



MAY & JUNE 2017

Spire & Tower

St Andrew & St Mark
Church Magazine

£1

Church Community
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Charity Work
Children's Page
And more.....

A CHURCH MAGAZINE BRINGING YOU ALL OUR NEWS & WORK FROM AROUND SURBITON

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I have everything that I need in a Teenager.
 Only 16 years old,
 I have to go to work or school,
 I get an allowance every week.
 I have my own house and my own car.
 Life's there a mystery to me.
 Life is good.
 The human race makes a lot of noise,
 but only because we have heard their
 generation.
 The noise of our people do not get
 on the way, they simply have heard
 that our people often get in trouble
 from
 legal something and when they get there
 wonder what it was, but it's not a mystery
 just because we have heard their
 generation.

"I'm young & cool I am it,
 I'm fashionable & hip,
 I'm like a rock star - I'm it, I'm it,
 I'm it!"

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"HOW TO MOVE SOMETHING AS BIG AS YOUR HOUSE TO ENFIELD"

The following is an abridged version of an article written by the vicar for the issue the February edition of the magazine. The complete version is available on the website. It is an abridged version of an article written by the vicar for the issue the February edition of the magazine.

On the 15th of March, a large lorry from the Parish of St Agnes on the Isles of Scilly, arrived in Enfield. The lorry was carrying a large amount of furniture and other items, which were being moved to the Parish of St Agnes on the Isles of Scilly. The lorry was driven by a man who was very experienced in moving large items. The lorry was very big and it was very difficult to move. The lorry was very big and it was very difficult to move. The lorry was very big and it was very difficult to move.

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SEENAGER'S SEMESTER AT SEA

As you know, I am a teenager and I am very busy. I have to go to school and I have to go to work. I have to go to school and I have to go to work. I have to go to school and I have to go to work. I have to go to school and I have to go to work. I have to go to school and I have to go to work.

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FRONT COVER:

St Agnes on The Isles of Scilly.

Taken by Claire Helliwell



“The Church today is a much-criticised body. It is not unfashionable for some good folk to talk as if the Church were a spent force, a relic of an age that is past, an object of mere antiquarian interest. One cannot help noticing that the younger generation of men and women are standing aloof from organised religion. This is a very grave state of things if it is true, and it behoves Church people to look very carefully for the reasons. I myself am convinced that it is not enough to say that the younger generation is wholly given up to pleasure seeking and excitement...”

Thus, the vicar of St Andrew and St Mark, but they aren't my words. These are the words of the Reverend G.H.Marten from January 1923, soon after he had arrived in Surbiton as the new vicar, preserved in a Church magazine now in the archives in our parish office.

There's something fascinating about hearing this lament for the loss of young people from a century ago. For as long as I've been a Christian, people have lamented the lack of young people in church: it was so much more popular in the past; why are we failing to connect? Things must have been so much better in, say, the early 20th Century. And yet here we hear the views of the early 20th Century, and they too lament for the change in culture that means young people have other interests.

Angela Tilby was one of the tutors when I studied at theological college. Before ordination, she had worked in religious broadcasting; she still turns up on 'Thought for the Day' from time to time. She once said that all through her career at BBC radio, internal committees were set up to look in to why the Radio Four audience was so old, and how to bring down the average age. She added: "This was entirely pointless. It's like a parish church's 8am Book of Common Prayer communion service. People always think it's only going to last a few more years until that congregation dies off, but it never does, because even as one group of people dies, a new group pops up and discovers it's just what they like at this time of life."



I wasn't sure at the time of the truth of her statement but I firmly believe it now: in fact, while it's never going to be the parish showpiece, our 8am congregation has grown slightly in the last few years!

Of course, young people are important, but I sometimes feel that our focus there blinds us to other phenomena. For example, in the last decade, nationwide the Church of England has seen significant growth in the number of 60-70 year olds attending church. Some of these are just churchgoers growing older; others are coming to church regularly for more or less the first time.

What is happening to sixty-somethings that is drawing them to faith? Or what is it that the Church is doing right for this age group? The Church does do some things right, and we should celebrate this, unless we get drawn into a cycle of never ending comments about decline.



A vicar attended a lecture on how to make better use of time. The lecturer gave as an illustration the fact that his wife used to make several separate trips around the kitchen to put various things on to the breakfast table, so he suggested that she try carrying a few things together to save time. At breakfast the next day, the vicar tactfully suggested to his wife that she could do this. The result was that instead of his wife taking fifteen minutes to get breakfast ready, he now does it in the same time.

“The generous will themselves
be blessed, for they share their
food with the poor”

PROVERBS CH 22:V 9

THE ROBINS HAVE ARRIVED.....& GONE!



We have just said "Goodbye" or should it be "Au Revoir" to our Robin family and their four lovely babies. The parents set up their temporary home in an ivy hedge in our side alley during mid February: their nest is opposite our wheely bins so we studied their growth every day when we took the recycling out. When I took this picture on 4th April when their parents were away from the nest, I could not know that they would fly the following day. At first, the young birds sheltered in our camelia border while their parents rushed around the garden frantically trying to keep them fed (with our assistance I might add). They have now become bolder and we have seen their clumsy attempts to navigate their way around their new surroundings.



Last year, the Robins reared their young in my workshop, which was a wonderful, but at times an inconvenient experience. For one thing, I had to leave the door open throughout the whole of the summer; I was also occasionally the target of 'aerial bombardment' if you know what I mean!. I had no idea they had built their nest less than three feet from my scroll saw machine as the nest was carefully hidden behind my woodworking clutter in an old bookshelf (I removed several items before I took the picture of their old nest). The first I knew that they had moved in was when the adults started fluttering past within inches of my right ear.

As the parents got used to me sitting at my machine, I started to leave out moistened meal worms and tiny pieces of cheese (not too much) at the end of my small bench. At first, the parents cautiously fixed me with one dark, bright eye before quickly hopping down to collect the food: after a short while they became more assertive and I'm sure they could have been persuaded to eat from my hand.

A Robin appeared again in my workshop close to the old nest on 16th January this year: Robins must be very intelligent birds because I'm sure she/he recognised me. Head won over heart and I'm afraid to say I shut the door after the Robin had left. They did all right in our secluded alley and we look forward to seeing them return soon.



GLIMPSSES OF EASTER



Palm Sunday



Erica on her journey through Surbiton



Easter Sunday



Preparing to leave St Mark's on Palm Sunday



GLIMPSES OF EASTER



Elsbeth decorating the cross with Daffodils



Children decorating the cross on Easter Sunday at St Mark's



The Hallelujah Choir go for it!. The best one yet?



THE LEPROSY MISSION (TLM) – Christianity Without

Because there is no overt or indeed covert preaching of the Christian Gospel, TLM is able to work in an extraordinary range of countries including Sudan (currently trying to get rid of any Christians), Indonesia (home to the largest Muslim population in the world) and Myanmar (Burma – not a good place to be a Christian and certainly not to convert to Christianity). TLM is a truly global organisation. In its prayer diary, ASK, TLM explains ‘we are a global network active in around 45 countries across the world.

We work hand-in-hand with governments and the local communities, with partner health organisations, WHO, local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), local churches, Christian partners and many others to achieve our vision of: Leprosy defeated, lives transformed’.

There is a succinct summary of TLMs Vision and Values in ASK and this is reproduced below:

Our Vision:

Leprosy Defeated, Lives Transformed

Our Mission:

Following Jesus Christ, The Leprosy Mission strives to break the chains of leprosy, empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness.

Heavenly Father,
heal the sick,
comfort the sorrow,
encourage the discouraged,
& give us strength.



OUR VALUES

Because we follow Jesus Christ, we value

- Compassion
- Justice
- Integrity
- Inclusion
- Humility

Strategic Focus:

Leprosy Services

We strive to ensure timely access to quality services that result in improved outcomes for leprosy-affected people.

Dignity and Empowerment

We aim to see marginalised people realising their worth and empowered to overcome challenges.

Social Integration

We work to influence change in attitudes so that communities no longer stigmatise or discriminate against people affected by leprosy or disability.

Research and Learning

We seek to be a learning organisation that integrates new medical, social and fundraising knowledge into our policies and practices and shares it with others.

Resource Mobilisation

We resolve to be an organisation well resourced in prayer, funds, partnerships and people, with all member countries implementing fundraising strategies for significant income and growth.

On **Sunday June 18th** there is going to be a Bring and Share Lunch in the garden of Olga and John Wickenden, 42 Norton Avenue, Surbiton. Please put this date in your diary and come along – preferably bearing food and a donation to TLM!

Thank you



By: Valerie Baxter

If you drive from our Church towards Hinchley Wood and aim along Sugden Road; just over half way there on the right hand side you will see an intriguing sight. Look carefully and you will find a 25 Sugden Road and a 29 Sugden Road but there is no 27 in the middle. What there is is a little cul-de-sac feeding a relatively new development at the back by the railway and it is called St Andrews Close. It is miles from our Church and not near any other Church either, be it St Andrews or any other Saint of your choice.



DO YOU KNOW HOW IT GOT IT'S NAME?..... I DO!

Several decades ago there was a 27 Sugden Road. It was occupied by Stewart and Margaret Steven. Stewart was a sidesman and server at St Andrews and an absolute stalwart of the Church when I was a boy treble and young tenor. Their son, David, became a clergyman and, in fact, visited St Andrews last year, the fiftieth year of his ordination, to revisit parishes with which he had been associated.



Image above taken from Google Maps

ST ANDREW'S CLOSE

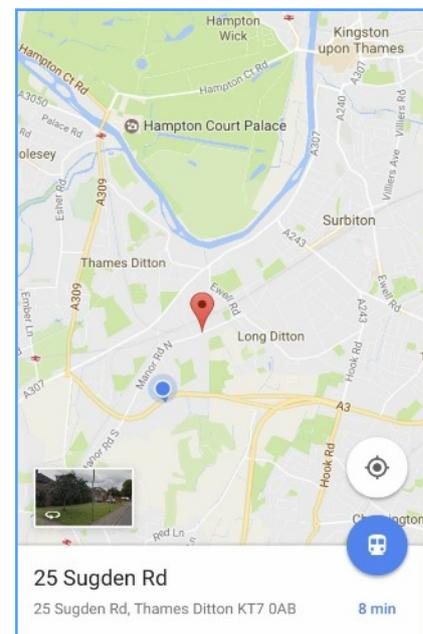
At the time he was based in Nottingham and when Stewart and Margaret reached the age when they felt they could not continue in their big house with their treasured and most beautiful garden, they moved to Nottingham to be near their son. At the time developers were obtaining planning permission for a new development by the railway line, but they needed an access road. There is no room between any of the houses, so one of them had to be demolished. The Stevens very craftily volunteered that they might be prepared to sell provided they got a really, really good price for their property; and the developers acquiesced. I remember a very jolly “garden party” held just before they left when members of the congregation were encouraged to bring their spades, trowels and forks and dig up and take away anything whatsoever that they could from the garden before it was steamrolled. We still have a very nice fern in our garden which bears proof of the quality of the soil in Thames Ditton.



The garden was stripped bare, the Stevens moved to Nottingham and the house was demolished, but Stewart as a devout and long standing member of the congregation had one trick left up his sleeve. He said he would only cooperate with the developers if they named the new road after his Church. They saw no reason not to oblige, and now it is called St Andrews Close.

So now you know!

By: John Perry





QUESTION HOUR

My name is Cathy Martin....

What is your name & where were you born?

My name is Cathy Martin (born Mottershead).

I was born in Carlisle in Cumbria, I lived the majority of my childhood in Millhouse, a small hamlet in the Lake District near Caldbeck, before moving to the larger town of Wigton where my parents (and grandparents still live).

What family do you have?

The extended family is rather large including cousins in Canada etc but the immediate family include:
my parents who are both teachers Dad currently Headteacher of Canon Slade School, Bolton – (despite living in Cumbria).
My maternal Grandparents live round the corner and my paternal Grandmother lives in the Cheshire town of Sandbach, surrounded by my Aunts.

My sister, her husband and two sons live in Cambridge and my brother lives and teaches in Worcestershire with his girlfriend. I also recently married my husband Andy and so I've inherited his lovely family also.

What is your job?

I am Music and Worship Coordinator at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square after a few part-time things here and there after graduating with a Music degree from Cardiff University.

How long you have been attending St Andrew's & St Mark's?

My husband and I started coming to St Andrew's and St Mark's around Sept-Oct 2016 when joining the choir.
We both studied Music at Cardiff University and met doing what we both loved doing - singing.

We moved to Surbiton after I graduated but took a little time to get settled. After finding our feet a little more we thought to include singing into our lives again and looked around for a choir. We came to St Andrew's and St Mark's to hear the reading of our wedding banns and Andy had sung with John and Rosemary Perry before so we got in touch with Simon to see if there was space for us.





“Be kind to everyone, especially yourself & those whom you love”

How do you relax?

A lovely walk in the countryside.

What are your favourite Bible verses?

1 Corinthians 13 (for sentimental reasons).

What do you think is the hardest thing about being a Christian?

Sometimes being required to defend or justify your beliefs.

What single thing would improve the quality of your life?

Better knowledge of how things (society / finance) work.

What is your favourite journey?

Up to Cumbria (family home).

What is your favourite meal?

One ending with a lovely dessert.

Most enjoyable book?

Sadly I’m not a big reader.

Where do you like to go for holidays?

We are slowly making our way around Europe and look forward to exploring more of it.

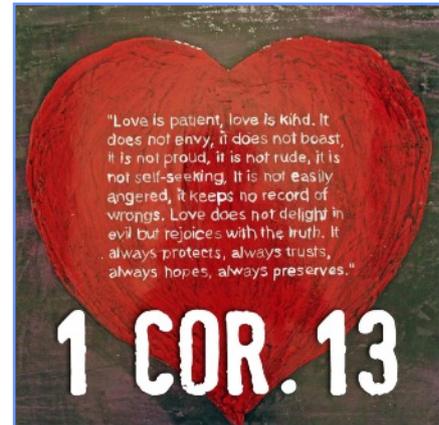
Otherwise we very much enjoy going to the Lake District and Cornwall.

If you had a choice where would you like to live?

Ideally we would not stay in London (or Greater London) forever and would like to move out to the countryside in the South West of the country – nowhere specific yet.

What is the most important lesson life has taught you?

Be kind to everyone, especially yourself and those whom you love.

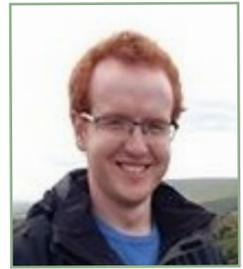


“Kindness is one of the most important things in life”

Describe yourself. –Name Where were you born?

I am Andy Martin.

I was born in North London where we lived in Mill Hill, before spending 5 years in Liverpool and eventually moving to Hampton where the family have now settled.



What family do you have?

We are quite a small family – just my parents and one older sister (plus Aunty and Uncle in Scotland). But have recently inherited my wife’s rather larger extended family also.



What is your job?

I am currently training on the job to become a qualified Primary School Teacher.

How long you have been attending St Andrews’s & St Mark’s?

My wife Cathy and I have been attending since Sept/Oct since joining the choir.

How do you relax?

Watching rugby and playing video games.

What single thing would improve the quality of your life?

More time to reflect and enjoy life.

What is your favourite journey?

Drive to family summer home in Cornwall.

What is your favourite meal?

Steak and chips.

Where do you like to go for holidays?

Padstow, Cornwall.

If you had a choice where would you like to live?

Away from the city in the countryside.

What is the most important lesson life has taught you?

Kindness is one of the most important things in life.



I AM A SEENAGER (Senior Teenager)

I have everything that I wanted as a
Teenager,
Only 60 years later.
I don't have to go to work or school,
I get an allowance every week.
I have my own house and my own car.
I don't have a curfew or acne,
Life is good.

The human brain works slower in old age.
but only because we have stored more
information.

The brains of older people do not get
weaker-
on the contrary, they simply know more!
Also, older people often go to another
room
to get something and when they get there
wonder what it was, this is Not a memory
problem
just nature's way to make older folk do
more



"I was young & now I am old,
yet I have never seen the righteous
forsaken or their children begging
bread.

Psalm 37:25

A GOOD DAY OUT OR A PARISH MYSTERY?



How did the Flying Circus start?

The Flying Circus began with an idea in the early years of the millennium – ‘what SASM needs is a men's group’. After discussions and input (including some from female members of the congregation....) it was agreed that what the parish actually could benefit most from was a mixed group that would go on regular daytime outings around the London area.

Why the “Flying Circus”?

Founding members were of an age to have enjoyed “*Monty Python’s Flying Circus” in the late 1960’s and early 70’s, but there is no consensus as to how the name was arrived at – the group would indeed travel around (but not by air...), it would be fun (perhaps a bit of a circus?), but it wasn’t likely to hit the heights of surreal, boundary-pushing comedy of its original namesake. However, the Flying Circus it became, and the Flying Circus it remains.

What does it do?

One Thursday a month (usually the third or fourth) about a dozen or so people meet for coffee at Wetherspoon’s on St Mark’s Hill before setting off for an outing either into London or to somewhere nearer Surbiton. Over the years we have visited many venues, including art galleries, museums, stately homes, gardens, parks and churches. Outings are planned and tested in advance, currently by John Wickenden (a Founding member) and Harry Gilmore. Routes are chosen to involve minimal walking and stairs, and we prefer to use above-ground public transport within the Freedom Pass area where possible. An inexpensive lunch at a convenient café or hostelry follows the day’s visit, after which we return home in mid-afternoon. Each year we have a celebratory lunch around Christmastide.

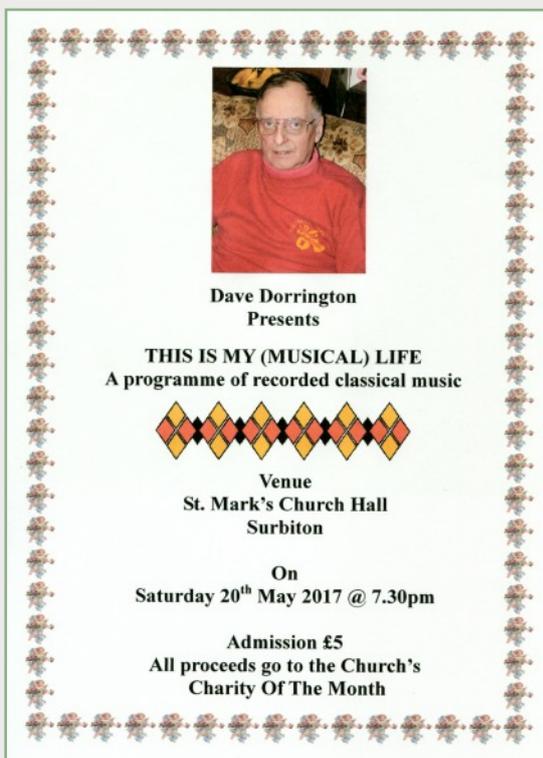
How can I join?

You don't need to join anything! The Flying Circus has no members or annual fees – outings are advertised in the SASM pew sheets each month, and everyone is welcome to come, parishioners or not. It's a great way to enjoy company, make friends and to see places you might otherwise never get to. Costs are kept to a minimum, and entry fees are avoided wherever possible. If you haven't tried a Flying Circus outing, do give it a go, you will be made most welcome!

For further information, please contact John (07963 878 217) or Harry (07773 060 233).

* For younger readers, 'Monty Python' (sometimes known as 'The Pythons') was a British surreal comedy group who created the sketch comedy show "Monty Python's Flying Circus". Members included Eric Idle, Graham Chapman, Terry Jones, John Cleese and Michael Palin. Forty-five episodes were aired by the BBC starting in 1969, while films such as "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" and "The Life of Brian" were considerable box office successes. The Pythons' influence on comedy has been compared to the Beatles' influence on music.

By: Harry Gilmore



Dave Dorrington
Presents

THIS IS MY (MUSICAL) LIFE
A programme of recorded classical music

Venue
St. Mark's Church Hall
Surbiton

On
Saturday 20th May 2017 @ 7.30pm

Admission £5
All proceeds go to the Church's
Charity Of The Month

A new sister was welcomed to a silent monastery and told she must not speak until directed. After five years she was told she could say two words, so she said "Hard bed." A better bed was provided. Five years later she was told she could say another two words, so she said "Cold food." Steps were taken to provide better food. On her 15th anniversary at the monastery, she was told she could say another two words, so she said "Must leave." She was told it was probably the best thing as she'd done nothing but complain since she arrived.



ST ANDREW & ST MARK'S MOTHERS' UNION

At the March Branch meeting Robert guided us in discussion on the Genesis story of Cain and Abel. We enjoyed sharing our thoughts on the questions posed.



At the end of March Mothers' Union members from the Kingston and Richmond Deanery celebrated Lady Day in the Parish Church of St Paul's, Hook. Lady Day celebrates the Annunciation when the Angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary she was to bear a child. Similar Services are held around the world involving a million Mothers' Union members. At the service the Kingston Area Mothers' Union Vice President, Ann Ferniough, presented a Long Service Certificate to Margaret Palmer. She has been a Mothers' Union member for 40 years. The Service was followed by a very enjoyable and relaxed lunch in St Paul's church hall. Each branch contributes different food courses. Thank you to Valerie Baxter for shopping for our contribution.

The April meeting was a talk by Rebecca Oram about her trip to Japan.

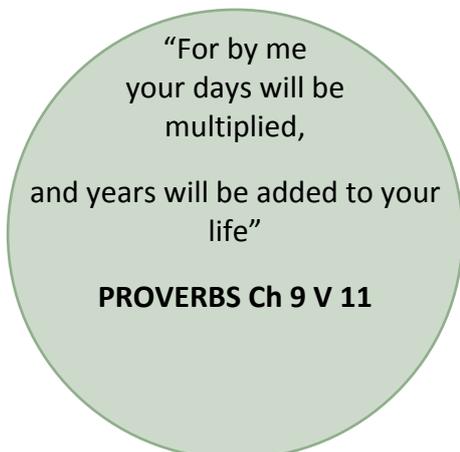
Forthcoming meetings:-

Wednesday 17th May 2017, at 14:30 – A talk about being a First Responder by Carol Mitchell, a friend of Valerie Baxter, in St Mark's Church

Wednesday 21st June 2017, at 20:00 – 'Faith in Action', Mothers' Union theme for 2017 – members discussion in St Mark's Church

The Mothers' Union is primarily a movement of volunteers who take part in worship, prayer and fellowship. We have meetings on the third Wednesday of the month, usually in St Mark's Church, and all are welcome. If you would like more information, please telephone Christine on 01372 373 024.

By: Christine Waller



The following is an abridged version of an article I wrote some years ago for the London Advanced Motorcyclists magazine. The events took place in the early 1970's: before satellite navigation, the use of computers in everyday life or a fully developed, modern road network. However did we manage!.

“HOW TO MOVE SOMETHING AS BIG AS YOUR HOUSE TO ENFIELD”

During my 5 years as a Metropolitan Police Traffic Division Officer, one of the roles I performed was the escort of oversized loads. We called them 'convoys'. This was before the advent of the M25 and some of the other motorway extensions surrounding the capital. The movement of these loads had to be planned and executed with military precision as ordinary, mostly single lane roads had to be used. Every possible detail had to be considered when preparing the route plan. The officer who planned routes for the whole of the Met. had built up enormous knowledge and expertise over the years and was able to anticipate problems which no modern computer could ever match.

The team of officers who carried out convoy work were all volunteers from the normal traffic squad, who were asked for as the need arose (which was frequently). Unless the load was exceptionally large or awkward, three officers on motorcycles (Triumph TR6P's) were used. Two rode ahead at the front of the load to clear the route and stop traffic. This enabled the convoy to keep up a steady speed of about 15 to 20mph. Officer 1 was the route leader whose job was to guide the HGV driver and make sure we took the correct route. This was easier said than done - the consequences of misdirection were awful beyond belief, which will become clear later!. Another officer rode at the back to control traffic from behind and prevent vehicles from trying to overtake at unsuitable moments. The rider at the back swapped with the rider in the number 2 position at the front every 15 minutes or so.



PC 137TD....Me as a 25 year old Traffic Officer.



The route itself could be over 70 miles. We received the details well before the transit in the form of a paper teleprinter message, which could be up to 6 feet long depending on how complicated or lengthy the route was. A variety of Heath Robinson devices were employed to hold the paper in place: favourite was a piece of board with a spring clip, all held onto the tank area by rubber bands or bungees – highly sophisticated I think not!. The route was carefully folded up into a concertina and slowly unfolded as the journey progressed – at least that was the theory. The journey's always started well into the evening; trying to do this one handed in the dark while at the same time steering the bike and keeping an eye on the hgv and other traffic was extremely testing.



One of the first things I was told when I started doing convoy work, was not to get too close to the load when you were in front as the braking efficiency of these vehicles is comparable to the Queen Mary at full chat. I vaguely remember a piece of trivia from my Accident Investigators course which goes something like this - in a panic stop from 40 to 0mph, an 'ordinary' loaded artic generates enough braking heat to boil a kettle of water in around 2 seconds. And that's from each wheel!



I helped to escort all sorts of loads during my time in Traffic Division, from massive industrial steel structures, huge transformers and electrical equipment for power stations, large luxury boats, vintage aircraft, a Centurion tank, several historic railway carriages; even the occasional steam locomotive. The work was professionally rewarding and great fun, but our operations would fail any modern health & safety assessment. Our police bikes didn't even have blue lights then. I didn't care, I was young (ish) and stupid (now I'm just old and stupid).



The escorts normally went off without major problems, but two incidents particularly spring to mind. The first involved the movement of a very large luxury motor yacht from well outside London to Olympia. The craft was to form the company's main exhibit at the annual boat show before it was moved back to Southampton to its new owner. The thing was beautiful. As usual, the route was complicated and tortuous. Towards the end of the run, things went spectacularly wrong!. It was dark and cold and I think we were all tired by that stage. I was at the back when we approached a bridge at about 10 mph. The boat started to go under the bridge but suddenly there was a terrible crunching and crashing sound, similar to a large boat hitting the top of a bridge. The trailer stopped dead, with the load firmly stuck under the arch. Large pieces of the vessel littered the road. The route leader had somehow got confused and temporarily gone off course. He was confident that he had the right bridge, but he was badly mistaken. That was an extremely long night and involved lots of writing and grovelling telephone calls (obviously no mobiles then so we had to use a public phone' box and scrape up the change between us). Our senior officer also did not appreciate being got out of bed. I don't know how the company salvaged their boat or their reputation before the show started; all I can say is that we heard nothing more about it!. We expected at least a massive dressing down.



The second incident involved a large industrial boiler or such like. The thing was transported on the usual low trailer with dozens of small wheels. I was again at the back when the load started to negotiate a long bend. I started to hear the squealing sound of metal on metal and smelt burning. Smoke quickly started to appear from the rear offside wheel area followed by intermittent licks of flame. Before I could safely overtake and warn the route leader of what was happening, a wheel started to wobble (we didn't have effective bike to bike radio's then). I was transfixed in horrible fascination as the wheel parted company from the trailer and came flying back towards me. At the last minute it swung off into the side of the road where some railings halted its attempted escape. A moment's target fixation on my part I'm afraid to say. That was also a very long night!.

By: Michael Smith

PARISH CELEBRATIONS



The Parish has had much to celebrate this year, but there have been some 'extra special' events which we felt we had to recognise in a one off article: three significant birthdays, the marriage of Celia's daughter Alison and our delight when four of our young people were recently Admitted to Communion. I hope no one feels left out!



The wedding of Alison & Tom at Bramley, Surrey. Eleanor was a Bridesmaid & Jackie Page did the bouquets.



Tessa, Gracie, Theo & Harry are Admitted to Communion on 26/02/17

CATHERINE KERBER'S SEMESTER AT SEA

In my final year at university I partook in a "semester at sea" on board the MV Explorer, crossing the Atlantic, the Indian and Pacific Oceans. One of our many ports was a west African country, whereby being a Christian American woman is the ultimate package to most men, but can also be dangerous for the woman.



With many of the student body on the ship being American, half of the American women identified as Christian. We were warned about this, and encouraged not to reveal our faith. If persisted, we were told not to say we were Christian. My friends and I found ourselves in the awkward situation that we had been warned about.

Within ten minutes of setting foot in the port we had a local man wanting to meet us. The man was immediately taken by my friend and her beautiful blue eyes and blonde hair. "Are you a Christian?" He asked. Forgetting what we had been told, she blurted out, "Yes." He knew right away from her accent that she was American and before we all knew it, he was on his knee proposing to her. She quickly declined, and he turned to my other friend. In her Texan drawl she confirmed how proud she was to be a Christian and gave us all a quick description of her church in Texas. The man was overjoyed and proposed to her. She, too, declined. Fortunately for me, he wasn't taken by me! He scuttled off and moved in on someone else.

This was the first time I had ever experienced what it meant to be an American Christian woman abroad, particularly in a third world country. Visiting this country opened my eyes how my identity had different connotations from other places I had been (like the UK and Australia). This was a struggle for me because it was the first time I could potentially be in danger because of who I am.

I kept a very low profile during my time in this port. My friends quickly realised they needed to as well, despite their love for their respective churches back in America. We were quite relieved when we set sail from this port, and were looking forward to our next stop in a southern African country whereby we could be more open about who we are. Fortunately, my love for travel and exploring other cultures has not diminished as a result of this!



SASM CHILDREN'S CORNER



Focus on: Prayer

We, as Christians, can talk to God through prayer. Some prayers are said collectively in church: we recite them together in services. At other times we pray individually and can pray using the words of existing prayers or using our own words and thoughts. We can pray for many reasons, including to say thank you, to say sorry or to ask for guidance and help. These pages contain some thoughts about prayer.

THE MOST FAMOUS PRAYER OF ALL?

The most famous prayer of all is The Lord's Prayer. Jesus taught this to his friends and it has since been translated into many languages throughout the world. It sets out how God will look after us spiritually and with regard to our daily needs. If you don't know it in full, the traditional version is set out at the end of these pages.

Can you work out which languages the following first lines of the The Lord's Prayer are from? They're from the French, Afrikaans, Spanish and English (the English one should be easy to identify!).



1. Our Father, who art in heaven,
2. Notre pere, qui es aux cieux,
3. Padre nuestro, que estas en cielo,
4. Onse Vader wat in die hemele is.



A QUESTION OF PRAYER:

Q. DO I HAVE TO KNEEL TO PRAY?

A. TRADITIONALLY WE KNEEL TO BE PENITENT (TO SAY WE ARE SORRY) AND STAND TO PRAISE (FOR EXAMPLE, BY SINGING HYMNS), BUT WE CAN PRAY ANYWHERE AND ANYHOW – SITTING IN OUR CARS, QUEUING FOR SCHOOL DINNERS OR LYING DOWN, ABOUT TO GO TO SLEEP! CHURCHES OFTEN HAVE SPECIAL KNEELERS OR CUSHIONS FOR EACH PEW OR SEAT KNOWN AS 'HASSOCKS' FOR PEOPLE TO KNEEL ON WHEN THEY PRAY. IF NOT, AFTER A LONG PRAYER OR THE INTERCESSIONS, THEIR KNEES WOULD GET VERY SORE!

INTERESTING FACT – AMEN

AT THE END OF PRAYERS, WE SAY AMEN. BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN? IT COMES FROM A LONG LINE OF LANGUAGES: ENGLISH, FROM LATIN ... FROM GREEK ... FROM HEBREW AND POSSIBLY FROM ARAMAIC. IT MEANS 'CONFIRMED' OR 'TRUTH'. WHEN SAID AT THE END OF PRAYERS, IT SERVES TO AGREE WITH THE CONTENTS OF THE PRAYER AND SO, IT IS GENERALLY HELD TO BE SIMILAR TO SAYING, 'SO BE IT'.





PRAYER WORDSEARCH

Can you find all the below words in the word search?

Intercessions – Morning – Evening – Amen – Kneel – Remember – Grace – Dear – Hands – Hassock – Repent – Father



G N I N R O M I H O
 P E N H A S S O C K
 R Y T O U G F I N K
 E D E G R O D W N I
 M T R A M E N E H Y
 E O C U T H E R R O
 M E E F U L G H E G
 B E S V A E R Y P N
 E D S A Y T A N E I
 R R I D G U H I N N
 D A O E D B Y E T E
 H E N I M A M E R V
 N D S D N A H C X E



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come;
 thy will be done;
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation;
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 the power and the glory,
 for ever and ever.
 Amen.



Thanks to Irene for inspiring the subject of the pages. Take care ... until next time.

By: Charlotte New



IF WE COULD SHRINK THE EARTH

If we could shrink the earth to a village with the population precisely 100 people, with all existing human ratios remaining the same, there would be:

57 Asians

21 Europeans

14 from the western hemisphere, both north and south

8 Africans

52 would be female

48 would be male

70 would be non-white

30 would be white

70 would be non-Christian

30 would be Christian

89 would be heterosexual

11 would be homosexual

6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all would be from the United States

80 would live in sub-standard housing

70 would be unable to read. (If you can read this you are more blessed than the 1 billion people who cannot read at all.)

49 would suffer from malnutrition

1 would be near death (If you wake up in the morning you are more blessed than the 1 million people who cannot wake up)

1 would be near birth

1 (yes only 1) would have a college education

1 would own a computer



IF WE COULD SHRINK THE EARTH

When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for acceptance, understanding and education becomes glaringly apparent.

If you have experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation... you are ahead of 500 million people in the world. If you can attend a church meeting without fear, harassment, arrest, torture or death... you are more blessed than 3 billion people in the world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet and spare change in a dish someplace... you are among the top 80% of the world's wealthy.



AND FINALLY.....

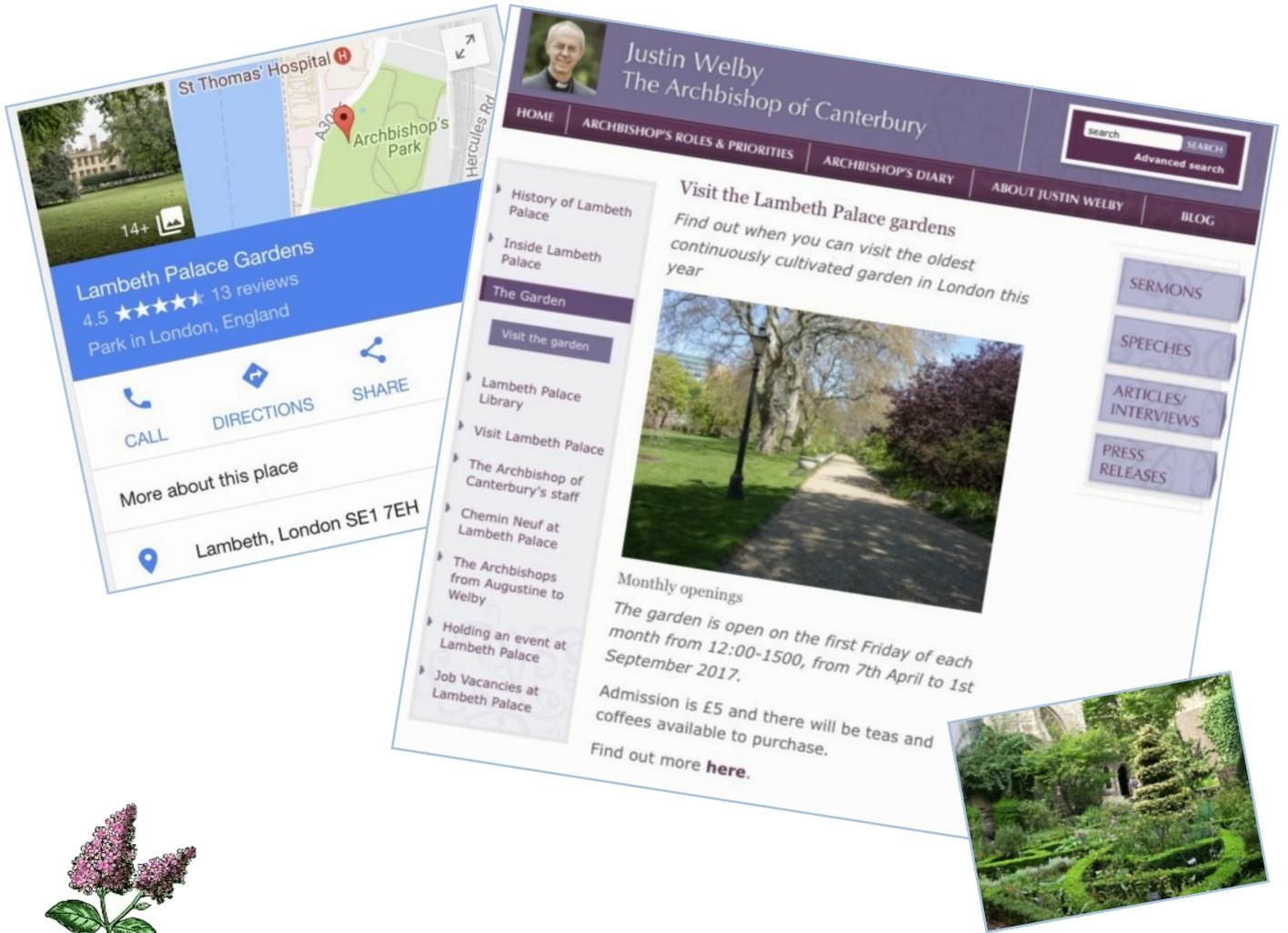
WORK: Like you don't need the money.

LOVE: Like you have never been hurt.

DANCE: Like nobody's watching.

SING: Like nobody's listening.

LIVE: Like it is Heaven on Earth.



On **Saturday 10th June** there will be a Come & Sing Faure Requiem event at St Andrew's church, Maple Road- this is open to all, and will be a chance to informally rehearse & perform this much - loved work. Simon Harvey will be accompanying on the organ. The rehearsal will start at 2:30pm with refreshments at 4:30pm and performance at 6pm. Cost of £5 per singer, payable to cover vocal score hire and refreshments. Family and friends welcome to come and listen at 6pm.



As iron sharpens iron,
so a friend sharpens a friend.

PROVERBS 27:17

DIOCESE OF MATABELELAND ZIMBABWE

The rains failed last year, were sporadic at best for several previous years and little is promised for this year for the Ndbele whose lives depend on the crops they are able to grow. Drought is not new to southern Zimbabwe and in a land beset by extraordinary economic hardship it is inconceivable to those who remember the country as the breadbasket of Africa. Unlike some other drought stricken parts of Central Africa, there are plentiful aquifers which, if only they can be tapped by bore holes, will provide an abundant water supply.

A few bore holes, simple tanks, pumps and piping have been partially funded by our Link Committee for the Episcopal Area of Kingston in the Southwark Diocese. Bishop Cleophas Lunga has then been able to support a limited number of his parishes to develop a fresh water supply enabling them to grow crops around their churches, feed their families and build a micro economy with any surplus.

On Sunday 16 July 2017 there will be a Bring and Share Lunch for everyone in the Parish to support our Charity of the Month, the Diocese of Matabeleland, Zimbabwe. This will be held at Ilexholm, Ditton Road, Long Ditton KT6 6RJ. It would be wonderful if we were able to donate a significant sum to the development of a bore hole in a parish in Bishop Cleophas' Diocese.

Water pump at Cyrene providing for maize fields and chicken farming



Bishop Cleophas at Rangemore watering a second maize crop

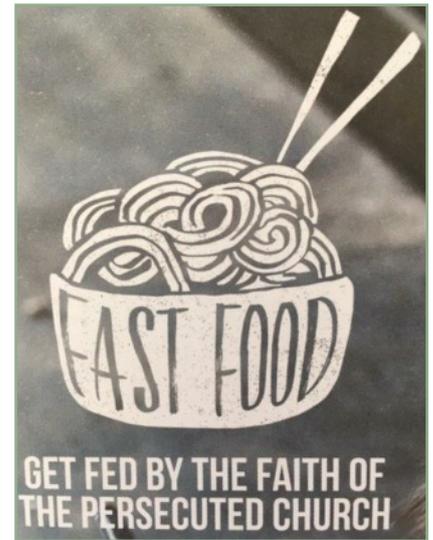


A new strain of maize, the staple diet, being grown at Cyrene



“FAST FOOD” - Experiences of a Lent Course

The charity **Open Doors** has worked for the past 60 years to draw attention to, and to help and support, persecuted Christians all over the world. It all started in a small way in 1955, with a young Dutch missionary, Brother Andrew, visiting the Soviet Union and discovering the searing isolation of the Christians living there under Communist repression. Over the years he began to bring (sometimes smuggle) Bibles and related religious texts into countries where the indigenous Christians were not only unwelcome, but persecuted, imprisoned and often in fear of their lives. Gradually, his vision has grown into **Open Doors**, an organisation active in the support and relief of Christians all over the world. **Open Doors** maintains and publishes an annual World Watch List, that indicates the worst 50 countries for Christian suppression and persecution; currently North Korea, Somalia and Afghanistan take the first three places.



We, the parish house group that meets in John and Olga Wickenden’s home, were looking for a Lent course with a difference, so we decided to use “Fast Food” from **Open Doors**. This course is designed for groups meeting weekly during Lent, with each session being based around a meal reflecting a persecuted country. As we were meeting only five times during Lent, we picked five countries from the pack – Nigeria, India, Syria, North Korea and Central Asia (the latter being five countries East of the Caspian Sea that all end in –stan). For each country we printed out informative paper placemats and we took it in turns to provide suitable simple fare; with the website’s help we partook of vegetable jollof, chickpea curry, hummus and flatbread and a simple fried rice dish. On the last evening (Central Asia) we enjoyed tea and cake – not as a naughty Lent-breaking treat, but because in those countries Christians meet in each others’ homes in secret, disguising each prayer and Bible-reading session as an innocuous tea-and-cake chat time, in case the authorities or an untrustworthy neighbour might drop in.

Open Doors also provided a short downloadable video of interviews and information about each country, and these, together with the placemats, gave us lots of material to discuss, ponder and pray about. Each evening ended with the opening of a sealed challenge to be taken on over the week to come – these ranged from undertaking a period of silence in support of those who cannot speak freely of their faith, to sleeping on the floor, as many of those forced out of their villages have to do – I can report that some of the challenges were taken up more completely than others, but I can also say that one stalwart member did sleep on the floor, and very uncomfortable it was too, we heard!

The “Fast Food” course was a complete success – it taught us a great deal about the lives and fortitude of Christian people living in intolerant countries. It enabled us to pray more knowingly for them, and it introduced us to a charity that deserves more support as it carries out its essential and often dangerous mission to spread God’s word and to help those who carry it to others, often at the risk of their own lives.

COMING UP IN THE NEXT EDITION

To get things done in a church, a committee should consist of no more than three people, two of whom rarely show up!!

Leslene Woodward's Round the World Trip

All Ages Photo Page

'Personal Reflections of an Ionian Pilgrimage'

A Report From The Association of Church Magazine Editors AGM

And Much More!

We regret that Spire and Spire Tower will not be published in July and August: the next edition will be in September. A Service Calendar for July & August will be available in the magazine holders.

Just to remind you that current and previous copies of your magazine can be viewed on the SASM church website under the 'News' tab at the top of the page.

The editorial team wish everyone a very enjoyable summer break! .

E.R.I.C Conduct a Snap Inspection at St Mark's

Whenever I start complaining that things aren't what they used to be, I always forget to include myself.



The Diocesan Environmental Reduction & Implementation Committee (ERIC) demonstrate how to properly run and manage an efficient kitchen. What can possibly go wrong!.

A poem by Sister Margaret Halaska

COVENANT

"The Father knocks at my door, seeking a
home for his son:
Rent is cheap I say.
I don't want to rent. I want to buy, says God.
I'm not sure I want to sell,
but you might come in to look around.
I think I will, says God.
I might let you have a room or two.
I like it, says God. I'll take the two.
You might decide to give me more some day.
I can wait, says God.
I'd like to give you more,
but it's a bit difficult. I need some space for me.
I know, says God, but I'll wait. I like what I see.
Hm, maybe I can let you have another room.
I really don't need that much.
Thanks, says God, I'll take it. I like what I see.
I'd like to give you the whole house
but I'm not sure -
Think on it says God. I wouldn't put you out.
Your house would be mine and my son would live in it.
You'd have more space than you'd ever had before
I don't understand at all.
I know, says God, but I can't tell you about
that.
You'll have to discover it for yourself.
That can only happen if you let him have the
whole house.
A bit risky, I say.
Yes, says God, but try me.
I'm not sure -
I'll let you know.
I can wait, says God. I like what I see.

With grateful thanks to Sister Halaska and Our Lady Immaculate Church, Tolworth who recently printed this poem in their Parish News

If you would like a poem printed and illustrated, please contact the Spire and Tower Editor.

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OPENING TIMES

Tuesday-Thursday 9:30am-12:30pm & 1:30pm - 3:30pm & Friday 9:30am-12.30pm.





Service calendar, May 2017 to June 2017

May 2017

Sunday 7th May 4th Sunday after Easter
 8am St Andrew's BCP Holy Communion
 9.15am St Mark's – All Age Eucharist
 11am St Andrew's – Morning worship with Baptism
 6pm St Mark's - Choral Evensong

Sunday 14th May 5th Sunday after Easter
 8am St Mark's – BCP Holy Communion
 9.15am St Mark's – Family Worship
 11am St Andrew's – Choral Eucharist with Sunday Club
 6pm St Mark's – Compline

Sunday 21st May 6th First Sunday after Easter
 8am St Andrew's – BCP Holy Communion
 9.15am St Mark's – Morning worship with Holy Baptism
 11am St Andrew's – Choral Eucharist with Sunday Club
 6pm St Mark's - Service of Wholeness and Healing

Thurs 25th May – Ascension Day
 7.30pm St Andrew's – Choral Eucharist

Sunday 28th May Sunday after Ascension
 8am St Mark's – BCP Holy Communion
 9.15am St Mark's – Family Worship
 11am St Andrew's – Choral Eucharist with Sunday club
 6pm St Mark's – Evening Prayer with silence





June 2017

Sunday 4th June Pentecost

8am St Andrew's BCP Holy Communion

9.15am St Mark's – All Age Eucharist

11am St Andrew's – Morning worship with Baptism

6pm St Mark's - Choral Evensong: Thy Kingdom Come

Sunday 11th June Trinity Sunday

8am St Mark's – BCP Holy Communion

9.00am tbc Tennis Court service – Surbiton Tennis court: no family worship tbc

11am St Andrew's – Choral Eucharist with Sunday Club

6pm St Mark's – Compline

Sunday 18th June: 1st Sunday after Trinity

8am St Andrew's – BCP Holy Communion

9.15am St Mark's – Family Worship

11am St Andrew's – Sung Eucharist (no Sunday Club)

6pm St Mark's – Service of wholeness and healing

Sunday 25th June: 2nd Sunday after Trinity

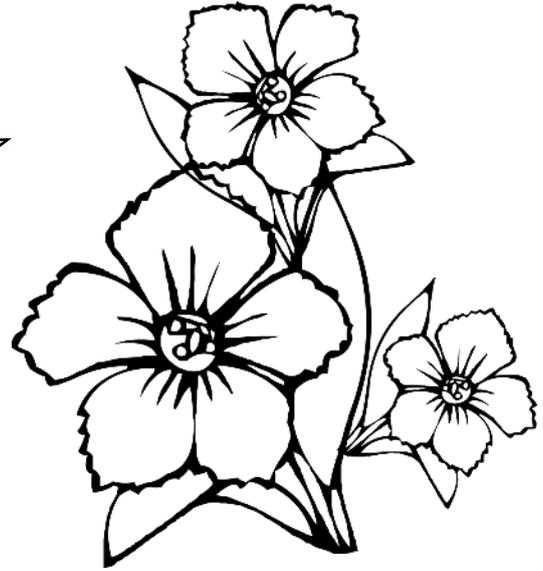
8am St Mark's – BCP Holy Communion

9.15am St Mark's – Family Worship

11am St Andrew's – Choral Eucharist & Sunday Club

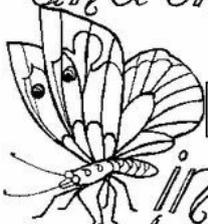
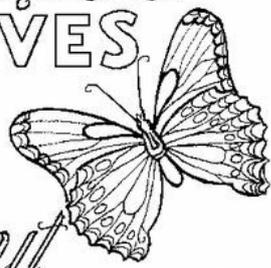
6pm St Mark's – Said Evening Prayer with silence

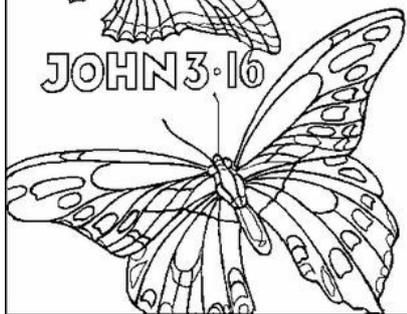
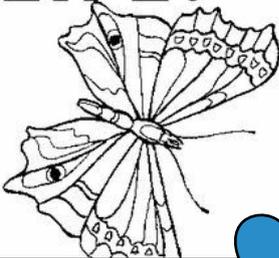





For GOD
 so LOVED
the world that
He gave His ONE
and only SON
that whoever
BELIEVES
in HIM
shall not
perish but
 have **ETERNAL**
LIFE.

JOHN 3:16

GOD'S WORD IS THE TRUTH

