



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

NEWSLETTER

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MINISTER

The Reverend Dr Romilly Micklem
10 Tudor Avenue
Hampton
TW12 2NA

Tel : 020 8783 0045

E-mail: minister@micklems.madasafish.com

CHURCH SECRETARY

Anna Crawford
'Kerrera'
5 Wynton Grove
Walton-on-Thames
KT12 1LW

Tel: 01932 244466

E-mail: secretary@standrewsurc.org

Website: www.standrewsurc.org





Dear Friends,

In one of our recent meetings, the Elders and I tried to make a list of all the things which have changed in our Sunday morning worship over the last two years. Off the top of my head, I thought there would be four or five things on our list — but in fact when we got down to thinking systematically about each part of the service, between us we very quickly came up with a round dozen. I wonder if that surprises you: can you think of twelve things which have changed — and if so, do you still notice them in each service?

Now I appreciate that this is a risky thing to say and invites a torrent of complaints... but over the last two years I can only recall one person rather wistfully asking if we could go back to doing just one of those things the way we had before. Most of the changes simply happened without any adverse comment; and many of them were even enthusiastically welcomed at the time, with lots of positive feedback.

By now you may be wondering where this is going. Is there going to be some sort of ministerial Kim's game, where you try and spot the twelve changes, list them on a postcard and pop it under the vestry door in the hope of winning a glamorous prize? Sadly not — though I would be glad to hear from anyone who manages to come up with a list of more than twelve things that have changed in our worship since July 2009!

My point is that change is going on constantly, all around us — and for most of the time, we either don't really notice it, or we simply take it in our stride. And yet many people will stoutly maintain that they don't like change. I suspect the truth is that it's uncertainty which we don't like, rather than change itself. Yet times of uncertainty can also be times of great opportunity: a chance to review what's happening our life; to look at the good things, and decide how to make them even better and do more of them; and to look at the things we are less satisfied with — and decide how to improve them or to stop doing them altogether.

So as we begin to get used to our shiny new noticeboards over the next few weeks, and as we come closer to appointing a Youth Worker, and as we say goodbye to Rev Phillip Jones with every good wish for his move to Guildford, let's not be overwhelmed by uncertainties. Instead, let's embrace the opportunity together to re-think and re-shape our life of discipleship and witness.

Here's to the next twelve dozen changes!

Ronilly

SERVICES AND OTHER KEY DATES JUNE 2011

Wednesday 1 June	12.15 pm	Lunch in the Church Hall Debbie Cooper will speak on 'Nutrition'
Sunday 5 June (Ascension Day)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship <i>(Note: The Reverend Phillip Jones will conduct his last service at Weybridge)</i>
Monday 6 June	2.00 pm	Bridge Club, Hersham Room
Tuesday 7 June	8.00 pm	Elders' Meeting, Hersham Room
Wednesday 8 June	2.00 pm	Prayer Group 4 Grange Court, Ashley Road Walton-on-Thames
Sunday 12 June (Pentecost)	10.30 am	Sunday Worship with Holy Communion followed by
	12.00 noon	Church Meeting
Tuesday 14 June	2.00 pm	Ladies Guild, Hersham Room

<p><i>COPY DATE FOR JULY ISSUE <u>WEDNESDAY 15 JUNE</u></i> <i>ALL ITEMS TO THE EDITOR, NORMA REID,</i> <i>3 GWALIOR ROAD, LONDON SW15 1NP</i> <i>Email: aristocats.2000@talktalk.net</i></p>
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Saturday 18 June		Synod Day "Steaming Away" Fawley Hill, Henley-on-Thames
Sunday 19 June (Trinity Sunday)	10.30 am 3.00 pm	Sunday Worship "The Word Revealed" <i>A Service to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of King James Bible</i>
Monday 20 June	2.00 pm	Bridge Club, Hersham Room
Wednesday 22 June	2.00 pm	Prayer Group 4 Grange Court, Ashley Road Walton-on-Thames
Saturday 25 June	3.00 pm	Induction of The Reverend Phillip Jones at Guildford URC, Portsmouth Road, Guildford
Sunday 26 June (Pentecost 2)	10.30 am	All-Age Worship The service will be taken by Mr Martyn Daldorph
		 Traidcraft stall after the Service on 26 June 
Tuesday 28 June	2.00 pm	Ladies Guild, Hersham Room

ROYAL WEDDING PRAYER

This simple and moving prayer was reported as having been composed by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge for their Wedding on 29 April 2011.

“God our Father, we thank you for our families, for the love that we share, for the joy of our marriage.

In the business of each day, keep our eyes fixed on what is real and important in life and help us to be generous with our time and love and energy.

Strengthened by our union, help us to serve and comfort those who suffer. We ask this in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.

As printed in the Daily Telegraph, 30 April 2011

ELDERS' NEWS

INDUCTION OF ELDERS

On Sunday 15th May, the Minister conducted the Induction of Elders.

Both Anne Fitzgerald and Johnston Simpson had previously been ordained as Elders and had been re-elected at the March AGM to serve for a further three-year term. The brief ceremony included the reading of the Statement of the Basis of Unity of the URC by the Church Secretary, before Anne and Johnston were welcomed by the Minister and the Church Secretary, by giving the Right Hand of Fellowship.

Paula Walsh had also been re-elected at the AGM, but will be formally inducted on another occasion.

Margaret Ward

THE REVEREND PHILLIP JONES

We are very sorry to learn of the departure of the Rev. Phillip Jones from our sister Church in Weybridge. Phillip has accepted a Call to minister at Portsmouth Road URC in Guildford and will be leaving Weybridge in June. He took his last service at Walton on Sunday 8th May, with the theme that our God is a God of surprises, relating to his surprise at receiving a call to Portsmouth Road, after only five years at Weybridge.

We shall miss Phillip's robust Welsh style of preaching and singing, and wish him well in Guildford.

Margaret Ward

CHURCH LUNCH



Wednesday 1 June 12.15 pm

St Andrew's Church Hall

This month our speaker is Debbie Cooper whom, you may recall, spoke to us last year on nutrition.

This talk will again be on nutrition but specifically in relation to Osteoporosis and Osteoarthritis.

Debbie will be delighted to take questions at the end.

All welcome!

BRIDGE CLUB



**Monday 6 and
Monday 20 June
2.00 pm
Hersham Room**

LADIES GUILD



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

**PRAYER GROUP
Wednesday 8 and
Wednesday 22 June
2.00 pm**
4 Grange Court
Ashley Road
Walton-on-Thames

*No House Groups for
the time being*

the Word Revealed



**A festival service commemorating
the 400th anniversary of the
King James Bible in words and
music**

**Sunday 19 June at 3.00 pm
followed by tea and cake in
the Church Hall**

All are welcome!



WESSEX SYNOD

**"Steaming Away"
Saturday June 18**

This promises to be a great day out for the family.

The event will be held at Fawley Hill, Henley-on-Thames, the home of Sir William McAlpine, which is not generally open to the public

EASTER AT ST ANDREW'S



Our Easter Garden

The Easter weekend began with a Communion Service at our sister Church, Weybridge URC, on Maundy Thursday. The Reverend Romilly Micklem led the Service and the Reverend Phillip Jones preached.

GOOD FRIDAY

In weather more reminiscent of High Summer than Easter, St Andrew's held a Service of Meditation, with Words and Music on Good Friday morning. Romilly and Bridget Micklem gave the readings, while the Choir and organist led the music, including "*There is a green hill far away*" and anthems "*O Saviour of the World*" and Mozart's setting of the "*Ave Verum*". Prior to the Service, the congregation met for Hot Cross Buns and coffee in the Hall.

EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Sunday was celebrated with Holy Communion. The Brownies attended, accompanied by parents and friends and sang the hymn "*Now the green blade rises*", accompanied by Paul Reed at the piano and conducted by Bridget Micklem.

In an innovation, the Brownies and Junior Church rejoined the adult congregation for the communion service. While the grown-ups broke bread and shared wine, mini Easter eggs were distributed to the children.

It was notable that, on this occasion, the majority of the congregation were seated in the front section of the Church, which enhanced the feeling of a shared community.

Margaret Ward

Bridget Micklem has added her own thoughts on Easter at St Andrew's

This year was the first time we celebrated Easter in an all-age service.

Three things stand out for me.

First there was the singing: the Brownies sang a lovely traditional carol for us; we all had learnt Caryl Micklem's wonderful Easter hymn "*Too early for the blackbird*" (which was a big surprise for the Minister!): and we finished by raising the roof with the modern worship song "How lovely on the mountains" with its triumphant refrain "*Our God reigns!*"

Then there were the Easter gardens. We had another beautiful garden in church, thanks to Anna Crawford, which provided the perfect focus for thinking about those early Easter encounters just as the sun comes up and the birds start singing....

But the children also made their own gardens with Anne Fitzgerald during the middle of the service. These were lovely – thank you Anne – and made a great keepsake for the day.



The children's small Easter Gardens featured the empty cross set on a hill and a path leading up to it. They planted cress seeds which, when you waited for them, would burst into life, just as Jesus' friends had to wait for Him to rise from the dead. Some children used plasticine to put other things in their gardens, for example trees, birds and small animals.

Finally, we had our first all-age communion. This enabled the whole church family and all our visitors to share together – with the children feasting on tiny Easter eggs while we shared bread and wine. A true communion.

So, thanks to all who made it possible.

It was a huge success and I am sure I wasn't the only one who left on a real high.

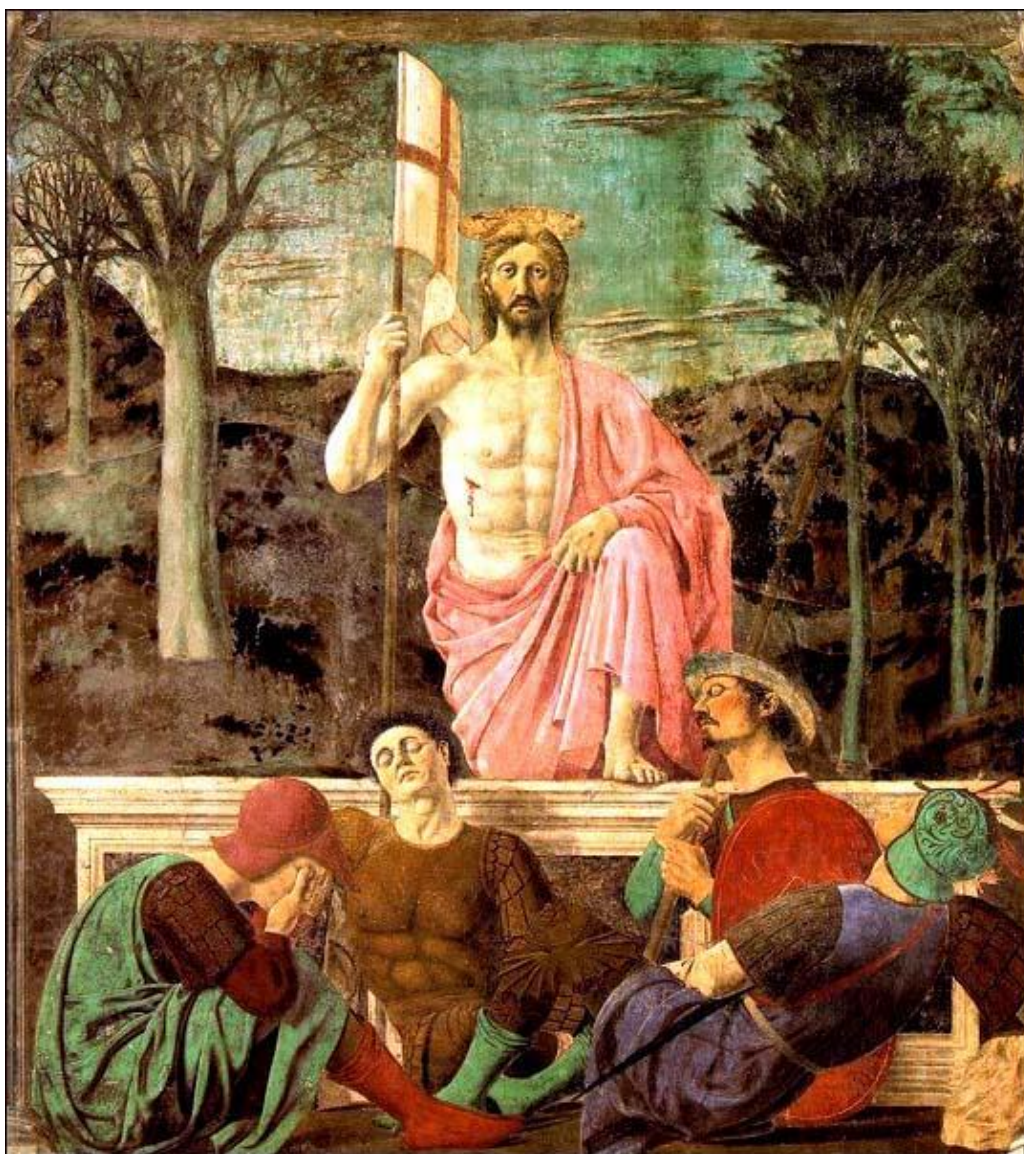
Bridget Micklem

Christ arising and arisen

One of the special things for me this Easter has been Andrew Mabanji's sculpture "Christ Arising".

Resurrection is of course a very difficult subject to depict. We all know about suffering human bodies – but trying to show what a resurrection body looks like – well that's hard. (Even the art specialists and commentators recognise the problem: for example, I discover that Hegel, in his *Lectures on Fine Art* on the portrayal of Jesus in Christian art, doubted whether it is possible for art to represent those "awesome moments in which the specifically divine aspects of Christ are revealed"...)

Until this Easter, I reckoned one of the few successful attempts to depict the resurrection was the well-known painting by Piero della Francesca (below).



This amazing painting – which I have seen in Sansepolcro in Italy – shows Christ emerging from the tomb, and planting his foot on the tomb in a gesture of conquest. The banner he carries separates the dark, dead world on the left from the verdant, spring landscape on the right.

The most arresting aspect of the picture, however, is Christ's gaze – dark and knowing of the pain he's been through, but also fully alive to his risen power. When you stand at the foot of this picture, the eyes hold you: they are utterly compelling.

I'm not the only one who loves this picture: Aldous Huxley described it as the "best painting in the world" and it was recalling this description that made a British captain ensure Sansepolcro was not shelled in World War II (thus saving it for us today).

Rowan Williams has written a poem about it:

*So the black eyes
fixed half-open, start to search, ravenous,
imperative, they look for pits, for hollows where
their flood can be decanted, look
for rooms ready for commandeering, ready
to be defeated by the push, the green implacable
rising. So he pauses, gathering the strength
in his flat foot, as the perspective buckles under him,
and the dreamers lean dangerously inwards. Contained,
exhausted, hungry, death running off his limbs like drops
from a shower, gathering himself. We wait,
paralysed as if in dreams, for his spring.*

But now, this Easter, Andrew's sculpture brings us a new insight on the moment of Christ's transition from death to life.



Andrew's Christ stands in a moment of suspense, with arms outstretched in a gesture like crucifixion but now embracing and going beyond it. The figure does not gaze at us: his eyes are downcast, as if he is concentrating in drawing together the energy now flowing through his resurrection body and saying farewell to his suffering.

This is Christ the suffering servant emerging again into the light. It is a beautiful complement to the Piero warrior and a very spiritual work. So I am very grateful to Johnston for finding it; and thank you to all of you at St Andrew's who contributed to the cost so that we can keep it here.

Bridget Micklem



Our Jamaican Partner:

Tearing down walls

Terri-Ann lives in Waltham Park Road in Bennett Land, part of downtown Kingston. She walks a short distance from her home to S-Corner's health clinic. She first heard about the clinic when she was expecting Donovan, her son, who is now 23 months. She often has to wait a long time at the clinic, which is difficult with a small child, but it is so much

better than waiting at the big hospital. Terri-Ann's partner died about four months previously and she is no longer working because she needs to look after Donovan.

Marcia has a 14-year-old son. Unemployed since being made redundant from a factory, she is still managing to pay for her son to get basic schooling and she's trying desperately to get a job. This is made more difficult in an area where unemployment is very high and a ghetto address will usually stop you getting an interview. At first, she found coming to the clinic embarrassing, but she has now built up a relationship with the nurse and doctors.

These are just two of many women who use the new clinic, opened in October 2005. CA partner S-Corner had been without a clinic since 2004 when Hurricane Ivan struck, and had been using a room in the older part of the clinic which was totally inadequate. Today, with its reception area and private consulting rooms, it provides basic health education for people who can't afford the government-run hospitals.

Rival gangs play out their fights amongst the people in the area around S-Corner. At first Angela Stultz, Director of S-Corner, found it very hard to get funding for the clinic because of the violence. Everything they managed to buy was stolen. Today, they don't even need a security guard. Angela has worked tirelessly to bring peace to the community. There had been shootings from the top and bottom of the lanes in which S-Corner is situated. One day, when things hit rock-bottom, Angela said that they would have to close. The community rely heavily on the clinic and didn't want it to close. This opened a way to start reconciliation negotiations between rival groups. Angela persuaded reggae stars to support the clinic's work. Eventually the two rival gangs met together and today they still meet and have lunch.

Peace is fragile but on New Year's Eve, the usual act of firing guns into the air did not happen. The Pastor had invited the gangs; unsure of whether they would come into a church. His efforts and faith were repaid when they came and started the New Year eating and singing together. Angela would love to build a canteen onto the clinic so that they can provide food for clients and staff. It could also make money for the centre. S-Corner could sell chickens that are being reared by its members. They have managed to build one wall of the canteen already and hope to raise money themselves with events such as Community Bingo.



How others live:

When reportedly billions were glued to their television sets watching the royal wedding, ZTV broadcast their mind-numbing daily dose of propaganda jingles praising Zanu PF and Mr Mugabe. Whilst Zimbabwe's ambassador



was invited to the wedding, his countrymen were kept in ignorance, as is the norm, through state media controls. Artpeace are often curious to know how people 'live' in Walton so I send photos of homes with one or more cars in the drive, orderly well lit clean streets, our new town centre and the river towpath etc. Compared to them, we have material riches beyond belief. Life could not be more different in areas in and around Tafara where many reside. Here are three accounts only days old of how some Zimbabweans live or rather exist. The first is from artist Godwin Nasho who took these excellent photos and wrote about life for one little boy: 'The boy in the photo (on left), settling down for the night, is Fradreck aged 9. He should be in grade 4 but, due to lack of school fees, he does not attend school. His father passed away a long time ago and the mother is HIV+. The house they stay in is made up of black polythene plastic. When his mother brings home a man at night he sleeps in the back of this wrecked car with a torn plastic sheet for a blanket. He searches for firewood and walks a distance of up to 30kms to and fro. For him to eat, he must get odd jobs and is given a plate of food. He would really appreciate some help and to go to school and be like other children.'



Above left: 9 year old Fradreck outside his home. Right: Gathering firewood.

The second report is an update from artist Fortune on Susan mentioned in a previous



NL. ' Susan Pfumayi (in the red dress) was born in Murehwa and has 2 children Noah and Jane. They used to have their own little house in Tafara. Her husband was a cook for 25 yrs to a white family. When trouble started, the white family left the country and the husband lost his job and the means to support his family. Due to stress he became ill and eventually passed away. Susan struggled to pay rent and look after the children. This resulted in the council repossessing the

house and Susan ended up in Caledonia Farm – a government transit camp. With help from church members they built this house. She now grows maize, rapoko, mhunga on her small piece of land & sometimes vegetables & tomatoes. She gets water from a nearby well. Sometimes UNICEF supply tablets to put into the water. Susan & her auntie Mary sleep in the shack. Noah and Jane sleep with neighbours. Susan is a Christian of the Apostolic Faith Mission (AFM) and goes to church every Sunday with her children. She can read & speak English due to the long association with her husband's bosses. She misses the gifts they used to get from the white man's family. The children used to get toys and school fees/books. Life was becoming unbearable without that help but thanks to St Andrew's URC, life has improved. Susan says some of the donations helped buy fertiliser & seeds so they have a good harvest this year. She says it will be a long time before she needs to visit shops to buy mealie meal thanks to seed/fertiliser bought with St A's donations. The children are happy to have new clothes & be in school again on a full stomach. Susan's auntie is Mary Rugare (left in photo) who has 4 children scattered around with other relatives. Mary stayed with her husband at a farm in Chinhoyi where he worked. The husband died and the farm was taken by force, so Mary and children became homeless. Susan took Mary to stay with her at Caledonia Farm but her children were sent to other relatives. Mary says it is a long time since she has seen or spoken to her children.'



Left: Susan with Noah and Jane. Right: Susan gathering sugar cane from her little patch of land

Thousands of families whose homes were destroyed by govt agencies in 2005 are reduced to living like this. Winter is approaching & nights are becoming very cold.

' We think death is better.' 3rd report from artist Ignatius Chinyama: 'Sitting in front of their tiny home, 71-year old John Zhual & his 68 yr old wife Constance



Mombemuriwo live in Domboshava village- 50kms from Harare. He is very ill & food is a big problem as they have no money. Sometimes they go three days without food but neighbours might give them mealie meal. The wife had a stroke: before that she used to sell vegetables to sustain them. Their only children died in a car accident

seven years ago. They use sunflower stems for firewood & they think death is better. Photo RHS: Mary Madzure 64yr old widow & mother of 4 lives in Dena Village, 20kms from Harare. Her husband and three children disappeared during the 2008 troubles. They survive on pumpkin leaves.'

NB: Support from St A's for the people in reports 1 & 3 will bring a little but quick relief!

URC concern: Representatives expressed concern at the news of the violent disruption of an ecumenical prayer service for peace at a church in Harare by Zimbabwean police last month. Their comments are based on the press statement from the Zimbabwe Christian Alliance which describes a vicious attack by Zimbabwe armed riot police on a Harare congregation of approximately 600 people. The brutal actions of the police caused serious injury to many: 14 people were arrested and taken to Harare central police station where they were charged with 'causing public violence' and held for 2 days. Commenting on this, Simon Loveitt, public issues spokesperson for the URC, said: 'This brutal attack on people gathered to pray for peace represents a new level of oppression and violence in the long litany of human rights violations by the Zimbabwe Republic Police. It now appears that even places of worship can no longer be considered as sacred or safe spaces. This raises serious concerns about the fundamental human rights of freedom of thought, conscience & belief in Zimbabwe.'

For Sale: If interested in any of these pieces please contact jbsimpson@hotmail.co.uk



These superb works of art are fit to grace any gallery & are available for sale to *any* reader of this article at very reasonable prices ranging from £25 to £110 ono. All sales proceeds are sent direct to the artists.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A group of students were asked to list what they thought were the present "Seven Wonders of the World." Though there were some disagreements, the following received the most votes:

- 1 Egypt's Great Pyramids
- 2 Taj Mahal
- 3 Grand Canyon
- 4 Panama Canal
- 5 Empire State Building
- 6 St Peter's Basilica in Rome
- 7 The Great Wall of China

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one student had not finished her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many." The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have and maybe we can help." The girl hesitated and then read:

"I think the Seven Wonders of the World are:

- 1 To See
- 2 To Hear
- 3 To Touch
- 4 To Taste
- 5 To Feel
- 6 To Laugh
- 7 To Love"

The room was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop. The things we overlook as simple and ordinary and that we take for granted are truly quite wondrous. A gentle reminder that the most precious things in life cannot be built by hand or bought by man.

INNER PEACE

*If you can start the day without caffeine
If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains*

*If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles
If you can eat plain food every day and be grateful for it
If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time
If you can take criticism and blame without resentment*

*If you can conquer tension without medical help
If you can relax without a drink
If you can sleep without the aid of drugs*

...Then you are probably The Family Dog

the Word Revealed

An open King James Bible is shown, with the text of the Epistle of Paul to the Colossians visible on the right page. The text is overlaid on the Bible in a black, serif font.

*A festival service
commemorating
the 400th anniversary
of the King James Bible
in words and music*

ALL ARE WELCOME!

SUNDAY 19th June at 3.00pm

followed by tea and cake in the Hall

St Andrew's URC

Hersham Road, Walton-on-Thames

www.standrewsurc.org