

# *Spire & Tower*



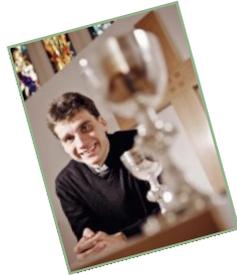
**St Andrew & St Mark Church Magazine**

**Surbiton**



**January & February 2017**

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FRONT COVER  
Palette on knife, oil on canvas.  
Leonid Afremov



# HAPPY NEW YEAR



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The 20th Century Indian novelist, R.K.Narayan, has a funny story about the difficulties the newly independent India had in dealing with the number of applications to town administrators in 1948, wanting to change the name of their street away from whatever British viceroy they had been named after, all hoping to be called “Gandhi Street”.

He’s obviously a controversial character and undoubtedly committed atrocities, but nevertheless, there is, to me, something impressive in the late Fidel Castro stipulating before his death that there should be no statues of him, or monuments to him. Practically speaking, he’s saved Cuba’s town administrators a lot of trouble, but there’s something spiritually important in making that statement. It reminded me of something said on a more local level: during an interview soon after becoming Bishop of Southwark, Bishop Christopher was asked what he’d like his legacy to be. He replied by saying this: “Have you been to Durham Cathedral? It took over a hundred years to build, so that all of the builders who started it did not live to see it finished. I’d like my legacy to be the same as one of those builders.”

What he was saying, I guess, is that those builders clearly made a difference: nine centuries on, the cathedral remains a world class building, where people come to pray and worship, but all those builders are now anonymous, their names lost in the sands of time. Yet their works is still of value on this earth, and their contribution is, of course, recognised by God.

Bishop Christopher is a Christian (obviously!); Fidel Castro wasn’t, but both have got a healthy instinct in which faith in a wider good trumps a desire for immortality on this earth. The Christian message of resurrection holds both that we will all ultimately be made alive again, after our death, but that we will come alive in Christ; yes, we come alive as the individuals that we have been, but also that our individuality is bound up in our relationship with our Creator God. It’s a doctrine that treads the line of acknowledging the ultimate worth of each individual, without exalting the individual beyond their due place in humanity.

My hope for 2017 is that in this church we can grow and develop in this way, a way that sustains each of us as individuals, but in which ultimately no one person is exalted, but is part of a wider community.



*It's Eleven Years...*

...since we left Surbiton, our home for 28 years, for Petersfield in East Hants.

How do they compare?

We live very near the centre; 10 minutes from the Square; the heart of the town, with its Church, Post-Office, Library, shops of all kinds and several cafés and restaurants. Busy in the day, the town quickly empties after 6pm and it's perhaps too quiet! Weekends are enlivened by the various Saturday and Sunday Markets. You can even buy 'organic firewood.' There's a Wednesday Market too.



We are in the new-ish South Downs National Park and surrounded by wooded hills with the Downs to South and North: a walkers' paradise! From our window, we can see the highest point on the South Downs; Butser Hill, complete with many satellite-dishes and aials! The S. Coast, Chichester, Portsmouth, Southsea and Winchester are no more than 35 minutes away by car and the roads are fairly quiet. We can also drop in to 3 National Trust houses; Hinton Ampner, Uppark and Petworth House, for coffee & something unhealthy to eat, then walk it off in the estate parklands. Everything in town is within walking distance, but we drive to our weekly walks with the local Ramblers or "up North" to Kingston, Surbiton or Wisley Gardens.



## IT'S ELEVEN YEARS

Jan and I belong to the U3A's Hand-bell Ringing and Cooking for Men groups respectively. Jan is in two Book Groups. I go down the A3, to play classical guitar for a couple of hours in the evening alongside people much younger than me! Jan and I are in the same Keep-Fit group. I regularly drive a minibus for Age Concern Petersfield. The passengers are full of stories about the 'old days.' Next year, I hope to join a couple more local activity groups.



We have 3 trains each hour to Waterloo (not stopping at Surbiton unfortunately). That link and the fact that house prices are lower than the London area, combine to make the town very attractive to commuters. Some streets are packed with commuters' cars and there's constant demand for more housing development. Neither is popular with many residents.



The morning service here at St Peter's is similar to St Andrew's attended by around 120 people. Despite having taken on many roles, we are not as integrated as we were in Surbiton. People are very welcoming and friendly, but we miss the home/discussion groups which are so useful for building closer relationships. I have ceased active Readership in the hope that someone younger would come forward. A young woman is being Licensed today at Portsmouth Cathedral!

What do I miss about London? Petersfield tends towards 'nimby-ism' and is mono-cultural. It is far from being representative of modern, urban England and we don't have that 'buzz' that you'd find in a university town like Kingston.

Overall, I don't regret our move and we are close enough to St Andrew's; just 45 miles (one hour) up the A3, to return frequently for our bit of 'buzz'! You are also just 45 miles away from us, so why not come South and visit this "Historic Market Town" and have lunch with us at a 'fine-dining' restaurant or a real country pub that has views for miles?

*Michael (Reader at St Andrew & St Mark, 1984 – 2001) and Jan Moore (former Church Warden at St Mark's)*

**QUESTION HOUR**

*My name is Sarolta Buzasi*

Where were you born?

Pécs - Hungary

What family do you have?

My parents live in Hungary, I have an elder sister here in London who has a family here, and my boyfriend is coming to live in London in September.

What is your Job?

In my country I was a literature and grammar teacher, and English as a Second Language teacher. Here in England I am working as a teaching assistant and I have other part-time jobs as well.

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

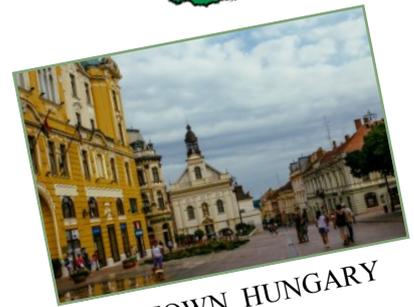
I have been attending St Andrew's and St Mark's since 1st May 2016 and I have also joined the Faith and Fun group.

What is your idea of perfect happiness?

I do not know what perfect happiness is, but living peacefully in harmony with the created world, family, and myself is one step towards it. Of course having an enjoyable job, good health and friends are important for me.

How do you relax?

I like walking or sitting on the riverside.



PECS TOWN, HUNGARY



SURBITON RIVER WALK

*“With good companionship everything can be amazing”*

What are your favourite Bible verses?

It always changes, nowadays I like reading Proverbs.

What single thing would improve the quality of your life?

Usually I could make my life a lot easier with small things for example being on time.

What is your favourite meal?

I love the way my boyfriend uses spices. Otherwise I like Italian cuisine, and the English cookies, and cakes.

Most enjoyable book?

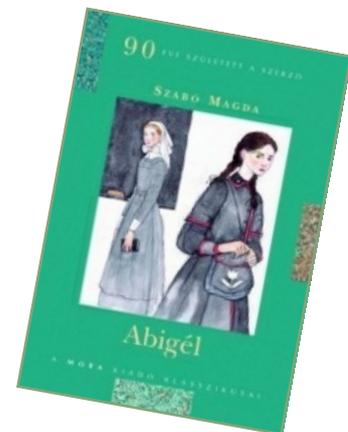
Abigél (“Abigail”) by Magda Szabó is very popular in my country, I am not sure if this novel has been translated into English. This is about a schoolgirl boarding in Hungary during World War II.

Where do you like to go for holidays?

I would prefer sightseeing rather than mountain climbing but with a good companionship everything can be amazing.

What is the most important lesson life has taught you?

Do not judge. (Matthew 7, Luke 6:37)



**“Do not judge”**

MATTHEW 7  
LUKE 6:37

Our charity of the month for January is The UK Friends of the Shepherd's Hospice [UKFTSH]. This is a locally-based charity that supports the work of the Shepherd's Hospice in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Sierra Leone is a beautiful country, but was ravaged by civil war for a decade at the turn of the century. It was getting back on its feet when it was struck by the Ebola epidemic in 2014. The impact of this was devastating. Apart from the loss of life – particularly among medical staff – the closure of schools and markets, the withdrawal of many air services, the evacuation of foreign workers, and a collapse of cross-border trade resulted in both economic and social disruption.

Despite this, the Shepherd's Hospice has continued to offer palliative and primary health care to out-patients suffering from a range of diseases such as TB, Aids and cancer. Last October it moved into new premises, with beds for sixteen in-patients. Before these can be used, however, the hospice has needed to secure reliable supplies of electricity and clean water – and UKFTSH has helped directly with this by funding a rain-water harvesting and filtration system.



*Water*

UKFTSH also meets the salary costs of one local doctor and one nurse – and hopes to be able, in the near future, to arrange for a doctor or other health professional from the UK to spend time in Freetown to help with the expansion of the services of the hospice.

All of the money raised by UKFTSH is sent directly to the director of the hospice; and all of its trustees give their services free of charge, so that its own running costs are very low. It is registered with the Charity Commission with number 1113653.

On Friday 27 January Robert Stanier will lead a wine-tasting in St. Mark's Hall at 7.30 to help raise money for UKFTSH. This will be a free event, but those attending will be encouraged to give at least £10 to UKFTSH. Please let Peter Stokes know if you will be coming so that the right amount of wine can be provided. You can contact him at [prpstokes@btinternet.com](mailto:prpstokes@btinternet.com) or on 8399 2527.



*Clinic*

### *War & Peace at Lincoln*

SASM members who went to Lincoln Cathedral in April this year, may be interested in the Cathedral's development of new facilities and the history it is uncovering as part of the dig on the north side of the Cathedral, near the cloisters.

So far, they have discovered the 14th century remains of the Dean's lodging including painted plaster, suggesting the walls were dark red and yellow. Further down, the dig hopes to uncover Roman remains as the site is within Lincoln's Roman fort and later Colonia.

Buried above the medieval level, the dig uncovered the huge water tank put in place by the local fire brigade in the Second World War to tackle fires should the Cathedral be hit by enemy air strikes.

Lincolnshire's flat land provided many air bases and the Cathedral was the last landmark airmen saw and the first as they returned. The area's Air Force connections will be remembered this November at a service to commemorate the centenary of RAF Waddington, one of the closest RAF bases to the Cathedral. (Singers will recall we sang evening canticles in D Major by George Dyson, who after being invalided out of the trenches in 1916, joined the Air Ministry and established the new Royal Air Force School of Music. From the Song School we could see the memorial to Bomber Command, erected last year: the tallest war memorial in the country).

Thankfully, despite its prominent position, the Cathedral was never hit by enemy fire. During the WWII London blitz, the Lincoln Fire Brigade was called down to London to support fire brigades there.

The Cathedral has also found photographs of the installation of the water tank. As the tank is no longer needed, by 2017 the new visitor centre will stand in its place, including a new cafe, shop and exhibition space where information about the Cathedral's history can be displayed.

Inside the Cathedral, to mark the 2016 anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, a commemorative carving has been created by the Cathedral's stonemasons as a lasting memorial to the conflict.



Sources: Current Archaeology Issue 320; <https://lincolncathedral.com>;  
<http://www.raf.mod.uk/rafmusic/aboutus/timelinedavieslaysfoundation.cfm>;

# FAMOUS SURBITON RESIDENT



## ALFRED EDMEADES BESTALL (1892-1986)

Alfred Bestall was best known as the author and illustrator of Rupert Bear, but he also illustrated numerous children's books including several for Enid Blyton: in addition, he worked as a freelance illustrator for magazines such as Punch and Tatler. After retiring, he continued working on his various illustrations and contributing to the Rupert Annuals until he was 90 years old.

He lived mainly in Surbiton, first in a flat at Beaconsfield House, 44 Ewell Road where he remained for 12 years before moving to 58 Cranes Park, where there is now an English Heritage blue badge commemorating the fact.





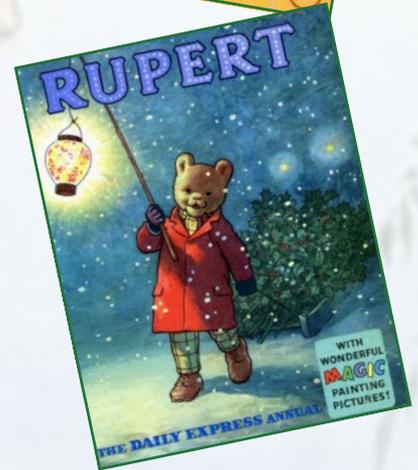
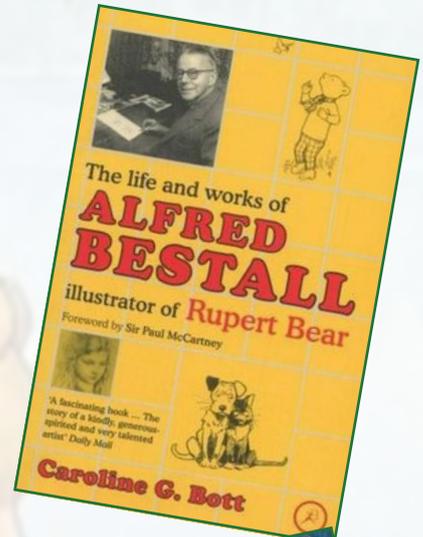
# RUPERT THE BEAR

He also owned a cottage in Penlan, South Wales, which he stayed at several times a year. He allowed family and friends to stay at the cottage when he was not using it.

Alfred was a member of Surbiton Hill Methodist Church

In 1980, Penlan became his permanent home, until illness prevented him living on his own. He died peacefully at the Wern Nursing Home in 1986, aged 93.

He rests now at Collingwood Cemetery, Woking.



*“A quiet corner of British genius”*

*Words engraved on Bestall's headstone.*



## BEYOND THE WIDER CHURCH

The Archbishop of Canterbury launched the Mustard Seed Appeal some months ago and asked the Church Urban Fund to develop it, to deliver essential financial services, training and support across England. And we already have a track record of successful trials carried out in London and Liverpool.

Working with local churches, the Just Finance Network is training volunteers to support people struggling with debt, promote budgeting skills, champion credit unions, support community-led finance initiatives and join in with the bigger conversation about building a just financial system. This is a significant opportunity for the church to challenge the current nature of our financial system.



## THE CHURCH URBAN FUND AT WORK

From funding work with Asylum Seekers to supporting food banks, training young people to be leaders in their community whilst helping others to get control of their finances, CUF is doing a lot of great work across the whole of England.

Your financial assistance helps in many ways—

It is putting beds in buildings so the homeless are no longer homeless; it is supporting food banks so mothers do not go hungry to feed their children; it is training volunteers to go out into the streets and houses to bring hope to the hopeless; it is linking lonely people so they are no longer lonely; it is training people on how to manage their money, so there is always some left for the end of the week. Your money has helped create a “lookup tool”—every single parish in the country has been mapped out by our team of experts to provide in-depth insight into levels of deprivation across the country, so you know the hot spots in your parish and can do something about them.



## THE GREAT SURBITON BAKE OFF

The first 'Great Surbiton Bake Off' in aid of USPG was held on Sunday 23rd October in the Glass Room at St Andrew's. The subject this year was "Africa". The event was a huge success and great fun: most importantly, over £500 was raised for USPG.

The cakes were expertly judged by a panel of three professional bakers: Jackie Page, Alice Peel and Carrie Myers who remarked on the high standards and creativity of all of the entries.

After much deliberation, the judges awarded first place to Joanne Casey for her half submerged, "Happy Hippopotamus" cake (the judges were particularly impressed by the quality of the cake base), second place went to Madeleine Stanier for her skilled Lion themed cake (Joseph's attempts to influence the judges by his declaration that their's was the 'Greatest Cake in the World' was only partly successful) and third place went to Linda Taylor for her impeccable, snow topped Kilimanjaro cake.

A well deserved winner in the juniors category went to Natalie for her superb Lion King cake. There was considerable consumption of 'cakeage' after the judging!

Well done everyone and a big thank you to Janice for suggesting and organising the event, to the Mothers' Union (Audrey & Christine) for providing the tea and coffee, Anne Barker for her charming display of African memorabilia and to John Kelly for his photos.

Roll on 2017, BBC 2 are already sniffing around for the TV rights!





# THE GREAT SURBITON BAKE OFF

1st



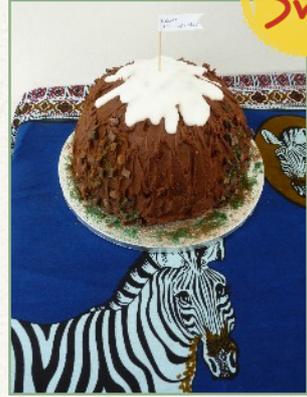
JOANNE CASEY

2nd



MADELEINE STANIER

3rd



LINDA TAYLOR



ROGER JONES



NATALIE

**WINNER OF THE JUNIOR SECTION**



JANICE PRICE





The St Andrew's & St Mark's Mothers' Union Branch have been busy with their monthly meetings as well as helping at Parish events. At the first Thursday service in September the Worldwide Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer was celebrated in St Mark's Church with an inspiring service led by our Vicar, Robert Stanier. Prayers are shared in a wave all around the world. Also in September, Felicity Cheetham, Bishop Richard's wife, gave us a talk about Mothers' Union in Matabeleland. Included with her talk was a presentation of pictures, as well as opportunities to ask questions and contribute to the discussion. An enjoyable and informative afternoon was had by our branch members and visitors from other parishes.

The October meeting was an evening social with 'pot luck' refreshments. We had a very chatty and pleasurable evening. There was a raffle for branch funds. Thank you to everyone for their varied savoury and sweet contributions. A number of members served teas, coffees and soft drinks to those gathered at The Great Parish Bake-Off at St Andrew's on the afternoon of Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

At the branch meeting in November we had a talk by Dave Farris about the Children's Society. He is the Society's President in Southwark Diocese. A great meeting with lots of information, discussion and questions answered. At the Parish Fair on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November a number of members set up, manned and cleared away the stall selling items knitted by the knitting circle.

In December Mothers' Union members and friends from other parishes joined together at St Mark's Church as they hosted a Christmas Service followed by seasonal refreshments donated by Marks & Spencer.

2016 is the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mothers' Union. In celebration of this members of our branch are stitching a Chapel Kneeler to be used in the parish at weddings. We are hoping that all of our 30 members will contribute to the stitch work; already, 16 have.

If you would like more information, please telephone Christine on 01372 373 024.



“She is  
clothed with  
strength & dignity &  
laughs without fear of  
the future”

**PROVERBS  
31:25**

## **Forthcoming meetings:-**

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 2:30pm – Branch AGM in St Mark’s Church

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 2:30pm – Natalie Miller will talk about her Scout trip to Singapore 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

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## **ALL AGES PHOTOGRAPHY PAGE**

We are thinking of running an occasional 'All Ages' Photography Page and would appreciate contributions to get it started. We are not just looking for professional quality pictures, or any particular subjects, just pictures that have come out well and you like. We will award a small prize every year for the photograph we think has the most appeal.

Just a few words of caution; we can only use pictures which include children and young people under 18 if we have written permission from their parents or guardians (we have a simple form for parents to fill in and it only needs to be done once), and if you are a young person, please speak to an adult before sending pictures in.

Digital images should be sent to the Editor on [mjs50@outlook.com](mailto:mjs50@outlook.com). We can also use printed photographs but please contact the Editor first to arrange safe collection.

Thank you.

Editor



## A DELICIOUS VEGETARIAN RECIPE

This article was kindly submitted by Judith Gracia. The recipe is taken from the Women's Fellowship church magazine of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Palayamkottai, South India. The recipe has been translated from the original Tamil.



### Ingredients Needed

10 oz. spinach washed and cleaned (about 6 cups of packed spinach)  
 1-1/2 cups of paneer cubed in bite size, about 1/3 pound of paneer  
 1 tomato finely chopped, this will make 3/4 of chopped tomato  
 1 green chili chopped  
 1 tablespoon chopped ginger  
 1 tablespoon oil  
 1/2 teaspoon cumin seeds, (jeera)  
 1/8 teaspoon asafetida (hing)  
 1 teaspoon coriander powder (dhania)  
 1/4 teaspoon turmeric (haldi)  
 1/2 teaspoon red chili powder  
 1/2 teaspoon salt, adjust to taste  
 1/2 teaspoon sugar  
 1 tablespoon whole wheat flour  
 1/3 cup double cream



### Method of preparation

- First blanch the spinach, this helps to keep the spinach colour bright. To blanch the spinach, boil about 6 cups of water in a saucepan allow the spinach to boil for one minute. Drain the water and put the spinach in ice cold water for about two minutes. Drain the water.
- Blend the spinach, ginger and green chili, the spinach should be creamy but not pasty.
- Soak the cubed paneer in about three cups of hot water, for about 5 minutes or more. This helps to give the paneer a soft texture. Set aside.
- While cooking, the spinach can splatter so use a large sauce pan. Heat the oil in a saucepan, over a medium high heat. Test the heat by adding one cumin seed to the oil; if it cracks right away it is ready.
- Add cumin seed, and asafetida. After the cumin seeds crack, add the tomatoes and stir fry for 1-2 minutes, tomatoes should be tender, not mushy. Add coriander, turmeric, red chili powder, salt, and sugar, stir and add the spinach.
- After the spinach comes to the boil, lower the heat to low, and let the spinach cook for about 5-6 minutes, do not cover the pot. This helps keep the green colour of spinach.
- Mix the flour to 1/2 cup of water and add to the spinach, also add the cream. Mix it well and let it cook for five minutes. If needed add little more water.
- Drain the paneer and fold it gently with spinach and let it simmer for about five minutes.
- The Palak Paneer is ready!
- NB Paneer can be obtained from most major supermarkets, or dry cure cottage cheese or quark can be substituted (but these contain salt).

## THE ILEXHOLM FAMILY

My name is Basil, a Yellow Crowned Green Amazon Parrot - *Amazona Ochracephala*. I was bred in captivity and hatched in Cornwall on 5 December 1999.

Originally, I belonged to professional musicians but eighteen months later when they were no longer able to keep me, Anne welcomed me to Ilexholm and although she does not approve of caged birds, I have become a cherished member of the family there.

When I was twelve weeks old I was called Papageno from Mozart's opera, *The Magic Flute* but although I tried very hard, I found P hard to pronounce and still say " 'appy 'arrot" for "happy parrot". So, as Basil was a short name and one of my owners was Ukrainian and familiar with the great Orthodox saints, that was the name I was given which I say very clearly, "Hello, my name is Basil. How are you?"

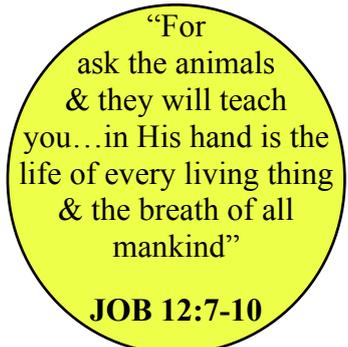
I was thirteen when I laid my first egg on Christmas Day and there have been six more since then. Without a DNA test it is impossible to tell male from female Amazon parrots. So, now, I am sometimes called Basilia! My eggs are three centimeters long.



As you might expect, my repertoire is mostly musical: Beethoven, Mozart, Handel - the opening bars of the Halleluiahs Chorus, Rossini - the William Tell Overture opening line and a few bars from Bach. I also laugh and cough as Anne does and that makes people laugh too. When she is not at home, I have Radio Three for company. My favourites are unaccompanied Bach and anyone who is a mezzo soprano.

I have also learnt to growl as a warning to the third member of the household, Bobby, the Border Terrier, if he invades my space in the back of the car as we travel to Cornwall. In my little travelling cage I sing throughout the journey but sometimes he comes too close to my perch and needs to be reminded.

Bobby is twelve and in 2007 said to be in need of training, was welcomed to Ilexholm as his third home. He is very affectionate, needy; lacking confidence unless there are squirrels, cats or magpies around to chase and thinks he is Anne's shadow, terrified he will be rehomed yet again. We get along very well and together form the Ilexholm family.



"For  
ask the animals  
& they will teach  
you...in His hand is the  
life of every living thing  
& the breath of all  
mankind"

**JOB 12:7-10**

## THERE ARE MANY HEROES

Please don't get me wrong—I am not promoting other religions. I am just saying that a series of performances being given at the British Museum over the past couple of months is a valuable reminder that other religions have their heroes too.

They may be weird, comic, savage, even philosophical, but they do exist, and they have great meaning to those who believe in them. And if we open our minds to the experience of listening and watching, so that we become villagers sitting on the warm earth clapping, shouting, cheering, as “our” heroes travel through time and space to achieve their noble deeds, and bring to us beliefs and attitudes, guidance in action and rules for living—for two hours we are given the opportunity to see another way of thought, another concept of how humanity should behave. It does not change our Christian concepts, but it does open our minds to understanding how others think and why they act the way they do. And in the multiracial, multi-religious country that the UK is, surely this is a good thing.

In these Sunday afternoon performances, we learn of Gilgamesh and his travels in search of immortality, of Kali, the blood-drenched goddess of the Hindu religion, and of Arjuna and how he woke from his meditation to become the champion of the gods—another Hindu deity.

Each performance is enacted by one person, with a musical accompaniment—the actors are superb, playing many parts, and transporting us from palace to desert to lake to temple much as Shakespeare moved his actors in the old Globe. The Arjuna story was told as a shadow puppet play; a theatrical format going back hundreds of years, and still popular today. In these plays, the puppets are each created in a traditional design, then projected against a white screen that is backlit. In the Museum production we had two views—one of the front of the screen, so we saw only the black shadows of the figures, and a projection of the back of the screen, so we could see the puppeteer operating the figures. We also had a full traditional orchestra with singers and dancers.

It takes very little imagination to see ourselves as rural villagers, entranced by the travelling players putting on a show, in return for food and drink and a bed for the night.

As I said at the beginning, to us these are merely myths and legends of strange religions, but if we will open our minds to the beliefs and emotions caught within them, they help us to see that in the brotherhood of man, we are not so very far apart.



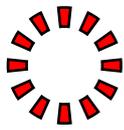
Gilgamesh



Kali



Arjuna



**FOCUS ON: BEGINNINGS & THE 'NEW'**

Happy New Year! January marks the start of 2017. You can also refer to the year as AD 2017 (or Anno Domini), meaning the 2017th year in the year of our Lord/after Christ's birth in the Christian Calendar. These pages are thinking about beginnings and 'new' things – indeed, often people use the New Year as a time to make resolutions to make a fresh start. Have you made any resolutions for the New Year?

**IN THE BEGINNING**



Some of the most famous words in the Bible are the first words of the Book of Genesis, the first book of the Old Testament: 'In the beginning God created Heaven and Earth'. These words from Genesis are mirrored in John's Gospel in the New Testament that begins: 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God'.



**WORD SEARCH**



Can you find all the below words related to the beginning in the Book of Genesis? If you don't know the story, then you could go and read it first!

HEAVEN – EARTH – DARKNESS – LIGHT – DAY – NIGHT – WATERS – LAND – SEED – FRUIT – CREATURES – MAN – REST – ADAM - EVE

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





**INTERESTING FACT – NEW RELIGION, NEW NAME**

In the Bible, the character Saul converts to Christianity and, determined to spread the word of the Gospel, he decides he must adopt a new Roman name – he becomes known as Paul.

**THE BIBLE – AN INFLUENTIAL NEW BOOK!**

It has been said by some that no other book has influenced the English language and culture as much as the King James Bible.

Many phrases from this version of the Bible are used nowadays in every day speech, for example: the prodigal son; salt of the earth; put words in your mouth; a law unto themselves; give up the ghost. It is thought that this is because all the influential people in England in the early 17th century would have heard the newly published King James Bible in churches. They would have thought it was quite the modern, new thing, to use the phrases in every day speech – many of which were a literal translation of the Hebrew. Initially the language would have sounded quite strange to people. It is true that many of these phrases had been used in some other versions of the Bibles before – but there were lots of new phrases too – and it was the King James Bible, being read in public across the land, that brought all these phrases to the ears and then mouths of a wide public!



**HYMNS ABOUT BEGINNINGS AND THE NEW**



How well do you know your hymns? Can you fill in the blanks to make the right title or first line?

There'll be a new \_\_\_\_\_ beginnin' from tonight.

Come to Bethlehem and see the newborn \_\_\_\_\_.

New every morning is the \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord, as the day \_\_\_\_\_.

Seek ye \_\_\_\_\_.

A. KING. B. LOVE. C. FIRST. D. WORLD. E. BEGINS.



**FEAST DAYS – WHAT'S 'THE NEW'?**

Can you unscramble the Feast Day and match the correct one to what newness is being celebrated?

A RESET

ARCH MISTS

CALM DEANS



(A) NEW LIFE - (B) A NEW BABY – (C) NEW CANDLES

*Happy New Year to you all and remember, start by doing what's necessary, then do what's possible and then suddenly you are doing the impossible (St Francis of Assisi).*

## THE FIRST DECADE

Three years to the day after Jersey and Guernsey were liberated from Nazi occupation, I was born a stone's throw from St Andrew's church. My late father was a Pharmacist. My late mother fitted surgical appliances in the lounge above the shop where I was born. As was fashionable in those days, there were large glass carboys filled with coloured water in one or two of the windows. The Midwife who attended my birth that Sunday afternoon remembers I was welcomed into the world to the sound of a passing brass band.

Photo's suggest I was a chubby toddler, who won a consolation prize in a national photo shoot. They too were fashionable in those days.

Rationing after the war continued until 1954. I remember foraging with the family for chickweed for salads. My father taught me to distinguish it from the mildly toxic yellow pimpernel.

I grew up into a rather weedy child. My growth spurt did not come until I was 12. Then I was able to wear long trousers at grammar school.



*The old Pharmacy; the original door was on the corner.*

My father and uncle supported by their spouses worked hard. Having established a pharmacy business in Maple Road, my uncle then opened a shop in Teddington.

We enjoyed some happy family holidays, often with cousins. We visited places like Ryde, The Witterings and Brackelsham Bay. My first kiss was with the visiting butcher's daughter. It was spoilt by my younger brother; he came out and announced to the adults that we were kissing in the caravan. It set me back years.

I was sent to a private preparatory school. I learnt Latin but not enough Maths and English. My father introduced my brother and I to budgerigar breeding and showing. We had about 100 budgies on the flat roof above the pharmacy. Eventually, the aviary had to be moved into the back yard behind the shop. The roof had begun to suffer!. We sold budgies and, sadly, I had to sell my pet blue to a determined buyer. The consolation was that I received £5 a lot 60 years ago!).

My parents weren't churchgoers but sent their three sons to the local Crusaders class (now Urban Saints). It gave them a quiet afternoon in a busy week.

All the family loved soccer, cricket and tennis. My parents did their courting at county cricket matches. They took a packed lunch including their beloved banana sandwiches.

My family's roots were in Bedfordshire and they supported Luton Town. One week, they were thrashed by another team. The following week that team were beaten by Nottingham Forest.

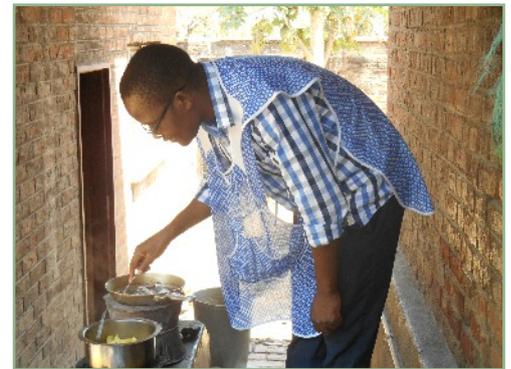
Along with Robin Hood, it was enough for me to support them. Imagine the tension when these two unfashionable teams met in the FA Cup Final of 1959 .....

## TWO WEEKS IN MALAWI

Sometimes you meet someone who has a big impact on your life. So it was in 2014 when I visited All Saints Cathedral in Nkhotakota on the shores of Lake Malawi and I met the Dean, the Very Revd Baird Mponda. We had an excellent time together sharing our faith and exploring the differences in churches and cultures. As I was about to leave, he asked me to return to Nkhotakota to stay with him and his family and to share his ministry. I agreed but wasn't really sure whether it would happen. However, when I returned home he repeated the invitation and I knew I would return.

Two and a half years after the initial invitation I stepped aboard an Ethiopian Airways flight bound for Addis Ababa and then on to Lilongwe, the Capital of Malawi. There to meet me was my dear friend, Dean Baird. Malawi has good roads so we sped along amidst beautiful African countryside and it felt good to be back.

It was about 7pm that we reached the Deanery at Nkhotakota which was to be my home for the next 2 weeks. I was greeted by the Dean's wife and their two children. We hadn't met previously but it wasn't long before we were chatting about the journey. Even at that early stage I somehow knew I was among family.



My first day was spent pastoral visiting in the nearby villages. This was challenging but deeply rewarding. We prayed with a woman who had not eaten for 2 days and later took her some food. We prayed with a woman who was suffering from despair which we would understand as depression. Many were challenged to attend church more frequently. Church attendance is seen as an important Christian witness in a bi-religious (Christian – Muslim) society.

Sunday was the first time I was preaching in the cathedral to a congregation of about 800. The Dean translated into Chichewa, the local language, and I preached on Daniel in the Lion's Den and Zaccheus. The service started at 8am and finished around 11am. There were two collections and people walked to the front to make their offering under the watchful eye of the Dean.

During my time in Nkhotakota I led the Mother's Union retreat, preached to staff at the local Christian hospital, had discussions with the HIV/AIDS Support Group, visited schools and met 3 of the local village chiefs, led the young people's study day and talked with local clergy from surrounding parishes.



## TWO WEEKS IN MALAWI

All of this was set against increasingly scarce basic resources of food and water. Malawi has had little rain for three years and already in southern Malawi people are dying from lack of the basics necessary for life. People are praying for rain this year and asked me to ask people in the UK to pray for rain too. The electricity supply was very sporadic and so torches and solar lighting are essential.

Life in Malawi and in the UK is vastly different. We are fortunate to have plenty of water – sometimes too much in the wrong places – and there would be national uproar if we had to manage with a scarce electricity supply as they do in Malawi. Life in a village community which is cohesive and family based is so very different to suburban Surbiton.

Christian ministry is also very different. Behaviour that is considered sinful is named publicly in a way that we would find intrusive. Families come under increasing pressure as resources get scarce and jobs are not easy to find.



What lingers in my memory about Malawi? First there were the many opportunities to minister and pray for people in very different circumstances. This was humbling and enriching. Then there was the unaccompanied singing during the services which was inspiring and uplifting. There is also the beauty of the Lake and surroundings which was breathtaking. It was very special to be in a place visited three times by Dr. David Livingstone the explorer and missionary so many years ago.

Above all I will always remember the people I met and got to know and for whom I still pray. I shall never forget the delight on the faces of the cathedral elders when I presented them crosses made by Mike Smith. They made me feel welcome and a part of their community even for a short time. This was the best of all.

## UPDATE ON OUR CHURCH GARDENS

Our small gardening team of Linda Taylor, Denise Whelan, Jacqui Smith and me have been busy in our church gardens over the last 9 months. This is a short account of some of things we have been up to.

### ST ANDREW'S

The garden has already been nicely planted so most of our work has been tidying and maintenance. Our first job was pruning and leaf clearing, a big task which involved many car trips to the dump with Plane Tree leaves and prunings. We have now got to grips with this and are concentrating on routine clearing and maintenance. The hedge along St Andrew's Road has been pruned twice and the shrubs cleared away from the church walls to reduce damp problems within the church. Linda has taken over the main responsibility for St Andrew's and has done an excellent job of weeding, pruning and clearing.

The Gleditsia tree (Honey Locust) in the Memorial Garden failed to come into leaf this year, although it is still alive. Its been in the ground for a few years but I can't tell how well established it is. It has not been planted too deeply (the main reason why a tree or shrub fails to thrive) and conditions have been good this year. I am not hopeful it will survive. We will monitor it closely next year, removing a circle of grass from around the bole and concentrating on feeding and watering it throughout the season, so fingers crossed!



### ST MARK'S

We have cleared the scruffy area around the Parish Office which was overgrown with Cotoneaster and ivy. I did not appreciate how heavy and dense Cotoneaster wood is; pruning the larger limbs was quite hard work!. As an aside, I found a counterfeit £2 coin and some broken pieces of the original floor tiles while we were doing the work. There has been some light pruning of the yew trees by the Parish Office to give more light, and the area underneath has been planted with hardy ground cover plants (pulmanaria, ferns, euonymus, bergenia etc).

The Liquidamber tree next to the Vicarage was unfortunately strimmed to death by the council. Another Liquidamber (Worplesden) has been planted in a new position next to the church door. It is a year since it went in and I'm happy to say, it's thriving. The small Colorado Blue Spruce (Hoopsii) also suffered some trimmer damage but thankfully, not terminally. The tree has been re planted to a new position away from the wind tunnel between the vicarage and the church wall which unfortunately resulted in considerable wind burn on one side. This will not regenerate, but the side growth will eventually minimise this.

## ST MARK'S

The old Rosemary bed is doing well. This was the second year we planted it with Pelargoniums and silver Cineraria Maritima. The pelargoniums were purchased as plugs and grown on in my greenhouse. They worked out at only 23p each which is pretty good value, considering how long they have flowered.

Three new Rosemary's have been planted along the east wall and are doing well. The rather unattractive wooden surrounds were unfortunately necessary (at least until the plants are established) as the council were again doing their best to kill them!.



Sue Sabourin heroically struggled to establish the wild flower meadow at the back of of the church, but eventually had to give best to the mass of aggressive weeds which were already well established. The bank will now be kept as grass. The new Hawthorn hedge in Church Hill Road is doing well and has been lightly cut twice this year. The dead sunflowers next to the vicarage have been deliberately left for the bird's to harvest the seed over winter. They will be removed later.

I am considering a new border along the east fence, between the main gate and the Parish Office, and would appreciate your views before I submit it to the PCC for approval. I would like to create an informal hedge of different hardy Fuchsias, Foxgloves, Hollyhocks, Nigella, Poppies etc. I have already bought the Fuchsias from a specialist in Suffolk and am growing them on. I think this will be an unusual and attractive hedging scheme, but appreciate that it might not be everyone's cup of tea!. Your views on this and indeed anything else to do with the church gardens will be very welcomed.

Best Wishes

Mike Smith



# 2016: OUR CHURCH YEAR IN PICTURES



*Baby Max's big day!*



*Pilgrimage to St Albans*



*John Bassett goes for gold!*



*Paul & Richard's Wedding Day on 5<sup>th</sup> August*



# 2016: OUR CHURCH YEAR IN PICTURES



*Children's Choir at St Mark's*



*Erica the donkey leads the procession to St Andrew's Church.*



*Roger explains the fascinating intricacies of a ships emergency lighting system!*



*Amanda & Mark's Wedding Day*



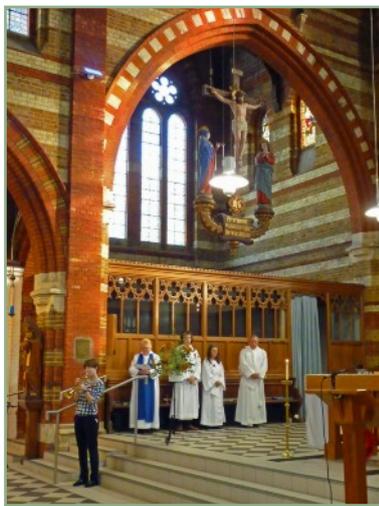
*Combined church choirs at Guildford Cathedral*



# 2016: OUR CHURCH YEAR IN PICTURES



*St Andrew's day supper. £365 raised!*



*Natalie plays the Last Post*



*Laura & Sophia*



*Remembrance Sunday Service*



# 2016: OUR CHURCH YEAR IN PICTURES



*Jackie & John celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary*



*Rear view of Chasuble  
crafted by Janet Jones*



*Children's Advent  
art*



*'Irene - The Star of our Christmas Fair'*



*Christingle Service 24<sup>th</sup> December*



*Janice 'Elfing' at the Christmas Fair*



## THE LEBANESE MYSTERY

The 'mystery' is no longer!. The plant has now been identified by Peggy Howell-Jones as a Tuberose 'The Pearl'. Peggy's diligent detective work was rewarded by a £10 John Lewis gift card which was presented to her recently at the Friday coffee morning.

We now know that the Tuberose originates from Mexico and is a member of the Agave family. It was once popular with affluent Victorian gardener's who were able to give this hothouse beauty the care and attention it required. It is a high maintenance plant which requires maximum sun, a long growing season and consistently warm, free draining conditions. It is quite rare in this country now and very few corms are sold. The oils in the Tuberose are used in perfumery: it is said that the scent from a Tuberose is so powerful it can trigger migraine in some people.

I have no idea how the Tuberose came to be naturalised in the Lebanon, but I imagine the conditions there are ideal for it. Perhaps Victorian diplomats or business people took the corms to the Lebanon as gifts? (in the same way as I came to know it).

Many thanks to Peggy for identifying this unusual plant for us and very well done!.

Editor



*Olga presents Peggy with her prize.*

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## COMING UP IN THE NEXT EDITION

**Hurrah! Spire and Tower is now online.**

Current and previous issues of the magazine can be found under the 'News' tab on the church website. You can now enjoy your parish magazine in full HD!

**In The Next Issue:**

Edward Miller reports on his recent school trip to Auschwitz  
Read two interesting personal profiles  
Members of the congregation meet a Hollywood 'A Lister'



THIS YEAR IS YOURS

God built and launched this year for you;  
Upon the bridge you stand;  
It's your ship, aye, your own ship,  
And you are in command.

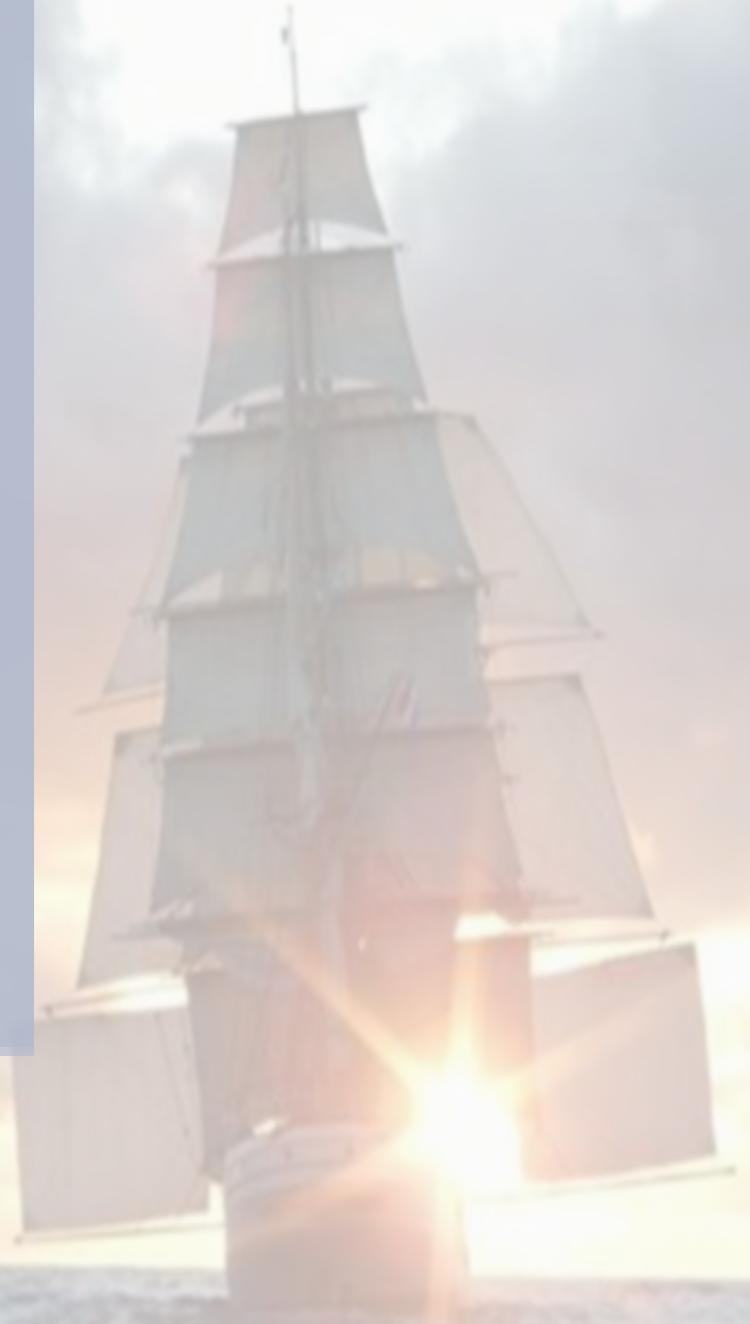
Just what the twelve months' trip will do  
Rests wholly, solely, friend, with you.

Your logbook kept from day to day  
My friend, what will it show?  
Have you on your appointed way  
Made progress, yes or no?

The log will tell, like guiding star,  
The sort of captain that you are.

For weal or woe this year is yours;  
Your ship is on life's sea  
Your acts, as captain, must decide  
Whichever it shall be;

So now in starting on your trip,  
Ask God to help you sail your ship.



## January 2017

Sunday 1st January: 2nd Sunday of Christmas  
8am St Andrew's, BCP Holy Communion  
10.15am St Mark's, Sung Eucharist with carols  
6pm St Andrew's, No service

Sunday 8th January: Epiphany (1st Sun of Epiphany)  
8am St Mark's – BCP Holy Communion  
9.15am St Mark's – Family Worship  
11am St Andrew's – Choral Eucharist with Sunday Club and baptism (Charlotte)  
6pm St Andrew's – Compline

Sunday 15th January: (2nd Sun of Epiphany)  
8am St Andrew's – BCP Holy Communion  
9.15am St Mark's – Holy Baptism (Laura and Heidi)  
11am St Andrew's – 2nd Sun of Epiphany - Choral Eucharist with Sunday Club.  
6pm St Andrew's - Service of Wholeness and Healing

Sunday 22nd January: (3rd Sun of Epiphany)  
8am St Mark's – BCP Holy Communion  
9.15am St Mark's – Family Worship  
11am St Andrew's – Choral Eucharist with Sunday Club  
6.30pm Churches Together Unity service, at Methodist church (tbc)

Sunday 29th January: Candlemas (The Presentation of Christ in the Temple)  
8am St Andrew's – BCP Holy Communion  
9.15am St Mark's – Family Worship  
11am St Andrew's – Choral Eucharist with Sunday Club and baptism of baby Anton  
6pm St Andrew's – Evening Prayer with silence

### **PARRY: SONGS OF FAREWELL**

Twickenham Choral Society  
Registered Charity No 284847  
Saturday 4 March 2017 10.30 – 5.00  
£20 including lunch and refreshments  
Music can be hired for £2.  
St Andrew's Church, Surbiton  
Guest Conductor: Ralph Allwood MBE  
[www.twickenhamchoral.org.uk](http://www.twickenhamchoral.org.uk)  
Leaflets about the workshop will be available in the church.



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Tuesday-Thursday 9:20am-3:30pm & Friday 9:30am-Noon.

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



CHILDREN'S COLOURING



**RUPERT**

