



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

NEWSLETTER

Volume 67 No 6

JULY/AUGUST 2011

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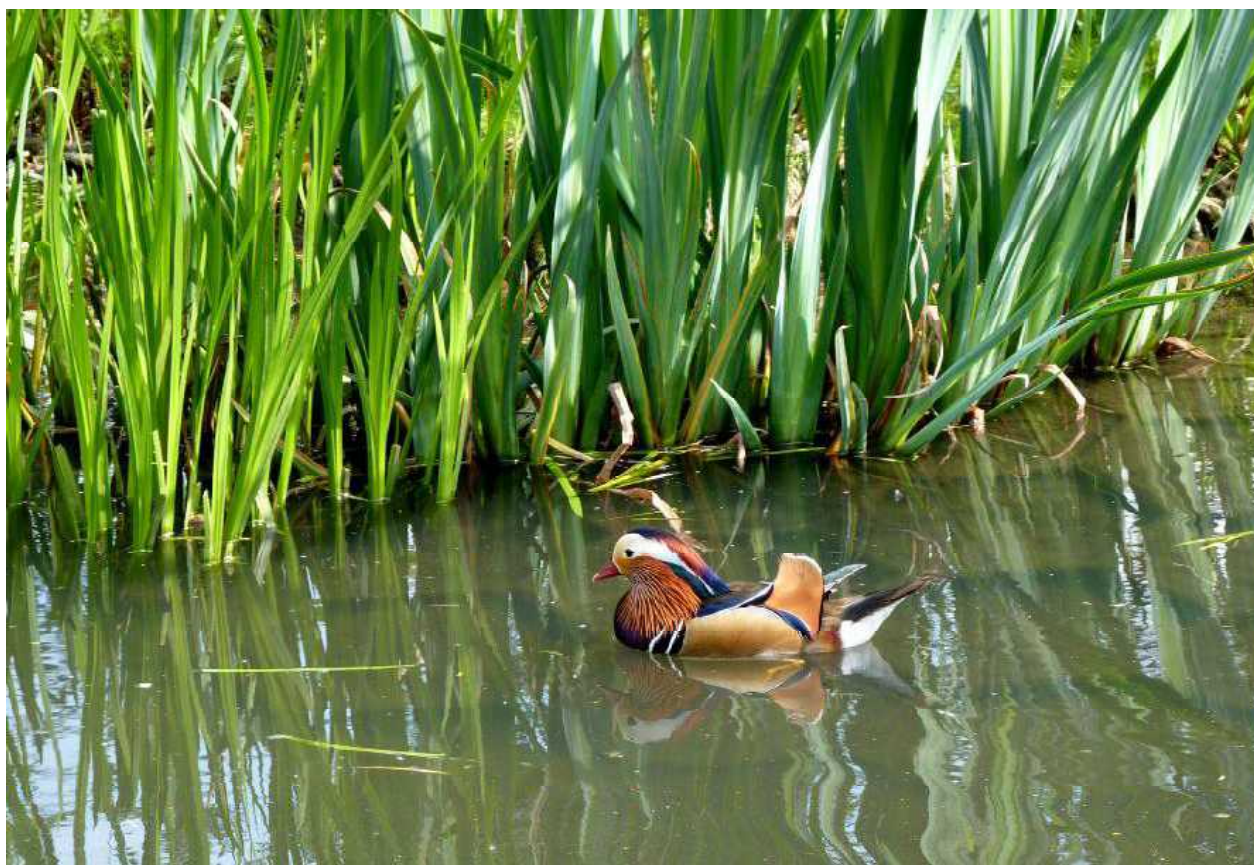
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*What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters
compared to what lies within us*

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Dear Friends,

The Micklem household is just at the second anniversary of two significant events: two years ago I was ordained and inducted at St Andrew's — and we bought a new car. It continues to be a wonderful privilege to be your minister — and the car's still quite nice as well. The satellite navigation system especially goes on being invaluable, if not entirely infallible. I have, for example, found out the hard way that several of the roads which it suggests around Walton and Weybridge are in fact blocked off or gated.

I have also found out that — although it usually lands me pretty much literally on the doorstep of where I want to go — occasionally the sat-nav will blithely tell me that I have arrived at my destination when I am still at least half a street away. Curiously, the system seems to do this most often on wet and windy evenings in winter, in roads where the street lighting is particularly poor.

In the church, we often use the metaphor of pilgrimage or journeying to help us think about our future. We ask for the light of the Spirit to shine on our way; and we talk of setting a direction or following a path. Sometimes we even feel that we've got the next steps pretty clearly mapped out: in the same way as I might programme the car's sat-nav, we know where we are starting from and we have a good idea of what the next destination should be.

But having a route-map programmed into the sat-nav isn't the same as actually making the journey. Other preparations are also needed: deciding when to go, for example; and making sure that there is enough fuel in the tank.

And that's true in our life as a church, too. Simply having ideas of where we want to go and of how to get there aren't quite enough. We have to do more than just plan a route: we have to make sure we've got the right resources for the journey — the right commitment of time and energy; the determination to find our way round obstacles; and the confidence that we are truly guided not by some disembodied and error-prone sat-nav voice, but by the Word of God.

Your minister,

Ronilly

SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES IN JULY 2011
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Sunday 3 July <i>(Pentecost 3)</i>	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by the Reverend Roy Bones
Monday 4 July	2.00 pm	Bridge Club, Hersham Room (last meeting until September)
Tuesday 5 July	2.00 pm	Ladies Guild Hersham Room
	8.00 pm	Elders' Meeting Hersham Room
Wednesday 6 July	2.00 pm	Prayer Group 4 Grange Court Ashley Road Walton-on-Thames
Sunday 10 July <i>(Pentecost 4)</i>	10.30 am	Sunday Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday 17 July <i>(Pentecost 5)</i>	10.30 am	Sunday Worship
	6.00 pm	United Service of Holy Communion, Guildford URC <i>(organised by the North Eastern Area Synod Pastoral Committee)</i>
Tuesday 19 July	2.00 pm	Ladies Guild, Hersham Room
Wednesday 20 July	2.00 pm	Prayer Group 4 Grange Court Ashley Road Walton-on-Thames
Sunday 24 July <i>(Pentecost 9)</i>	10.30 am	Sunday Worship
Sunday 31 July <i>(Pentecost 7)</i>	10.30 am	'All-Age Worship'



Traidcraft Stall after the service



SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES IN AUGUST 2011



The Minister is on holiday in August

Neither the Elders nor the Bridge Club will meet in August

Tuesday 2 August	2.00 pm	Ladies Guild, Hersham Room
Sunday 7 August <i>(Pentecost 8)</i>	10.30 am	Sunday Worship conducted by the Reverend Iain Stewart
Tuesday 10 August	2.00 pm	Ladies Guild, Hersham Room
Sunday 14 August <i>(Pentecost 9)</i>	10.30 am	Sunday Worship taken by Mr Graham Pearcey

COPY DATE FOR SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER: WEDNESDAY 17 AUGUST
ALL ITEMS TO THE EDITOR,
NORMA REID, 3 GWALIOR ROAD, LONDON SW15 1NP
aristocats.2000@talktalk.net

Tuesday 16 August	2.00 pm	Ladies Guild, Hersham Room
Sunday 21 August <i>(Pentecost 10)</i>	10.30 am	Sunday Worship taken by Vivien Gerhold
Sunday 28 August <i>(Pentecost 11)</i>	10.30 am	All-Age Worship taken by Thelma Roberts

 *Traidcraft Stall after the service* 

Tuesday 30 August	2.00 pm	Ladies Guild, Hersham Room
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ELDERS' NEWS

The last few months of Elders' meetings have been full with deep discussion and soul searching. Over the last six months there have been two meetings a month, the normal first Tuesday of the month has been the regular business meeting, the second meeting, usually on the penultimate Tuesday, has been in regard to the training needs, strengths, weakness and vision for the future. This has all helped with the now priority of the LMMR review. A statement about this was made to the church meeting and is reproduced below.

The business side has seen the Elders tackle such thorny questions as the much-lauded URC advertising campaign, The Area Synod Pastoral Committee paper on Synod Deployment and Team Pastorates. This, coming at the present time, has not been easy.

Other points covered have been:

- Employment of the youth worker - so far we have 7 expressions of interest.
- THE Mast
- The usual reports on finance, maintenance, the Church Diary, Street Angels, Vision 4 Life Groups, and updates on all those within the congregation who need our prayers.

All these are full and taxing meetings, but, at the end, we all feel that St Andrew's is going forward. We ask for your prayers and support that, in God's strength we will as a congregation prevail and grow in the Spirit.

Anna Crawford
Church Secretary

LOCAL MINISTRY AND MISSION REVIEW (LMMR)

With the departure of the Reverend Phillip Jones from Weybridge, the Pastoral situation in both churches has changed. The area Pastoral Committee has asked both churches to enter into the Local Ministry and Mission Review process. This involves looking at all aspects of the churches life and work, strengths weaknesses, aspirations and a practical way forward to achieve them.

The Elders have already made a start on this process. We will be having a meeting with Peter Hurter, one of the authors of the process, hopefully to gain insight and clarification on a number of questions and concerns that we have. The end result of this process will be a Review document and a new Pastorate Profile, both of which will be brought to this meeting for approval. As yet we have no time scale.

The Elders are very conscious of the ramifications that the result of this review could have on the life and work of St Andrew's, especially the work pattern of our minister. We ask for your prayers that we will be guided to a satisfactory and God-driven conclusion.

Anna Crawford
Church Secretary



COFFEE SHOP CLOSED!



There will be the usual summer break in July and August for Lunches and Coffee Mornings

There will be no House Group Meetings for the time being



WESSEX SYNOD

United Service of Holy Communion
Saturday 17 July at 6.00 pm

BRIDGE CLUB



Monday 4 July
2.00 pm
Hersham Room
One session only in July
Summer break in August

LADIES GUILD
Meetings will now be fortnightly



July
Tuesdays 5 and 19 July
August
Tuesdays 2, 16 and 30 August
2.00 pm
Hersham Room
Please do come along for the chat and catch up with your knitting!

PRAYER GROUP
Wednesdays 6 and 20 July
2.00 pm
4 Grange Court
Ashley Road
Walton-on-Thames
Summer break in August

Guildford United Reformed Church
83 Portsmouth Road
Guildford GU2 4BS

! ADVANCE NOTICE !

DIARY DATE



The next coffee morning will be on **Wednesday 7 September** at the home of Nancy Hampton, in aid of our sponsored children
More details in the September issue

! IMPORTANT!

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER ISSUE

Due to the Editor's absence on holiday between mid- October and mid- November, there will be a combined **October/November** issue coming out on **Sunday 3 October**

The deadline for this double issue will be Wednesday 14 September

WALTON AND WEYBRIDGE FLOWER CLUB

Walton and Weybridge Flower Club are coming to St Andrew's Church as from September 2011. We are very excited about the move and are looking forward to inviting more of St Andrew's church members and community to join our growing NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arrangers) Affiliated Club of 90 members.



We meet the first Thursday of the month from 1.30 pm to 4.00 pm to enjoy meeting friends, watch professional floral demonstrations with monthly arrangement competitions for beginners through to advance level. From time to time we hold workshops to help build and develop our flower arranging skills.

Do come and give us a try and check us out. We are offering a first meeting concession of £3.50 when you bring a copy of this magazine.

Looking forward to welcoming you on September 1st.

Esther Wood
Chairman



RING OUT WILD (WALTON) BELLS!

Congratulations to our friends at St Mary's Church in Church Street, Walton. For the last eighteen months, work has been in hand to renovate their peal of bells. They have now been re-hung and are being re-installed in the Church Tower. So, the English sound of Church bells will once again be heard ringing out over Walton town centre.

A Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication is taking place on Sunday 26th June at 6.30pm.

Margaret Ward

JUNIOR CHURCH – JUNE

We haven't had a "flaming June". But we've had three festival Sundays in June to celebrate – each with different and exciting things to learn and do.

On Ascension Sunday, we focused on "Christ in glory" – comparing some very old pictures of the ascended Christ (the Ravenna mosaics – below)



With some more modern representations, eg Graham Sutherland's magnificent tapestry in Coventry Cathedral. We made our own pictures of smiling worlds, with symbols of the risen Christ around them.

For Pentecost, we made streamers – with red and yellow tissue ribbons to represent the fire of the spirit. The children ran their streamers up the aisle to wave them at the front of the church as the blessing was given – very symbolic.

(The children all kept their streamers – so here is mine: as you can see, in the right spot by the window it blows nicely!)





Finally, for Trinity, we thought about symbols of the “three in one” God. Our two symbols were the shamrock; and also the Trinity triangle.

These went with learning a new round (to Frère Jacques)

*“God the Father, God the Father
God the Son, God the Son
God the Holy Spirit, God the Holy Spirit
Three in One, Three in One.”*

We sang this with everyone in Church; and also shared some “trinity chocolates” (courtesy of Toblerone). All good ways to remember and to celebrate.

Bridget

PS

Most of you will have seen the article in the *Surrey Advertiser* on our campaign against the phone mast. I was very struck by the fact that the journalist – clearly not a church-goer – referred to the line-up of children holding their “NO PHONE MAST” message as “the junior section of the Church”. I thought this expression was brilliant.

It is sometimes possible to fall into the trap of thinking that somehow the children’s work and worship is separate from the adult church. But here was an outsider understanding intuitively that we’re all one. Wonderful!

B

DEAD SEA SCROLLS

Robert Feather

explains the relevance of the Three Temples in Jerusalem
and connections to the Jews, Jesus and Egypt

Tuesday 12 July at 7.00 pm – refreshments afterwards

Thames Ditton Village Centre
Mercer Close, Thames Ditton, Surrey KT7 OBS

If you would like to attend please contact Rushna on 01932 248751
Email: rushna@master11.wanadoo.co.uk

DONATIONS SINCERELY APPRECIATED

**Robert Feather is a member of the Orion Centre for the Study of the Dead Sea
Scrolls and a noted author and broadcaster on the subject**

THE WORD REVEALED - THE MUSIC



The first I knew of this Festival Service was one day back in January when I was studying the *Royal School of Church Music's* website for anthems and general music ideas for Passiontide and Easter. I was able to download the 'bare bones' of the "Cross of Christ" meditation service for Good Friday and also this Festival Service to commemorate 400 years of the King James Bible. I was soon in discussions with Romilly who was very happy to run with both ideas.

I set to work to decide on the music from the large suggested selection and Romilly worked on the Prayers and Readings. Bit-by-bit, and after many, many e-mails, we came up with the very pleasing mixture of hymns, anthems, readings and prayers which we heard on Sunday 19 July.

As you are all aware, our loyal choir is rather small, especially in the lower voices, so, early in the preparations, I sought the help of a few friends to join us at the end. At this time it was Bridget and Romilly, with Bridget's mother and father, plus an old friend of mine, John Lillis. My friend Bill Hayward (former organist for a short time before me) agreed to come down from Shrewsbury to play the organ.

Unfortunately, only ten days before the planned event, I learned that Holms Carlile would be in hospital on the 19th, and probably Christine would be visiting him. DOOM AND DESPAIR!!!! I then had to do some radical re-thinking. With Holms (tenor) out, I persuaded John Lillis (who normally sings bass) to sing tenor with Bridget's dad. This now left a problem in the Bass department as only Romilly would be there but only some of the time as he was needed "at the other end"... My younger son, Chris, came to the rescue and drove down from Hitchin for the afternoon. Bridget herself was persuaded to sing soprano (she normally sings alto) as long as some of the very high music was transposed down a bit. This left a gap in the altos, so I asked another old friend Iain Nisbet (counter-tenor) to sing alto with Hilary.

I think it all worked and, personally, I was very pleased with the singing results. I hope you all appreciated the whole Commemorative Service. I made a recording, copies of which *might* be available – watch this space.

Paul Reed

THE WORD REVEALED – THE SERVICE



Sunday 19th June saw an innovation at St. Andrew's: a service at 3pm, to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Authorised version of the Bible — the King James Version.

This was a programme of words and music, based on a compilation from the Royal School of Church Music, which traced the story of the English Bible and set the King James Version in its historical context.

Passages were read by the usual readers at the Church, and with hymns and choral pieces led by an augmented Choir.

The service began with the placing of the Bible on the Communion Table, symbolising the centrality of the Word in the Reformed tradition. Among the readings was a passage in Greek, given a virtuoso performance by our Minister. A visiting reader was the Rev Roger Scopes, father of Bridget Micklem, who appropriately read a passage about the Word being proclaimed in all the World. Other readers included Hilary Netherwood, Daphne Weston, Nancy Hampton, Paula Walsh, Anne Fitzgerald, Bridget Micklem, John Hutson, Norma Reid and Sue Groves.

The musical offerings were splendidly performed. As visiting organist, we welcomed a former Walton resident Bill Hayward, recently retired as organist at Shrewsbury Abbey, who is now accompanist to the well-known tenor Russell Watson, and has travelled all over the world with him.

The hymns and other musical items related to the Word and included such well-known anthems as "Lead me, Lord," and a chorus from Handel's "Messiah." The celebration ended with the powerful hymn: "Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord" and a splendid organ voluntary.

It was an inspiring and uplifting event. The Minister thanked our director of music Paul Reed for suggesting the Service, as well as all the readers, and the visiting organist and singers for their hard work in preparation and performance.

And following St. Andrew's own tradition, the Service was followed by tea with delicious homemade cakes.

Margaret Ward



TRAIDCRAFT APPEAL



As you are aware, on the last Sunday of the month we have a Traidcraft Stall set up in the hall after the morning service. In the last few months, the response has been very disappointing. Elizabeth Edmiston, Katie Reardon, Piers Micklem and Sue Groves enjoy spending time to help with this venture and they would encourage members of the congregation to do all they can to support this stall.

We appreciate that the items on sale cost slightly more than your average 'Aldi' purchase but, please, do remember that we are supporting Third World farmers, with the aim of helping them to obtain a better standard of life. *Sue Groves*

9th Walton-on-Thames (St Andrew's) Brownies BROWNIE HOLIDAY – ICANDO London June 2011

The poor people sitting quietly, minding their own business on the 16:39 train to Waterloo, on the 1st June, had no idea of what was about to descend upon them! 22 very excited Brownies were waiting as patiently as we could, on the platform at Walton Railway Station, laden down with backpacks and sleeping bags.

The train pulled into the station and everyone climbed into the 3rd carriage of the train, which was instantly filled with excited chatter and laughter. Then we were off to London Victoria, via Clapham Junction, and the start of our real adventure – a Brownie holiday in London.



We arrived at ICANDO at 17:50 – 10 minutes earlier than the official time we were permitted in, but we tried the bell anyway and luckily the lovely volunteer Rebecca let us in. We had only had a 5 minute walk from the station, but it felt like 5 hours with all our luggage.

After a quick drink we went off to explore. ICANDO is Girlguiding UK's activity centre and we could not believe all the exciting things we found to do. There was a stage and puppet show, loads of games and the best bit of all, was that we could make as much noise as we wanted!! We even had a go at "STOMP" having fun making a music & dance routine to show everyone else.



Despite a very late night for some of us, who took a long time to get to sleep!
The next morning,
we were up and raring to go.

After a quick continental breakfast we set off towards Westminster, arriving at 09:45, just in time to hear Big Ben chime the 1/4 hour. We were delighted to hear it was the tune Westminster Bells, which we sing our own "Brownie Bells" to, at the end of Brownies each week.



We caught a boat to Greenwich which had a live commentary of the sites, bridges and buildings along the River Thames, which was really interesting.

We were completing the London Challenge Badge whilst in London, looking out for all the various tourist sites. Brown Owl had given us a diary to tick off everything we saw along the Thames



and it was amazing how much there was to see.....



After 1 1/2 hours we arrived at Greenwich Pier.

What Brown Owl had kept very quiet was, that we had to walk up a long, steep hill to reach the Royal Observatory and although we went slowly it was quite a slog for a lot of us and we were very glad of the drink and jaffa cakes at the top!

The view was amazing across to the city and O2, plus back up the River Thames, which we had just come along.



We spent the day at Greenwich, but unfortunately the planetarium show we had booked for was cancelled. This was because the equipment had failed, which was a real shame as we had really been looking forward to this.



We then waited excitedly at 12:55 to watch the red Greenwich Time Ball climb slowly up to the top of it's pole and sat for ages watching to see it fall again, wondering how fast it would go.



We waited and waited!

and waited and waited!! but nothing happened.



Eventually someone went to ask what had gone wrong and we discovered this wasn't working properly either, because it had been struck by lightning a couple of days ago which had

We especially enjoyed looking at the scene below us, where they had started to build the equestrian centre for the 2012 Olympics, through The Camera Obscura. We also had a great talk about the sun and shadows, after which we made our own sundial to take home.



We all had a turn at standing on the meridian line and putting one foot in each half of the world.

Before long it was time to go and we caught a fast commuter ferry back to Westminster and a delicious pizza for tea.



The next morning we were not so keen to get up! The very late 1st night and lots of walking and fresh air had made us sleep very well. Unfortunately, Brown Owl said there was no time to lie in, so we slowly came to and got ready for another fun day.

First we went across the road to Westminster Cathedral and climbed its tower. This gave us some amazing panoramic views out over London in all directions.

We then headed off towards Horse Guards Parade, through St. James Park.



We just made it in time to see the Household Cavalry changing their guard, at what is, the official entrance to Buckingham Palace.



Afterwards we went straight into the Household Cavalry Museum and watched the old guard bring their horses inside. We did a quiz whilst looking around the museum, made some clay buttons, using imprint stamps and even got to try on some uniforms, which was really funny as they were so big for us.



Next we walked through the official entrance to Buckingham Palace, where we saw one of the "Blues & Royals" soldiers, who we had watched at "Changing the Guard" earlier, who was now on guard duty. We then turned right and walked along Whitehall where....

the highlight of the holiday came as a complete surprise to us.....

We arrived at a street, fenced off with metal railings and lots of policemen with guns and realised this was Downing Street. Lots of us were asking why we couldn't go down it and Brown Owl suddenly said, "Shall I go and ask the policeman if we can?"

Miraculously, when she came back she said, "Come on then - let's go!!"

This was greeted by thrilled gasps from us all and lots of grumbling from the crowd of tourists who could only enviously watch us.

To our amazement, Brown Owl had organised before the holiday and without letting us know, for us to be allowed to visit. We were led through a gate and into a room with airport like security. The adults had to put all their bags through the scanner and we all had to go through a metal detector, but THEN WE WERE IN!



We walked right up to the door of No. 10 and were allowed to take loads of photos.



Lots of people came in and out of the famous black door, whilst we were there, which gave us a good peep inside, but there was no sign of the Prime Minister. We did however see the famous Downing Street Cat!



Our very last stop was "The Royal Mews".

Here, we were shown lots of horses and carriages that had been used for the Royal Wedding, or were going to be used the following week for "Trooping the Colour"

We all thought the most fabulous coach was the Gold State Coach, which will be used in 2012 for the Queens Diamond Jubilee.



Finally it was time to go home, so we packed our bags and headed for a crowded commuter train back to Walton, a nice warm bath and bed - we were all very tired, but happy and had had a wonderful time.

Suzanne Hirst
Brown Owl - 9th Walton (St Andrews) Brownies



Mavis Netherwood says many thanks for the beautiful spray of flowers which were cheerfully and kindly delivered by Carole. The flowers were greatly appreciated as was Carole's visit.

A message from Paul Reed:

"A belated 'Thank you' for the lovely flowers from the table which were delivered by Ann Fitzgerald on Sunday afternoon, 22nd May. They lasted for two weeks. I think this kind gesture was after I had stupidly fallen off a ladder on the Thursday evening mending a fuse. I seemed to have "strained parts of me I didn't know I had!!"

Tom Stevenson writes:

"On returning home after a lovely 90th Birthday celebration with family on Sunday 29 May, I was delighted to find a lovely bunch of roses kindly left in my newspaper box. As I look at them they are a constant reminder of the many friends I have at St Andrew's. I would also like to say thank you to the many people who sent cards to mark this milestone. Thank you – everyone."

A message from **Mary Dow**:

"Thank you so much for the beautiful arrangement of roses I received from the Communion Table last week, delivered by Anne Fitzgerald. I very much enjoyed Anne's visit and the flowers have given me great pleasure. Thank you to all at St. Andrew's!"

The Dow-Reardon family say they think themselves lucky to have received flowers on several occasions recently.

Paula Walsh says:

"I was delighted to receive flowers from the Communion Table, delivered by Anne Fitzgerald. I had been feeling a little low lately so these really cheered me up. Thanks to all at St Andrew's"

Sue and Ray Groves write:

"It was lovely to receive some flowers delivered by Anne Fitzgerald following the death of Ray's brother. Many thanks."

Bill Murray says:

"I was delighted to receive a beautiful bouquet of flowers from the Communion Table one Monday in June. I very much appreciated Carole Kowalski's kindness in delivering them to me."

A message from **Elizabeth Edmiston**

"Such a lovely surprise on opening my front door, in response to a knock, to find Pat Coker standing there with an exquisite bunch of pink peonies. What pleasure they have given me! They were so lovely I photographed the arrangement! Thank you for thinking of me."

And another from **Holms and Christine Carlile**:

"We were delighted to receive some gorgeous flowers from the Communion Table kindly delivered by Carole Kowalski. Unfortunately, we were out when Carole called so were unable to have a chat. The flowers are truly beautiful, wonderful colours, and have given us much pleasure. Many thanks."



Commitment for Life

Johnston Simpson

 **Fradreck goes to school!** The June newsletter described 9 year old Fradreck's tough existence in dreadful living conditions often sleeping outside in a wrecked truck. His dearest wish was to be able to attend school and quote *'be like other boys.'* A few days after I sent that article to our editor, I received a donation from a member of the congregation which has made his dream come true. Within 10 days from receipt of this gift, with the help of sculptor Godwin Nasho, one happy little boy resplendent in his new uniform carrying exercise books, pencils, lunchtime drink and lunchtime snacks set off for Chiedza Primary school – his fees paid for a year. Fradreck said *'may God be with St Andrew's.'* Godwin said that teacher Mrs Chipo Guhwa and headmaster Mr Makusha are also



delighted and wish they could find similar assistance for other needy children.

(Photos: Above, Fradreck in makeshift 'bedroom.' Below, Fradreck arrives at school & makes a friend).



Unfortunately Fradreck's widowed mother Fadzai who somehow managed to scrape together enough dollars to cover a term's fees for his 12 yr old sister Catherine, cannot afford next term's fees so a very disappointed little girl has had to forego school and stay at home to help her mother in the family vegetable plot (see left), their main source of food. This is typical of many children all desperate and so appreciative of an education without which they know their chance of any quality to their lives is zero.



Artpeace morale is rock bottom yet again and I have received many requests for help. Andrew Mabanji was extremely grateful for our donations re purchase of 'Christ Arising' but most of this went on hospital fees as his wife Gamu miscarried after 6 months. *(photo left: Gamu in hospital).* However, without this attention, her life would have been in danger. They lost their 2 month daughter Taonashe less than a year ago. Andrew is exhausted and stressed. He got a message to me saying he had great difficulty breathing. Fr David commented: '*Andrew came two days ago hardly able to stand. He seemed very ill. We gave him some money to help with his going to the doctor. The group just bounce from crisis to crisis.*' Their President frequently commandeers one of the country's few serviceable remaining aircraft to fly him or his family to Singapore for the finest medical attention costing the State tens of thousands of dollars. Sometimes I get angry with the unfairness of it all and the tales of suffering – it can be relentless. The support St Andrew's gives so unflinchingly should never be underestimated for without it, life would be unbearable for numerous Zimbabweans.



Good News in more ways than one for artist Lizeni Nasho who has finally received her Good News bible from St Andrew's since we replaced our bibles with the New Revised



Standard Version. Lizeni has always wanted her own bible (there are no books in the Nasho household). 4 more GN bibles taken over by a Cafod friend from Staines have been given to prisoners at the notorious Harare Central Prison where David HB is a chaplain. By Zimbabwean standards, Lizeni would probably not be alive today but for St Andrew's support. She almost died from cholera a few years ago. Her late father Bechani's eyesight was restored thanks to another donation so he could see his grandchildren again. School fees

have been paid as has her hysterectomy operation which caused so much anxiety. This is why your continued support is so vital for people like Lizeni - breadwinner for 15. She is always the first to help others in a crisis – so many people depend on her. *(Photo: Lizeni reading the Good News bible to her nieces Ellen and Faustina).*

Synod Family Day at Fawley Hall. The day started ominously with no gazebo in place for our Zimbabwe crafts: simply a large box with a mass of canvas, 3 dozen poles and no instructions! Fortunately Martin Ashford from Marlow URC saved the day. Massive gusts of wind and heavy squalls forced stallholders to hang onto guy ropes like grim death lest they were sucked up into the sky to join a pair of magnificent red kites wheeling overhead. However the day went splendidly. Over £800 was raised with many URCs and our new moderator being introduced to our work. We also had a visit from Sacred Heart at Henley where Fr John Dove the founder of SH was a young priest over 50 years ago. *(Photo: Susan manning the fort).*



The Way Ahead: I am struggling rather with shed sales although Heather Macaulay (and friend) down from Edinburgh paid a welcome visit recently. Couriers are few and far apart and it is expensive shipping over a crate. Perhaps it's time to look afresh at the sculpture/craft side of things. Over the years, our example and mission has inspired many other URCs and their communities throughout the country to become involved but recently, interest has flagged although this could change. I have a few ideas to enable St Andrew's to continue support for our hard pressed friends. Some are perhaps a little adventurous but like several other aspects of St Andrew's, change (read opportunity) may be necessary. With an election looming, even more testing and potentially dangerous times are forecast for Zimbabwe as its tyrants are prepared to do anything to retain power and wealth. Our friends will need all the help we can give.

Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories



Intifada Marwan: Giving back

Just outside Bethlehem in a place called the Shepherds' Fields is the Beit Sahour branch of the YMCA, a Christian Aid partner. Marwan is one of the highly trained counsellors who work with those who have spent time in Israeli prisons. He works with the young men, in their own homes, to help them become part of society again. An estimated one in three Palestinian men will spend some time in an Israeli prison,

many because they have thrown stones at Israeli soldiers.

"It is very hard if the reason you went to prison in the first place is still there when you return home," Marwan said, referring to the continued occupation of the Palestinian territories, and the increasing poverty and despair among Palestinian communities.

In the last 3 years problems have only increased and the YMCA has found that, when a young man is released, the rest of the family also need help to adjust to the new situation, especially if they are coping with a disability received as a result of the conflict. The YMCA feels that unless they intervene now, attitudes will harden beyond melting.

During the second Intifada Marwan was caught in an Israeli attack and lost most of his leg. The YMCA helped him and his family to adapt to life with his false leg and be confident again. He was so grateful for the kindness and practical help shown to him that he decided he wanted to give something back and trained as a counsellor. He explained how important his job is in helping to build dialogue and peace:

"We can't mess with these lives. The results would be disastrous for Palestinian and Israeli society."

LOVE OUR YOUTH WORKER

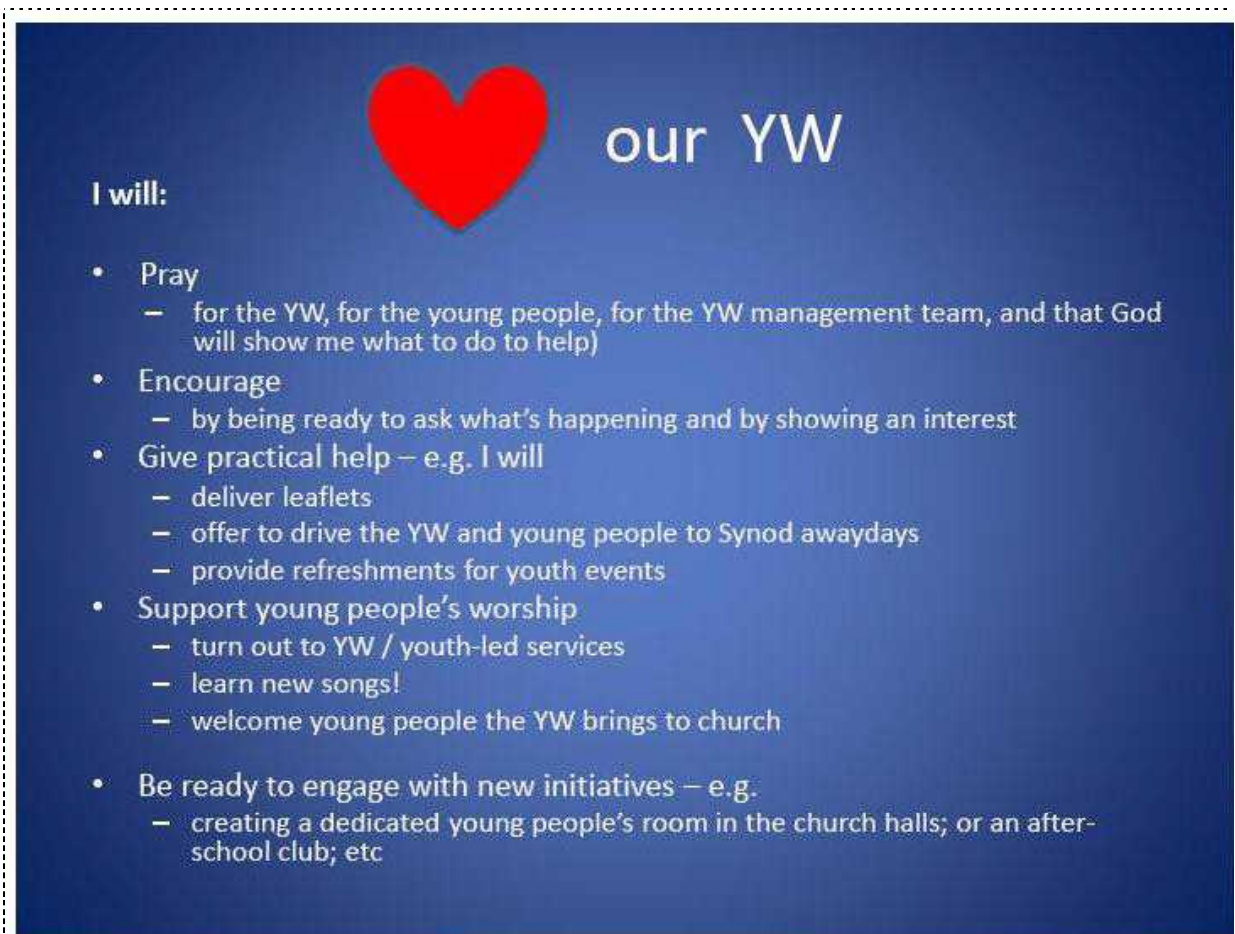
I presented this slide at the June Church meeting and noted that I'd get it put in the Church magazine.

As I said at the meeting, it's important that we are ALL involved with our youth worker project; and I'm sure that there is at least ONE thing on this list that EVERYONE can do.

So please cut out this page, stick it on your fridge, and join us in a commitment to our common adventure.

Bridget

(If you don't want to cut into your newsletter, you can pick up a copy from the Church porch! Ed)



I will:

- Pray
 - for the YW, for the young people, for the YW management team, and that God will show me what to do to help)
- Encourage
 - by being ready to ask what's happening and by showing an interest
- Give practical help – e.g. I will
 - deliver leaflets
 - offer to drive the YW and young people to Synod awaydays
 - provide refreshments for youth events
- Support young people's worship
 - turn out to YW / youth-led services
 - learn new songs!
 - welcome young people the YW brings to church
- Be ready to engage with new initiatives – e.g.
 - creating a dedicated young people's room in the church halls; or an after-school club; etc