



ST ANDREW'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
WALTON AND WEYBRIDGE



THE GRAPEVINE

NOVEMBER 2025



Volume 4 No 9



© The Royal British Legion

*'Say what you will, our God sees how they run.
These disillusionings are his curious proving
That he loves humanity and will go on loving;
Over there are faith, life, virtue in the sun.'*

Edmund Blunden - Report on Experience



Dear friends

From The Manse

November 2025

The second of my reflections must begin with my clearly saying how strongly I believe that my move from Breconshire to Surrey was the right one. I'd been so very happy in Wales, but realising that God was calling me to a new role I knew that I had to go for something completely different so that comparisons couldn't be made. I have been so fulfilled here, in Surrey, even if the ministry to which I committed myself in 2017, and ministry itself for that matter, changed beyond recognition just three years later – but I will come to that in a moment.

Moving here I settled down to begin a new ministry. It was deliberately going to be very different but what I didn't anticipate was the huge wave of homesickness for Wales that initially swept over me. Interestingly, other colleagues from Wales now serving in other Synods experienced the same thing. Mum and Dad were now both over 90, inevitably meaning that they were not going to be as actively involved in church life here as they had been in my previous pastorates. Janet and I were also going to need to give them more support. Dad died when I had been here 13 months. Mum, just last year after some rather difficult final years for her. I hope you know that I shall always be grateful to you for the love, support, understanding and care you have shown me in some personally difficult times.

St Andrew's and Weybridge URCs were very different from each other. I began to get to know you and a limited amount of joint work between the two churches evolved – but thankfully union was not on the cards! In my second pastorate I had been tasked by the North Western Synod to bring two churches together and to unite them. I did it but vowed "never again"! Before I came here I, therefore, checked out very carefully from both the Synod Moderator and the Interim Moderator that there was no suggestion that St Andrew's and Weybridge should unite. The answer came back very firmly that they would remain as two separate churches. There was no question of their uniting. So, I applied... but God had other ideas!

Both churches had great opportunities although it was also obvious that property issues at Weybridge were significant and couldn't be ignored. Drawing on property experiences from previous pastorates we looked to see what might be done and came up with an ambitious plan ... and then came Covid – and Lockdown – and everything suddenly changed! It quickly became obvious that some hard work would be necessary if we were to have any church left to re-open when the restrictions were lifted but I think that we all rose to that challenge and did everything we possibly could. My reflection is that whereas after Covid so many churches never re-opened, or else re-opened only to close shortly after, we actually grew spiritually and became a stronger church because of what we did. After May 2021, when both buildings re-opened, it was immediately obvious that in reality we had become one church, though, and that we were also now what was being called a "hybrid church" – a congregation "in person" and a congregation "on line". God had picked us up and put us down in a very different place. We couldn't turn the clock back (would we have wanted to?) and so the task I vowed I would never do again became my lot. Uniting two churches! What was different this time round, though, was the realism, the good humour, the kindness and the grace with which some difficult discussions were undertaken and some difficult decisions made. We lost no one from either church by resignation because they were opposed to it. That's simply unheard of – but we did it.

I never thought that by the time I retired I would be exercising ministry via the internet, nor to a congregation I had never meet. Remember that my first pastorate refused to buy even a basic computer because computers weren't necessary for ministers. Arpeace has been an important part of the St Andrew's life for many years and since they started joining us via Whatsapp in worship they have always been a significant congregation in my mind, even if I have to admit that I don't really know how to minister to them. I tend to think that what they want from me is to hear God's word, preached and prayed. I know that the love of God is not thwarted by router or satellite. God's voice can still be heard and his love can still be felt. We are one family that may be worshipping in different places, using different means but I think that we do have a sense of unity – one congregation of the children of God.

Ministry can be hard but in most of my pastorates we have laughed when it's been appropriate. We've enjoyed being a congregation and we have had some fun along the way. Baptisms and weddings are lovely, and I have

always enjoyed leading worship on a Sunday. In recent years I have found it increasingly difficult taking the funerals of regular church members and adherents – people whom I’ve known and ministered to, and cared for and respected. It’s part of pastoral ministry and I have always seen it as being the last thing that I can do for them – so done my very best for them and their family in the funeral. That’s still my stance but I do seem to find it more emotionally draining now. On that subject, when I was first ordained, the church part of a funeral always preceded the crematorium or cemetery. Now it’s totally changed and so I have had to re-think the service(s). I do think that the “new” way is a much better way round, though, both for practical reasons and for the chance to finish with the celebration of someone’s life, rather than the committal of their body. There are far fewer baptisms now than when I was first ordained and a lot fewer weddings too, partly because back in 1987 there were far fewer denominations who were prepared to marry divorcees. (The C of E, for example, didn’t then.) I also don’t remember that “Wedding Venues” were very common then. Most people got married in church or in the register office.

Shortly after I came here I had a request to conduct a very sad funeral. It was for a baby who had died in the mother’s womb, days before it was due to be born. Tragic and totally unexpected. The parents decided that it was just going to be them at the funeral – they wanted that moment alone, without being surrounded by the grief of others. Sadly, a baby’s funeral is something I have taken a number of, starting in my first pastorate. Most of them have been cot deaths and I am so thankful that they are far less common now. What struck me about this funeral, though, was that 40 years ago there probably wouldn’t have been a funeral at all. The hospital would have dealt with the body and that would have been it. 40 years on things have changed and those grieving parents were able to give their child a quiet, simple, dignified burial. Reflecting, I understood why they insisted that they would be the only mourners there. Tears were inevitable but the couple managed to keep it together and an incredibly sad occasion also became incredibly special. At the end of the simple service I stood back and they knelt together by the baby’s grave to say goodbye. Looking on, it was a heart-breaking sight – I shall never forget it – but it was so quiet and personal. And going back nearly 40 years, I’ll never forget the baby’s funeral I conducted on his parent’s first wedding anniversary. I had married them. We’d had the date for his baptism in the diary and, instead, to see the father, tears streaming as he carried the little white coffin down the aisle that a year ago his bride had walked down was unbearable. It’s not all writing sermons, chairing meetings and drinking tea with old people.

With just a few months left to go, would I do it all again? Of course I would! Do I regret making my career-change from musician to minister? No, not at all! God called me and I responded. God is still calling me but in a different way and I go back to some words of John Whittier which have served me well, ever since I first heard them.

“I know not what the future hath of marvel or surprise.”

but later, he affirms,

“I only know I cannot drift beyond his love and care.”

That’s very much how I feel now. Retirement will emerge and evolve but we can never drift beyond God’s love and care. I am glad that you have been my last pastorate and my final reflection has to be that I nearly didn’t apply for the pastorate at all! Following on from two ministers with PhDs I thought that I would be far too homespun for you. Would you be interested in a rural minister from mid-Wales? Would you even consider an application from someone already in his mid-50s? Sharing this with the Interim Moderator he was certain that from what he knew of me and from what he knew of you, I did have something to offer and that it wasn’t a mismatch. I am glad that I did apply because I really couldn’t have had a better final pastorate which has given me such happiness (and a few extremely curved balls) even in difficult and challenging times.

With all good wishes,



News of the Church Family

Jennifer Bush has spent a few weeks in Sutton Lodge but will be going home to her flat in Shepperton on 27 October. She would welcome visitors should anyone be in the vicinity with time to spare.

Prayers

Please remember in your prayers all those friends who are unwell or going through troubled times.

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



You are invited to
CURE UK
CAROLS BY
CANDLELIGHT

The Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula
HM Tower of London

18:30, Wednesday 3rd December, 2025

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

**AT THE CHAPEL OF ST PETER AD
VINCULA
HM TOWER OF LONDON,
LONDON EC3N 4AB**

The Reverend Canon Roger Hall MBE will lead the carol service, featuring music from the renowned Choir of the Chapel Royal. Afterwards guests are welcome to stay for a reception with drinks and canapés.

All proceeds from the evening will support CURE in its mission to provide life-changing surgical and spiritual care to children with treatable disabilities.

Early bird tickets will be available until 1 November, or until they sell out!

You can purchase tickets via Ticket Tailor ([tickettailor.com](https://www.tickettailor.com))

Those of us who were in church in October to hear Rick Gardner's talk about his work with Cure will know what a wonderful job they are doing for disabled children. NFR

SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES NOVEMBER 2025
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On the third Sunday of the month, the service will also be on Zoom

Sunday 2 November	10.30 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
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PLEASE NOTE: 2 November is the last day for receiving shoeboxes!

Tuesday 4 November 7.30 pm Elders' Meeting Hersham Room



Sunday 9 November (Remembrance Sunday)	10.30 am	Morning Worship with parade by Uniformed Organisations
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Friday 14 November	12.30 - 2.30pm		People Who Lunch, Church Hall (<i>see page 7</i>)
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Saturday 15 November 10.00 am - 5.00 pm **Greener Giving Pop-up market**
Wimbledon Quarter (see page 15)

COPY DATE FOR DECEMBER 2025/JANUARY 2026 ISSUE: WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER

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

Sunday 16 November (Zoom)	10.30 am	Morning Worship
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11.00 am - 2.00 pm Mencap Christmas Fair (*see page 18*)

3.00 pm  Messy Church



Sunday 23 November **10.30 am** **Morning Worship**
Christmas Post Box will be in place



Friday 28 November	7.00 pm-11 pm	Walton & Weybridge Scouts Quiz Night at St Andrew's Walton & Weybridge (<i>see page 7</i>)
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Sunday 30 November **10.30 am** **Morning Worship**
Christmas Post Box will be in place





Wessex Synod – Prayer Calendar for November

- | | |
|----|---|
| 2 | Collinwood Road, Oxford (80 th Anniversary)
Petersfield |
| 9 | Trinity United Church, Ringwood
St Peter's Shared Church, Guildford |
| 16 | URC General Assembly
Lymington
Fovant |
| 23 | Isaac Watts Memorial Church, Southampton
St Mark's Shared Church, Bordon |
| 30 | Henley-on-Thames
Havant |

Visit of Synod Moderator to St Andrew's Walton and Weybridge

We were delighted to have a visit on Sunday 5 October from the Synod Moderator, The Revd Dr Michael Hopkins, whose thoughtful sermon about Faith inspired and gave much food for thought.

NFR

*The two Michaels after the
Harvest Service, outside church*



Shoebox Appeal – Link to Hope

It's not too late! Please bring your shoebox to church by 2 November!

Hopefully, you have picked up a leaflet to tell you the sorts of things to send, either for a 'family' box or an older person's box. They do also need a £3 donation with each Christmas shoebox to cover the cost of shipping it to the recipient.

If you can't do a shoebox, then you can make a donation and we can then send it to the charity to fill boxes on our behalf. The Treasurer, Jem Ward, will be pleased to receive your donation which can 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 back the back of the church. This can be done in advance if you are not going to be in church on 2 November.

Michael Hodgson

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT A GLANCE



PEOPLE WHO LUNCH Friday 14 November 12.30 - 2.30 pm Church Hall

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

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



SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE



Sunday 9 November at 10.30 am

"Wherever you go,
go with all your heart."

Confucius

GREENER GIVING POP-UP MARKET

**Saturday 15 November
10am - 5 pm
At the Wimbledon Quarter
(see page 15)**

We are all travellers in the wilderness of this world, and the best we can find in our travels is an honest friend.

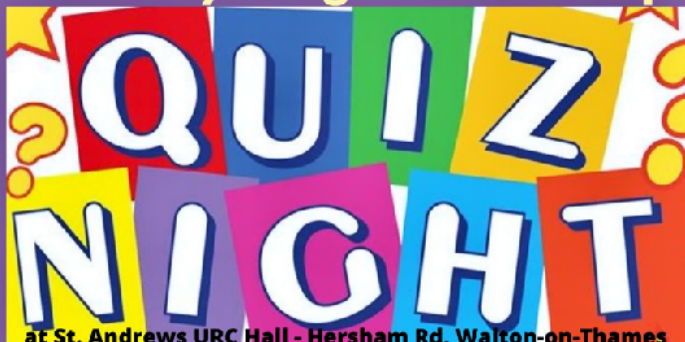
Robert Louis Stevenson



CHRISTMAS FAIR

**Sunday 16 November
Burview Hall 11.00 am - 2.00 pm
(see page 16)**

4th Weybridge Scout Group



at St. Andrews URC Hall - Hersham Rd, Walton-on-Thames

**Friday 28th November 2025 7-11pm
(Quiz starts 7.30pm)**

Can't get a team of 8 together? - make it a girls night (or boys), or make new friends and we can add you to a team!



Ticket price £15 includes all you can eat chilli and rice.

R.S.V.P. : theexec_4thweybridge@hotmail.com, including dietary requirements
Pre-payment by bank transfer with reference 'quiz' to
4th Weybridge Scout Group Sort Code: 40-52-40 Account 00024378



**Cash Bar, Raffle, On-the-Spot prizes
Over 18's only**

A charity governed by the Scout Association Royal Charter. Group registration number with the Scout Association : 18958
Headquarters : St. Andrews United Reformed Church Hall, Hersham Rd, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, KT12 1LG

! ADVANCE NOTICE !

SAVE THE DATE!

CURE

Carols by Candlelight

**The Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula
HM Tower of London EC3N 4AB**

**Wednesday 3 December
6.30 - 8.30 pm
(see page 4)**





REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND



Saturday 8 November



The poster for the Remembrance Weekend Prayer Event features a large red poppy flower on the left and right sides. The text is centered and includes the following information:

churches together
IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Remembrance Weekend

Prayer Event
Saturday, 8th November
10am-1pm
St James' Church

**Come for 30 minutes or stay for the day
... this is a flexible 'drop in' event.**
**A complimentary lunch will be served
at 12.15pm.**

**Formal prayers will be held
at 10am, 11am and 12 noon**

**Everyone is welcome
- bring a friend!**

Participating Churches:
Christ Prince of Peace, The Place Church,
St Andrews URC, St James' Church,
St Mary's Oatlands, and
Weybridge Methodist Church

As last year, a special time of prayer is being organised by Churches Together in Weybridge to pray for peace at the time when our country is remembering previous conflicts.

Held in the main church space at St James's, there will be three designated prayer times. (10.00am, 11.00am and Noon) The other time is available for people to visit the church and to engage in individual prayer time using prayer stations prepared by the individual churches. Church leaders will also be available if anyone would like to be prayed for or to have a blessing.

St James's will also organise a children's activity table where they will be making something that can be presented at the Civic Service on Sunday.

With so many conflicts going on in the world at the moment please do take this opportunity to remember and to pray for peace in a slightly different way.

Remembrance Sunday - 9 November

As in previous years, our Remembrance Sunday service will include the parading and dipping of colours although it will not be a full parade service since the uniformed organisations are on parade for two services in the afternoon (a) at the War Memorial in Weybridge and (b) the Civic Service at St James' Church, Weybridge.

I know that people have found recent Remembrance Sunday services to be extremely moving. Do come – and might this be a service to which you would like to bring a friend? (Outreach)

10.30am	Morning Worship to include the Act of Remembrance
2.15pm	Wreath-laying Ceremony at Weybridge War Memorial
3.00pm	Civic Service in St James's Church, Weybridge.

Michael Hodgson



I PEACE

Now, God be thanked Who has matched us with His hour
And caught our youth, and wakened us from sleeping,
With hand made sure, clear eyes and sharpened power
To turn, as swimmers into cleanness leaping,
Glad from a world grown old and cold and weary,
Leave the sick hearts that honour could not move,
And half-men, and their dirty songs and dreary,
And all the little emptiness of love!

Oh! we who have known shame, we have found release there,
Where there's no ill, no grief, but sleep has mending,
Naught broken save this. body lost but breath;
Nothing to shake the laughing hear's long peace there
But only agony, and that has ending;
And the worst friend and enemy is but Death.

II SAFETY

Dear! of all happy in the hour most blest
He who has found our hid security,
Assured in the dark tides of the world at rest,
And heard our word, 'Who is so safe as we?'
We have found safety with all things undying,
The winds, and morning, tears of men and mirth,
The deep night, and birds singing, and clouds flying,
And sleep, and freedom, and the autumnal earth.
We have built a house that is not for Time's throwing.
We have gained a peace unshaken by pain for ever.
War know no power. Safe shall be my going,
Secretly armed against all death's endeavour;
Safe though all safety's lost; safe where men fall;
And if these poor limbs die, safest of all.

V THE SOLDIER

If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

Rupert Brooke - from 'Poems of The Great War'





A FRIEND REMEMBERED

Jean Smillie



Jean was raised in a small village called Deans, which was a mining and shale community in Scotland. After leaving school, at age 15, she started working in the office in the local Co-op in Bathgate, the nearest town, and there she met Bill who had just finished his National Service and was filling in time before moving to London to join the Metropolitan Police.

After an uncertain start, their relationship flourished and they were married in 1960. The move to London was traumatic, though. Jean arrived at King's Cross with a large trunk and several cases and a friend of Bill's assured him that he would meet them both with transport. This turned out to be a police "Black Maria" but the porter helped her into the back, reassuring her that he had also been in one himself and that she would get a good breakfast! Things didn't improve when she saw the flat that Bill had got. She cried all night but the next day she was up cleaning

and making it into a home. Within two weeks she had managed to get a job and was travelling by bus and train. Jean's strength of character was always evident.

After Ian and Sandra were born, Bill and Jean moved to Molesey and she loved her home and her family with a passion. Jean was always on the go, cleaning, making curtains, DIY and gardening and welcoming people into her home. Jean also got a job that she loved, working for Roberts Radio as the Sales Office Manager. This led to her meeting the Queen Mother. Jean worked there until she retired and whilst there, she campaigned for equal rights, as the women did not get a long service gold watch like the male employees did. And Jean became the proud owner of a Garrards gold watch!

She loved people, her family and her dogs. Her grandchildren knew that she had a special Tupperware box in her fridge with M&S ham for the dog only – not for human consumption! Jean loved to travel but she was always happiest when she was at home, spending time with her grandchildren.

Jean had a strong faith and was a faithful member of St Andrew's, coming into membership in December 1988. An "every-weeker", Jean was the Hall Hire Manager for a number of years – a job which she enjoyed and to which she brought her keen eye, her business brain and her love of people. She did an incredible job, bringing in significant sums each year from hall lettings and was loved by regular hirers who always found her approachable. Mind you, any hirer trying to pull a fast one soon found that they were on a hiding to nothing!

Sadly "the dreaded disease" struck and Jean lost her mind. Her family were unable to keep her safe at home and she moved to Echelforde Care Home where she received first-class care. The time came when she no longer recognised even her family and she passed peacefully away on 6 September. At her funeral, however, we tried to set aside the last years and instead focus on "the real Jean", remembering her kindness, her sharp brain, the wry remarks she could make, the look she could give, her humour, her loyalty and her dedication.

We thank God for Jean and pray for Bill and the family as they mourn.

Michael Hodgson



CHRISTMAS IS COMING....



Gift Service and Church Parade

Sunday 14 December at 10.30 am

The Gift Service and Church Parade is on 14 December. This service is a popular part of our Christmas celebrations and it is an opportunity for us to help make Christmas special for children in this part of Surrey whose families are in particular need. The NE Surrey Children and Families Team will be delighted once again to accept gifts donated at this Christmas service. This team is a first point of call for those in a crisis situation and focuses on children from new-borns to around 10 years old. Please remember they are only able to pass on **new** gifts. Games, puzzles and craft kits that stimulate creative play are particularly welcome.

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

As in past years some of you may prefer to make a monetary donation through the church to be used to purchase vouchers for the families to buy food etc. The Team find the vouchers we send them particularly helpful when urgent assistance is required and they have just come to the end of the supply we were able to send them from the cash donations we received last Christmas. You may make your donation by bank transfer via the church's bank account indicating that it is for the NE Surrey Children and Families Services or by a cheque made out to St Andrew's United Reformed Church Walton and Weybridge or by cash. Please put your cheque/cash in an envelope marked NE Surrey Children and Families Services and place it in the offertory plate by the church door. (This may be done in advance if you are not going to be present on the day.) The Treasurer will add Gift Aid to your personal donation and your gift will be included in the total payment made by the church.

Gwenda Cochrane

THE POST BOX

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



- The Christmas Post Box will be in The Gateway on **23 and 30 November and 7 December** for any cards you wish to send to other members of the congregation.
- Please ensure the name of the recipient is written clearly on the envelope.
- The cards will be sorted into 'packs' for the individual recipients and ready for collection from The Gateway on **14 December**. If you are unable to be in church on that day please arrange for someone to collect your cards for you.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FOR THE GRAPEVINE

To have your Christmas Greetings included in The Grapevine please send your message to the Editor, Norma Reid, by the deadline for the December 2025/January 2026 issue, **Wednesday 19 November**.

HARVEST FESTIVAL



We celebrated a colourful and joyful Harvest on 12 October. It was wonderful to have a full church, with the uniformed organisations presenting the Colours and playing their part in the service, with the Scouts and Cubs reading prayers, the Rainbows and Brownies poems and the Guides reading part of Psalm 65. As last year, the Beavers were unable to be with us but had recorded a lively version of 'I like vegetables but I don't like sprouts'. Messy Church was represented, for the first time, by three regular attendees who carried the St Andrew's banner.



After the Colours were presented, we brought our gifts to the front of the church and placed them on the three tables that ended up overflowing with goodies of all shapes and sizes.





Michael's address was illustrated by five edible items which members of the uniformed organisations were invited to take, one by one, from his shopping basket. The heart of the lettuce to remind us of our own heart and the vital role it has in the way we live our lives, caring and sharing and supporting one another. The loaf to bring to mind The Lord's Prayer - 'Give us this day our daily bread'. The hand of bananas to remind us of helping hands in all that we do; the eyes in the potato of how we use our eyes to see and wonder at the world in all its beauty; the apple to remind us of 'apple rooms' (a phrase not familiar to some of us, referring to the space housing the pips in the core of an apple) and our homes as well as the homeless on our streets and in Ukraine and Gaza now; and the onion, to bring to mind tears of both happiness and sadness. Donations were given to the Walton & Weybridge Food Bank.

Norma Reid



We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in an ocean.
But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.

Mother Teresa

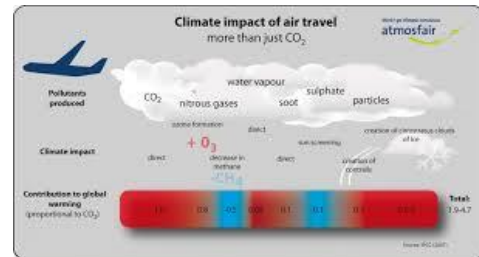
✈️ The Environmental Cost of Air Travel: Why Flying Needs a Rethink

Let's be honest, travel is amazing. It is a source of joy and discovery for many, offering opportunities to explore new cultures, connect with loved ones, and experience the beauty of our world. However, there is a catch. While flying gets us to our exciting destinations quickly, it's also one of the most carbon-intensive things we can do.

● The Hidden Cost of Flying

You might be surprised to learn that flying accounts for only about 2.5% of global CO₂ emissions. That sounds small but here's the twist: **most people in the world don't fly at all.**

In the UK, just 10% of people take nearly half of all flights. Unsurprisingly, it is mostly wealthier households doing the flying, while over 70% of low-income households didn't fly at all in 2023. Flying also releases other greenhouse gases like nitrogen oxides and water vapor at high altitudes, which form contrails (those white streaks you see in the sky) that can trap heat and give a stronger warming effect than emissions at ground level. Whilst aircraft are being built to be more fuel-efficient, that is not enough to reduce emissions. This is because air travel is growing fast, and therefore so are emissions. In 2023, flying made up around 8% of the UK's emissions, mostly from international flights. By 2050, passenger numbers are expected **to more than double**. Even with greener technology, aviation will still be a major contributor to climate change. In addition to this, more people are using private jets for travel which, despite being smaller and using less fuel, create similar contrails to commercial aircraft. This is on top of the fact that carbon emissions per passenger in a private jet are vastly higher. You can understand why the local councils, and residents, are against the expansion of Farnborough Airport (see BBC article <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c1kvvyge1jgo>).



Here's a jaw-dropping statistic: one return flight to New York emits more CO₂ than driving a car for an entire year.

✂️ Can We Fix It?

Decarbonising aviation is tough. Electric planes are a great idea, but not yet viable for long-haul flights. Sustainable aviation fuels (SAFs) are a promising option but they are limited in supply and not entirely eco-friendly, especially if we start growing crops just to make fuel. Carbon offsetting is another popular idea, but it is controversial. Planting trees to "cancel out" your flight emissions sounds like a nice idea, but the reality is messier. Many offset projects overestimate their impact, take years to show results, or don't last long enough. As for contrails, surprisingly, there is a really cheap and easy solution, and that is to forecast and model the atmospheric conditions that generate them and for the planes to take short detours to avoid these zones. Since about 5% of flights create the greatest warming impact, most flights won't need to be changed at all. However, there is push back from the aviation industry against this idea.

👉 So What Can We Do?

Reducing demand for flying is one of the most effective ways to cut emissions. Some people are already choosing to fly less, take trains for shorter trips, or even commit to "flight-free" years. If this is something that appeals to you go to this website <https://flightfree.co.uk/>. Others try to fly more efficiently, such as choosing airlines with newer fleets of aircraft. But individual action alone isn't enough, and policy changes are needed too. Suggestions put forward include:-

- Frequent flyer levies: Taxing people more for the more miles/trips they fly could help curb excessive travel.
- Better public transport: Investing in long-distance trains and making them affordable could offer a real alternative.
- No more airport expansion: Many are calling on governments to halt plans for bigger airports.
- Business travel rethink: With remote work and virtual meetings now the norm, flying for work is less necessary than ever.

✈️ The Bottom Line

Flying isn't going to be a "green" option anytime soon as the technology just isn't there yet. So, for now, the best thing we can do is fly less and push for better alternatives. That way, we can still enjoy the beauty of our world without costing the Earth.



Help take the truth about flying to Parliament

Possible is heading to Parliament to speak with MPs about cutting emissions from flights to protect our climate – and they need help to make sure *your* MP is a part of the conversation. Use their quick tool to invite your MP to the event

<https://action.wearepossible.org/page/178578/action/1>

Job 12:10

The life of every living thing is in His hand, as well as the breath of all mankind.

Isaiah 45:12

It is I who made the earth and created mankind on it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshaled their starry hosts

Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.



sustainable merton's

Greener Giving POP-UP MARKET



Wimbledon
Quarter

SATURDAY
15 NOV

10 – 5
AM PM



Get ready for the holiday season and discover unique, eco-friendly gifts from local, sustainable businesses | supported

Sustaining Sustainable Merton's community-led projects, turning wastes, improving air and water quality, and tackling food poverty, initiative

Join us to discover beautiful gifts that celebrate sustainability without compromise on style or quality

Sustainable Gifts

Kids Activities

Local Sellers

Preloved Presents



sustainablemerton.org/events



Wimbledon
Quarter

FLOWER POWER

“Nobody sees a flower - really - it is so small it takes time - we haven't time
- and to see takes time, like to have a friend takes time.”

Georgia O'Keeffe

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!**



28 October - Beryl Brown
for her Golden Wedding Anniversary



5 October - Norma Reid
For the anniversary of her mother, Ruby



12 October - Harvest



19 October

OVER THE YEARS, some customers as distant as Chile, have asked me to forward their appreciation of purchases to ArtPeace, but a recent email of thanks (below) arrived from nearby



Ewell in Surrey, which I thought to share with you. Recently, two Badminton friends asked if I could supply a suitable sculpture as a special gift for their friend Sara, on becoming a Lay Minister. Panashe Wadawareva's stunning cross, made from semi-precious verdite and part of the eleven tonnes of raw stone carried down a mountainside from a trip to a mine in Kwekwe, Central Zimbabwe last year, was selected. Panashe and his fellow artists were delighted. **JS**

Dear Panashe,

I wanted to write to let you know that I was gifted a green cross which I understand was sculpted by you, and to tell you how

special it is to me. My dear friends, Dawn and Martin, presented it to me at my Licensing as a Lay Minister (LLM) in the Church of England. It was an incredibly emotional service, and having family and friends there to celebrate with me was such a joy.

Becoming a Lay Minister involved over two years of study, and it took me from my home church—where I had worshipped together with Dawn and Martin—to a new church where God has called me to serve. The photo I have included is taken in front of our side altar at St Mary's in Ewell, Surrey. I am wearing my blue scarf, which signifies that I am now an LLM, and I am holding the cross which I now use daily at home to help me focus and pray.



I feel truly blessed to have such a beautiful piece to hold and to look



upon. I thank God for your skills in sculpting something so meaningful, and I pray that the inspiration I receive from it each day may also bless you in your continued work. As a crafter myself, I know how long it takes to learn and refine the techniques required to create works of art. Although I work with paper and do not sculpt, I deeply appreciate the care, time, and dedication it takes to hone a piece until it is exactly as the maker intended. I hope you are able to continue creating these wonderful works, and that this letter encourages you and your fellow sculptors in knowing that your gifts are being treasured and used.

May God richly bless you, your family, and all who create alongside you.

Sara

RECYCLING AT ELMBRIDGE MENCAP



We have been making pencil cases with great success! Thanks to Michael who donated the zips, my friend Mary who provided the material and my friend Diana who gave the iron-on letters.

We made 31 pencil cases on my mum's old hand machine, each day service member helped sew down the sides of their own pencil case by turning the handle. Each pencil case has their initials on.

You can see the joy and excitement and sense of achievement it gave them all. There was one man, David, (*middle picture below*), whose carer said he would never do it, but he proved him wrong and was so proud!

Jean Rigden



OUR CHRISTMAS FAIR

SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER

11 am to 2 pm

Burview Hall, Queens Road, Walton-on-Thames KT12 5AB

We would welcome any donations or gifts that we can use for our various stalls, raffle, tombola and Santa presents. If you can donate, please contact Nigel Blake on fundraising@elmbridgemencap.org.uk or phone 01932 221304

We can accept:
Gift Cards - Toys - Chocolates/Sweets
Christmas-themed toys
Toiletries - Jewellery
And more ...

Thank you for your support
It is much appreciated!



In memoriam ...

Many of us were saddened to learn of the death on 3 October aged 96, of Dame Patricia Routledge whose portrayal of Hyacinth Bucket has brightened many a television evening and left us with fond memories of the lighter side of life. One month before her 95th birthday, she wrote a reflection that has since circulated widely that might resonate with some of us. NFR

I'll be turning 95 this coming Monday. In my younger years, I was often filled with worry - worry that I wasn't quite good enough, that no one would cast me again, that I wouldn't live up to my mother's hopes. But these days begin in peace and end in gratitude.

My life didn't quite take shape until my forties. I had worked steadily - on provincial stages, in radio plays, in West End productions - but I often felt adrift, as though I was searching for a home within myself that I hadn't quite found.

At 50, I accepted a television role that many would later associate me with - Hyacinth Bucket, of Keeping Up Appearances. I thought it would be a small part in a little series. I never imagined that it would take me into people's living rooms and hearts around the world. And truthfully, that role taught me to accept my own quirks. It healed something in me.

At 60, I began learning Italian - not for work, but so I could sing opera in its native language. I also learned how to live alone without feeling lonely. I read poetry aloud each evening, not to perfect my diction, but to quiet my soul.

At 70, I returned to the Shakespearean stage - something I once believed I had aged out of. But this time, I had nothing to prove. I stood on those boards with stillness, and audiences felt that. I was no longer performing. I was simply being.

At 80, I took up watercolour painting. I painted flowers from my garden, old hats from my youth, and faces I remembered from the London Underground. Each painting was a quiet memory made visible.

Now, at 95, I write letters by hand. I'm learning to bake rye bread. I still breathe deeply every morning. I still adore laughter - though I no longer try to make anyone laugh. I love the quiet more than ever.

I'm writing this to tell you something simple:

Growing older is not the closing act. It can be the most exquisite chapter - if you let yourself bloom again.

Let these years ahead be your "treasure years".

You don't need to be famous. You don't need to be flawless.

You only need to show up - fully - for the life that is still yours.

With love and gentleness,

Patricia Routledge

PRAYER CORNER



St Thomas

All Saints Day

1 November

Eternal God
of the living and of the dead
we give thanks for all those people
who by their love, their inspiration
and their kindness
have made the world a better place
or have made us better people
by their influence and example.
We pray that we may honour them
and bring to our own times
whatever God asks of us.
Amen

*Revd Dr Susan Durber
URC Prayer Handbook 2012*



Remembrance Day Remembrance Sunday

**11 November
9 November**

Ode of Remembrance

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

*Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)
From his poem 'For the Fallen' (1914)*

A Prayer for Truth and Justice

O God of truth and justice
we hold before you those whose memory we cherish
and those whose names we will never know.
Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world
and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm.
As we honour the past may we put our faith in your future
for you are the source of life and hope now and forever.
Amen

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland



Christ the King 23 November
Stir-up Sunday
The last Sunday of the Church Year

Collects for the Day

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

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

Common Worship C of E



First Sunday in Advent 30 November

Thoughts and a Prayer for Advent

The Advent story
of hope and mystery,
anticipation,
preparation,
a kingdom
of this world and the next,
and a king
appearing when we least expect.
Heaven touching earth,
the footsteps of the divine
walking dusty roads
as once they did in Eden,
and a people,
searching for a Saviour,
and walking past
the stable.
Open eyes and hearts,
that this might be
an Advent of hope to the world.
Amen

John Birch
faithandworship.com

ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS



ACHIEVEMENT: A happy photo of ArtPeace (above), with other participants holding their certificates, having completed a recent three day Foundations for Farming sustainable agriculture course. This comprehensive course with a mix of theory and practical, covering chicken rearing, composting, soil erosion and structure, pests and diseases,, the folly of ploughing, the growing of alternative vegetable crops and medicinal herbs, all based on the pfumvudza principle.

Pfumvudza (meaning new season) is a climate smart agriculture approach designed to enhance food security amongst smallholder farmers. It focuses on sustainable practises that improve soil fertility, conserve water, and increase crop yields particularly in areas prone to drought and erratic rainfall. The cost of the course was largely covered by Marlow URC as the price of fertilisers and chemicals used in past years was proving unsustainable not helped by a shrinking congregation. In a week's time, starter packs will



be delivered to each artist as the rains normally arrive late November. Despite enjoying the course, the group are understandably a little apprehensive owing to a complete change from their traditional methods, but no one likes change. Pfumvudza success depends on their strict adherence to the system. Mike Masedza said: 'We learned a lot John, and our tutors stressed that one should work on pfumvudza with joy and joy will come with a good harvest'. They will, I am sure, give it their best effort knowing their crops provide their families with food for ten months of the year and there is everything to gain.

SOME COMMENTS ON THE MODERATOR'S SERMON from ArtPeace. The photos show the two Rev. Michaels by the artists' display and Shingirai listening to the service with his family.



From Lovemore: 'I will share this teaching on faith with friends - the spirit that gives us the power to carry on believing in Christ. Faith does not give us money or everything our bodies desire, but it gives us hope and the strength to carry on'.

From Godwin: 'Powerful, spiritually uplifting and edifying sermon by Rev Michael, just the tonic for the start of the week. Thank you Rev Michael for the Gospel and bringing us closer to God through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. I have listened to service with my disabled brother Godfrey'.

SNIPPETS: Below: Fortune makes a start selling second hand clothes (ref. October article). The

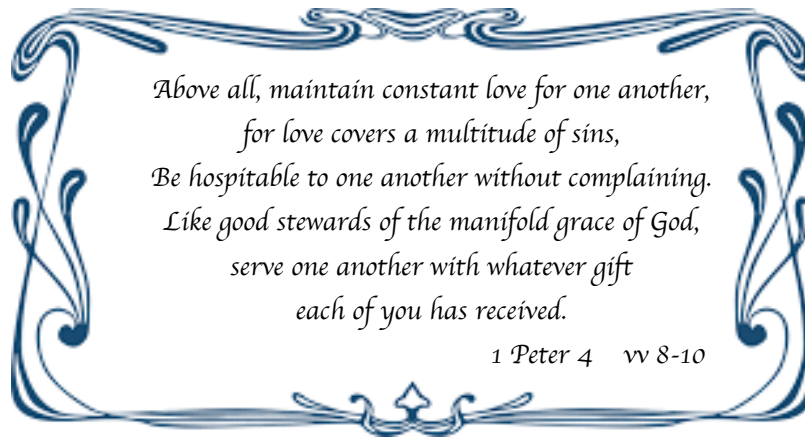


other photos show Kevy Sibanda and Kuda Nyagweta with mobiles which I bought at their request from sales money as they are keen to join our services and send photos of their work. Kevy makes quality animals and Kuda is our 'fat mama' artist.



LETWIN MUGAVAZI:

Thanks to artist Mike, we may receive some small pieces from Letwin whose works are represented in private collections in the USA, Germany, Australia and the Netherlands. Her art has been showcased at prestigious exhibitions. Letwin said: 'The current situation in Zimbabwe for artists is hectic and so miserable - only a tiny number of female artists are left. Last semester, like many artists, I could not pay fees for my daughter. Some artists have put their tools down, given up and have stopped sculpting. It's very disheartening and I fear that the next young generation will no longer be interested in displaying their artistic talents'. See Letwin's short video in our Editor's covering email. ArtPeace would receive a commission from any sales and displays of their own work would be enhanced. Letwin may also listen to our service so St Andrew's URC's extended family continues to grow, restricted only by a shortage of mobiles. **Johnston Simpson**



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

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 Church Administrator, who will be able to send them a link to enable easy participation.

You are all most welcome to join us!