



ST ANDREW'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
WALTON AND WEYBRIDGE



THE GRAPEVINE



MAY 2025

Volume 4 No 4



Blossom time at Kew Gardens

*"There's crimson buds, and white and blue,
The very rainbow showers
Have turned to blossoms where they fell,
And sown the earth with flowers.*

Thomas Hood



From The Manse

May 2025

Dear friends

I love May! I should make it clear that I am talking about the month here, not a secret girlfriend – a rival to Barbara! The clocks have changed a month earlier. The evenings have really drawn out and, with luck, it will have warmed up a bit. Summer is beginning and, with luck, the winter's frosts will be behind us (although a little care is still needed.) The central heating will normally be off in May and trays of bedding plants can be planted into pots and borders to enjoy in the coming months. Summer lies ahead.

*Summer is a coming in,
Loudly sing, Cuckoo!
Groweth seed and bloweth mead,
And springeth wood anew,
Sing, Cuckoo!
Ewe bleateth after lamb
The cow lows after the calf. (Anon)*

There's a hymn which always goes through my mind every May which isn't in any of the contemporary hymnbooks but I bet that most, if not all, of us know it – "*Sing a song of Maytime, sing a song of Spring.*" It was written by Fredrick Jackson, a Baptist minister, who on his mother's side was a nephew of the well-known Baptist preacher and evangelist, C H Spurgeon. He was a contributor to the Sunday School Hymnary (1906) and to Cary Bonner's Child Songs (1908) whose red cover was a familiar sight on the top of almost every Sunday School piano for decades! For those of us brought up on Child Songs, Jackson also wrote, "*Father now we thank thee*", "*Comes a birthday once a year*", "*See the farmer sow the seed*" and "*If I were a beautiful, twinkling star*". (I am currently trying to be disciplined and remain at my computer keyboard and not go to the piano and have a little play through them all!)

If I am honest I don't know that "*Maytime*" could be described as having words of the highest literary quality, or a tune of the greatest musical merit, but it's a happy hymn! It's a hymn that is full of joy and optimism, and it matches my own mood-uplift as Mayday comes and April goes. As Jackson writes, "*Oh the happy Maytime all my being fills*".

Life can be difficult and woes certainly seem to have no difficulty in finding us. The news is hardly going to lift anyone's spirits, is it? Earlier this year when the URC Year Book came out and I looked through the obituary section I realised that I knew almost everyone who had died last year and that there was a great similarity between the list of deceased ministers and the list of names on my Christmas card list! Life can be extremely "full of care" and as a pastoral minister I am only too aware of that – but perhaps simple hymns like "*Maytime*" remind us that is not the full story. We have to be careful not to let the woes dominate because there are actually a lot of joys too.

Who knows what sort of summer 2025 will turn out to be. Will it be a golden one, like the ones we rosily remember from our childhood? Or will it be like last year's, with clouds being unable to be cast at all and with little watering required in the garden? At this point I am going to be an optimist. Flowers are blooming once again and the dawn chorus wakes us. It's light when we wake up and it's still light when we go to bed as well. The greenery around us is fresh and vibrant. God's creation thrills and excites us as it bursts with potential.

*Maytime, playtime; God has given the Maytime
Thank him for his gift of love – sing a song of Spring!*

With all good wishes

Phil Lad

SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES MAY 2025

Hail bounteous May that dost inspire
Mirth and youth, and warm desire.
Woods and Groves, are of thy dressing;
Hill and Dale, doth boast thy blessing.
Thus we salute thee with our early Song,
And welcome thee, and wish thee long.

- John Milton - On a May Morning

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

Sunday 4 May	10.30 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Tuesday 6 May	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting Hersham Room
Friday 9 May	12.30 - 2.30 pm	People Who Lunch - Church Hall (<i>see page 5</i>)
CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 11-17 MAY		
Saturday 10 May	7.00 pm	At St Barnabas Church, Morecambe. Opening Recital for the former Weybridge URC organ (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sunday 11 May	10.30 am	Morning Worship

COPY DATE FOR JUNE ISSUE: WEDNESDAY 14 MAY

All items (provided they do not contravene copyright regulations) to both the Editor and Associate Editor
(*please see back page for contact details*)

Wednesday 14 May	10.00 am - 12 noon	Pop-up Coffee Morning for Christian Aid at St Andrew's Walton and Weybridge (<i>see pages 8-9</i>)
Sunday 18 May (Zoom)	10.30 am	Morning Worship
	3.00 pm	 Messy Church
Sunday 26 May	10.30 am	Morning Worship

29 MAY - ASCENSION DAY

Thanks to my friend Anne Fawcett for the beautiful cover photograph
of cherry blossom at Kew Gardens. *Ed*

News of the Church Family

Happy 160th Birthday

A plus point of being part of a united church is that there is more than one 'birthday' to celebrate. In St Andrew's United Reformed Church Walton and Weybridge we have the foundation of three churches to remember – Walton, Weybridge and Hersham of which Hersham is the oldest. This year is of particular note where Weybridge is concerned in that it is 160 years since Weybridge Congregational Church was founded largely on the initiative of Benjamin Scott, a local resident and Chamberlain of the City of London. The beautiful building in Queen's Road was opened on Wednesday 17 May 1865 when two celebratory services were held and the magnificent Willis organ was played at the evening service by the great organ builder himself, Henry Willis I (Father Willis), whose three descendants (Henry Willis II, III and IV) succeeded him in maintaining the organ.

The Minister writes:

17 May 1865 – This is the date that the Weybridge Congregational building was opened. Although the building has now closed, on **Sunday 18 May** we shall be thinking about how the work and witness of the church continues, 160 years on, both in Weybridge and Walton and in other places too. It's an opportunity to look forward, not back. 160 and not out!

Prayers

Please remember these friends in your prayers – Kate Ashfield, Roy Bones, Jennifer Bush, Val Cave, Margaret Drennan, Alex Henham, Sue Groves, Moira de Kok, John Langdon, Susan Simpson, Lilian Smith and Michael Stevens. Remember, too, all those who are unwell in hospital or at home, those living in care homes, those who feel lonely 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.*

In Memoriam

His Holiness Pope Francis

Pope Francis who on Easter Day made his first significant public appearance since leaving hospital passed away the next morning, 21 April. The United Reformed Church issued the following statement.

The United Reformed Church, with Christians everywhere, mourns the death of His Holiness Pope Francis, and extends its sympathy to Catholics who will grieve this loss most keenly.

A reflection on the life of Pope Francis is available here:

<https://urc.org.uk/on-the-death-of-his-holiness-pope.../>

Prayers

Eternal Majesty, we commend to you our brother Francis,
give him the rest he so sorely needs.

Faithful Shepherd, help us to model in our lives and ministry
the mercy, radicalness, and missionary zeal of Your servant Francis,
that your kingdom will come.

Amen

Abiding Spirit, guide the College of Cardinals as they pray, discern, and elect a new Pope that the ministry
of oversight and leadership embodied in Pope Francis may bear good fruit.

Amen

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT A GLANCE



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.*

*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/](https://stbmorecambe.org/).*

REJOICE AND SING LIVE (see page 6)

**Saturday 3 May
Coventry Central Hall - 12 noon**

Tickets are free and are available from
www.bit.ly/reform-live. The café at the hall
will be open for lunch, which can be pre-
ordered.



PEOPLE WHO LUNCH

**Friday 9 May
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
or Fiona Reardon on
07902 485933 / 01932 247119



CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING

St Andrew's Walton & Weybridge

**Wednesday 14 May
10 am - 12 noon**

Pop-up tea/coffee for passers-by and hall
hirers. Do come and bring your friends.
(see pages 8-9)



MESSY CHURCH

Sunday 18 May

3.00 pm - Church Hall

People who love to eat are
always the best people.

Julia Child

Children have one kind of silliness, as you know,
and grown ups have another kind.

C S Lewis

News from the URC



Prayer Calendar for May

- | | |
|----|---|
| 4 | Le Weekend
Wareham |
| 11 | Trinity, Abingdon
United Church, Drayton |
| 18 | Normandy, Guildford
Trinity, Charminster |
| 27 | Guernsey
Marsh Gibbon |

Rejoice and Sing Live Saturday 3 May

A hymn-filled, songful celebration of the URC's hymn book, Rejoice and Sing, which is celebrating its 35th anniversary.

Join the URC and Reform magazine at Coventry Central Hall from 12 noon on Saturday 3 May. As well as lots of hymn singing from 2pm, there will be talks, a panel discussion with those involved with the creation of Rejoice and Sing, an exhibition, the URC Bookshop, talks from David Thompson and Stephen Orchard, contributions from Dominic Grant, Anne Sardeson, Steve Tomkins, David Williams, Roo Stewart and many more. A 'scratch choir' is also being created for the event.

What's your favourite hymn?

Reform magazine wants to know what your favourite hymn is and why.

Emailreform@urc.org.uk

with the title of your favourite hymn (and tune if needed), the reason why you like it – along with your name and the name of the church you attend if you are happy to share it. These hymns will be used to help select the hymns for the event and will be featured in Reform magazine, too.

Tickets for the event are free and are available from www.bit.ly/reform-live.
The café at Coventry Central Hall will be open for lunch, which can be pre-ordered.

All our life is like a day of celebration for us; we are convinced, in fact, that God is always everywhere. We work while singing, we sail while reciting hymns, we accomplish all other occupations of life while praying.

Clement of Alexandria (c. 150 – 215)

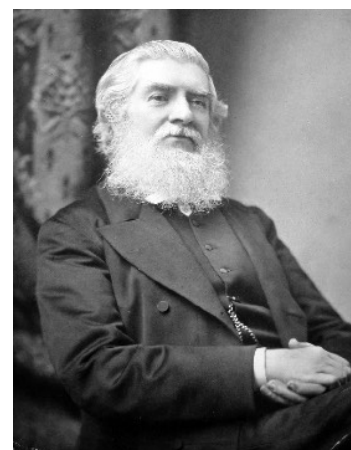
Past and Present

Although this month we commemorate the opening of Weybridge Congregational Church on 17th May 1865 the roots of non-conformist worship in Weybridge go back much further. In the reign of Charles II, and soon after the momentous events of the Great Ejection from the Church of England in 1662, Archbishop Sheldon recorded an *"Independent Conventicle"* held at the house of John Tilley in Weybridge. Later still (date unknown) Congregationalists *"possessed a commodious chapel in the parish"* but because of failure to put it into trust *"it was alienated from religious use"* on the death of the proprietor. Members of the congregation subsequently held services in a cottage in Thames Street under the leadership of the Congregational Minister from Hersham, the Revd A E Lord. Local opposition led to the cessation of these services in 1854 when a notice to quit was issued. The negativity of this situation was to change when that same year Benjamin Scott, Chamberlain of the City of London, his wife, Kate, and their family moved to a newly-built home, Heath House (with an imposing tower to accommodate his telescopes) in Hanger Hill. It still stands but is now divided into two houses. Immediately they joined Hersham Congregational Church and Mr & Mrs Scott walked there to attend morning and evening services each Sunday. Here was a man whose faith and social conscience was to have a huge impact on the area.



*Benjamin Scott in
his Chamberlain's robes*

Concerned that servants working in the big houses in Weybridge were unable to attend church on Sunday mornings (the only service of the day) Benjamin Scott, with help from other people, devised a series of temporary measures to remedy the situation initially holding open-air evening services in Weybridge and the surrounding villages and later in large private properties including Heath House. These were popular with both the middle and working classes and a week-night service was started. Sunday morning services were also soon started along with a Sunday school. Enthusiasm grew for a church to be built and at a meeting at Heath House 10 members of Hersham Congregational Church signified their *"desire and determination to associate themselves in Christian Fellowship so as to form a Congregational Church at Weybridge"*. (The minutes mention that they did this with the concurrence of the Hersham Church Meeting.) These founder members were quickly joined by 21 other members. François Baron (a lecturer working in London), who had moved to Weybridge to help Benjamin Scott, was called to be the minister shortly before the opening of the church.



The Revd François Baron

The church grew rapidly and from the beginning the church members set out to serve the local community whilst also accepting the responsibility of supporting the wider work of the Church nationally and internationally. Along with the church hall (opened in June 1865) missions were established in Waverley Road and Oatlands. These enabled the setting up of Sunday Schools and weekday activities which at Oatlands included reading, arts, crafts and music for the children and reading and sewing classes for the mothers. The minister put his artistic and musical skills to good use by writing a musical version of 'The Pilgrim's Progress' for the children to perform. (It must have been quite a challenge!) In 1871 a British School was established in the church hall, providing free education for children not eligible to attend Church of England schools. It continued until 1903 when state provision became universal. In 1903, too, the church employed a nurse to help the sick and poor of the district.

This concept of community involvement and social responsibility undertaken by the church in Weybridge all those years ago set the pattern for the future and no doubt the records of Hersham and St Andrew's reveal similar situations and attitudes. That same approach continues in our joint church today providing opportunities for us to support (sometimes in practical ways, sometimes with monetary gifts) the people and organisations – local, national, international – so desperately needing help. Sadly, it seems that although we now live in a very different and more affluent society from those far off days there are still so many urgent 'needs' to be met which show no signs of diminishing.

AH & MPH



Christian Aid Week 11 – 17 May

Seven days to make a difference

For 80 years, Christian Aid has mobilised thousands of churches across the UK to tackle poverty and injustice. But more than this, Christian Aid has harnessed something formidable – the power of hope. Hope for a better world, a world free from the inhumanity of hunger and the injustice that keeps people poor.

During Christian Aid Week, churches and local fundraisers for Christian Aid work together in their local communities to raise awareness about the effects of poverty and injustice, wherever it is found in the world, and take part in fundraising activities. The money raised helps to support communities that do not have enough food to eat.

In countries such as Guatemala in South America, farmers are fighting back against the climate crisis bringing with it extreme weather that's destroying their crops and food sources. Despite the challenges, they are learning new skills to grow resilient crops and protect their families from hunger.

Amelia's story

Amelia is a resourceful and determined indigenous young farmer living in the Alta Verapaz region of Guatemala. She has a son, Lázaro aged 8, and a daughter, Yakelin, who is 4. Guatemala is a hot spot for hunger. Half of all children are chronically malnourished and this has a profound impact on child development, affecting both immediate health and long-term cognitive and physical outcomes.

Extreme weather is ravaging Amelia's farm and killing the precious crops that would feed her children. The family's diet often consists of rice and homemade tortillas. They miss out on the fruit and vegetables, foods that provide the vital nutrition that children need in order to thrive. Some days it's just too hot for Lázaro to go to school.



A river runs through Amelia's farm, but heatwaves cause it to run low, and the crops that Amelia depends on wither and die. Yet no more than a mile away, industrial plantations are taking the last of the region's natural resources to feed people in the world's richest countries. The bitter truth is that communities like Amelia's have done the least to cause the climate crisis, yet they are having to cope with the worst impacts.

"I worry about what my children will eat", says Amelia. "In the past 3 years, we've been experiencing high heat and a lack of rain. It is very worrying ... there is no food for my kids."

Learning to adapt

Amelia is hopeful that she can combat extreme weather by changing the way she farms.

With the support of specialist training from one of Christian Aid's partners in Guatemala, Amelia is now planting crops that are more resilient to climate change. She is also learning how to conserve water and to make fertiliser to improve the quality of the soil. Amelia has become a leader in her community and is sharing her knowledge with other households so that one day, no family will have to worry about their children going hungry. This is the power of Amelia's hope in action.

Your support can help fund the vital training these farmers need. Please give what you can to help families like Amelia's build a sustainable future.

What's happening at St Andrew's URC during Christian Aid Week?

- Special Christian Aid Week service on **Sunday 11 May at 10.30 am**
- Church collection – gift envelopes will be available on **Sunday 4, 11 and 18 May**
- Pop-up tea/coffee for passers-by and hall hirers on **Wednesday 14 May 10 am - 12 noon**. Please let Teresa know if you can help.
Teresa.bacon@btinternet.com; 07718 584966

How to give

Gift envelopes (available in church on 4, 11 & 18 May)

Please put your cheque / cash in the gift envelope (or an envelope marked Christian Aid) and place it in the offertory plate by the door or hand it directly to Jem Ward, our Treasurer. If you are a UK tax payer, he will add Gift Aid to your personal donation (making it worth 25% more to the charity) and your donation will then be included in the total payment made by the church.

Please make cheques payable to "St. Andrew's United Reformed Church, Walton and Weybridge".

Bank transfer

Donations for Christian Aid may be made via Bank Transfer to the church bank account. Please indicate that it is for Christian Aid.

Seven days to make a difference

In Guatemala and many other developing countries, extreme weather is destroying crops, deepening hunger and threatening livelihoods. With the right tools, access to climate-resilient seeds and training, for example on how to conserve water and to improve soil health, farmers like Amelia can build sustainable futures.

Every pound we raise will make a difference.

- £60 could help fund the strong plastic sheeting that protects a plant nursery from extreme weather
- £125 could pay for someone to attend the specialist agricultural training that leads them to transform their family's diet and income
- £450 could buy the solar dehydrator that will allow farmers to dry foods that will sustain their family through lean periods.

Last but not least...

Christian Aid works in some of the world's poorest communities. The charity acts where there is great need, regardless of religion, supporting people to live a full life, free from poverty. Read about the work of Christian Aid using this link: www.christianaid.org.uk

*Teresa Bacon
Christian Aid Representative*

EASTERTIDE

During Passiontide there was a tableau, initially in The Gateway on Passion Sunday and thereafter around the Communion Table. This tableau was based on the events from Palm Sunday to Good Friday.



There were palm crosses, clothing and a copy of "All Glory, Laud and Honour" to remind us of the original Palm Sunday Procession and the way in which we remember it today.

There was a chalice and paten for the Last Supper, complete with a small, white cloth under it, as we would lay the Communion table today. On the paten, instead of bread there were hearts to remind us of love and link it with the famous George Herbert poem, "Love bade me welcome".

For the arrest of Jesus there were thirty pieces of silver and they were on "grass" to remind us of the field Judas bought with the money and in which he hung himself - and which is now called The Field of Blood.

For the trial there was a gavel and a pair of white tabes such as judges wear today.

For the crucifixion there were three crosses and a number of large, rusty nails.

For the clothing there was a purple robe beneath the gavel and a purple cloth on the central cross.

For Jesus' own clothing there was a white tunic on which were dice, reminding us that the soldiers got the clothes of those they crucified as a perque [*perk*] but that since Jesus' tunic was only one piece, they played dice for it to see who would win it.

Perhaps the most incredible sight, though, was only noticed when we were clearing up after the Maundy Thursday service. A spotlight had been placed to shine on the cross, but the shadows cast on the ceiling of the apse were unexpected and extremely thought-provoking.

Michael Hodgson

MAUNDY THURSDAY

As always, this was a moving service. A small number gathered around a table in the Gateway with hymns prayers and a thought-provoking reflection from the Minister

A service that sets the tone for the events of Good Friday

As mentioned on the previous page, the remarkable image on the right, the result of a spotlight positioned to shine on the Cross, gives pause for thought. What could be an interpretation of the shadow on the ceiling of the apse? An angel looking own on Jesus? God looking down on His Son? The devil come to gloat, thinking that he had won the day?



PALM SUNDAY



Palm Sunday saw the Easter display move from the Gateway to the front of the church. Alistair's excellent reading from Luke explained the procession into Jerusalem, with Jesus stopping for a second time to weep over the fate of the city, and then the cleansing of the temple. This symbolised not only the coming of the King, but also the need to have the temple fit for purpose. Michael is not the only one to notice that, even though we have a single building here, the church part feels like a place of worship and prayer, with the rest of the site feeling less so - though that doesn't stop us worshipping God wherever we happen to be!

Jem Ward

THE DONKEY by G K Chesterton

*When fishes flew and forests walked
And figs grew upon thorn,
Some moment when the moon was blood
Then surely I was born.*

*With monstrous head and sickening cry
And ears like errant wings
The devil's walking parody,
On all four-footed things.*

*The tattered outlaw of the earth
Of ancient crooked will;
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,
I keep my secret still.*

*Fools, for I also had my hour
One far, fierce hour and sweet:
There was a shout about my ears
And palms before my feet.*

GOOD FRIDAY

Our traditional Service of Meditation for this solemn day was one of quiet reflection that included a short drama - originally for children - played out by members of the congregation, "Who killed the King". As in the past, there was no blessing and no formal end to the service and we left the church as and when we wished.

EASTER DAY



It was lovely to welcome a congregation that included a good few visitors. The church had been beautifully decorated and, happily, weather permitted to enable us to begin the service in the church garden with Caroline doing the joyous reading from Luke 24, vv 1-12, Christ risen from the tomb.

We sang the hymn 'Jesus Christ is risen today' while still in the garden and then made our way into the church. As last year, we had been asked to bring a flower. There was a simply cross by the Communion Table with only a few branches of greenery held by mesh. We were invited to go forward and place our flower into the mesh, transforming it from a Cross of Suffering to a Cross of Beauty. Thanks to Anna, who helped us place the flowers, the result as you see on the left.

Thanks to Zacc for the music, aided and abetted by Michael who filled a gap when Zacc was queuing up to place his flower.

The service ended with the rousing Easter hymn 'Thine be the glory' sung with gusto and enthusiasm by all present. Special thanks to all who contributed music and spent time to decorate the church for our special Easter services.
Norma Reid (Ed)





FRIENDS REMEMBERED

Valerie Jean Roddan



Valerie was born in Birmingham on on July 1932. Adopted by Richard and Elizabeth Harding, she spent a very happy childhood growing up with her older siblings, Reg and Renée.

She won a scholarship to Solihull High School for Girls and left to train as an Orthoptist.

She met John when he was a patient suffering from double vision after a serious motorbike crash and, after a long-distance courtship, they married in 1954.

John was still a student studying in Newcastle, so they lived in the Northeast before moving south when John joined Shell Mex and BP.

They settled in Weybridge, had two children - Fiona and John - and were regular attendees at St Andrew's URC in Walton. When the children were old enough, Valerie started work in Artistic Treasures - a glass and china shop in Weybridge. She also pursued her love of embroidery with her great friend Ruby Anderson at the Hampton School of Needlework.

Some 20 years ago they moved to Wallingford in Oxfordshire and made many lovely new friends through the local URC in Aston Tirrold and the U3A.

John died in 2020, but Valerie kept herself busy – learning new skills (Mahjong), participating in the Antiques and History Groups of the U3A, joining the Church Working Parties, and visiting family and friends all over the country.

Sadly, Valerie was diagnosed with an inoperable cancer at the end of January and died very peacefully in Sobell House Hospice. on 11 February, just three weeks later. A private committal was held on 10 March and there was a Service to commemorate Valerie's life at Aston Tirrold URC Church on 17 April.

She will be greatly missed by Fiona and Philip, John and Margaret and her grandchildren and their spouses – Richard, Rebecca and Hamish, Alexandra, Jack and Eloise and Matt.

Fiona Geiger

Eva Barbara Ramage

There was a service of thanksgiving for Eva's life at church on 23 April which was transmitted over Zoom to enable her family in America to take part. We will be including a tribute to Eva in the June issue.

STRATUS - LIVE IN CONCERT

- A concert shaped by memory, space and time -



On the evening of 12 May, in the church, we were royally entertained, once again, by Stratus, a London-based trio made up of Zacc Rodwell (piano), Nat Brawn (violin) and Sam Grew (cello). They have been friends for many years and the warmth of their friendship shines through their music.

They introduced the programme with:

"A huge thanks to Michael Hodgson and to everyone at St Andrew's Walton and Weybridge church for hosting us and supporting this concert - it's such a joy to be back!"

Their first-ever concert was in our church in April 2019 and they were due to return in April 2020, by which time, of course, Covid 19 caused the world to pause for a while. Five years later they are back. In late 2024, their arrangement of Somewhere Only We Know was featured in *Gavin & Stacey: The Finale*, which aired on Christmas Day, providing a real boost for the future of Stratus.

They described their programme as "a selection of atmospheric instrumental arrangements - from cinematic pop and musical theatre to quietly powerful modern classics, all arranged by us and all chosen for their melodic strength, emotional pull, or the story they tell without needing words." The set moved through a range of styles and moods and included some familiar themes, some less so, but all designed to ensure a rapt audience and revival of memories, old and new. Here is a reminder of the programme.

Before I knew You - Iris - Chasing Cars - Someone you Loved - Fix You -
A thousand Years - I dreamed a dream - Bring him Home

INTERVAL

Writing's on the wall - 10,000 Reasons - Mad World - True Colours - Real Love - Half the World Away -
For Good - This Will Be (an everlasting love).

The only disappointment was ... no inclusion of 'Something Only We Know'! Our concern was unfounded: it was saved as a stand-alone treat, for the Encore.

You can find Stratus on social media: @stratusmusicldn or at linktr.ee/stratusmusic

We could take away a free CD 'Say Something' and we were delighted to give donations in return for a very happy and relaxing evening and can't wait for the next concert in our church.

Norma Reid



Because Easter Day fell on the third Sunday of the month we celebrated Messy Church on Palm Sunday. Although numbers were small, we had an enjoyable afternoon. The children made baskets with Jean and used clever scissors to cut tissue paper to make lining before adding Easter eggs.

A beautiful sunrise



Love these clever scissors!

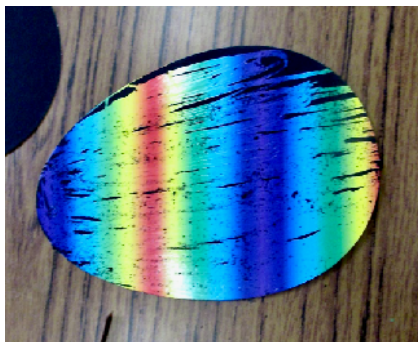


Margaret helped to make Easter biscuits portraying the empty tomb using Jammy Dodgers and small chocolate eggs. By adding black cut-out crosses to an orange and red background, they were able to create beautiful sunrise pictures.

Making empty tomb biscuits

We had scratch crosses, wooden egg shapes to colour as decorations and Easter colouring pages. Instead of the video I had planned, we used the amazing scenes that decorated the front of the sanctuary to retell the Easter story. As usual we finished with a meal prepared by Carolyn.

Anne Fitzgerald



Painting wooden egg shapes



Colouring stones and putting a magnet on the back

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***

"I'm talking about the language of flowers. It's from the Victorian era, like your name. If a man gave a young lady a bouquet of flowers, she would race home and try to decode it like a secret message. Red roses mean love; yellow roses infidelity. So a man would have to choose his flowers carefully."

- Vanessa Diffenbaugh, *The Language of Flowers*



30 March



6 April - Claire Ward
for Claire and Jem's Wedding Anniversary



13 April - Liz Grimsey
in memory of Colin



Easter Sunday

May 2025

Eco Church

Issue
#4

Stay up to date with our Eco Church Journey

What is a Carbon Footprint?

We're sure that you must all have heard the term 'Carbon Footprint' but what does that actually mean to us as individuals?

Your carbon footprint is a number, often measured in tonnes, that represents the total amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other equivalent greenhouse gases that are associated with your lifestyle.

For example, a return flight from London to Spain emits 0.54 tonnes of CO₂ per person. The average annual CO₂ emission per person in the UK is about 10 tonnes.

Flying, using gas and electricity in our homes, driving a car, even if it is an electric car, all contribute to our carbon footprint, but there are many things that we use or do on a daily basis that add to our personal footprint.

For example, buying fruit and vegetables out of season means that they are imported to us from another country thus adding to the carbon footprint. The meat industry is responsible for about 60% of greenhouse gas emissions related to food production. Even using a plastic pen means that gases will have been emitted at every stage of its production.

"While individual actions alone may not solve climate change, they are an essential part of the broader solution."
(Cup of Toast Lifestyle blog)



Easy ways to reduce your Carbon Footprint

We challenge you to do at least one of these before the next edition.

1. Do your washing at a lower temperature than usual, or dry the washing outside rather than in a tumble dryer
2. Have one meat free day a week
3. Take a shower instead of a bath
4. Choose to buy less 'stuff'
5. Only run the dishwasher when it's full.

Let Elizabeth in the office know what you have done and how easy or difficult it was to do -
administrator@standrewsurc.org

Your feedback is important and will help us to complete the Lifestyle section of the Eco Church Survey.

Interested to learn what your carbon footprint is?
Have a look at this link:

<https://www.carbonindependent.org>

Or visit:

www.climatestewards.org

Commented [TB1]: Just stick to tonnes to keep it simple.

Commented [TB2]: Unless you state the average CO₂ emissions per year for someone in the UK, any figure about flights is meaningless. You need to have a comparison.

I took a quick look at a calculator and for Heathrow to Alicante return economy, it was 0.54 tonnes, so please check your figure.

The average annual CO₂ emissions per person in the UK is about 10 tonnes. See this link.

<https://www.carbonindependent.org/23.html>

(All greenhouse gases, and it goes up to 13 tonnes.)

Isaiah 55:12

A vivid picture of earth
rejoicing giving us inspiration
to care for the planet

Genesis 1:28

God grants humans
'stewardship' of the earth

Psalm 104: 24-25

'In wisdom you made them all'
Reveals the intentional design
and careful planning that went
into all aspects of creating
nature

A GRAND DAY OUT - FULHAM PALACE

FORMER RESIDENCE OF THE BISHOPS OF LONDON

"Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy;
they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."

Marcel Proust

The captivating Palace spans over Bishops of London. residence of the since AD 704, Bishop of London to 1973.

The walled garden of Fulham, in London mid-18th century



history of Fulham 1,300 years and 133 Bishops of London Stopford was the final live here, leaving in

The Bishop's Palace, dates to the when

Bishop Terrick redesigned much of Fulham Palace's landscape. It is an urban oasis. Behind the high brick walls are 3.5 acres of beautiful plants, fruit trees, bee hives and open spaces. Reopened in 2012 after an extensive restoration, it includes a knot garden, vinery, kitchen garden, apple orchard, apple tree arch, bee hives, grass lawns and borders along the walls filled with flowers and fruit trees. Plantings are chosen carefully to reflect the horticultural history of the Palace. The apple varieties in the orchard celebrate Fulham Palace's North American botanical connections. The knot garden has a planting colour scheme of red, blue and yellow, reflecting the colours in the coat of arms of Bishop Blomfield, who originally designed the garden in the 1830s.

There are two stunning *Wisteria sinensis* specimens at Fulham Palace. One is growing against the Palace itself, up the south-facing wall, and the other grand example - the one you see here - is trained along a 60m-long arc surrounding the knot garden within the walled garden. This remarkable and iconic specimen is thought to date back to at least the 19th century as it appears as an established plant in a photo dated 1901.

from the internet

Only a 10-minute stroll from where I live, I was there recently and captured their truly wonderful wisteria through the locked gate to the walled garden (it had closed 10 minutes before I arrived!). Well worth a visit at this time of year. There is a great cafe too! NFR



PRAYER CORNER



Prayers from Christian Aid

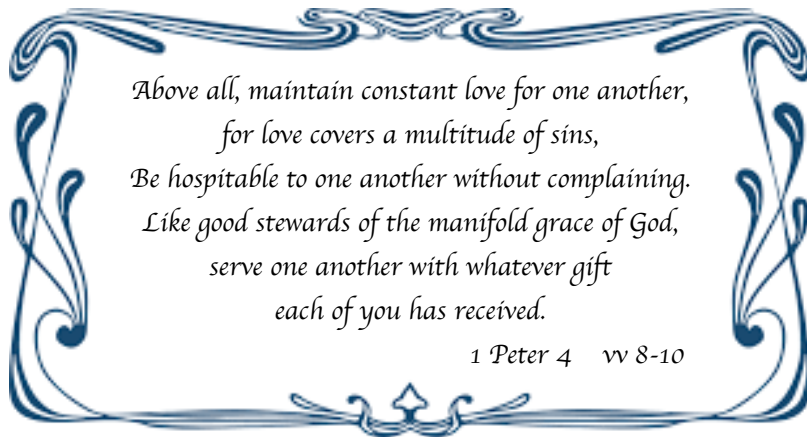
Christian Aid Week 11 – 17 May

*Pray this Christian Aid Week that farmers facing hunger and hardship
can access vital resources to protect their families,
feed their communities
and fight back against the effects of the climate crisis.*

Lord, you are faithful to your promises.
Through the Spirit, you bless us with abounding hope.
When power seeks to silence justice,
give us the courage to raise our voice.
When an end to poverty seems far off,
renew our faith in your kingdom come on earth.
When our neighbour reaches out,
inspire us to respond with overflowing love.
Amen

Lord, hear us as we pray for your creation.
We pray for an end to the destruction of the natural world.
We hold before you communities
who are watching their land become parched
and their rivers dry up.
We pray for farmers who carefully tend their crops,
only to see them wither and die.
We grieve for what has already been lost and damaged.
Show us how to act now
to help those most affected by the climate crisis.
Energise us that we may use our power to make change happen.
Amen

Lord, hear us as we pray for all people living in poverty.
For children who will not be able to eat a nutritious meal today,
or cannot afford to attend school.
Fill us with a fierce determination
to end the outrage of poverty.
May we hear the cries
of those who are marginalised in our world.
May we speak up with them
for a more equal and just society.
Amen



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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!