



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

**NEWSLETTER**

**FEBRUARY 2020**

**Volume 77 No 1**



*Kindness is like snow - It beautifies everything it covers.*

*Kahlil Gibran*

*From The Manse*

*February 2020*

*Dear friends*



Warmest Greetings to you all. The Pastoral Letters for this year's magazines are going to be a little different because there is going to be a theme running through them. Partly this is because, as you know, I shall be on sabbatical for three months this year (May-July) and so I thought that the two magazine Editors might appreciate having a letter from me to include, even if I'm not around.

The Statement of Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church should be included, as a matter of course, in all major URC services, including the ordinations and inductions of Elders, Ministers and Church Related Community Workers (CRCWs). The most commonly used version is the one in our hymnbooks at 761 which was approved by General Assembly in 1990 to be in inclusive language. From next month, it's my intention to work through this statement section by section, saying something about each part, but let me begin this month by saying something about the URC in general.

The United Reformed Church began as a union of the Congregational Church of England and Wales and the Presbyterian Church of England although our roots go back to the Reformation. The URC came into being on October 5 1972 at a Service of Union in Westminster Abbey and there was a service to mark and celebrate it locally, held at Ryden's School, Hersham on 8 October that year. It was the culmination of nine years of serious discussion, although the idea had first been mooted some time before that. Since 1972, the URC has been expanded twice by further unions. Firstly, the Reformed Association of the Churches of Christ joined in 1981. Then, there came union with the Congregational Church of Scotland in 2000 at a service held in the former Barony Church in Glasgow on 1 April 2000 under the slogan "Better Together".

Today, the URC is one church in three nations: England Scotland and Wales. It is split into 13 Synods (areas) (Northern, North Western, Mersey, Yorkshire, East Midlands, West Midlands, Eastern, South Western, Wessex, Thames North, Southern, Synod of Wales and Synod of Scotland). Like local churches, the different Synods frequently operate in very different ways from each other which, on occasions, does cause a few problems, a little confusion and a lack of understanding, but it does allow the Synods to serve the local churches in the ways they feel most appropriate.

The URC and the talks that led up to it were very much at the forefront of the post-war ecumenical movement and, in 1972, the union that brought about the URC was hoped to be the first of many, gradually bringing about the reunification of the church in Great Britain. Although, as you've just read, there have been some denomination unions since 1972 the greater coming together has not happened which is a matter of great regret to some of us. In England perhaps the greatest disappointment was when, in 1982, the Covenant talks

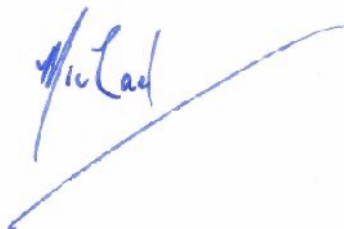
between the Anglicans, Methodists, Moravians, URC (including Churches of Christ) failed because, in the Anglican structure, The House of Bishops and The House of Laity agreed but House of Clergy couldn't get the necessary two-thirds majority. I remember well the sense of sadness that surrounded that news. Ecumenicism, however, remains at the heart of the URC and I'll pick up on that more fully towards the end of the year.

At the time of the Reformation, *Semper Reformanda* (Always Reforming) was very much the slogan of the day. During that tumultuous period of history, many Christians believed that the church needed to be reformed although they did not, at first, create separate churches (denominations). Many individuals and groups worked hard to highlight and correct the church where they felt she had gone wrong. As you know, there were excesses of violence and passion on both sides which today we may well find hard to equate with Christian principles. We would regard the principal reformers as being Martin Luther (Wittenberg), John Calvin, (Geneva), Ulrich Zwingli (Zurich), John Knox (Scotland), Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley (England). (*Let's Discover the URC, 1997*). Something about each of these might well be the subject of a series in subsequent years but I thought that if, this month, I was giving a little general background to the URC, then having said that we are a product of the Reformation it might be a good idea to say who the main Reformers were (according to the URC!).

Although the National denominational unions, once so hoped for, have not taken place, many URCs are involved in local ecumenical groups. A number of local URCs are part of "united" churches and sometimes groups of churches of different denominations are united ecumenically in what are known as "United Areas".

So, that's just a bit about the URC and a few rambling jottings from my mind. Next month we'll start going through the Statement of Nature, Faith and Order in detail and I hope that you'll find it an interesting series of letters for 2020.

With all good wishes,



### *THE GIFT OF SILENCE*

Written for the Women's World Day of Prayer by Women of New Zealand  
and included in a collection made by Dorothy M Stewart

We are so busy Lord, we do not listen.  
The world is so noisy, Lord, we do not hear.  
We do not hear what your spirit is saying to each one of us.  
We have been afraid of silence.  
Teach us, Lord.

## LADIES WHO LUNCH AT WEYBRIDGE URC



*Margaret is Queen Pin*

Ladies Who Lunch has become an institution at Weybridge URC. It all began 11 years ago when Margaret Faultless had a request from two ladies in the congregation to think of something to bring the ladies of the congregation together.

I went, for the first time, to the lunch in January. In fact it was 'People Who Lunch', being one of the two occasions in the year, January and August, where men are included. Suffice it to say I was impressed, not only by the feast provided, but by the atmosphere of friendliness and warm buzz created by those present (some 24 that I counted and a quarter of them men). There is always a choice of soups with a roll and (on 10 January, at any rate) a wicked array of puddings, followed by coffee and tea. Seconds are allowed and all this for just £4! It's a steal!



*Man Power*



*Caroline and Margaret  
in the powerhouse*

Margaret started Ladies Who Lunch when she became an Elder. She says: "Any lady is welcome. I consider it as outreach if friends of members come and then become regulars."

She buys all the soups and makes at least three puddings. The puddings are usually topped up by one or more of the participants - currently Caroline makes one and others sometimes offer too. She has always had one lady to help on a regular basis - Caroline Lindfield, Joan Cheesman and, at present, Caroline Gardner. Margaret recommends you ring to book in advance, if possible, as it helps to know how much food to provide (30 in the past seems to be the number to beat). "It's a bit of a squeeze but I've never turned anyone away." She gets to the church at 9 am and sets out the tables and chairs. Caroline sets the tables and helps serve and wash up. Help is often on hand to clear up.



*Who's for a pud?*

Margaret says:

*"It is one of the most rewarding thing I do. The main reward is seeing everyone enjoying themselves."*

So, why not join the Ladies on the second Friday of the month and enjoy catching up with the latest goings on over a tasty morsel or two? Details of how to contact Margaret are on page .... of the Newsletter. Don't forget, it's January or August for a bit of male company!

*Ed (with thanks to Margaret for her substantial input)*



## SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES FEBRUARY 2020

<b>Sunday 2 February</b> (Epiphany 4)	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship conducted by the Minister</b>
Tuesday 4 February	8.00 pm	Elders' Meeting Hersham Room
<b>Sunday 9 February</b> (Epiphany 5)	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship conducted by the Mrs Thelma Roberts</b>

**Please note: Sunday 9 February is Deadline for AGM Reports !**

Friday 14 February	10.30 am	Prayer Group Garden Room
	12.30 - 2.30 pm	Ladies Who Lunch at Weybridge URC (see page 4)
<b>Sunday 16 February</b> (Epiphany 6)	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship conducted by the Minister</b>
	3.00-5.00 pm	 Messy Church

**COPY DATE FOR MARCH/APRIL DOUBLE ISSUE WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY**

**ALL ITEMS TO THE EDITOR, NORMA REID, 3 GWALIOR ROAD, LONDON SW15 1NP**  
Tel: 020 8785 4392 Email: [aristocats.2000@gmail.com](mailto:aristocats.2000@gmail.com)

<b>Sunday 23 February</b> (Epiphany 7)	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Worship conducted by Mr Sydney Shore</b>
Friday 28 February	10.30 am	Prayer Group Garden Room

### NOTICE OF AGM

#### ST ANDREW'S ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING (AGM) Sunday 1 March 2019 at 12 noon

**Annual Reports are now needed for distribution  
prior to the Annual General Meeting**

Anna Crawford would be grateful if you could let her have your reports by  
**Sunday 9 February at the latest**, keeping them as succinct as you can.  
E-mail ([annacrawford972@btinternet.com](mailto:annacrawford972@btinternet.com)) best option if possible

### SKY FRIGHT

An airliner flew into a violent thunderstorm and was soon bumping around the sky. A very nervous lady happened to be sitting next to a clergyman and turned to him for comfort. "Can't you do something?" she demanded, forcefully.  
"I'm, sorry, Madam," said the Reverend gently, "I'm in Sales, not Management."



## HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR CUT FLOWERS



Living in Amsterdam I used to buy flowers every week from the lovely flower market. There, I learned a lot about the care of flowers, as I was always given advice by the vendors.

If it is winter when the weather is very cold, make sure that you carry your flowers well covered. When you get them home, leave them out for at least 20 minutes so that they acclimatise to the warm atmosphere. Roses are especially tender to cold wind and air.

Having pointed out that cut roses should be covered when being taken home, I was amazed to see them being unloaded from a huge truck. There were no buckets or water as the roses lie on shelves in the refrigerated truck. They are transported across Europe in this way. Florists also keep their flowers in cold rooms. Keep your flowers away from radiators. I even saw a bouquet vending machine alongside the road at a flower farm: put (the leaf-like structure at the bottom of the flowers that) your money into the slot and choose your flowers! Always strip leaves from flowers to above the water line in the vase. An easy way to strip roses is to use an old cloth or bunched up plastic bag and pull this down the stem and all the thorns will be removed. When buying roses, always give a gentle push to the centre of the flower. It should feel firm and not give way if the rose is fresh. Another tip I learned is to look at the calyx, the leaf-like structure at the base of the flower that protects it during its development. If the calyx leaves are yellow and drooping down, even if the rose looks good, the flower will not last as it has been in cold storage too long. Also, bought roses have no perfume as perfumed roses do not last.

Do use the flower “food” which is often provided with bought flowers. If you do not have any, then sugar and crushed aspirin can be added to the water or a mixture of two tablespoons of white vinegar and two tablespoons of sugar. Flowers with hollow or milky stems are said to last longer if the end of the stem is held for a moment over a flame or dipped into boiling water and then immediately plunged into ice cold water. Always cut the tip off the stem of your flowers and do this at an angle, so that there is a larger surface for the stem to suck up the water by capillary action.

It is really important to change the flower water often. Not only will this make the flowers last longer but it is also much better for your health. Hospitals no longer allow or encourage flowers in the wards as the stale water breeds the dangerous MRSA bug. The older we get the more susceptible we are to this dreadful bug. Try to snip a little off the end of the stems each time you put flowers in fresh water.

If you are using green oasis always soak it for at least 12 hours before use as it will then have soaked up enough water. Keep used oasis covered in plastic if you want to re-use it and never re-wet oasis that has been used and allowed to dry out.

The Dutch believe that tulips should be kept in shallow water. They maintain that a deep vase of water causes the flower stems to droop. Some even believe in putting a pin through the stem just under the flower. This does seem to help. A copper coin also seems to have the desired effect. Never put daffodils with tulips as the narcissus family is poisonous to tulips. Remember that tulips grow in the water so choose a suitable vase. Buy them when they are still in bud.

Good luck with keeping your flowers fresh and enjoying them for as long as possible.

**IMPORTANT - VERY EARLY IN MARCH !**

**ST ANDREW'S ANNUAL CHURCH  
MEETING (AGM)**

**Sunday 1 March 2020 at 12 noon**



**BRIDGE CLUB**

Normally first and third Monday of the month.  
**No definite dates in February** but those concerned will get to hear of any arrangements made.

**PRAYER GROUP**

**Fridays 14 and 28 February**

**10.30 am**

Garden Room



**LADIES WHO LUNCH  
Weybridge URC  
Queens Road KT13 9UX**

**Friday 14 February  
12.30-2.30 pm**

Soup, rolls, dessert and coffee  
along with convivial company for just £4  
Second helpings allowed!

Book your place with Margaret Faultless  
Tel: 020 8399 3402

[ladieswholunch@weybridgeurc.org.uk](mailto:ladieswholunch@weybridgeurc.org.uk)



**! ADVANCE NOTICE !**

**LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITALS  
2020**

**Weybridge URC - 12.30 - 1.30 pm**

**Wednesday 11 March**

The first will feature Katherine Dienes  
Williams, Organist and Master of the  
Choristers, Guildford Cathedral

**! ADVANCE NOTICE !**

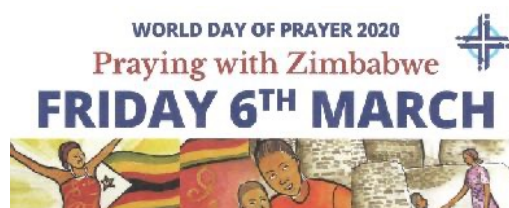
**WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER  
PRAYING WITH ZIMBABWE**

**FRIDAY 6 MARCH**

**Walton Methodist Church  
10.00 am**

**Followed by refreshments**

**ALL WELCOME!**



**at 10.00 am**

**Walton-on-Thames  
Methodist Church  
Terrace Road  
KT12 2SR**

*Refreshments after the service*



**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

**Eva Ramage has moved to**

Worplesdon View (Room 36)  
Worplesdon Road  
Guildford GU3 3LQ

Telephone: 01483 238010



## FRIENDS REMEMBERED



### *Michael George Rodgers*

Mike was born in Dorking, to George and Rose. It was war-time and George was away serving in the Army so Mike did not see his father for the first four years of his life. Mike, although the only child of George and Rose, had an adopted sister who was also his cousin. Mike attended Reigate Priory School where he was a keen member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reigate Company of Boys' Brigade attached to what was the St Paul's Presbyterian Church, now St Paul's URC in Reigate. He was proud of his BB connection and those days prepared him well for life. He went on the International BB camp in Jamaica to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the BB and ultimately became both a BB officer and a Queensman. On leaving school Mike went to work at Mullard's, a British manufacturer of electronic components, where he learned electrical engineering. He went on to be a TV delivery man with DER, before returning to education to do A-levels in his early twenties.

As many of us know, serving, helping and supporting others was, important to Mike. In 1965, as Deputy Leader of a group of young volunteers, he went out to the Windward Islands to help build a dairy plant on the poverty-stricken island of St Vincent. Mike's working life was very much spent with electronics and computing. He worked on navigation systems, helped install landing systems, visiting all UK's airports. Mike knew where to get the best wild mushrooms at Heathrow and was an excellent cook. After a full and responsible working life, in 1993 he took early retirement. This enabled him to begin voluntary work with the RNIB and RNID.

Barbara and Mike met at a housewarming party and were married at St Andrew's on 23 June, 1973. Initially, they set up home in Rydens Avenue and eventually moved to Wynton Grove where they spent many happy years until Mike had to move into care and Barbara decided to join him. Other than Barbara, the great love of Mike's life was MG cars and, apart from a brief unsuccessful dalliance with an Austin Maxi (which he quickly traded in for another MG), he stayed loyal to them all his life. Not only did he drive one for his own pleasure and use, he was also a volunteer at Brooklands Motor Museum, where he drove it as part of the car rides team.

Mike enjoyed holidays. These included rock climbing in Scotland, canal boats on the UK canals, trips to the Scilly Isles, Orkney, and tours of America and Australia but a special place for both Barbara and Mike was Madeira. It was a place where they went regularly for ten weeks every year for years and where Mike found he could really unwind and relax.

Mike was a very active person. He served at St Andrew's as an Elder for many years and was a former Treasurer and Chair of the Management Committee. After surviving a ruptured aneurism (only 20% do) he suffered a massive stroke five years ago which took so much from him. I think, therefore, that we can all take some comfort day today from knowing that Mike now has the peace and the healing which, quite simply, latterly, this world couldn't give him. I've only known Mike for a few years but we always got on well. We'd talk about computers, we'd laugh and we'd also tease Barbara unmercifully. In fact, the last time I saw him he was on a good day and I left his room with him laughing at me pulling Barbara's leg which I think is a nice last memory to have of him.

Mike lives on in this world through the qualities which he displayed, the examples he set and the memories which each one of us have of him - memories which can still bring a smile, even on the saddest of days. His death may leave a chasm and yes, we shall miss him, but for Mike a new life has begun, and he is safe in God's eternal keeping.

*Michael Hodgson*



## *Tessa Eliza Knight*

Tessa was born and brought up in Glasgow, one of three, having a brother Alec and a sister Leela. Sadly her parents both died when she was still quite young and so she went to live with her brother and her sister-in-law, Mary.

Tessa began her working life in RW Forsyth's in Glasgow. Forsyth's had a strong reputation for quality clothing and fashions and one way or another Tessa worked in retail for much of her life. She moved down to Surrey and worked in Courts in Walton and then in Grant Warden which later became Beales, also in Walton, before moving to Cherry Pie Clothes Shop in York Road in Weybridge. To complete the working side of her life, after she retired Tessa worked in the Princess Alice Hospice, in the little shop there where she not only served, but also gave a lot of emotional support to patients and their families. Tessa would have been very good at that as because she was such a kind and caring person and also such a positive person too. She was very generous, totally selfless and with a great sense of humour. Humour was never far from Tessa and I have a feeling that she'd see the funny side if I repeated one of her sayings here. Shona says that I can say it, so - when Tessa got a cough she used to say, "It's not the cough that carries you off but the coffin they carry you off in." I think she's got a point today!

Tessa was initially married to Eric and they were blessed with two daughters, Amanda and Shona. She then married to Ron and gained two step children, David and Liz. As the years have gone by, so the family has grown to include her two grandchildren, Louis and Abbey and I know that family were important to Tessa. When I first met her and asked about family she spoke so proudly and so lovingly of them all.

Tessa was a loyal and active member of St Andrew's and when she moved to Hindhead it seemed very strange not seeing her there, in her wheel chair, with Ron pushing her in with practised skill. I certainly missed her smile and her great positivity.

Tessa had a real zest for life. She loved her holidays, she loved cruising and had just about been everywhere. She was an excellent cook, having done a Cordon Bleu course, and loved entertaining. She was such a hospitable and outgoing person whose company was always a pleasure. The last years were not easy but it was always her wish to die peacefully in her own bed, in her sleep, not wired up to equipment in a hospital. Although we shall miss her, I think that we can take some comfort in knowing that Tessa did indeed get her wish. She died peacefully, with no fuss, which is so like her, and is now at rest.

At its heart the Christian message is one of hope and that hope is, perhaps, encapsulated in our Bible reading from John Chapter 14. Tessa has now taken up the place which Jesus has prepared in heaven.

*Michael Hodgson*

Jean Rigden at St Andrew's remembers Tessa fondly. She says:  
*"I first met Tessa in 1965 when we were expecting our first babies. We went to what we called the puff and blow classes. A lovely lady and great fun to be with."*

## NEWS OF OLD FRIENDS

### Eva Ramage

You will see that Eva has recently moved and you will find her address and contact telephone number is included in our Notices section (page 7) of this Newsletter. Moira de Kok has visited her and brings us this welcome news of Eva.

*"I went to see Eva in her new home in Worplesdon, near Guildford. I was delighted to find her well, settled and really happy. She has a lovely view from her window and pointed out that she does not see a single building but only lovely, rolling countryside. The room is pleasant and very tastefully furnished. Her bathroom/shower is well equipped for her to be showered by the carers. She told me that they are all really pleasant and very well trained as well as extremely helpful. In the afternoon she was being fetched by the hairdresser for her appointment in the salon within the home.*

*Eva showed me a sheet of activities for the week and there is some sort of activity or entertainment throughout the day. I asked if she had met people and she has been down to the lounge frequently as the carers take her in her wheelchair. Being very sociable, Eva has already made friends and seems readily to have settled into the activities. I asked her if she was playing bridge. She replied that she did not want to seem pushy but will be looking for bridge partners soon.*

*I think that, not having been out of her flat for a year after her fall, this is a wonderful solution for Eva and it was lovely to see her so very bright and contented with her new set-up."*

Eva has mentioned to me that she will be delighted to have visits from her friends at St Andrew's but asks that you always ring before coming, in case, as happened recently, there was a ban on visits due to a bug going around. Ed

### 2020 IS A LEAP YEAR!

*Here are some Leap Year Traditions, with thanks to the Lonely Planet website*

Every four years, thanks to a quirk of the earth's orbit and the combined efforts of Roman Emperor Julius Caesar and 16th-century Pope Gregory XIII (of Gregorian Calendar fame), we must add an extra day to the end of February to create a leap year. But neither Caesar nor the Pope could have predicted the weird and wonderful celebrations and superstitions that have arisen because of it. In the 21st century, women are free to propose to their partner at any time they choose, but for centuries it was solely the gentleman's prerogative. Tradition states that once every four years, on 29 February, the tables are turned and matrimony-minded women have the chance to ask their sweetheart to marry them instead. Folklore suggests the tradition began in Ireland in the 5th century, with a deal brokered between St Brigid of Kildare and St Patrick, but the tradition has spread across Europe and beyond. In Scotland, women intending to propose are advised to wear a red petticoat visible to their love – perhaps to give them fair warning. Unfortunately, it isn't always happily ever after. Supposedly originating from a law passed by Queen Margaret of Scotland in 1288, any man who refuses a Leap Day proposal should be issued with a fine, which can amount to anything from £1 to a silk gown. In Denmark, the penalty is 12 pairs of gloves, which the spurned maiden can wear to hide the ignominy of having no ring, and in Finland a man who declines must provide enough fabric to make a skirt.

## CHRISTMAS AT ST ANDREW'S



Our Christmas services were, as always, both moving, well-attended and joyful. The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols was further enhanced by our minister, Michael, who started proceedings from the back of the church then processing down the aisle with a solo "This is the truth sent from above", (Fantasia on Christmas Carols by Ralph Vaughan Williams). He also teamed up with our organist, Zacc, to play a version of Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring as an original, improvised duet for piano and organ "Mary's Boy Child" by Jester Hairston. This year we were delighted to welcome a few of our



Messy Church families who also joined us for refreshments afterwards. Members of the congregation had put forward their suggestions for favourite carols. The carols chosen but not included in the carol service itself were covered in the Sunday service after Christmas, so no-one felt left out!

Those who attended the Christmas Day service might recall with more than a smile the pandemonium that ensued when Michael decided to take off his jumper so that he could show off his new Christmas shirt...



A welcome guest and new to the carol service was Brodie (left), Alan and Anna Crawford's family dog, who conducted himself with suitable reverence and clearly enjoyed the music as well as the general Christmas fellowship. He is seen on the left, sitting in a pew, mesmerised by the Christmas tree.

The Christingle service was popular with the children, especially, as last year, having the fun and satisfaction of making their own Christingles.



We received a beautiful Christmas card from one of the regular Messy Church families who love their monthly afternoon sessions. They wrote in it "May the wonder of Christmas shine in your hearts and bring warmth to those you love and may the New Year be happy and peaceful to all. people!" Lovely sentiments for us all to take away. The bottle of Prosecco and box of chocolates that accompanied the card were shared and much appreciated. Thank you Sylvia, Stan and Dominik, Olivia and Kysin for such a kind gesture.

*Ed*

## ELDERS' THINKING - THE 'GREAT ENTRANCE'

At our Elders' meeting last October, our Minister was commended for his idea, new to St Andrew's, of bringing the Elements for Communion into the church from the Gateway. This, as he explained to the congregation, followed the old Presbyterian custom of the 'Great Entrance'.

This led on to a discussion of the Entry of the Bible. Whilst we did bring it in with due reverence, with the congregation standing for its entry, at the end of the service it was, somewhat dismissively, put back in its box and locked up in the vestry. It was agreed that, as we have been in church to worship and to hear the word of God and at the end of the service have left with the blessing to take our faith back into the world again and share it with others, so, symbolically, the Word of God should similarly be taken out into the world. Now, therefore, following the Blessing, the congregation stands as the Duty Elder takes the Bible from the lectern and precedes the worship leader as they walk out, after which the Bible is placed on a lectern in the porch by the front door of the church. This allows for anyone who wishes to read the open pages.

The church Bible in current use was given in memory of Jim Hampton. After everyone has left the church, we place an older bible, with larger print and easier to read, in the porch, whilst the precious Bible given in Jim Hampton's memory is safely stowed away in the vestry.

*Anna Crawford*  
(Church Secretary)



## GOOD NEWS FROM 9TH WALTON BROWNIES

I just wanted to get in touch and share some good news! Late last year Claire (Golden Owl) stumbled upon a Facebook page which was specifically for leaders within GirlGuiding who were moving location for whatever reason (generally young leaders moving away to go to Uni or starting work somewhere) which tried to match them up with Units in their new area in need of help. Amazingly, we chanced upon a Young Leader called Hannah who had just started at Uni in Guildford who was looking for her own Unit. We have met with her, she has attended a few of our meetings and has been involved in helping us plan this term's activities. She is very keen and we are cautiously very optimistic that, when Claire and I step down in the Summer, she will step in and lead 9th Walton Brownies!

There are a couple of admin issues to sort out, however, but we are pushing those through and are so relieved that the unit may not have to close after all.

It would seem all our prayers have been answered!

*Shona Hedley*



*Passover food on Seder plate*

Our theme in November was "Where I belong" based on the story of 12-year old Jesus in the temple.

We talked about and illustrated sheets with cut-outs of baby Jesus and drawings of him at the age of 12. The older children sat round and tasted the things Jesus would have had at the Passover meal, remembering the relevance of all items on the Seder plate.



*... to get you connected to the Web*



*Patience wins the day....*

We made scrolls and family Coat of Arms. Holes were punched round the edge of paper plates and the centres removed. We asked the children to thread wool back and forward across the plate to create a web. We talked about the way each of us is connected in the community. Experts in their field, Susan Simpson and Jean Rigden, encouraged the children in art and sewing crafts. In Church at the Celebration we sang "If I were a butterfly" and "Tell me the stories of Jesus", and heard the story of Jesus being lost. This connected with some of the little ones who recounted their experiences of being lost.



*Slime, lovely Slime!*

Our theme in January was The Lost Sheep. We had several activities based around this. The children made sheep masks, sheep badges and even sheep cakes. We rolled marbles in paint and then over paper to imitate wandering sheep leaving a trail behind. The results were a bit like Jackson Pollock pictures.

We experimented making slime - the latest craze with young children. It wasn't easy, but they were excited to do it and loved the results - something not completely shared with parents. For some reason they were not too keen to take their results home... We also made name placards, illustrating how the good shepherd knew each of his sheep by name.

Jean's grandson spent an evening constructing a maze for us to show the lost sheep the way home. We all had a go, including some of the congregation at coffee time. We did not have many children but they enjoyed themselves, and as one Mum said to me "You do such lovely things here." The bulbs we planted way back are flowering now and are really beautiful, a lovely reminder of Messy Church". There's tea and company available all afternoon.



*I'm a sheep, silly!*



*Constructing a maze is easier for adults...*



*Rolling marbles in paint*

For those who hadn't heard or even enjoyed Messy Church, one of our families presented us with a large box of chocolates and bottle of wine after the Christingle service. We were, of course, delighted! Do join us on a future occasion if you can.

*Anne Fitzgerald*

## A FINAL FOND FAREWELL TO DOREEN DRYLIE (aka AUNTIE/AB)

We have just planted Auntie in the garden. She had been lingering on my book shelves for a year, and had gathered some dust in that time, so it was time to say a final goodbye. We agonised as to what to do when she passed away. She was adamant while she was alive that she wanted to be cremated rather than buried, and she didn't want a head stone. She had no children and she was the last of her generation. All the nephews and nieces scattered to the four winds and there would be nobody locally to tend her grave if she had one. Her husband's ashes were left in the crematorium grounds as she couldn't bear to say goodbye, but, pragmatic as ever, she left the final decision to us. "*Would you like to be planted in the garden at Livermere?*" we asked. She thought that idea was a good one as she loved the place and always joined us for Christmas. So we went ahead and did it. I looked up the regulations. As long as her ashes are covered with soil rather than scattered, thus avoiding any health and safety issues, and regarded as permanent it can be done. It will be sad to say a final goodbye, but it is for the best. She is now in the rose bed in the middle of our lawn, neatly tucked up between the roses and the forget me nots, and co-habiting with the red tulips which come up every year to remind us of a dear friend who used to give my wife a bunch every spring from his own garden. Auntie loved roses and as we will only be leaving this house in wooden boxes, we were able adequately to satisfy all the regulations. It also satisfies our own needs and those of my family. It gives us a place to contemplate and reflect, to give thanks for a life well lived and say to say a proper farewell which is so important. Hopefully the ashes will do some good to the roses too. She loved dogs, and I know for certain that every dog she owned - seven or eight of them over the years - are buried in rank order in the garden of the house where she lived. It is an interesting legacy for the people who bought her house after her death.

What we put on memorials intrigues me. Each denomination has different preferences: Salvation Army members are often "waiting for the bugle call", Baptists often have "died in the love of The Lord", or "a faithful worker for The Lord", while many Victorian Church of England graves simply say "fell asleep", or "in loving memory of". I am sure there is something in that..... Epitaphs often talk of the virtue of the person memorialised, while In St Mary's church in Bury St Edmunds, John Baret's fifteenth century tomb, gruesomely depicting him as a skeleton says: "*He that will sadly behold me with his eye, contemplate the 'morrow and prepare to die*". Great. The Victorians loved to have guardian angels watching over them with a terse verse on their headstones beneath. Most people these days, though, seem to prefer something which relates to the family "*a loving father/mother, son/daughter, and granddad/granny*".

In civic cemeteries, people often go for highly polished black granite headstones, while, in country churchyards there are rules limiting what can be used to smooth limestones or York stones which are more in keeping with the surroundings. But there is always scope for engraving something to remind us of the character or interests of the deceased person, even with some humour. I love those which make me smile. One in Great Yarmouth reads: "*Owen Moore is gone away, owe'in more than he could pay*". In Canterbury there is one which says: "*Of children in all she bore twenty-four, thank the Lord there will be no more*", while in Horsham, Sussex there is one which simply says: "*he was*". Comedian Spike Milligan's epitaph at Winchelsea in Sussex famously says: "*I told you I was ill*", while another one in Manchester simply says "*she had fun*". Closer to home, one in Ampton says "*I feel fine*". It makes me smile every time I walk past it, and I can still hear Norman saying it, as he did whenever I visited him. My aunt though will have no such memorial. Although her church are putting up a brass plaque to remember her as one of their first women office holders who had a lifelong devotion to others, her memorial for me will be a garden full of roses and tulips and forget-me-nots.

Tony Redman

And, as a happy postscript, we send our love and congratulations to Hannah Redman on her engagement to Mark. We wish you both the very best for your future together!



I was getting concerned as I only had £75 for the mission for the year. At the last minuet two very generous donation from church members amounting to £250 came in (great) Then at the church meeting the members voted to donate £500. To say I am over the moon that, altogether, I was able to send a total of £825 would be an understatement.

There are collecting boxes in the Gateway if anyone else is interested in joining us, although I do appreciate many of you are supporting other charities. Thank you to everyone!

*Jean Rigden*



Everything is back up and running after the Christmas break. The grand number of 130 of us went to the Pantomime Aladdin at the Playhouse in Walton on January 9 and a fantastic time was had by all (OH YES IT WAS!).

As you know, this is a very exciting year for us. We are very busy helping The Mayor of Elmbridge, Mary Sheldon, with her fundraising efforts for us in her year in office.

We are gong to attend the Mayor's Ball at the Hilton Cobham on 13 March ( oh dear - a new outfit required!).

On a more mundane note, our next **Jumble Sale** is on March 29 and items are already coming in. Still plenty of time to rid out those cupboards and lofts!

*Jean Rigden*



*L-R. The Mayor of Elmbridge, Mary Sheldon, Jean and her sister, Elsie*

## HAPPINESS IS ....BOY RACERS



Our former minister David Netherwood (left) and David Hueston have both long been classic car fans. They always enjoyed their day out at the Annual Classic Car Show at the Birmingham NEC.

David Netherwood is a member of the Skoda Owners' Club and David Hueston of the Club Alpine Renault. They met up for the first time at the Birmingham Show last November, thanks to Hilary Netherwood arranging which respective stand to look out for. *Ed*



Breaking the cycle of homelessness

Elmbridge Rentstart is a charity helping local people who are homeless or vulnerably housed. Each year they house and support around 150 people and help them move on with their lives. Their Chief Executive, Helen Watson, in the letter reproduced below, has written to our minister inviting anyone in our congregation interested in becoming involved to meet their team.

They would also give an informal talk to our congregation if anyone would like to know more about what they do. *Ed*



Breaking the cycle of homelessness

Reverend Hodgson  
St Andrews United Reformed Church  
Hersham Road  
Walton on Thames  
Surrey  
KT12 1LG

08 January 2020

Dear Reverend Hodgson

I'm delighted to be writing to let you know our exciting news that we are about to move into a new office on Walton High Street. This move will make a huge difference to the local homeless people we are supporting. Finally we will be able to bring all of our support services under one roof.

This new High Street Hub will be opening in February. Our clients will be able to come in to find housing, to attend training and support sessions and to access vital day to day services such as washing facilities or simply pop in and have a cup of tea with a friendly face. We also very much want our new High Street Hub to be an integral part of our community, if you or any of your congregation ever wanted to come in and visit us to meet our clients and our team we would be delighted to welcome you. We are excited to finally be able to be truly "open to all."

As ever, I would like to ask if you would continue to recommend our services to anyone in your congregation who may need our support. We would love to come down and meet with you now that 2020 is underway, our team are always happy to come and give informal talks if your congregation would like to know more about what we do. Equally, if you can consider helping us with volunteering or fundraising too that would be amazing – it costs us around £1,500 to house and support one person for a year, that amount that can literally change someone's life. In the last year a third of our clients were able to start working – enabling them to regain independence and dignity.

If you would like one of us to come and give a talk or have any questions about what we are working on at the moment, please do get in touch, or feel free to pop into the new office in Walton – we will be at **51-55 High Street**.

With warm regards

Helen Watson  
Chief Executive

Helen@elmbridgerentstart.org.uk 01372 477167

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A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales no. 08819740  
Charity no. 1156746

## FLOWER POWER



**Norma (aka Ed)** was delighted to receive some of the beautiful flowers (seen above and donated by Dorothy Rushworth), after the service on 1 December. They looked so pretty in her sitting-room which echos the colours of pink and green. *"Thank you so much!"*

**Eva Ramage** writes:

*"I wish to say a big thank-you to all who have sent me Church flowers recently. They have been so beautiful and full of autumn colours and really cheered me up. I miss attending church so much and meeting you all at coffee afterwards."*

We miss you a lot, too, Eva, but are glad to hear that you are happily settled in Worplesdon. *Ed*



### **FLOWER FAIRIES WANTED!**

*Irene Pearson always welcomes offers of help to deliver the church flowers to our friends who are ill or maybe a bit down or even for a happy reason.*

*If you think you could spend an hour or two on a Sunday or Monday once a month or even every six weeks, please contact Irene on telephone 01932 882653 or email [piris83@yahoo.com](mailto:piris83@yahoo.com)*



We were much saddened to learn of the death of Hector Coulter in the early hours of New Year's Day and send our condolences and love to Christina, Darryl and Jenny and their extended family and friends. We will include memories of Hector's life in our March/April issue.

## ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

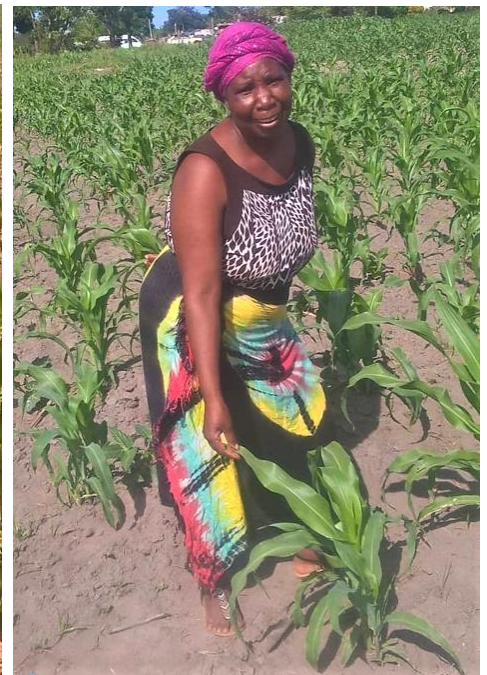
**JOY!** These photos are clear evidence of the effect our donations had on ArtPeace families over the Christmas period – our support really made a difference! The artists thought Christmas, despite joyful Church services, would prove just another day with the usual struggle to put food on the table. Thanks to your generosity they were proved wrong and were able to enjoy a change of food including chicken and even buy some new clothes for their children. Photos left to right:



Lovemore and family, his wife Junior preparing lunch and son Elijah having fun. These scenes were replicated throughout the group.



**CHRISTMAS** helped our friends relax but all too soon the New Year arrived continuing the worst drought for 40 years showing no sign of relenting. Their crops we funded through donations for seed and fertilizer showed dangerous sign of wilting. Most of rural Zimbabwe land was like sand and without water, with millions trying to live off it and on the brink of starvation. This drought is causing food insecurity across all Southern Africa with several countries fearing famine. Nearly eight million people in Zimbabwe are now dependent on food from the World Food Programme. Photo below left shows artist Godfrey's field being attacked by the dreaded Army Worm which can devastate a crop within a few weeks. However, a few weeks ago the rains finally arrived, and the group set



to work applying fertiliser and spraying in between showers. Above centre – Godwin spraying his field and right, Lizeni weeding in 37°C heat!



**LATEST PROGRESS REPORT:** A rather apprehensive Mike Masedza with recent photo of his maize crop recovering from the lengthy drought. Fortunately, ArtPeace had bought a drought resistant seed which helped but as Mike says, there is a long way to go until maturity in April. Maize is an essential food crop in Zimbabwe given that it is the staple diet for the vast majority of the impoverished population. Not for them the occasional supermarket visit as basic commodities are simply too expensive due to inflation.

**THE EXODUS** continues into 2020 as hundreds of people queue for travel documents to get out of Zimbabwe and leave for neighbouring countries where they hope to get employment and be able send money home to keep their families alive. I guess they are the lucky ones.



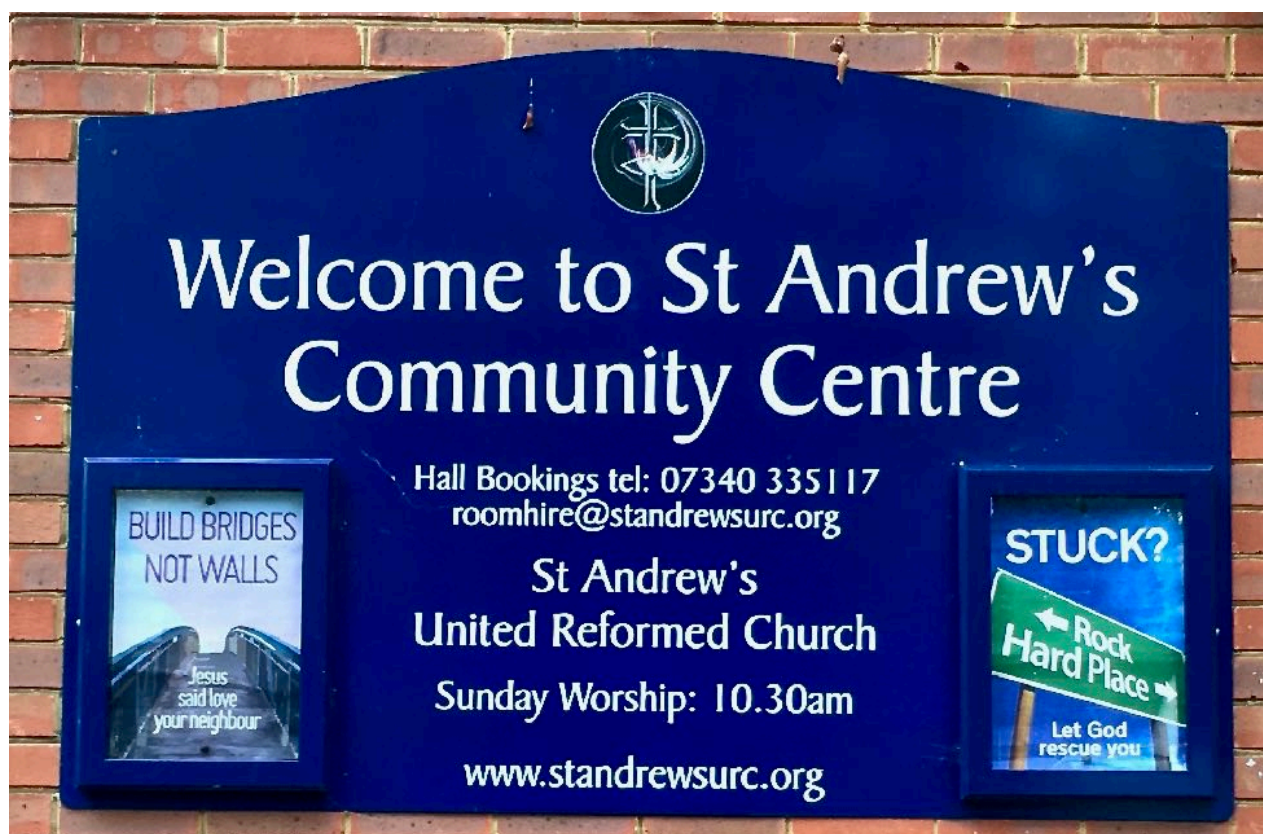
**POVERTY:** ArtPeace regularly tell me of youngsters they meet who are having particularly difficult times. Artist Ignatious said: 'Lazarus Zindoga (left) a 19-year-old boy lives in Epworth with his grandmother and 14-year-old sister Yeukai. Their parents passed away 11 years ago. Both are struggling to get food, clothing etc. Look how unwell Lazarus is - most days they sleep without eating.' Artist Coster Balakasi reports: This boy (right) is forced to take care of his little sister doing all sorts of things including bathing her and cooking while grandpa is on piece work in order to make enough money to buy food and clothes. But he's an abusive Grandpa and always beats the boy when he comes home for no reason. Taking care of his sister means the boy has dropped out of school whilst grandpa works part time. I



arrived early this morning to find the little girl sleeping alone so left a message for a neighbour to look after her. Life is so hard for these children and there are many others suffering.'

**BEAUTY:** On a more cheerful note, the photos below taken by ArtPeace show left to right - Fortune gathering the last of his mangoes and storage of same by Norah his wife. Other photos show some of Zimbabwe's lovely wild plants including their National Flower- the Flame Lily. **JS**





#### MINISTER

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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**