      People Who Lunch - Church Hall - only £5 !  
To book your place please contact Elizabeth  
Scharinger by email:  
[administrator@standrewsurc.org](mailto:administrator@standrewsurc.org)  
or Fiona Reardon on 07902 485933/01932 47119

**Sunday 16 March (Zoom)**                      **10.30 am**                      **Morning Worship**

3.00 pm



Messy Church

**! COPY DATE FOR APRIL ISSUE FRIDAY 14 MARCH !**

***IMPORTANT: PLEASE NOTE EARLIER THAN USUAL COPY DATE  
AS EDITOR IS AWAY 19-27 MARCH AND ISSUE DATE FOR HARD COPIES IS SUNDAY 30 MARCH***

**ALL ITEMS TO THE EDITOR (provided they do not contravene copyright regulations)  
NORMA REID, 3 GWALIOR ROAD, LONDON SW15 1NP  
Email: [aristocats.2000@gmail.com](mailto:aristocats.2000@gmail.com)**

**Or ASSOCIATE EDITOR, Mollie Henham Email: [18amh65@gmail.com](mailto:18amh65@gmail.com)**

**Sunday 23 March**                      **10.30 am**                      **Morning Worship**



**CLOCKS SPRING FORWARD AT 01.00 ON SUNDAY 30 MARCH**

### Recycling?

In this month's Eco Church article the Green Team, which consists of Elizabeth Scharinger, Teresa Bacon and Paula Walsh, are continuing to support your Eco journey by focusing on Recycling.

Don't forget, if you want any more information at any time, please do reach out to the Green Team and they will be very happy to help.

Recycling more of the right things can help save money, as well as our planet. It is tempting to recycle everything but not everything can be. When non-recyclable items are placed in your recycling bin it's known as 'wish-cycling'. This is an issue as it ruins the rest of the recycling inside the collection truck and costs a lot of money to sort out. It's also really damaging for the environment.



In Surrey we can recycle:

- Paper and cardboard – office paper, card, catalogues, brochures, magazines, newspapers, wrapping paper and cards (without glitter/foil/plastic), envelopes.
- Place shredded paper waste in a paper bag, envelope or cardboard box and seal it up before putting it in your recycling bin. Alternatively, you can put the shredded paper into your home garden compost bin. Aim for a 50:50 mix of "green" materials (e.g. fruit and veg waste) and "brown" materials (e.g. leaves, shredded paper and prunings).
- Plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays - including detergent bottles, yoghurt pots, ready meal trays and ice cream tubs
- Metal food tins, and drinks cans
- Aluminium trays and foil
- Glass bottles and jars

Remember that all your recycling should be placed in your bin clean, dry and loose.

### No food or drink

Cardboard and paper that is full of moisture or grease (e.g. empty pizza boxes) ruins all cardboard and paper in your bin and makes everything unrecyclable – so put this in your refuse bin.

Give plastic food and drink packaging a quick rinse before placing in your recycling bin.

Surrey County Council have put together a downloadable list, which you can refer to when you're next throwing things away. To avoid wish-cycling always "check before you chuck" using the "Surrey Recycles" search tool [Surrey Environment Partnership - What to do with an item](#). It's a quick and easy way to ensure you are putting the right things in your bin.

It is also available as a free app for iPhone and Android.

### Recycling in Surrey 2023 to 2024

**54.10%** of household waste in Surrey was recycled, reused or composted in 2023 to 2024.



### Psalm 24:1

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it

**John 1:3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made

**Philippians 2:4** Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT A GLANCE

**DON'T FORGET!**

Clocks spring forward on 30 March at 01.00



## **MESSY CHURCH**

**Sunday 16 March**

**3.00 pm - Church Hall**

Come along and enjoy some down time with Messy fun and games and yummy food!

**! ADVANCE NOTICE !**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

## **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

Friday 7 March at 10.00 am  
Walton Methodist Church

This year's service for World Day of Prayer was prepared by the women of the Cook Islands. The service for Walton will take place in Walton Methodist Church at 10.00am on Friday 7 March. St Andrew's will be represented by Jean Rigden and Sue Groves. Do come along and support them and the other ladies from various churches in the community. It is a lovely service which will be followed by refreshments

## **STRATUS CONCERT**

Stratus (as heard on 'Gavin and Stacey') will be giving a concert at church on Saturday 12th April. Further details shortly but do put it in your dairies and do invite your friends. We know that it's going to be a wonderful evening and far better than anything on the telly!

*Michael Hodgson*



## **PEOPLE WHO LUNCH** **Friday 14 March** **12.30 - 2.30 pm** **Church Hall**

If you are someone who enjoys having lunch with a group of friends then People Who Lunch is definitely the place for you. Everyone is welcome at this monthly get-together held on the second Friday of the month in the Church Hall. For just £5 you can have soup, a roll, dessert, cheese and biscuits and coffee/tea.



Puddings a speciality!

**Advance booking recommended and necessary if you are coming in a group!**

To book your place please contact Elizabeth Scharinger by email:  
[administrator@standrewsurc.org](mailto:administrator@standrewsurc.org)  
or Fiona Reardon on  
07902 485933 / 01932 247119

Painting is just another way of keeping a diary.  
*Pablo Picasso*



## **OPENING RECITAL FOR FORMER WEYBRIDGE ORGAN**

**Saturday 10 May at 7.00pm**

**St Barnabas Church, Morecambe**  
**Free Admission**

*The recital will be given by Mr John Robinson FRCO, who is Director of Music at Blackburn Cathedral, and will be followed by refreshments.*

*See page 4 for more details*



## News from the URC

### Prayer Calendar for March

- 2 St Andrew's, Reading  
St Columba's, Gosport
  
- 9 Verwood  
St Paul's, Bracknell  
Thatcham
  
- 16 Hungerford  
United Free Church, Bishop's Waltham
  
- 23 Bitterne Park, Southampton  
Guildford  
Meeting of Synod on 29<sup>th</sup>
  
- 30 Christchurch: Somerford and Burton Green  
Park, Reading

### A 'Good News Story' from Guildford URC

#### *Extracts from an article in the Wessex Synod's newsletter 'Sharing the Vision'*

The High Sheriff, Shahid Azeem DL, joined Lord Kamall of Edmonton (The Shadow Minister of Health and Social Care, House of Lords and a Trustee of Intergenerational England) on a visit to Guildford United Reformed Church, where they took part in an event to bridge generational divides through innovative activities. The programme was organised by the Guildford Hub and Intergenerational Music Making (IMM), which is a pioneering national charitable organisation to bring people of all ages together through music and creativity in addressing loneliness and isolation while enhancing physical, emotional and mental well-being.

With over a decade of experience IMM has impacted the lives of more than 78,000 participants across the UK. Its work has earned recognition at the highest level, including the Prime Minister's Community Champion Award. IMM's vision is to foster a society where meaningful intergenerational connections are fundamental to thriving inclusive communities. The Guildford Hub, 'Connecting Communities Through Music', was established in 2019 and has been at the heart of IMM's efforts to bring people of all ages together through music. Initially hosted at The Electric Theatre the Hub has since found its home at Guildford United Reformed Church, where it continues to grow as a vital space for community connection. Each session is a dynamic celebration of intergenerational collaboration with the participants ranging from individuals living with dementia, those experiencing social isolation and loneliness and members of the local church community to children from early-years' nurseries, local school groups and organisations like HALOW. These vibrant gatherings create a safe and joyful space for shared storytelling, singing, improvisation and creative exploration. By fostering connections across generations, the Guildford Hub strengthens mental health, builds the community and highlights the power of collective creative expression to transform lives.

Lord Syed Kamall shared his thoughts on the session:

*"It was truly inspiring to see how the Guildford Hub brings generations together through music and connectivity in such a meaningful and impactful way. This is intergenerational work at its best – building bridges, breaking down barriers and creating a sense of belonging for everyone involved. My thanks to IMM and its incredible team for leading this transformative work."*



The High Sheriff, Shahid Azeem DL, joined Lord Kamall in his praise of the event.

*“There were some lovely moments as the energy and enthusiasm of the young children in the room lit up the faces of the many older retired people, themselves clapping and singing along as were several participants who had other challenges – a great example of organisations, including a local school and members of the church, all working together to make a warm, happy and very inclusive occasion.”*

Another community activity at Guildford URC was its annual Christmas Tree Festival – first held in 2015 to provide an opportunity to bring together the 35 community groups which meet regularly in the church building ranging from the Little GURKINS Toddler Group to the Sunflower Café Dementia Support Group, Yoga, Pilates and several choirs to a dozen 12-Steps “Anonymous” groups catering for addictions including alcohol, narcotics, and gambling. The guiding principle is to extend a warm and unconditional welcome to all in a progressive, safe environment. This includes hosting Guildford Muslim Society’s thriving Friday Prayers. Many of these groups contributed the Christmas Trees, with cleverly themed decorations. The result was a very ‘Christmassy’ indoor forest which attracted visitors and raised funds for two charities the church supports, Street Angels and Cherry Trees. It is incredible what can be achieved when the community comes together in such a positive and creative way.

**Note:** *Cherry Trees (based in East Clandon) helps to keep families together by providing home from home care for children with complex disabilities (including learning, physical and sensory impairments) and a meaningful break for their families. It is the key charitable support supplier of short-break provision in Surrey for children from Surrey, Hampshire, Sussex and West London. A few years ago Weybridge URC chose to donate its Christmas charity collection to help with the work of this vital organisation.*



## LENT COURSE

Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, is on 5 March this year and our Lent Course will be a series of reflections on the “Seven Last Words from the Cross”. Compiled from the four Gospels, these are seven phrases that are biblically attributed to Jesus during his crucifixion. They cover the themes of Forgiveness; Salvation; Relationship; Abandonment; Distress, Triumph and Reunion.

The course booklets are available in The Gateway and they can also be sent as an email attachment if you prefer. I hope that you will find it of use and of interest as we prepare ourselves during Lent for the joy of Easter.

*Michael Hodgson*

## INTERDENOMINATIONAL LENTEN GROUPS

Ross Richardson, a lay preacher in the Methodist Church, is leading two interdenominational Lenten groups. The first is taking place in Walton Methodist Church at 3.00 pm on Tuesday afternoons.

For those who prefer evening groups these will be meeting at Ross’s home at 255 Brooklands Road Weybridge. Please get in touch with me for further details on 01932 228732 or by email [the.fitzgeralds@ntlworld.com](mailto:the.fitzgeralds@ntlworld.com)

*Anne Fitzgerald*

**TIME FOR CHANGE:** Over many years, **Marlow URC** have generously covered the cost of seed, fertilisers and chemicals for ArtPeace with an average spend of £5000 pa from church funds - a blessing for our friends and extended families by providing basic food for much of the year. However, Marlow's attendances, like most URC's, have dropped alarmingly over the years.

They will soon share a minister with three other churches which could stunt any growth but may be enough to manage the decline. Given this uncertain outlook, perhaps the focus now should be to investigate ways of sustainable farming and striving for self-reliance because indefinite financial support is not available and has never been promised. By coincidence, I was recently sent a link to an interesting organisation called **Foundations for Farming** so I contacted Hazel, a trustee of this registered non-profit



organization specialising in training small-scale farmers to adopt long-lasting, simple soil conservation practices. FfF is based at a model 15 hectare farm on the outskirts of Harare. The station has accommodations and a training centre for crop trials, training, and research. Before joining FfF, most team members were experienced farmers. Many churches are involved in FfF including Highlands Presbyterian Church. The aim is to offer courses in organic farming to reduce dependency on chemical fertilizers the overuse of which hardens the soil, reduces soil fertility, pollutes air, water, and soil, and lessens important nutrients of soil and minerals.

The artists were sceptical at first – old habits die hard, but I encouraged them to attend a two hours 'Vision Session' at one of the Foundation's stations in Domboshava, financed by a donation from a St A's lady. The artists were very impressed by Rosie their enthusiastic guide (below) and took notes - they learned a lot. A lack of animal dung is a drawback but there may be other economies through less use of expensive fertilisers etc. A follow up three days training course is vital but the kitty is rather low at present so I will have to limit participants. **JS**





## DENIS

There are quite a few avid football fans, mainly ladies in the congregation, who will have been saddened but may appreciate this story following the passing of **Denis Law** (84), one of the Country's greatest footballers. Many years ago, I had the pleasure of literally bumping into him in the cloakroom of a Cheltenham hotel whilst attending a Charity dinner where Denis was the after dinner speaker. We were from the same neck of the woods in the far North East, as he was born in Aberdeen.



I picked a mock argument in our Doric tongue with the opening comment that he was not 5 ft 10 inches tall. 'Fit div ye mean', he replied, puffing himself up to his full height. I explained that as a boy, I used to collect famous footballer cards issued with packs of sweet cigarettes listing details of the footballer's background, clubs and height etc. It clearly stated that Denis was 5 ft 10 ins. tall. 'Yes, I am', he retorted, but I stood my ground and told him that I was taller than him at 5 ft 9 and a half inches. Further mock heated discussion ensued and we decided to settle the argument by standing back to back and asking a now surprised crowded cloakroom to decide who was correct. The problem in those days was that Denis had a mighty head of hair which made him look taller so we never settled the argument (he was in fact 5 ft 9ins. tall).

He went on to give the best, most amusing after dinner speech I have ever heard that evening and had the audience in stitches. Denis was a modest chap, always cheerful, a gentleman and an incredible player who Pelé once said was the only British player who could get in the then great Brazil team – not bad for a small scrawny bespectacled lad, the youngest of a family of seven, brought up in a council tenement flat in the Woodside district of the Granite City. It is said that this fisherman's son went barefoot until the age of 12 and wore hand-me-down shoes throughout his early teens. He could never quite believe he was paid handsomely for playing a game he loved. Denis achieved football royalty and I doubt there will be another like him. **JS**

### LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOX APPEAL 2024

#### UPDATE: FINAL SHOEBOX 2024 TOTAL

You did it - 25,633 Family & Elderly shoeboxes. All delivered safely to their destinations in Eastern Europe.

If you wish, please take a few minutes to read the Shoebox Delivery Diary on our website, [linktohope.co.uk](http://linktohope.co.uk) from the team that went and delivered just a small proportion of them.

Also just some of the photos that have been taken by our project managers.

Everyone that gave a shoebox to us also helped us to buy a lot of wood (and stoves) for people who desperately needed it this winter. It is so much colder in Eastern Europe than it is here in winter time. We have received news of the death of an old lady who burnt toxic items and died after she had run out of wood. If you found to be collecting wood from the forest then you are automatically put in prison for two years so there are very few alternatives.

*taken from the Link to Hope website*

Thanks to everyone who generously contributed a shoebox or gave a donation.

## FLOWER POWER

Here is a selection of the lovely floral tributes that we have enjoyed over the past month.  
The flower provision board is available in The Gateway.

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

Flowers grow back even if they are stepped on. So will I.  
*Unknown*



*26 January*



*2 February*



*9 February - Anne Fitzgerald*



*16 February*





Taking our theme based on the passage from Luke's Call of the disciples, we had several fish-based activities. We had the usual colouring pictures, making fish shaped fish, threading beads on to pipe-cleaners, garlands of fish shapes annotated with messages on how we could be fishers of men, using sticky-backed magnets to make fishing games and constructing a collage of a fishing scene.

*Deep into my collage...*



*Making a fish garland*



*I like this fishing game*



*Prayer boats*

Carolyn helped the girls to make a fishing boat scene with dangling fish on which they named those to be remembered in their prayers.



However, despite all these things on offer the children were queuing up to have a go on Jean's beautiful antique sewing machine dating from 1898. They made - with Jean's help - very professional looking pencil cases. I'm only sorry I didn't get a turn!

Of course we sang "I will make you fishers of men" and Follow, follow I will follow Jesus". We watched a video of the story and one of our members read the Bible passage.

*Sewing pencil cases with Jean*



*Happy Birthday!*

For the meal, naturally we had fish fingers and chips and birthday cake to celebrate the birthday of one of the girls.

Our next session is on 16 March. It would be great to welcome more of you. Do pass on the word to your grandchildren or spread the word to your neighbours!

*Anne Fitzgerald*



*There's an art to icing a cake!*



## PRAYER CORNER

### *St David's Day*

1 March

#### ***The last words spoken by St David***

Lords, brothers and sisters,  
*Arglwyddi, frodyr a chwiorydd,*  
be joyful,  
*byddwch lawen,*  
keep your faith and your creed,  
*a chedwch eich ffydd a'ch cred,*  
and do the little things that you have seen and heard me do.  
*gwnewch y pethau bychain a welsoch ac a glywsoch gennyf i'.*

*St David c500-549*

#### ***A Prayer for St David's Day – based on his words***

St David said: "Be joyful, keep your faith and your creed, and do the little things". As we remember David let us pray to God who calls people in every generation to be faithful witnesses to his son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Help your church to walk joyfully and hopefully in her faith in the gospel. Strengthen those who lead the church. As we proclaim the good news in this generation help us to do the little things that bring the light and love of Christ to the lives of others. Almighty God, awaken in us the zeal of your servant David that we may follow you in singleness of heart; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk*

### *St Patrick's Day*

17 March

#### ***A Prayer for St Patrick's Day***

Christ with me, Christ before me,  
*Críost liom, Críost romham,*  
Christ behind me, Christ within me,  
*Críost i mo dhiaidh, Críost istigh ionam,*  
Christ below me, Christ above me,  
*Críost fúm, Críost os mo chionn,*  
Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,  
*Críost ar mo lámh dheis, Críost ar mo lámh chlé,*  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my waking,  
*Críost i mo luí dom, Críost i mo sheasamh dom,*  
Christ in the heart of all who think of me,  
*Críost i gcroí gach duine atá ag cuimhneamh orm,*  
Christ in the mouth of all who speak to me,  
*Críost i mbéal gach duine a labhraíonn liom,*  
Christ in every eye that looks at me,  
*Críost i ngach súil a fhéachann orm,*  
Christ in every ear that listens to me.  
*Críost i ngach cluas a éisteann liom.*

*St Patrick 5<sup>th</sup> century*

*This prayer is part of a much longer prayer – 'St Patrick's Breastplate'. It is one of several translations with slight variations on the original wording including the particularly lovely version at No 36 in 'Rejoice and Sing', verse 5.*

## *An ECO Prayer*

God of each yesterday and  
of every tomorrow,  
of transitions that  
pivot us between your now and your not yet,  
stand strong beside us in the moment.  
Help us so in turn to stand firm,  
to hold solid ground.  
In this month of spring promises and uncertain storms  
we are conscious of change  
and wonder if it is change for the better.  
We pray be with those who plant and grow our food,  
those most affected by the warming world.  
We pray for actions and research  
which help all to care for creation  
and for small acts of love  
which have big consequences.  
In moments of shaky uncertainty  
when all seems tumultuous, stand firm.  
As your world turned upside down  
on the cross, so companion us  
through all uncertainties.  
And so may we remain strong in resurrection hope  
and stable in undying love.  
Amen

*URC ECO Prayer  
Adapted from a prayer by Revd Ruth Harvey  
of the Iona Community*

*If you have a favourite prayer  
or a prayer you have written,  
which you would like to be included  
in our Prayer Corner,  
please contact the  
Associate Editor.*

# ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

**A DOUBLE WHAMMY:** Hours from taking office, President Trump's order to freeze US foreign aid for review after 90 days has intensified humanitarian crises and raised profound questions about America's reliability and global standing. Verity, my CAFOD Head of Region Africa contact said: 'Zimbabwe will be affected – the US funds a lot of the HIV work here. People will die and organisations will close within that 90 days'. Fortune said: 'The medication which keeps me alive has already been reduced'. To make matters worse, ZANU PF, the ruling party have intensified calls for the extension of President Mnangagwa's two-term tenure, due to end in 2028 by postponing elections or amending the Constitution. This move to get President Emerson Mnagagwa to extend his stay in power beyond 2028 is from 'sinister self-serving motives,' according to the Secretary General of the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops' Conference.'

**READERS** at times may wonder if our support over so many years to these beleaguered artists makes much difference but it truly does lift heart and soul. Last month I covered some initiatives and progress. A few members may recall the halcyon days of 2010 when exhibitions of their work in United Reformed Churches across the country raised considerable sums of money. A handful of artists prudently managed to buy small 'stands' – plots of land to build a home. It has taken many painstaking years to buy materials. E.G. Coster's family lived in the rented ruin (left) with



cracks in walls and holes in roof, fit only for demolition - no toilet, running water or electricity. When it rained, life became miserable. Coster made a start



on a new house moulding hundreds of bricks from mud (above) which over ten years later is now taking shape! However, the metal roofed, single skin walls minus ceilings await plastering - the floor is earthen with no windows, doors or any facilities so he still has several years to scrimp and save to finalise the build. However, eventually it will be his own home, saving on rent offering dry living conditions for **fifteen people!** Emma his wife and 3 children (below left), have already moved in along with a bullfrog! So when you donate or buy a piece from Artpeace and friends, dear readers, many men, women and children will benefit. Coster's maize field on the right is also flourishing so he is a happy man at present thanks to your support.





**BAPTISM:** Some readers may have seen the video sent by artist Lovemore on St Andrew's Facebook page or clicked on our Editor's accompanying GV email. He said: 'Sixty eight of my



Apostolic Church congregation held an all-night prayer vigil on top of a holy mountain in Goromonzi called 'Mountain of Results' named by early missionaries. It has powers from the ancestral spirits of the region. The following morning, some of the congregation were baptised under a waterfall called Shayanhowe. Our singing warns each person by name who was baptised and had repented, not to go back to old unchristian behaviour and to follow the word of God'.

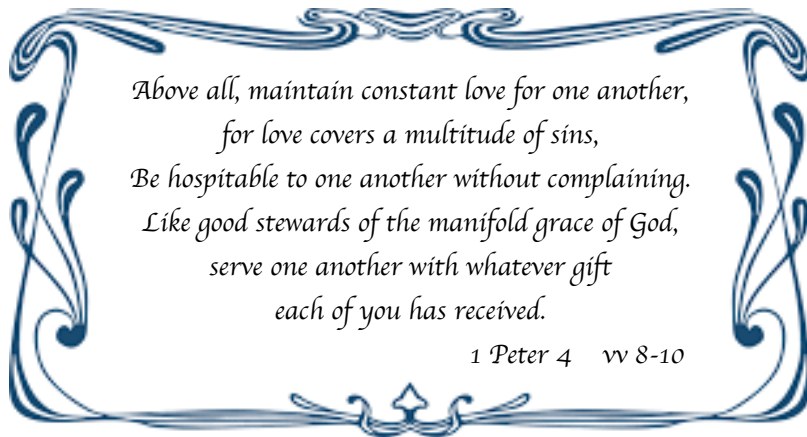
**IT'S A BUSY TIME** for our friends trying to make ends meet in a country with the highest rate of inflation in the world according to the IMF - **a staggering 465%**! Spare moments are spent sculpting and a family visiting Zimbabwe in April should clear the parcel backlog. Godwin's leopards are popular so I hope they have room in their suitcases to take these two beauties back!



**GODFREY**, one of our best artists whose hands are now crippled with arthritis, struggles to carve. He proudly informs me that thanks to our support he was able to cover his daughter Rutendo's Spring term school fees and new uniform. 14 years old Rutendo (meaning thankful to the Almighty) has ambitions to become a nurse. Message from Rutendo: 'Hi to all our friends in the UK. I'm Rutendo William and a second year student at Glen Norah secondary school in Harare. My father Godfrey William showed me a nice message that I will be added to the church magazine. I was much touched with the opportunity that I will be seen by friends around the world. Donations sent to my father are really helpful with my fees and school stationery and food. I'm so grateful that some kind people give us a helping hand. May God bless you for being kind not only to my father but to all of us because this money is also shared with our extended families and friends. Please keep on with your kind support as these donations mean a lot to us and it goes a long way. Thank you so much. Rutendo'. And finally a big thank you to those members and friends who generously donated last month. As ever, the money sent direct to the artists was received within 48 hours.



**Johnston Simpson**



### **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)

### **EDITOR**

Miss Norma Reid  
Email: [aristocats.2000@gmail.com](mailto:aristocats.2000@gmail.com)

### **CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR**

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

Website: [www.standrewsurc.org](http://www.standrewsurc.org) Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/standrewsurcww>

Instagram: Insta: [standrewsurcww](https://www.instagram.com/standrewsurcww)

### **THE SECRETARIAL TEAM**

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

Mrs Gwenda Cochrane  
Mrs Liz Grimsey  
Mrs Shirley Morley

### **ASSOCIATE EDITOR**

Mrs Mollie Henham  
Email: [18amh65@gmail.com](mailto:18amh65@gmail.com)

### **HALL HIRE**

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

Services start at 10.30 am.  
Services are currently accessible on Zoom on the 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!