



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

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 68 No 1

FEBRUARY 2012

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*'The Spirit descended like a dove'*



## *Dear Friends*

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a report on the Junior Church activities over the Christmas period, including the memorable Nativity service on 18<sup>th</sup> December, which was enthusiastically supported by a record number of children and a large congregation. Those of you who were there may recall that before the service began, Anna Crawford read the following formal statement regarding my ministry in our joint pastorate with Weybridge URC:

- Both Romilly and Weybridge Elders agreed that prior to any agreement on his shared ministry, there should be a formal exploration of his possible call to Weybridge. Following consultation with Synod, an Interim Moderator was appointed to guide Weybridge Elders and Romilly in this introduction.
- This calling process has consisted of discussions between the Interim Moderator and the parties involved, and a meeting of Romilly with the Weybridge Elders chaired by the Interim Moderator.
- Consequent to these meetings, the Weybridge Elders and Romilly have by mutual consent agreed that both parties should withdraw from the introduction.
- The Synod is aware of, and accepts, this joint decision.
- The amicable and co-operative relationship between Walton and Weybridge

This statement was read to the Church Meeting at Weybridge on the same day.

Those involved in writing this statement (including, I have to confess, your minister!) naturally thought it was a model of lucidity. But as the saying goes, the proof of the pudding is in the eating - and it quickly became clear that we had failed to communicate the key points. So let me try again:

- I shall not be called to serve as minister at Weybridge URC. The decision not to pursue this call has been made jointly by the Elders at Weybridge and me.
- For the time being, I shall therefore continue to serve full-time at St Andrew's - as has been my privilege since June 2009.
- Weybridge URC and St Andrew's remain as a joint pastorate, scoped to have one full-time stipendiary ministry in total.

That is really all we know at the moment; I'll keep you posted!

Meanwhile, I look forward to working with you over the coming months, as we seek the guidance of the Spirit in developing the life and witness of St Andrew's together.

Your minister,

*Romilly*

<b>SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES FEBRUARY 2012</b>
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Wednesday 1 February	12.15 pm	Church Lunch 'Blue Badge Guide' (see page 5)
Thursday 2 February	8.00 pm	Bible Study, Hersham Room
Saturday 4 February	7.30 pm	Handel's Messiah St Mary's Church, Walton (see page 11)
Sunday 5 February (Epiphany 5)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship
Monday 6 February	2.00 pm	Bridge Club, Hersham Room
Tuesday 7 February	8.00 pm	Elders' Meeting, Hersham Room
Wednesday 8 February	2.00 pm	Prayer Group 4 Grange Court, Ashley Road Walton-on-Thames
Thursday 9 February	8.00 pm	Bible Study, Hersham Room
Sunday 12 February (Epiphany 6)	10.30 am	Morning Service conducted by the Reverend Iain Stewart (our minister on leave)
Tuesday 14 February	2.00 pm	Ladies Guild, Hersham Room
Thursday 16 February	2.00 pm	Bible Study, Hersham Room

<p><b><i>COPY DATE FOR MARCH ISSUE <u>WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY</u></i></b>  <b><i>ALL ITEMS TO THE EDITOR, NORMA REID,</i></b>  <b><i>3 GWALIOR ROAD, LONDON SW15 1NP</i></b>  <b><i>Email: <a href="mailto:aristocats.2000@talktalk.net">aristocats.2000@talktalk.net</a></i></b></p>
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Sunday 19 February (Transfiguration)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship
Monday 20 February	2.00 pm	Bridge Club, Hersham Room
Wednesday 22 February	2.00 pm	Prayer Group 4 Grange Court, Ashley Road Walton-on-Thames
Sunday 26 February (Lent 1)	10.30 am	All-Age Worship
Tuesday 28 February	2.00 pm	Ladies Guild, Hersham Room



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

Sunday 25 March 2012 at 12 noon

Please could all groups and clubs have their reports sent to the Newsletter Editor, Norma Reid, by Wednesday February 15, for inclusion in the March issue

If you have an item of a substantive nature for Any Other Business (AOB), please let either the Minister or Anna Crawford know a week prior to the meeting

Thank you



## E(CO)-NEWSLETTER

Did you know that the newsletter is now published electronically on our website every month? You can find the latest edition, as well as the last half-dozen or so back numbers, at:

<http://www.standrewsurc.org/monthly-newsletters.html>

The e-newsletter is a PDF document and usually appears within a day or so of the paper version being published. To be able to read the e-newsletter on your computer, you need to have a PDF reader installed – for example Adobe Reader, which can be downloaded free from <http://www.adobe.com/products/reader.html>

Have a look — and if you decide that you like the e-newsletter so much that you can do without the paper version entirely, please let Anna Crawford know. Going paper-free is good for the environment — and our Treasurer will love you, too!

*Romilly*

## HELPERS NEEDED !

Helpers are needed to augment the Committee which has the pleasant task of arranging social activities in St Andrew's. This includes the weekday lunch meetings and the occasional coffee mornings. Men and women would be equally welcome to replace those whom age or ill health has meant they have regretfully had to curtail their old activities in this area. The present programme is well-supported by members and friends but organisers are now sadly lacking.

Anyone able to assist in this work is asked to speak to Nancy Hampton, telephone number: 01932 889241.

*Margaret Ward*



## CHURCH LUNCH AT ST ANDREW'S

Wednesday 1 February  
12.15 pm in the Church Hall

The speaker, Sue Grimditch, will talk to us on the fascinating subject of being a Blue Badge Guide



Everyone welcome

## BIBLE STUDY WITH THE MINISTER

Thursdays 2, 9 and 16 February  
8.00 pm  
Hersham Room

*(I have heard that these sessions are proving to be both stimulating and enjoyable! Ed)*

## BRIDGE CLUB



Monday 6 and  
Monday 20 February  
2.00 pm  
Hersham Room

## LADIES GUILD



Tuesday 14 and  
Tuesday 28 February  
2.00 pm  
Hersham Room  
Please do come along with your knitting and catch up with the chat!

## PRAYER GROUP

Wednesday 8 and  
Wednesday 22 February  
2.00 pm  
At Chrissie Brooman's home  
4 Grange Court, Ashley Road,  
Walton-on-Thames



Handel's

# Messiah



Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>  
February, 2012  
7.30pm

St Mary's Church,  
Church Street,  
Walton-on-Thames,  
Surrey, KT12 2QS

Tickets: £10

Accompanied by baroque orchestra on period instruments

With professional soloists

Conducted by Peter Stobart

Refreshments will be provided during the interval

Tickets & Information: 01932 246796 or 244193

[www.acappellaweybridge.org.uk](http://www.acappellaweybridge.org.uk)

Concert supported by the **RCSheriff**<sub>mst</sub>  
advancing the arts in Elmbridge



*The logo on this month's front cover is a close-up of the URC's 'Catch the Vision' logo from our noticeboard*

# JUNIOR CHURCH

## DECEMBER 2011/JANUARY 2012

### DECEMBER

December is already a month away – but still very fresh in the memory. We had two superb services with the children – with record numbers of children and adults at both the Nativity and the Christingle services.

For our Nativity, we were pleased to have our young people sharing the reading of the lessons – they read beautifully! -- and we also had some experiments with the music, including one piece where we had a voice reading over the instrumental part to give us Isaiah's prophecy about the birth of Jesus.

I also don't think I shall ever forget the look of concentration on Piers' and Paul's faces as they played "Come and join the celebration" faster and faster at the end of the service – so that (I'm told) people were literally dancing out of church...

Here are pictures of the tableau at the end – wonderful!



Before the Christingle service, I had been at a drinks party where someone was telling me that their church had invested in plastic candles that had battery-lit flame-shaped light bulbs at one end, and a sharp point to stick in the Christingle orange at the other. They had bought these plastic candles instead of real candles because of concerns about "health and safety".

Of course, these careful good intentions had backfired: the batteries didn't fare too well because of the acid in the oranges, and some of the children discovered that, removed from the orange, the sharp little candles made rather effective mini-swords.... So sticking with real candles seemed a good idea (though with a couple of extra buckets of water strategically placed in the church in case of any accidents!)





And in fact, our service was very special. We had made 100 christingles this year (ten more than last year) and still ran out – and the sight of the church lit solely by all these tiny, dancing flames was very wonderful. So our grateful thanks to all those who helped with Nativity costumes, readings and stage direction, christingles, and all the music

*Bridget*



## JANUARY

We were blessed with good attendance throughout January. On New Year's Day we heard about the presentation of Jesus in the Temple and made finger puppets of the main characters (Mary, Joseph and Jesus plus Anna and Simeon) so that the children could retell the story when they went home. We thought about waiting for something to happen, something we all find difficult. We got our bags packed and “walked through the desert” in the footsteps of the Wise Men the following Sunday, making cut outs of the Wise Men afterwards. On the third Sunday our theme was listening. We played listening games and thought about who we listen to - our parents/ Teachers/ Minister /politicians/The Queen. The children listened well as I told the story of Samuel and then tested the congregation on their listening skills.

*Anne Fitzgerald*

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH ON 7 DECEMBER 2011



*The Choir around the piano with Margaret and Nancy*

Many of us were fortunate enough to be present at the Christmas Lunch on 7 December, with readings organised by Margaret Ward and, of course, strongly supported by the choir, not forgetting those responsible for delicious food.

Christmas and – as of some three years ago, at Doris Hutson's suggestion, also Easter - Lunches are always enjoyable occasions that do not just 'happen'. Doris was responsible for their organisation from 1991 to 2009 and had put together an excellent variety of programmes over this time. I understand that she joined forces with Margaret in the last couple of years to work together until she handed over to Margaret in 2009, as, sadly, she felt unable to continue due to ill health. Margaret proved to be a worthy successor, with her own take on the selection and composition of the programmes of seasonal poems and readings, some chosen – and some even compiled personally - by members of the congregation as well as by Margaret herself. As one of the readers, I have particularly appreciated the time and effort that goes into this pleasant but not always easy task (getting a group of people together and ensuring that a programme runs smoothly is never easy!).



*In Good Voice*

We are sorry Margaret has decided that the time has come for her to hand over the baton. Nancy Hampton, who spoke warmly at the Christmas Lunch to express our thanks to Margaret, has agreed to take over, with the help of your Editor. Happily, Margaret has agreed to organise one last Easter lunch. The photographs give a flavour of a happy occasion.

## SUNDAY LUNCH FOR ST ANDREW'S DAY, NOVEMBER 2011



### ...AND OCCASIONAL POST-SERVICE ATTRACTIONS

#### TEMPTING PRE-LUNCH PURCHASES HELPING ARTPEACE AND FAIRTRAID

Members and friends can sometimes enjoy browsing at stalls set up in the Church Hall after the service. FairTraid is a regular on the last Sunday of the month. Artpeace sets up only every now and then and is always a star attraction, ideal for finding that gift with a difference.



*Artpeace say "you can't have too many Wee Beastie keyrings"!*



*Fairtraid stand – always here on the last Sunday of the month – 'Come Buy'!*

## *FRIENDS REMEMBERED*



### **BRIGADIER KEITH RADFORD**

Keith Radford, a member of St Andrew's for more than 20 years and retired Elder, died in December at the age of 91. His health had been deteriorating for some time. Keith and his wife, Connie, joined St Andrew's in the 1980s after returning from Rhodesia/Zimbabwe. They were married for over 68 years and had four children, one of whom died a few years ago.

Keith was born in the East End of London in 1920 and as a young boy emigrated with his family to Southern Rhodesia, where he was brought up. He followed a very successful military career in the British and Rhodesian Armies. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and rose to the rank of Brigadier. At one time, he served in the Black Watch and saw service in the Far East.

After retirement, he ran a firm in Rhodesia making timber products and, after a second retirement, he and Connie returned to England and lived in Weybridge. In the 1980s they joined St Andrew's and both became very involved in the Church's life. Keith was elected as an Elder and Connie served in the Ladies' Guild and on the Ladies' Committee.

Keith's memorial service was held in St Andrew's on 23 December 2011, conducted by the Minister. It was well attended by friends and family. In Keith's memory, his family are going to have some trees planted in one of the English national woodlands.

We send our deepest sympathy to Connie and her family in their sad loss.

*Margaret Ward*



## HANDEL'S MESSIAH CONCERT SATURDAY 4 FEBRUARY AT 7.30 PM

The Weybridge A Cappella Singers (*including our very own Hilary Netherwood*) will sing Handel's Messiah on Saturday 4 February 2012 at 7:30pm at St Mary's Church, Church Street, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, KT12 2QS. They will be accompanied by Baroque Orchestra on period instruments with professional soloists and conducted by Peter Stobart.

Refreshments will be provided during the interval.

Tickets (£10) and information: 01932 246796 or 01932 244193  
Website: <http://acappellaweybridge.org.uk/>

### SAMARITAN'S PURSE - THANK YOU!



Many thanks to all who took time to find a shoe box, cover it and fill it with gifts for under-privileged children, under the auspices of Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child".

Fifty-nine attractive boxes were collected from St Andrew's at the end of November. These were taken to a collection centre at Oxshott and eventually distributed to needy families across Europe, Africa and other countries.

Thank you, again, for supporting this worthwhile cause and for making a child happy this Christmas.

*Elizabeth Edmiston*

### BIRTHDAY GIRL

Chrissie Brooman would like to thank everyone for their cards and messages that all helped to make her Big Birthday such a happy one

*Lovely photo, Chrissie! Ed*



# Commitment for Life

Johnston Simpson

'I will show you my faith by what I do' - James 2:18 (TNIV)

**CfL celebrates 20 years of action and being there for the long haul!**



What were you doing in 1992?

In 1992 DNA Fingerprinting was invented and in France Euro Disney opened. Bill Clinton became President. The Average House Price was **£68,634** and a gallon of petrol **£2.13**. There was **no internet** or **email**. The URC opened its National Youth Resource Centre in Yardley Hastings and at the York General Assembly **Commitment for Life** came into being.


Throughout the last 20 years it has tried to inform and inspire people to have an active and engaging faith listening to the words of Jesus to 'love our neighbour as ourselves'. Today churches choose to become a Commitment for Life church, promising to learn more about their chosen country and give each year so that long term development can happen. The original Provincial Advocates, as they were known, did a great job in getting churches on board and encouraging them. Some of them are still with the scheme today and we celebrate all their hard work in making Commitment for life the success it is.

Early stories told of child mortality rates dropping in Bangladesh because of The Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh's traditional birthing attendant training scheme. In Zimbabwe new farming methods were being tried out.

In 1992 the idea of giving 1% of your disposable income for development was high on the agenda. Today many still give that way but others do so by regular envelope giving or holding educational events. It is still personal giving.

Our partnerships with Christian Aid and The World Development Movement have also developed. We are indebted to them for their help towards bringing an end to poverty through producing resources, information and organising visits to partner countries.

With the world still in economic crisis, those who suffer the most are those least able to absorb the shortages. Today many are suffering the effects of changes in climate. Our job is not done; we need to walk with those who have no voice or hope. **Thank you on behalf of those you have never met.**

 **St Andrew's** involvement with Silveira House, one of CfL's original partners, began in 1998 on the initiative of Margaret Ward who became our first representative until forced to give up due to illness in 2003. Margaret chanced upon the CfL scheme whilst at an Elders' training course at High Cross Church, Camberley, and if it had not been for this, I would never have visited Silveira House when on holiday with friends in Harare in 1999. I still recall Margaret's surprise when the then Director of Silveira House, Fr Dieter Scholz, now Bishop of Chinhoyi, paid a short unscheduled doorstep visit in appreciation of all her efforts. **ALL CHANGE:** 72 year old Fr David Harold - Barry has now retired as director of SH and will take a well earned 6 month break. He will visit relations in Tipperary and catch up with life in Ireland which he left

in the 50's. David envisages much travelling and will conduct a wedding at the Leaning Tower of Pisa! He will also help out at a retreat in Dublin for a few months. He had lunch with Susan and I on 11 January followed by our customary long walk along the Thames footpath. He popped into St Andrew's to see the latest additions to our sculpture family, plus the large piece at The Riverhouse Barn and 'The Readers' piece in Walton Library, where he met some staff who appeared keen to hold another exhibition. I will miss David's calming influence as we have covered much ground together over the years; he will be sorely missed at Silveira House. However, thanks to emails, we will keep in touch after he returns to Zimbabwe in July. He plans to reside at and assist the L'Arche special needs community in Harare but the bulk of his time will be spent as a chaplain at Harare Central Prison. I am sure he will continue to contribute the occasional article.

**NEW CONTACT :** Fr Konrad Landsberg takes over from David and will be in charge of the Jesuit community whilst the NGO comes under the new directorship of Fr Gibson



Munyoro. 72 year old Konrad from Germany has been in Zimbabwe since 1965 and is also the director of the retreat centre at Silveira House called the Peter Faber centre after St Ignatius' first companion. A charming man, 'Koni' has been extremely helpful in past dealings.

**ARTPEACE** are gradually trickling back to Silveira House from rural homes spread over Zimbabwe. They and their extended families had a joyful Christmas thanks to support from St Andrew's Harvest Collection and other later donations for which they were so grateful.

This has lifted morale in what may prove a most testing year with an election likely as an ailing President and his party cling desperately to power often through unscrupulous means. Difficult times lie ahead so support will be even more vital to ensure the survival of our many friends and their families as sculpture sales opportunities appear limited at present.

**US INTEREST :** The Knights of Columbus near Boston, Massachusetts, USA have a museum featuring amazing displays of nativity sets from around the world. This Catholic society comprises of 14,000 councils with 1.8m members worldwide. They are interested in buying a Nativity scene fashioned from Springstone. Through the internet they stumbled on Marlow URC's involvement in our project in 2010 - could we help? By coincidence, DHB brought over 2 Nativity pieces by Charles Fundisi in his luggage ...



*The Artpeace Cooperative wish all their URC friends a Happy New Year.*

## **THE LIGHTER SIDE**

### **WALKING THE DOG**

A woman was flying from Melbourne to Brisbane, Australia. Unexpectedly, the plane was diverted to Sydney along the way. The flight attendant explained that there would be a delay and if the passengers wanted to get off the aircraft the plane would re-board in 50 minutes.

Everybody got off the plane except one lady, who was blind. A man had noticed her as he walked by and could tell the lady was blind because her Guide Dog lay quietly underneath the seats in front of her throughout the entire flight. He could also tell she had flown this very flight before because the pilot approached her and, calling her by name, said, "Kathy, we are in Sydney for almost an hour. Would you like to get off and stretch your legs?"

The blind lady replied, "No thanks, but maybe Buddy would like to stretch his legs."



Picture this.

All the people in the gate area came to a complete standstill when they looked up and saw the pilot walk off the plane with a Guide Dog. The pilot was even wearing sunglasses. People scattered. They not only tried to change planes but they were trying to change airlines.

True story.....

Remember.....

.....THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS AS THEY APPEAR

*A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, 'Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!' While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again! As she ran she once again began to pray, 'Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!'*

 **FLOWER POWER**



*Bridget's flowers in pastel*

**Bridget Micklem writes:**

*"I was delighted to receive a bunch of flowers from the communion table (complete with a card from the Minister!) on 9<sup>th</sup> January, kindly delivered by Ghislaine and May.*

*It was particularly good timing because I'd had to retreat to bed, with a version of the bug that had been hanging round St Andrew's all Christmas - so to come down to find the beautiful arrangement of flowers was a real boost.*

*The colours lasted so well that I was able to spend a happy Saturday afternoon the following weekend with my pastels. Here's the result [see above]."*

**Connie Radford writes on behalf of herself and her family:**

*"I would just like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their kind words and thoughts and flowers. They have meant so much to me and my family. It has not been an easy time for me, not only with Keith's passing, but also the fact that, with my broken arm, I am unable to write to you personally to express my gratitude. I find it so frustrating! I will be in touch shortly and my thanks once again."*

**Jon and Sue Higgs say:**

*"Thank you for the beautiful flowers delivered recently from the Communion Table. They were a lovely surprise and unexpected. They brightened up the house at this dull time of year."*

Margaret Ward very much appreciated the kind gift of lovely flowers brought by May Dow and Ghislaine Stevenson as well as the chat they had.



And a message from **Ethel Pritchard**:

*“What a lovely surprise last Monday to open the door to Marigold and Irene delivering the church flowers. It was very enjoyable having a chat with them and then arranging the beautiful blooms. Thank you to them both for the visit.”*

**Ghislaine Stevenson** writes:

*“It was a lovely surprise on returning home at lunchtime yesterday to find a beautiful bunch of flowers from St Andrew’s on my doorstep. I was sorry to miss the chance to offer Chrissie a coffee and enjoy a chat, but the red and pink roses and tulips bring a most welcome note of colour and warmth which has cheered me up at a difficult time. Many thanks.”*

**Jean Smillie** says:

*“I would like to thank Chrissie for the beautiful flowers she brought me which I appreciated very much. They lasted for over two weeks.”*

**Susan Simpson** would like to thank May and Ghislaine for the lovely flowers left on the doorstep whilst she was away visiting the Hasletts. Fortunately, a neighbour had quickly put them in water so they were none the worse on her return and are still looking splendid.

**Netta Phillip** thanks St Andrew’s for the beautiful flowers she received when she was laid low with a bug recently. The flowers, combined with the cheering chat with May and Ghislaine who delivered them, were just what the Doctor ordered!

**Susan Smith** thanks St Andrew’s for the lovely flowers from the Communion Table delivered by Marigold and Irene.

**Tricia Coaker** says:

*“A big thank you for a New Year’s visit from May Dow and Ghislaine Stevenson delivering a beautiful bouquet of flowers from the Church and having the time to stop for a coffee and chat. I would also like to thank all the ladies and one or two gentlemen who have helped me with the monthly flower delivery over the past decade. I have very much appreciated their support in this area of the Church’s life. My best wishes go to Irene Pearson who is taking over from me.”*



A sincere thank you, on behalf of us all, to Tricia Coaker who is relinquishing her task of a decade to ensure that the monthly flower delivery runs smoothly. Those of us who have been recipients of Church flowers, in times of joy as well as sorrow, know just how much pleasure these flowers bring and appreciate the work that has to go on behind the scenes to make it possible.

