

# ST ANDREW'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH WALTON-ON-THAMES

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 75 No 6

# **OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2019**



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"All we have of freedom All we use or know This our fathers bought for us Long and long ago"

Rudyard Kipling

From the Manse October 2019



Dear friends

For the poet, John Keats, autumn was a time of "mists and mellow fruitfulness." Today, autumn means the return of the Great British Bake Off to our screens as mentally we wrestle with a Genoese Sponge, a French meringue and a series of technical challenges to make things we've never even heard of before, all, of course, anxious to avoid that greatest of all kitchen disasters - a soggy bottom.

Having watched the first episode and met this year's contestants, I settled down to "an extra slice" to find my whole faith in human nature suddenly being restored by a simple observation from the actor, Stephen Mangan. He was asked if he was pleased to see GBBO back and replied, "It is such a warm show and it's nice to meet those 13 bakers and to realise that this country is full of really nice people 'cos the news is full of relentlessly horrible people." Talk about a comment meeting its mark!

I'm sure that I can't be the only one who is extremely concerned about what is going on in our country at the moment. If I'm totally honest, there are some people whose appearance on the telly sends me searching for the remote control to mute them. There are certain people who, in my opinion, fall in the category that my dear grandmother would have referred to as being, "nasty pieces of work". I am deeply worried about the deep and bitter divisions within Britain at the moment, but Stephen Mangan is so right when he reminds us that even though "the news is full of relentlessly horrible people" there are actually far more really nice people, which goes a long way to restore my faith in human nature.

Writing to the Philippians, St Paul says, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you" (Phil 1.3) and an article in September's REFORM invited a number of contributors to write a short paragraph about someone who had made a massive impact on them and for whom they thanked God when they remembered them. I found it an interesting article, not because of its deep, academic calibre but because of its positivity at a time when there is so much negativity.

So, to pick up Paul's line, perhaps at the moment I'm giving thanks to God for all the bakers in this years' GBBO. It is a joy to see them; to watch them at work and to spend some time each week in the company of some really nice, ordinary folk on telly rather than the "relentlessly horrible people".

Anyone for a fairy cake?

Michad

### SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES OCTOBER 2019

Sunday 6 October (Pentecost 17)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by the Minister		
Tuesday 8 October	8.00 pm	Elders' Meeting Hersham Room		
Thursday 10 October	7.30 pm	'Why should Christians read the Old Testament?' Speer Road URC Thames Ditton <i>(see page 11)</i>		
Friday 11 October	10.30 am	Prayer Group Garden Room (only one this month)		
	12.30 - 2.30 pm	Ladies Who Lunch, Weybridge URC <i>(see page 7)</i>		
Sunday 13 October (Pentecost 18)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by Mrs Anna Crawford		
Monday 14 October	2.00 pm	Bridge Club Hersham Room		
Sunday 20 October (Pentecost 19)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by Mrs Thelma Roberts		
	3.00 pm	Messy Church		
Wednesday 23 October	10.30 - 12 noon	Coffee Morning in Church Hall with Bring and Buy <i>(see page 7)</i>		
Sunday 27 October		Summer time ends at 02.00. Don't forget to put the clocks <u>back</u> !		
Sunday 27 October (Pentecost 20)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by Mr Graham Pearcey		
See Fairtraid after the service See				
Monday 28 October	2.00 pm	Bridge Club Hersham Room		
October's Party George Cooper				
October gave a party; The leaves by hundreds came - The Chestnuts, Oaks, and Maples, And leaves of every name. The Sunshine spread a carpet, And everything was grand, Miss Weather led the dancing, Professor Wind the band."				

#### **SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES NOVEMBER 2019**



Don't forget to take your shoebox to the service on 3 November !

Sunday 3 November (Pentecost 21)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by the Minister <i>Collection of Shoeboxes</i>
Tuesday 5 November	8.00 pm	Elders' Meeting Hersham Room
Friday 8 November	10.30 am	Prayer Group Garden Room
	12.30 - 2.30 pm	Ladies Who Lunch, Weybridge URC Queens Road KT13 9UX ( <i>see page 7</i> )
<b>Sunday 10 November</b> (Pentecost 22 Remembrance Sunday)	10.30 am	Joint Sunday Worship at <u>WEYBRIDGE URC</u> conducted by the Minister
Monday 11 November	2.00 pm	Bridge Club Hersham Room

COPY DATE FOR DECEMBER 2019 /JANUARY 2020 ISSUE <u>WEDNESDAY 13 NOVEMBER</u> ALL ITEMS TO THE EDITOR, NORMA REID, 3 GWALIOR ROAD, LONDON SW15 1NP Email: aristocats.2000@gmail.com

Sunday 17 November (Pentecost 23)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by the Minister
	3.00 pm	Messy Church
Monday 18 November	2.00 pm	Bridge Club Hersham Room
Friday 22 November	10.30 am	Prayer Group Garden Room
Sunday 24 November (Christ the King)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by the Reverend Roy Bones

Pairtraid after the service P

### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On Remembrance Sunday (10 November), following the very positive response to last year's arrangement, we shall, once again, be having a joint service at Weybridge. Some of the Colours will be paraded and dipped during the silence and it is hoped that, as last year, a trumpeter will sound the Last Post and Reveille. Appropriate Items from St Andrew's and from the former Hersham URC church will be taken to Weybridge and the Roll of Honour from all three churches will be read. As normal, the service will begin at 10.30am.

I think that last year many of you found the service extremely moving so do come along to Weybridge and let's remember together. *Michael* 

### And when you pray ...

(Matthew 6: 7a)

"How do you eat yours?" That was the question in a certain egg-shaped confectionery advert. The implication being that there is no right way to do it but rather it's about how you best experience the egg.

### How do you pray?

Perhaps you haven't really thought about it too much. Perhaps it's now hard to concentrate because you're thinking about chocolate, but regardless of appetite, past experiences, how we wrap it up or try to explain it, prayer can be rather confusing. It can often be a mystery. It can at times seem like a chore. It can even be a blessed relief.

### So then, how *do* you pray?

Are you a morning person? Do you greet the sunrise with thanks and praise to our God? Do you utter hopeful words and try and live them throughout the day to come? Are you more spontaneous? 'Do you respond to life with a 'breath prayer', off the cuff, as life makes you dance to its tune and in each moment you seek the steadying hand of our Creator and Sustainer?

Perhaps you find yourself needing space. Like a free-diver going up for air after plumbing the depths. Maybe you carve out some time in your day to be still and know the presence of God. You may prefer to reflect on your day in the presence of God, as was the practice of Ignatius of Loyola, who gave us the daily examen - a way of praying that helps us recognise God's presence in the midst of the day just lived.

The practice of prayer is part of the lifeblood of our faith. We may find ourselves in the darkest of circumstances, when prayer is the only thing that we can turn to for comfort. We might see prayer as that thing we do together on a Sunday or as the words said on our behalf by a minister or worship leader. Maybe it is the one thing that keeps us going, those times when we can just let God know how we are feeling. It might even be that thing that happens by accident or that we're unaware of until, looking back on a time of quiet, perhaps with a cup of tea or watching the world go by from our living-room window, we realise that in the stillness, God was there the whole time.

Whatever your habit or preference may not really matter. What is important is that we are having the conversation, that we are opening ourselves up to God in whatever moment we can manage, that in some way prayer is part of our life. Prayer may be a constant companion on the journey, or a friend that visits once in a while, to bring comfort and solace. It may be something deeper, more mysterious that is largely left unspoken, something felt, yearned for, grieved over or something long-forgotten brought to mind.

How we pray then, is not the most important thing, but rather that the experience of prayer and the encounter with God is recognised. That our faith is tended and our relationship with God is nurtured, in precious moments. No fancy wrapping is needed and it may not always taste sweet but, in the midst of life, listening for and opening our hearts to God is indeed food for the soul.

*With thanks to* © Resourcing Worship Team Mission & Discipleship Council





At our Messy Church in September, we had a Harvest theme. We planted bulbs and seeds and in our celebration we looked at various seeds, from very small to a coconut and talked about the wonder of a seed, how it contains all the food to sustain the growing plant.

Jean at the Machine

I showed them pictures of tall trees and compared them to the seeds from which they grew. I even discovered a mustard tree picture with people resting under it, to illustrate Jesus' parable.



The children decorated squares of material which they helped Jean sew together on her vintage



Planting hyacinth bulbs is the best fun!

sewing machine into a wall hanging, which we displayed in the sanctuary. Each child decorated a piece of material, put their name on it and wrote a word Jesus would like, such as 'sharing', 'caring', 'good'. One little boy insisted on writing 'cat'! We can add to the banner each time we have messy Church.

The favourite activity was using the action of baking soda on vinegar to blow up a balloon fitted over a bottle. The delight and wonder on the children's faces was a joy to see.

Anne Fitzgerald



It's líke magíc!



We ran out of vinegar but found another way!



I'm trying to light the lamp



### COFFEE MORNING AND 'BRING AND BUY'

Wednesday 23 October 10.30 am in the Church Hall

Hosted by Irene Pearson and Janet Sommerville in aid of Diabetes Research

All welcome!



MESSY CHURCH

Sunday 20 October Sunday 17 November 3.00 pm

Church Hall



LADIES' GUILD We are sorry to say that there will not be any Ladies' Guild meetings in October or November

### PRAYER GROUP

Friday 11 October Friday 8, 22 November

#### 10.30 am

Garden Room

#### LADIES WHO LUNCH WEYBRIDGE URC

FRIDAY 11 OCTOBER and FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER 12.30-2.30 PM - £4.00

Book your place with Margaret Faultless Tel: 020 8399 3402 ladieswholunch@weybridgeurc.org.uk



# IT'S SHOEBOX TIME AGAIN!

### SHOEBOX SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER

We all know the joy these boxes bring to underprivileged children all over the world well over a million of them. The time for collecting our shoeboxes is fast approaching.

As last year, this year again we have an alternative to covering your own shoebox and some boxes will be available, already covered, in the Gateway, if you prefer. If you enjoy covering your own shoebox in festive paper, just to remind you that the lid and box should be covered separately.

The fun part is choosing suitable gifts to bring happiness and joy to a child at Christmas.

Ideas for gifts are listed in the Samaritan's Purse leaflets, to be found on the table in The Gateway and the leaflets also include details of items that should not be included in the boxes.



Samaritan's Purse is also happy to accept donations instead of filled shoeboxes and donations can be made either online at <u>www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk</u> or on Shoebox Sunday, via the envelope included in the leaflet.

The shoeboxes will be collected at Morning Service on Sunday 3 November.

Do please read the leaflet and let's see how many boxes we can collect !

Adrienne Cooper will be coordinating collection this year



The Poppy Factory, located close to the River Thames and Richmond Park, was carefully chosen to help injured soldiers' recovery and rehabilitation after the War. Flats were built next to the factory to provide homes for employees and their families, and there was also once a pub and cinema to provide relaxation for workers.

The Disabled Society which later became The Poppy Factory, was founded after the First World War by James George Towson, winner of the Military Cross. Howson wanted the factory, situated on Old Kent Road, to provide employment support for wounded ex-Servicemen.

On starting his vision, in 1922 Howson wrote a letter to his parents: "It is a large responsibility and will be very difficult. If the experiment is successful it will be the start of an industry to employ 150 men. I do not think it can be a great success, but it is worth trying. I consider the attempt ought to be made if only to give the disabled their chance." The Prince of Wales (Edward VIII) visited the factory in November 1924 and ordered a large royal wreath for the Cenotaph. This started the factory's long-standing connection with the Royal Family. At the time, the factory made some 27 million poppies and there was a long waiting list for prospective injured ex-Servicemen wanting employment.

George Howson founded the first Field of Remembrance in the grounds of Westminster Abbey in 1928 with a small band of factory workers. They grouped around two battlefield crosses, similar to the ones used in Flanders and the Western Front, with trays of poppies. They invited people to plant a poppy with the crosses. In the first year, there were only two memorials – one dedicated to "Tommy Atkins" – a nickname for a British soldier – and one to Earl Haig, who had died in January that year. The Field is an annual event and 2018 marked the 90th anniversary of the first ceremony.

The centre of the Remembrance poppy had always read 'Haig Fund', the name for the early Poppy Appeal. In 1994 the button was changed to the 'Poppy Appeal'.

The Poppy Factory had often been used as a stepping-stone from conflict and rehabilitation into new employment. In 2005, The Poppy Factory started supporting veterans with health conditions into employment within civilian businesses around the country.

Her Majesty The Queen visits The Poppy Factory in 2012, her fourth visit, to see first-hand how George Howson MC's mission to help ex-Service personnel with health conditions had continued, 90 years after the factory first opened. Her Majesty The Queen also visited in 1946, 1962 and 1992.

In the year that marked the centenary of the beginning of the First World War, the order for poppies and wreaths was the largest ever from The Royal British Legion. That year, the Poppy Appeal raised a record £44m for the charity.

Since 2015, a further 500 veterans have been supported into civilian employment. This brings the overall figure to 1,000 veterans helped by our Getting You Back to Work service since 2010. The public were instrumental in helping us reach our target with the 'hashtag 1000 'messages campaign that took place in the summer over Armed Forces Week. Our Patron, HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, also hosted a reception at Clarence House to mark the occasion.

With thanks to the British Legion website and the internet

# 'Who's the person you give thanks for?'

The September issue of Reform has that sentence on its cover. It goes on to quote: *"I thank my God every time I think of you,"* says St Paul to the Philippians; and to the Corinthians: *"I am always thanking God for you."* 

Thanks to Michael for bringing this to my attention, as it has made me think - not least that it could fill a small corner in the Newsletter. Is there anyone who stands out in your life that has had a particular influence on you, maybe helped you make a seemingly impossible decision, changed your life's path in a way you could not previously have dreamed of ? It could be a parent, grandparent, sibling, a school teacher or university professor, minister or a friend.

I can think of several contenders (some of whom would be embarrassed to be mentioned). However, just to start the ball rolling, I will choose Miss Weston, who taught me Elocution (that 's a give-away age-wise!) at school. Each term, I studied a variety of poems which I had to learn by heart. Last week, when I was attempting to clear the loft (a Herculean task if ever there was one) I came across three of my school Elocution books containing some 100 poems laboriously written out in a surprisingly legible, if childish, hand. If only I could remember them all by heart now! When the poem had been committed to memory and spoken with appropriate feeling, it was 'marked' with comments in the margin. Some of the comments read 'listen', 'THINK', 'sorrow', 'breathing', 'not so slow', 'tired', 'gritty', 'attack', 'horror' and many more. The aim was to get your book 'marked' at the end of the poem and this happened all too rarely. I was thrilled to have a "Good Work" for 'Lines from Abt Vogler' by Robert Browning and again for Robert Burns 'My Love is like a Red Red Rose' as well as for what is possibly my favourite poem of all time, 'The Listeners' by Walter de la Mare. I have long enjoyed writing poetry and find it easier and more satisfying to write in rhyme. The first two lines I remember committing to paper at the age of about six were, "Wee Nan Reid is a weed" - about a scarily stern Scottish aunt. When I go out on my bike, I take a poem or two in my pocket and try to remember the words as I peddle along. Poetry calms me. It makes me happy and it softens sadness. So, thank you, Miss Weston, for helping me to develop what had always been a latent love of poetry so that it is now something to which I constantly turn in times of joy and of sorrow. Poetry is my friend.

So, who's the person you give thanks for? Do share!

Ed

# TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR WORSHIP

- 1. Thou shalt not come to service late nor for the Amen fail to wait.
- II. When speaks the organ's sweet refrain, thy noisy tongue thou shalt restrain.
- III. But when the hymns are sounded out, thou shalt lift up they voice and shout.
- IV. And when the anthem thou shalt hear, thy sticky throat thou shalt not clear.
- V. The endmost seat thou shalt leave free, for more must share the pew with thee
- VI. The offering plate thou shalt not fear, but give thine uttermost with cheer.
- VII Thou shalt the minister give heed nor blame him when thou art disagreed.
- VIII. Unto thy neighbour thou shalt bend and, if a stranger, make a friend.

IX. Thou shalt in every way be kind, compassionate and of tender mind.

X. And so, by all thy Spirit's grace, thou shalt show God within this place.

THE ORGANIST



I wonder how the organist Can do so many things; He's getting ready long before The choir stands up and sings; He's pressing buttons, pushing stops, He's pulling here and there, And testing all the working parts While listening to the prayer.

He runs a mighty big machine, It's full of funny things; A mass of boxes, pipes and tubes And sticks and slats and strings; There's little whistles for a cent In rows and rows and rows; I'll bet there's twenty miles of tubes As large as garden hose.

There's scores as large as stovepipes and There's lots so big and wide That several little boys I know Could play around inside. From little bits of piccolos That hardly make a toot There's every size up to the great Big elevator chute.

The organist knows every one And how they ought to go; He makes them rumble like a storm, Or plays them sweet and low; At times you think them very near; At times they're soaring high, Like angel voices, singing far Off, somewhere in the sky. For he can take this structure, that's As big as any house, And make it squeak as softly as A tiny little mouse; And then he'll jerk out something with A movement of the hand, And make you think you're listening to A military band.

He plays it with his fingers and He plays it with his toes, And if he really wanted to He'd play it with his nose; He's sliding up and down the bench, He's working with his knees; He's dancing round with both his feet As lively as you please.

I always like to take a seat Where I can see him go; He's better than a sermon, and He does me good, I know; I like the life and movement and I like to hear him play; He is the most exciting thing In town on Sabbath day.

George W Stevens (with thanks to The Best Loved Poems of the American People)



Take two parishes with a strong bond and active communities. Place in a stunning setting with good accessibility. Add a new minister with a dash of inspiration. Mix in generous amounts of energy and enthusiasm. Allow to settle, with the tranquil surrounds of the local area. Top with compassion, before serving to joyful and welcoming congregations.

Ed (with thanks to a friend in Inverness who provided the original idea from a local church)

# THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE JELLY BABIES

There is a story behind Bassetts Jelly Babies that many of you may not (certainly I didn't) know. At our service on a recent Sunday, taken by Thelma Roberts, we were given a treat - a jelly baby each, not to be eaten before the end of the story. The story goes like this....



Jelly Babies are said to have originated as far back as 1864 and are claimed to have been formulated, or created, by an Austrian man, named Herr Steinbeck, working at Fryers of Lancashire. It is believed he designed the shape on the traditional Austrian gingerbread man and they were originally named 'Unclaimed Babies'.

Around half a century later, in 1918 Bassetts sweet makers of Sheffield, South Yorkshire produced what they then called 'Peace Babies' and these were made to mark the end of the First World War. It is said that each colour represented a country which fought in the war. These sweets have always been a massive favourite among children and adults alike, presumably for the distinctiveness in the various colours and appearance, sweet taste and easy to eat.

A shortage of raw materials halted production during World War II. After the War, the story goes that a man who was a Christian decided to buy the factory where the Peace Babies were made. The product was then relaunched by Bassetts in 1953, only this time they were named 'Jelly Babies' and their popularity then really took off.

Each Jelly Baby has a name and a specific flavour, and as of 2007, Jelly Babies changed to include only natural ingredients. While they can be considered gummy sweets, their texture is rather unique. The outside of a Jelly Baby is hard, but the inside is soft (not rubbery). Jelly Babies are also traditionally packaged while still dusted in starch left from the manufacturing process.

There are secret symbols hidden on each Jelly Baby and these can only be seen if the starch is licked off.

- Black a Heart, which represents God's love for us
- Green a Baby Crying, which reminds us that God weeps for us
- Red a' B' standing for blood which represents Jesus dying on the Cross
- Pink a Baby, representing a new start in life
- Yellow wears a Necklace, which represents the riches of Heaven
- Orange wears a **Bum Bag** which tells us that we need to be prepared for our journey through life

When Thelma had finished the story, we were invited to lick the starch off our chosen Jelly Baby and find out which one it represented before eating it. I will never look at a Jelly Baby the same way again!

Ed. (with the help of Thelma and the Internet)

HOW SWEET THE VOICE OF MUSIC SOUNDS ...

We enjoy some lovely music at church provided by Zacc, our organist. However, there are times when he is unable to be with us and alternative arrangements are made. Many of us are guilty of taking for granted the effort that goes into providing music through the excellent audio-visual system which we have in the church and which needs to be expertly manned. This little poem is by way of thanks and appreciation for the few amongst us who man the system (and also provide some light-hearted moments when things - through no fault of theirs - don't always work out quite as planned!). *Ed* 

### THE SOUND OF WORSHIP

by Nigel Beeton

As we gather for the service Greeting, laughing, chatting we, While a genius is working Deep in Electricity.

Checking all the wires are plugged in, Running gremlins down to ground. 1,2,3 - that mike is working! No more faults there to be found!

Have you seen that desk he/she uses? Sliders, switches, buttons, knobs; Looks to me just like a flight deck -Someone really knows their job!

While you listen, learn and worship May a prayer of thanks be found Then, perhaps a little feedback For the one who does the sound.

(With thanks to David and Mavis Netherwood who found this in the magazine of Boulevard URC, Weston-super-Mare and passed it on to Paula Walsh)

### STRATUS CONCERT AT ST ANDREW'S

On the evening of Friday 27 September we were treated to another hugely enjoyable concert by the 'Stratus', piano trio with our organist Zacc Rodwell on the piano, Samuel Grew on the cello and Nathaniel Brawn on the violin. The concert, which lasted an all-too-short hour, had the theme of Love and a Sense of Belonging, found in music from across all genres, comprising a selection of classical, popular and show tunes arranged by the Trio themselves. We look forward to following their progress and you will be hearing more about them in the next issue.



**ALL HANDS TO THE PUMP:** It has been a busy time for ArtPeace as the familes prepare their fields for sowing. Efforts are now being made this end to try and raise money to buy maize



seeds, groundnuts, sorghum, sugar beans along with various vital fertiliser compounds and chemicals. The rains have arrived so there is a great sense of urgency. Our efforts over the past few years have kept many families in food for the best part of the year and is a godsend – see below. The plight of millions of Zimbabweans has not improved since a coup deposed Robert Mugabe who recently died. This man had the choice to do great good - and the goodwill of the whole world to do it.

After a promising start, he chose to do great evil: violence, torture, genocide, dispossession, injustice... this is his record. He destroyed so much and killed so many. Tragically, in the

darkening days of September 2019, nearly 2 years on, there is no feeling of release - electricity cuts have plunged everyone into darkness for the vast



majority of each day and night - the straggling fuel queues - the water shortages stretching to months and years for many homes the collapse of



education and health - the hyper inflation - the massive hunger the injustices - the fear, still dominate the lives of the people of Zimbabwe. Photo left shows the trials of trying to charge one's spare a dollar to use it for a day or twol

mobile let alone being able to spare a dollar to use it for a day or two!

**ARRIVALS:** Lots of new pieces have arrived thanks to Fr David Harold Barry's help and other kind souls. David visited me at Walton recently and we had our customary walk along the Thames towpath putting the world to rights.



from Zimbabwe and appears to have taken up residence in the small gravel garden by the church entrance. Johnston Simpson

# FLOWER POWER



#### Christine Carlile writes:

Christine and Holms were delighted to receive a lovely arrangement of church flowers from Irene on a Sunday at the end of August. After the worry of Holms's operation recently they were able to enjoy them thoroughly. *"Thank you so much!"* 

#### Norma (aka Ed) says:

"I was lucky enough to receive a beautiful selection of flowers from the stunning arrangement you see above, donated by the Dow family in memory of May's husband, David. There were pink roses (one of which I separated and put by a photograph of my Mum on top of the piano), yellow pinks, pale apricot alstromeria, pink gerbera and white chrysanths, so bright and cheery and an absolute joy. They lasted almost two weeks. Thank you!"

#### Message from Susan Simpson:

"Many thanks for the beautiful bunch of flowers handed to me after the service by Irene last month."

**Pat Sims** was delighted to receive Church flowers from Irene recently. Pat has not been well and says that both visit and flowers really cheered her up. *We are thinking of you and hope that you are feeling much better now, Pat.* Ed





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Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

I Peter 4 vv 8-10