

JAN & FEB 2018

Spire & Tower

St Andrew's & St Mark's
Church Magazine

£1.00

Church Community
View from the Vicar
Charity Work
Children's Page
And more.....

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

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A View from the Vicar



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FRONT COVER



Sunset on a frozen pond.

Photograph taken by Katarzyna Gritzmann





“Christmas: it’s a time for family”

I heard that a lot this year, and there’s also some truth in it. Underneath it, however, there can be a false assumption about what a ‘good’ family looks like. In particular, there is an emphasis on children.

Now, of course, I think children are great; I even have some myself (!), and I love them all unconditionally. Brilliant and absorbing though life is with children, it is also worth stepping outside this particular box and remembering other lifestyles.

One in four people don’t have children and won’t ever have children. Some of these are couples; others are single.

The danger for an institution like mine (i.e. the Church), where some of our key services, like marriage and baptism, are focussed on the life-stages in a family, is that we can imply that there is something blessed about this way of living, that is more blessed than other ways. And this is profoundly wrong.

Christianity wouldn’t be up to much if it were left just to those who were married with 2.4 children. Jesus was a single man; Paul was a single man; St Francis was a single man; Teresa of Avila and Hilda of Whitby were single women who reordered the church. All of whom had ways of life entirely impossible if they had also had responsibility for looking after children. For centuries, community life without children was modelled brilliantly in the monasteries and convents of Europe, Africa and Asia. Arguably, the most brilliant women of the age lived in convents: it was the only way their talents could be tapped, in many instances.





A VIEW FROM THE VICAR

As 'traditional' religious communities decline, we have lost a great wisdom in the depth of way of life possible without children. In my own life, many of the key people who influenced me have been single, certainly child free. All the leaders of the Christian Union where I came to faith were child free, most of them single. I am not sure whether they had started out their lives intending to live this way, but that was how it worked out for them. They had stunning, adventurous lives, with great quality of relationship, just a different sort of relationship. Often their life involved huge commitments; they weren't footloose and fancy free, necessarily, because they chose to use their freedom from family to invest themselves into the community and the church in fantastic ways. I once drew up a list (I am the sort of person who draws up lists) of the best ten sermons I had ever heard given. Nine of the ten sermons were given by people who were child-free. People live lives with all sorts of callings. Even though I find great joy in marriage myself, and happily advocate it, I wonder if we don't explore sufficiently the life possibilities of people who do it differently. Let's not just explore it; let's celebrate it.

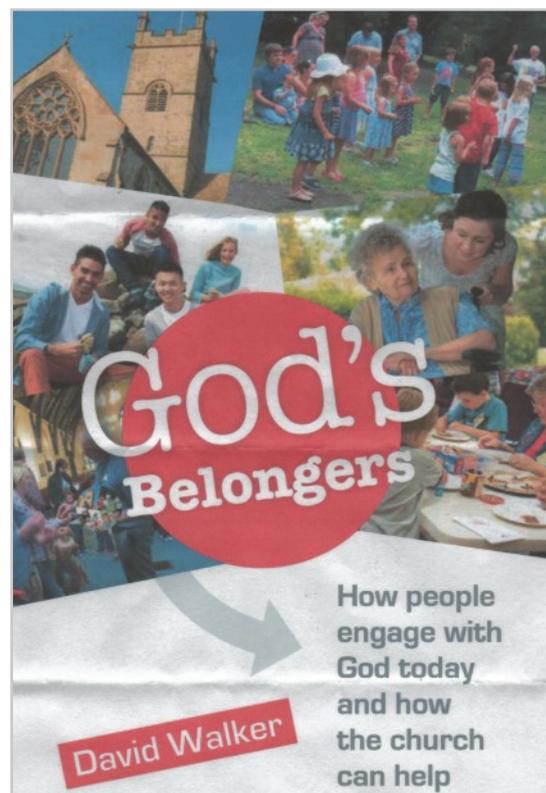
By: *Robert Stanier*



RECOMMENDED READING

God's Belongers should transform our thinking about what it means to belong to church. Uniquely, David Walker replaces the old and worn division between 'members' and 'non-members' with a fourfold model of belonging through relationship, through place, through events, and through activities. From his extensive practical research, the author shows how 'belonging' can encompass a far wider group of people than those who attend weekly service. This opens up creative opportunities for mission in today's world.

By: *Jo Norman*



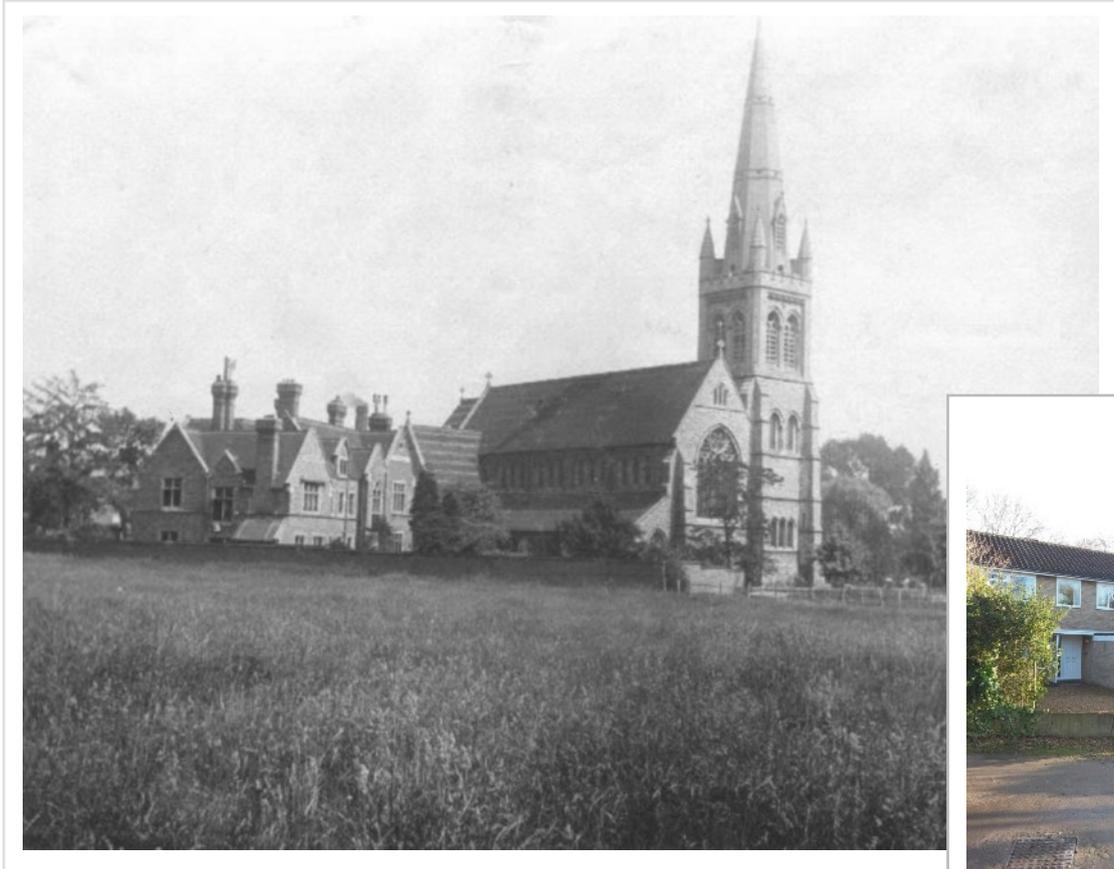


A BIG THANK YOU

The main highlight of the month is not the football, the rugby or even Strictly Come Dancing. It is of course the delicious parish breakfast which Tori and her team prepare for us with such love and skill on the first Sunday of every month. A proper thank you is long overdue. Three big cheers to Tori, Clare, Ann, Naomi, Charlie, Sarolta, Richard, Eleanor, Bethany, Catherine and anyone else who helps out on an informal basis. All your hard work is very much appreciated.

The delectable sausages are sourced from Steven's Fine Foods in Hinchley Wood; Laura King of Kings Fine Food very kindly donates the smoke salmon which make the breakfasts extra special. So well done and thank you very much indeed.





Do you immediately recognised the church above?

It is St Matthew's Church, Surbiton, taken in 1880. Hard to believe all those years ago it was surrounded by pretty & quiet countryside. The black & white photograph was taken from what is now Chamberlain Way, probably in the gardens behind the modern houses.



KEEP THE CIRCUS GOING INSIDE OF YOU,
KEEP IT GOING, DON'T TAKE ANYTHING TOO
SERIOUSLY,
IT'LL ALL WORK OUT IN THE END.

David Nevin 1900-1983

ONCE A MAN ASKED JESUS... WHAT MUST I DO TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE?

He would insist on putting his finger on sore spots. He would insist on answering questions by asking another. He would insist on avoiding intellectual discussion and, instead, press for practical action. He did all these things in the story of the Good Samaritan. Put another way, Jesus would probably have been a good chess player.

Here in this passage of scripture, the lawyer clearly is intent on an intellectual discussion, for his question "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" was capable of conflicting answers. Jesus doesn't answer as expected. He asks another question. "You are a lawyer, what does the law say?". "Love God and love your neighbour" replied the Lawyer. "Do this and you will live" said Jesus. The intellectual debate never got off the ground. Smothered at birth with a bit of common sense and practical advice! There's a time for debate and a time for action. We need wisdom to decide which.



Christ & The Rich Young Ruler, Heinrich Hofmann, 1889.

Undaunted, the lawyer tries again, "And who is my neighbour?". Like a child when given a newly opened box of chocolates, the lawyer saw it as a problem of selection - the choice was his. But he was wrong, as the story of the Good Samaritan revealed. It was not a problem of selection but of attitude. Love is for doing, not talking about. "Don't speak of love. Show me!" There is no record in the story that the Good Samaritan and the victim had a discussion about it. The former got on and did what was necessary- and also made provision for aftercare!

A close study of the story and Our Lord's pertinent question at the end of it reveals that the lawyer had asked the wrong question. The real question was not 'Who is my neighbour?' but, 'To whom am I a neighbour?' Am I selective? Or am I open to the God of surprises, ready to be interrupted or confronted by those he sends across my path in order that they may find in me a true neighbour?'. Two thoughts to ponder: Those are the best neighbours who allow others to be their neighbours.

Is there a sense in which the lawyer was the victim?

This article was written for Spire & Tower in 1996 by Bishop Roy of Southwark.

My name is Dan Stephen Nmadu.....

Describe yourself. –Name Where were you born?

My name is Dan Stephen Nmadu. I was born in Nigeria and I have lived in the UK for the last 16 years. I have lived in Oxford, Reading, Durham and Kingston which I considered as my second home.

What family do you have?

I live with my partner Hiroko and our 4 month old son Kai Joshua. Both my parents live in Nigeria. My father is a medical doctor and my mother is a pharmacist. I have two siblings, a younger brother, who is a doctor like my dad and a younger sister, who is an accountant. I am very fortunate to have been raised in family with a strong Christian heritage which has been passed down by generation. Both my grandfathers were priests and my parents are very active in their church in Nigeria.

What is your occupation?

I am an accountant and I currently work in the global treasury team for a multinational company.

How long you have been attending St Andrews's & St Mark's and anything else you want to write here?

I been attending St Andrews for the last 4 years. St Andrews reminds me very much of the Anglican Church I went every Sunday while growing up back in Nigerian.

What is your idea of perfect happiness?

Everlasting peace and watching my son grow up.

What is your most treasured possession?

Relationships with family, my partner, and son.

How do you relax?

I tend to go traveling and sightseeing. I also try to keep fit and do some sort of physical exercise.

I have recently started trying my hands on DIY which I have very relaxing and therapeutic.



“Live every day like it’s your last”

Which character in the Bible, after Jesus, inspires or interests you most?

I find Noah’s exploits during the great floods to save humanity and animal kind very inspiring. It must have been a tough task to build such a massive ark to house all that wildlife.

Joshua’s rise from follower to God’s chosen leader of Israel is another incredible story. I find his countless battle victories, loyalty, leadership and his strong relationship God very inspiring.

What are your favourite Bible verses?

Romans 8:31 if God is for us who can be against us.

Psalm 23: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”

What is your favourite meal?

I do like Indian cuisine especially hot and spicy dishes.

Most enjoyable book?

A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson.

Where do you like to go for holidays?

Hiroko and I tend to head for the coast when we holiday. The Turkish coast, Sardinia and Greece are some of our

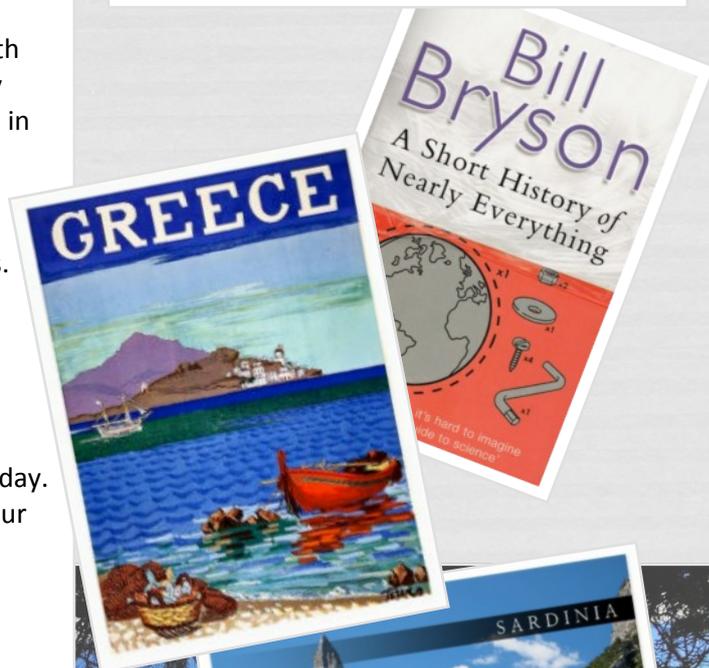
favourite holiday destinations.

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

California, Australia or Singapore.

What is the most important lesson life has taught you?

Live everyday like it’s your last.



Born: 1st September 2015
Forever home / Adoption: 23rd October 2015
Age: 2
Breed: Ginger mogs
Origins: Brixton...!
Related? Yes, brother and sister
Owner: Clare (mummy)



Orlando (nicknames 'SB', Orly, Purr-chops):

- loves 'mummy's' lap, Jemima, being loved, going out at night, birds, mice, rats, treats – especially the 'sticks', and lik-e-lix treats, purring, frogs, toads, cuddles, garage rooves, snuggling with Jemima, moths, wasps, climbing trees, helping mummy find her marbles (see below), helping the printer.
- dislikes not spending the evening on mummy's lap, the black and white cat next door, other cats that are mean to him, being ignored, not being the centre of attention.
- Orlando really only has eyes for his mummy and Jemima (unless mummy is away, then he loves Catherine and Hugh), and mice / birds.

Jemima (nicknames 'JJ', Pickle-pie, JiminyCricket):

- loves treats, voles, snoozy tummy tickles, Orlando (sometimes, when he isn't being annoying), mummy (sometimes, when she isn't being annoying), more treats, more voles, snoozing in the garden, lapping up the sunshine, snoozing on one of the beds at home, playing football with the solitaire balls (also called 'mummy has lost her marbles'), nature TV programmes, moths, climbing trees, Christmas Trees, sending text messages.
- dislikes too much fuss, that de-flea stuff, not getting lots of treats, Orlando when he is being annoying, strange people, the doorbell.
- Jemima looks like butter wouldn't melt in her mouth but is actually rather naughty, hence the nickname Pickle-Pie. She also plays big sister and keeps an eye out for Orlando.



Memorable Incidents to date...

- the incident of the rat brought in alive – last seen escaping behind the kitchen cabinets. Never been seen since!
- the regular gifts – mice (dead and alive), birds, voles, frog, rat, sometimes two a day.
- Jemima helping the big Lion catch a Zebra (on the TV, courtesy of David Attenborough)
- Jemima hanging upside down from the plum tree trying to imitate a squirrel she had just observed.
- Orlando trying to catch a bird and hanging off the bird feeder by his claws.

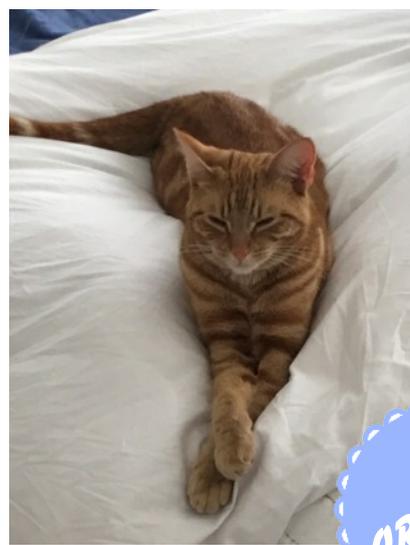
How can you tell them apart?



Orlando is on the left, Jemima on the right. Jemima's face is rounder and flatter, she has shorter legs and a more 'solid' build. Orlando has a more pointed face, longer legs, skinny and a bit more sociable. Jemima's markings, while identical to Orlando, are paler. Their personalities are very different. They love each other a lot, go scampering up the garden together and have their own little language, rub noses, entwine tails, then jump on each other and have big play fights.



JEMIMA



ORLANDO

A VIEW FROM A NEW PEW: AN OCCASIONAL SERIES SUGGESTED BY CHARLOTTE NEW

Throughout the year, a lot of us visit friends, travel around and go on holidays. If you attend services at other churches when you are away, it would be lovely to hear all about them.

Please send us a paragraph about where you were, why you were there and the things you liked (and perhaps, also, the things you didn't). If you can, do also send a photo (of the place, it doesn't have to be the church).

Charlotte kicks off with:

St Peter's Church, Seaview, Isle of Wight

There aren't many churches you can attend for the 10am Eucharist after having had an early morning on the beach and a swim in the sea. However, St Peter's is one of them. We visited Seaview in the Isle of Wight for our summer holiday. We have been there before and it's popular with the Surbiton crowd- two other families from our road were there at the same time! Charlotte attended St Peter's for a Eucharist and a children's service.

The church is a small, seaside church and is incredibly welcoming (we are recognised from previous years – with the choir beaming at us and other non-regulars in the congregation as they process in). They also run an excellent church fair in mid August, with a fancy dress parade and dog show. However, on the downside, Georgina made up half of the target congregation at their children's service: the lure of crabbing proving too much for others (including her brother). To redress this, we have already shared ideas with them, including sending them details of our 9.15 service.

By: *Charlotte New*





This article was taken from the Ideas Forum of the Association of Church Editors.

A 151-year-old Bible has been returned to the Scots descendants of its original owner after making a 3,500 mile journey from the U.S. The book was returned after American owner Marshall Whitehead decided to track down the family of the original possessor. Donald Mackechnie from Glasgow said he was "amazed" when a stranger turned up at his home with the Bible that had belonged to his grandmother's great-grandfather.



Mr. Whitehead, who was gifted the pocket-sized book in 2001 by an amateur Bible collector from Cleveland, Ohio, had rediscovered it when moving home in May. Noting that the Bible bore the name Alexander MacDonald of Inverness with the date 1st January, 1866, he decided to track down the descendants of MacDonald, who was born in Inverness in 1825 and worked as a ship master, wine merchant and grocer. After contacting Highland Council, he was put in touch with Anne Fraser, a historian at the Highland Archive Centre who created a MacDonald family tree. Mr. Whitehead then used social media to track down Mackechnie's daughter Mairi in Glasgow, who alerted her Islay-raised father.

The Bible, which had a four-leaf clover tucked within its pages, was hand-delivered to Mackechnie by Alistair Begg, a pastor at Mr Whitehead's church in Ohio who is originally from Glasgow and was visiting relatives in the city recently. Mr. Mackechnie, clerk to the board at St Columba Gaelic Church of Scotland in Glasgow, said: "There was a knock on the door one day and this chap was standing there. "I almost fell on the floor when he explained what he was giving me. I could not believe it - it was such a shock and a surprise. "The whole family are delighted and over the moon to receive his previously unheard of family heirloom.



2017 A SNAPSHOT OF OUR YEAR AT ST ANDREWS & ST MARKS



Bobby in quizzical mode!



These two girls celebrated special Birthdays this year.



Dear old Robin



Richard & Heather on 29th July



Basil lays an egg & becomes..... Basilia!

2017 A SNAPSHOT OF OUR YEAR AT ST ANDREWS & ST MARKS



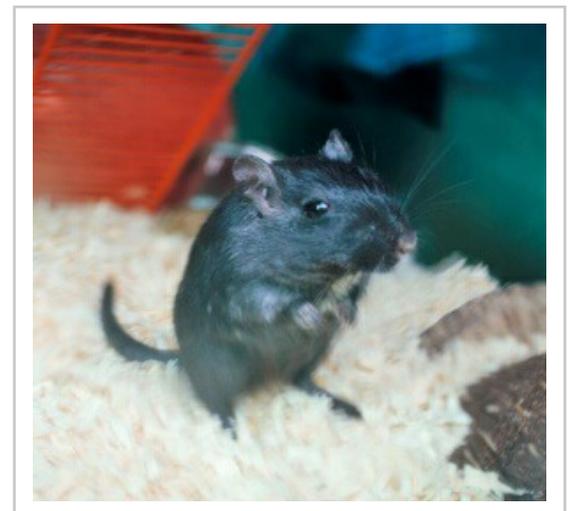
Flowers donated by our Muslim friends following the London Bridge attack.



Erica, a donkey most beautiful



On the ferry to Iona



Silky, a very excellent Gerbil

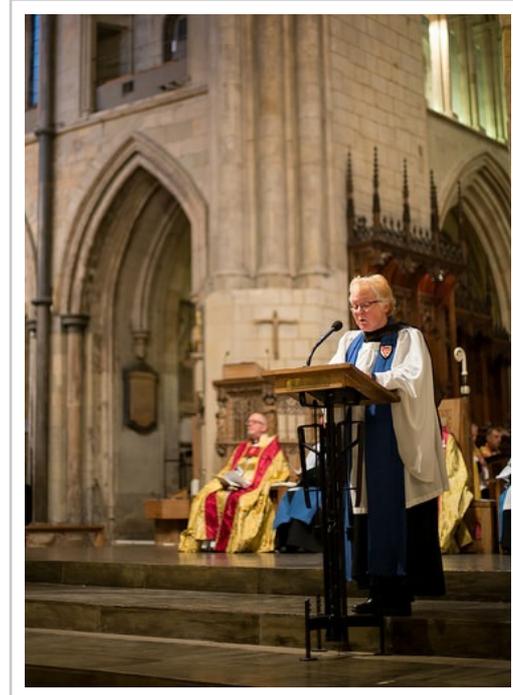


The Palm Sunday procession leaves St Mark's

2017 A SNAPSHOT OF OUR YEAR AT ST ANDREWS & ST MARKS



Sunday club present their banner to the congregation



Janice Price reading at Southwark Cathedral



Carols by candlelight



Tree planting at St Mark's



Jackie Robbs after giving her first sermon at St Andrew's

2017 A SNAPSHOT OF OUR YEAR AT ST ANDREWS & ST MARKS



Bishop Christopher visits St Andrew's



Ruth & Harry Gilmore celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary



*Nancy Vlasto proudly displays her
Degree Certificate*



*The children prepared for Admission to Holy Communion, First
Communion, in March were Gracie, Theo, Harry & Tessa*



Valerie introduces the evening of entertainment



*The children prepared for Admission to Holy
Communion, First Communion, in October:
Emily, Joseph, Joseph, Mia & Sky*

2017 A SNAPSHOT OF OUR YEAR AT ST ANDREWS & ST MARKS



Mary with her Christingle



Edward Miller & his chums entertain

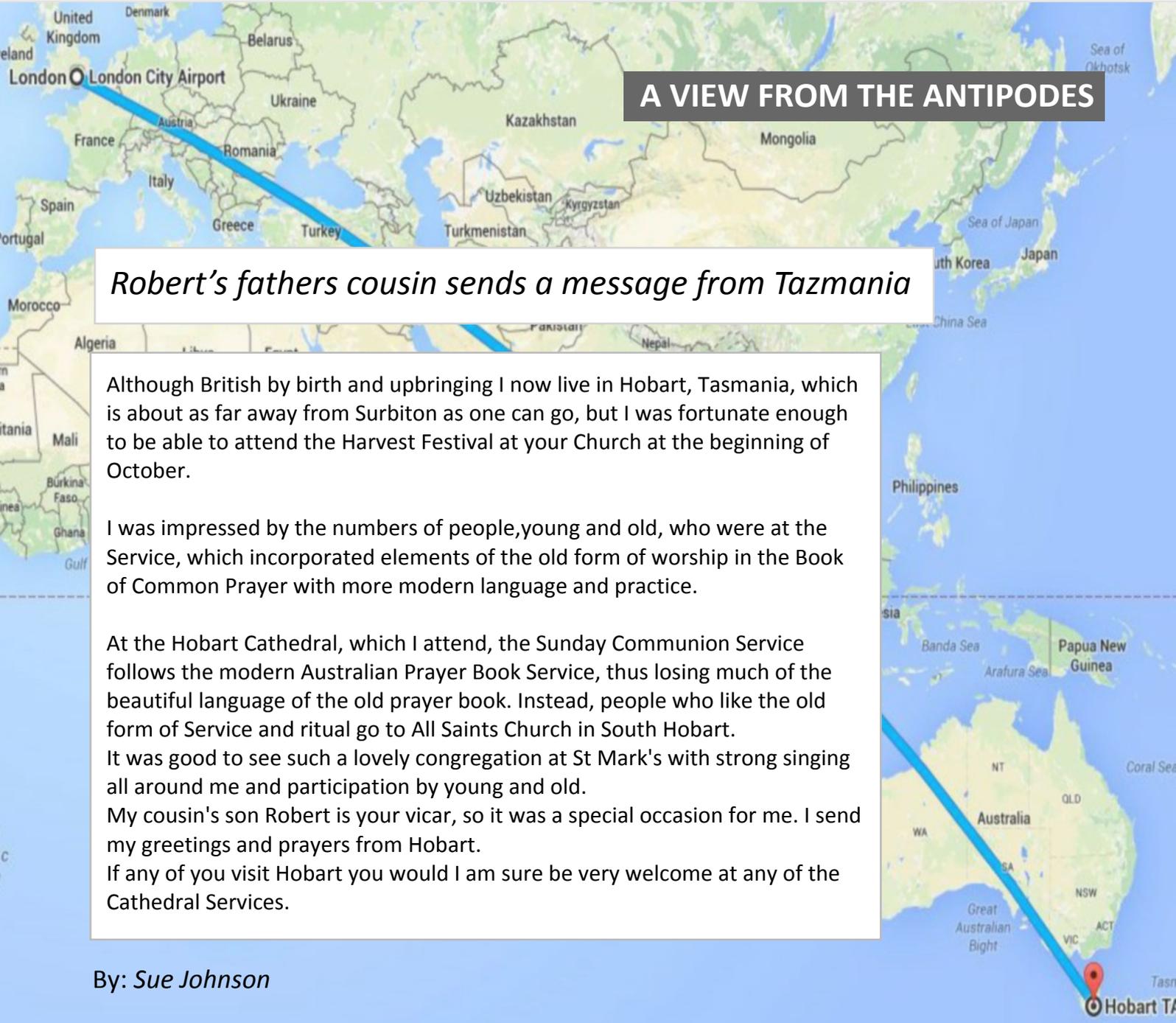


John Wickenden takes a stress break at the Christmas fair. Guess the name of the book he is reading.

Clue, it was written about a German Corporal!

Three little Angels





A VIEW FROM THE ANTIPODES

Robert's fathers cousin sends a message from Tazmania

Although British by birth and upbringing I now live in Hobart, Tasmania, which is about as far away from Surbiton as one can go, but I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the Harvest Festival at your Church at the beginning of October.

I was impressed by the numbers of people, young and old, who were at the Service, which incorporated elements of the old form of worship in the Book of Common Prayer with more modern language and practice.

At the Hobart Cathedral, which I attend, the Sunday Communion Service follows the modern Australian Prayer Book Service, thus losing much of the beautiful language of the old prayer book. Instead, people who like the old form of Service and ritual go to All Saints Church in South Hobart. It was good to see such a lovely congregation at St Mark's with strong singing all around me and participation by young and old.

My cousin's son Robert is your vicar, so it was a special occasion for me. I send my greetings and prayers from Hobart.

If any of you visit Hobart you would I am sure be very welcome at any of the Cathedral Services.

By: *Sue Johnson*

*"Once a year,
Go someplace you've
never been before"*

Dalai Lama

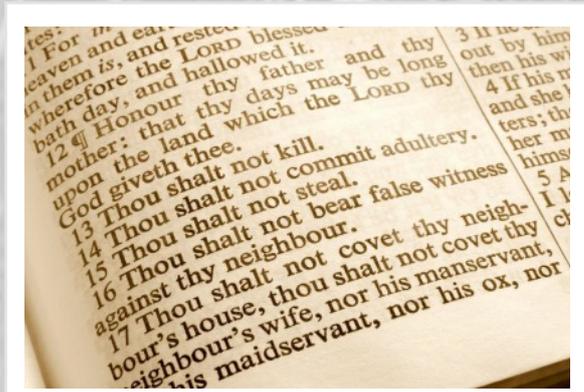
"We will open the book, Its pages are
blank.

We are going to put words on them
ourselves. The book is called opportunity & its
first chapter is new Years Day."

Edith Pierce

ONLY SIX OUT OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Premier Christian Media has reported that a new poll has revealed that only six of the original Ten Commandments are still seen by most British people as important principles to live by. The findings also ring true of Christians in the country. The Commandments that most British people, Christian and non-Christian, think are still important to live by are, 'You shall not kill' and 'You shall not steal.' Ninety-three per cent of respondents said they are still important. 'You shall not bear false witness', and 'You shall not commit adultery' followed as other commandments important to the 1,680 adults interviewed. Graham Nicholls, director of Christian charity Affinity, thinks this is something to celebrate. He said: "It shows that what God says corresponds with what most of us know is right, especially when it comes to how we treat one another. To the confounding of scientific materialists, we still have a sense of right and wrong. If we believe God's ways are good ways, then in our best moments we know deep down that the Ten Commandments set a pattern for life that is essentially good."



However, the four commandments that British people care about the least are: 'You shall not worship idols'; 'You shall not use the Lord's name in vain'; 'I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other God before me' and 'Remember to keep the Sabbath day.' Fewer than a third of Britons said that people should not worship idols (defined in the survey as statues or symbols). But the survey found Christians are split on whether they still consider this to be an important commandment, with 43 per cent saying it is and 44 per cent saying it is not. Meanwhile, only one in five non-religious people (20 per cent) say it is still an important rule.

Graham Nicholls said this part of the report raised a concern for him. He said: "Christians seem almost as confused about the relevance of the commandments relating to our worship of God as non-Christians. There is sadness, but not surprise, that 80 per cent of non-Christians think it's OK to worship idols but the big shock is that more than half of Christians also don't think this is an essential commandment. I think it shows that Christianity can easily become just a set of social protocols for being nice to each other that we agree by consensus, and not, at its heart, submission to God and putting him first."

The report stated that overall, Christians are more likely than the general population as a whole to think any given Commandment remains important.

STRAPLINES

A pessimist is someone who, when opportunity knocks, complains about the noise.

It is easier to suffer in silence if you think someone is watching.

Let your religion be less of a theory and more of a love affair. (*G.K. Chesterton*)

Letter to a tax inspector: "I am enclosing a cheque because I am having a problem with my conscience over my income tax return. If the problem persists, I will send you the rest."

My main aim in life is to be on the devil's most wanted list. (*Leonard Ravenhill*)

Money doesn't talk – it goes without saying!

Safety isn't the absence of danger - it's the presence of God.



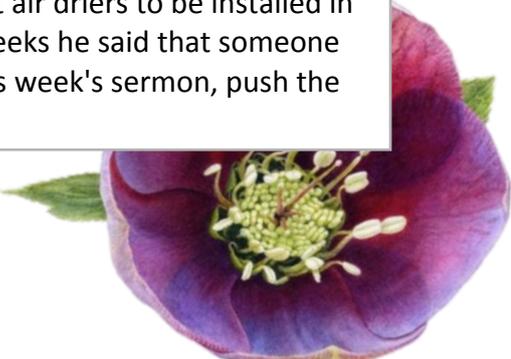
TIME FOR A SMILE

A doctor was addressing a church fellowship meeting about the dangers of some of the foods we eat. After bombarding them with all kinds of information, he asked "Can anyone here tell me what food it is that causes the most grief and suffering for years after eating it?" An old man in the audience quickly volunteered the reply, "Wedding cake."

Two lorries loaded with thousands of copies of Roget's Thesaurus were involved in a collision soon after they left the publishing house last week, according to press reports. Witnesses to the accident were stunned, startled, aghast, taken aback, stupefied.....

The wife of a young curate was keen to return to her usual figure as soon as possible after the birth of their first child, but it was proving difficult. Her husband offered to take her shopping for a new dress. He spent a long time at one shop listening patiently to her complaints about which figure flaw each dress accentuated. As she emerged from the dressing room, having tried on the last selection, she asked for her husband's opinion. By this time he had learned just the right things to say. "It's perfect!" he exclaimed. "It makes your waist look smaller, your legs look longer, and your hips look much more slender." He was overheard by a lady in the next booth who said in a loud voice, "If there are any dresses here that will do that, I'll buy them all!"

As part of a plan to modernise his church, a minister arranged for hot air driers to be installed in the toilets. When asked why he had them removed after only two weeks he said that someone had placed a notice on one of them which read, "For a sample of this week's sermon, push the button."

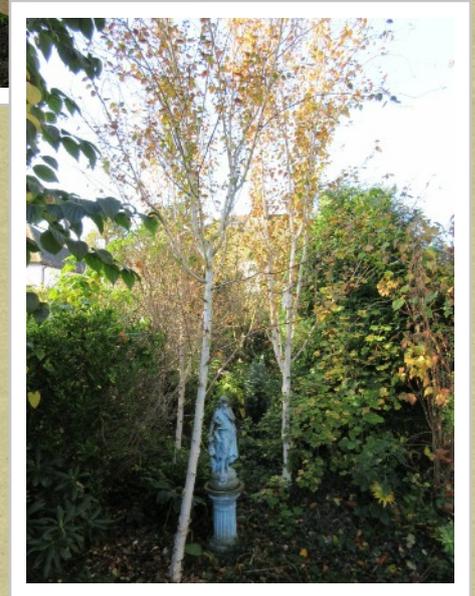


GARDENERS CORNER

The two trees which were donated under the 'Trees for Sacred Places' project were planted at St Mark's on 26th November. The planting was combined with an outdoor service which was very well attended and everyone got stuck in, from children to some not quite so young!. Many thanks to Robert, Celia, the Churchwardens, Anne Barker and everyone else who helped make the planting and service so meaningful, moving and fun.

A Sorbus (Mountain Ash) was incorrectly delivered for the front instead of the Prunus Padus which I ordered, but it is a very nice specimen and will look terrific when it starts coming into fruit. The birds will love it!. A large Malus (Crab Apple) was planted in the area to the right of the Parish Office and will be a great help to wildlife as a food source and to pollinating insects.

A few months ago, a Landscaper friend offered me a gift of three very nice Himalayan Birch trees (*Betula Utilis Jacqmontii*). The trees were no longer wanted by the client and my friend was instructed to break the trees up and dump them in the skip! (they are each valued at £175). Fortunately, my friend thought of me and I immediately thought of an ideal place for them in the front of St Mark's!. The PCC have now authorised the planting of the trees which will shortly appear in the front church lawn, to the right of the main entrance. *Jacqmontii*'s are a lovely variety with beautiful white bark and restrained growth and open habit. I think they will be a great asset. I've attached a photo of three identical *Jacqmontii*'s which I planted in my garden 21 years ago. The statue and plinth in the centre of the photo are about 4 feet high and give an idea of the small scale and open nature of the trees.



We've recently seen the first Snowdrops, Cyclamens and Camelias in our garden and the Hellebores and Narcissi are just about to open. The birds have been very busy and the other day I counted 14 different varieties around our back garden feeders in the space of just a few hours. Winter is already starting to make a retreat (fingers crossed!).

Best wishes Michael Smith



The St Andrew's & St Mark's Mothers' Union Branch have been busy with their monthly meetings as well as helping at Parish events. In November branch members joined with St Matthew's 'Chance to Chat' group for a talk about Iona. Philippa from the 'Chance to Chat' group gave a brief talk and showed some slides of the joint parishes' 2017 trip. Thanks are due to Margaret Palmer and Joan Higgs-Smith for sharing their knowledge of Iona. Thanks, also, to Diana Dowson and Joan Higgs-Smith for organising the refreshments.

Branch members manned the Bottle Tombola at the Parish Fair on Saturday 18th November. Thanks are due to Valerie Baxter and Margaret Palmer who set up the stall on the Saturday morning. Also thanks to Elizabeth Edwards and Joan Larkin for manning the stall in the afternoon. Audrey was very pleased with the support.

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.

2016 was the 140th Anniversary of the Mothers' Union. In celebration of this members of our branch stitched two Chapel Kneelers to be used in the parish at weddings. The kneelers were worked by Angela Jones, Audrey Eldridge, Caroline Ayles, Celia O'Neill, Christine Waller, Diana Dowson, Elizabeth Edwards, Frances Rogers, Ian Wilson, Janet Jones, Janice Price, Joan Higgs-Smith, Joan Laidler, Joan Larkin, Joann Healey, Joan Young, Revd. Laura Selman, Madeleine Stanier, Margaret Palmer, Mary Rice, Mavis Cracknell, Moira Greenfield, Revd. Robert Stanier, Ruth Gilmore, Sadie Beesley, Shirley Casey, Sue Paine, Sue Woods and Valerie Baxter. Unfortunately Jean Wrench was too ill to do stitch work, but she was able to see the progress of the kneelers before she died. The two kneelers were dedicated by Revd. Robert Stainer at the 9:15am service in St Mark's Church on Sunday 7th January 2018.

We are delighted that Mothers' Union is now on Instagram @officialmothersunion.

Make sure you follow along to see some great images and stories of the Mothers' Union work around the world!

Forthcoming meetings:-

Wednesday 17th January 2018 at 2:30pm – Branch AGM in St Mark's Church

Wednesday 21st February 2018, 3pm – 5pm – Bring and Share tea in St Mark's Church.

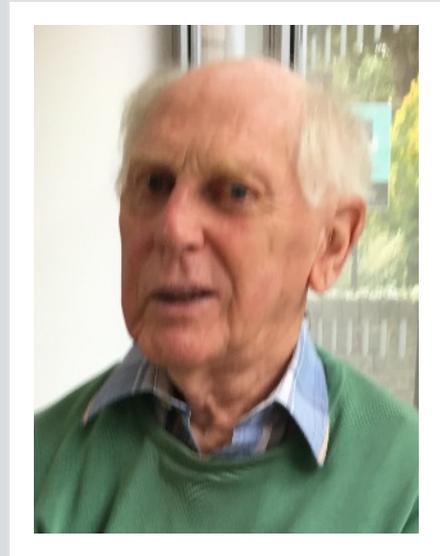
By: *Christine Waller*



LIGHT & SHADOW: CARAVAGGIO & HIS FOLLOWERS

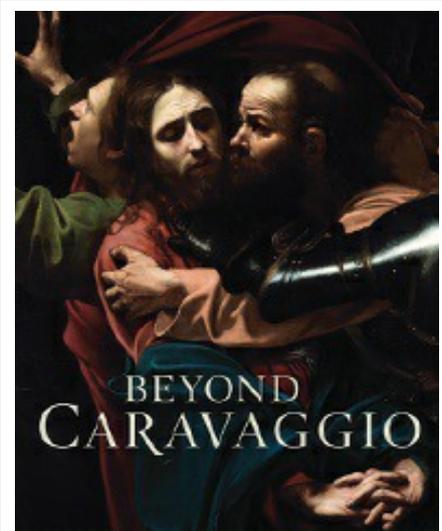
BY COLSTON HARTLEY

When I went to the National Gallery last November to see the exhibition *Beyond Caravaggio*, the staff were practising their first-aid skills since some poor lady had passed out. As I later remarked to the Vicar: 'what else can you expect when so many paintings depicted the sex and violence of the Bible?' Heads were being chopped off (Goliath and the Baptist); Apostles being martyred (Bartholomew, Peter); Lot's daughters were breaking the rules; nasty Elders were leering at Susanna; whilst the capable Kene was calmly extracting arrows from Sebastian's body.



What was curious, though, was the absence from this show of the central episodes of the Christian story: no Nativity, no Crucifixion, no Resurrection. Instead, Caravaggio (1571-1610) and his followers here showed some of the less awesome moments, occasions to which mere mortals may find it easier to relate. There was an amazing painting by Lo Spadarino where we regard Doubting Thomas as Jesus held open the wound in His side; or a candlelit scene where the High Priest tried to trap Jesus in "the law". Above all, hung side-by-side, two great pictures by Caravaggio, 'The Taking of Jesus' and 'Supper at Emmaus'.

Supper it was to be, with a cooked bird and fruit as well as the essential bread and wine. We see the moment when one of the disciples is startled out of his chair as Jesus blesses the bread. "The taking" showed Jesus trying to avoid the kiss of Judas, but He is held in the (literally) steely grip of a soldier, This was the image that dominated Trafalgar Square and some Tube stations for a couple of months. A great painting, on loan from Dublin, in which the artist included his own face as that of the man with the lantern – a parable, perhaps. Elsewhere, his were the features of John's head, dripping into Salome's dish.



'THE ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS' & 'THE ADORATIONS OF THE KINGS'

Of the other paintings, it will be easy at Passiontide to recall the maid accusing Peter: "This fellows was also with Jesus of Nazareth". Orazio Gentileschi painted Joseph as a tired old man, probably snoring, on their flight into Egypt whilst Mary breast-feeds the Babe – no angels singing lullabies but just an everyday, exhausted, refugee family. Orazio's daughter, Artemisia Gentileschi, painted Susanna. This was one of the points where 'actuality nudged the art'. Caravaggio's life was full of violence, while Artemisia was abused by one of her father's assistants. Many of her paintings (not in this show) depict those violent women of the Old Testament who thought nothing of chopping-off a man's head, or hammering a tent peg through it. The secular paintings included card-sharpers, dice players and fortune-tellers. In contrast to some naked young Cupids, was the old men's flesh of Bartholomew and Peter. There was a languorous Sebastian and (a signature piece by Caravaggio himself) a secret teenager pretending to be a young John the Baptist.



When I returned in January for a second look, the exhibition had acquired a supplement. The Prado in Madrid had lent two huge panels from an altarpiece by Maino (1581-1649). The panels are about ten feet in height, so the complete altarpiece must be overwhelming. They showed two Adorations-of-the-shepherds, and of the Magi. The painter's father dealt in rich fabrics, so here the oldest King is wearing brocade, another is swathed in brilliant African colours, and the middle King wears an enormous turban. In contrast, two of the shepherds would surely have frozen to death if they'd watched their flocks by night wearing so little. Occasionally, in the main exhibition as here, reality niggles. If you were fleeing fire and brimstone would you, like Lot's daughters, have put on your best party frocks?.



By: Colston Hartley



THE WINTER NIGHT SHELTER NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

In association with Kingston Action Against Homelessness (KCAH) St Andrew's and St Mark's Church has agreed to host the Night Shelter which runs from 1st February to the middle of March 2018.

St Mark's hosted the Night Shelter for the first time earlier last year and despite some apprehension about hosting more entrenched rough sleepers with greater drug and alcohol dependencies, we did not encounter any behaviour that was more demanding than the night shelters have coped with in previous years.

The Shelter is hosted in local churches that each run one night of the week, so it rotates around 7 different venues. The Shelter opens from 7pm to 8am, and provides guests with a warm welcome, a hot evening meal, company during the evening, a 'bed' for the night, and breakfast.



St Mark's Church hall will provide the venue for 6 Sunday evenings, commencing 4th February 2018 and we will need enough volunteers to cover the three shifts.

The shift times are:

Evening shift: open by 7.45pm

Night shift: usually from 10pm +/- handover period Morning shift: flexible - to be agreed by volunteers

I hope this note has given you a little bit more of an insight into the Night Shelter. If you wish to volunteer or find out a bit more you can contact me by phone or email.

jane.kosa@hotmail.co.uk

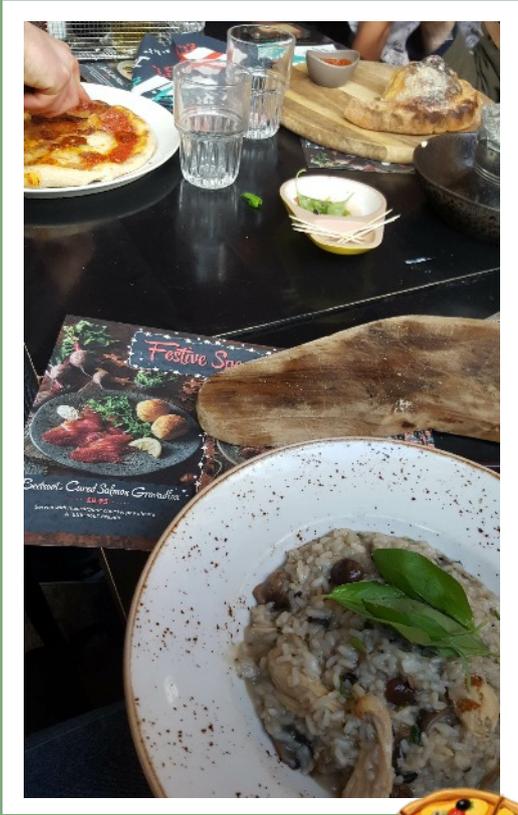
07966362747



YOUTH GROUP PIZZA MEETING

Troy and I are youth workers and we work for the Christian organization Oxygen in Kingston. We have the pleasure to establish a new youth group in St. Andrew's and St. Mark's in the name of Oxygen. To get to know the young people better, we met them at Zizzis for a Pizza after the service on the 12th of November. We had six young people and together we enjoyed a great meals and talked about their interests and what they expect from our sessions. They shared great ideas like baking sessions, trips or doing music together. The plan is that we will meet one Sunday per month after a service to have a small talk about a bible verse and to do things together, which they really enjoy. We are really looking forward to meet the young people again and get to know them better.

By: *Eileen Schnabel*



FAITHFUL WITH MUCH

At a Wednesday evening church meeting a very wealthy man rose to give his testimony. "I am a millionaire," he said, "and I attribute it all to the rich blessings of God in my life. I can still remember the turning point in my faith, like it was yesterday: I had just earned my first pound and I went to a church meeting that night. The speaker was a missionary who told about his work. I knew that I only had a pound coin and had to either give it all to God's work or nothing at all. So at that moment I decided to give my whole pound to God. I believe that God blessed that decision, and that is why I am a rich man today."

As he finished it was clear that everyone had been moved by this man's story. But as he took his seat, a little old lady sitting in the same pew leaned over and said: "Wonderful story! I dare you to do it again!"



Focus on: Nature & Gardens

Happy New Year! In January and February the weather is often very cold and we may even have snow. Although gardens can look bare, nature continues in its way: whether its winter flowers such as cyclamen, heather and snowdrops appearing in our flowerbeds; seeing trees that have shed their leaves (conserving energy to survive to the next season) or robins in the gardens. This Children's Corner is focusing on nature and gardens in the Bible.

NATURE & GARDENS WORD SEARCH

Can you find the following words relating to Nature and Gardens?

EDEN – ADAM – EVE – SERPENT – BEASTS – BIRDS – TREES – CREATION – PRAY – OLIVE – FIELDS - SEASONS

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

THE MOST FAMOUS GARDEN OF ALL? THE GARDEN OF EDEN

In Genesis, the first book of the Bible, God creates the world and everything in it. He plants a garden, in the East, in Eden, where He puts Adam and Eve. Also in this garden is the Tree of Knowledge (sometimes referred to as the Tree of Life). God forbids Adam and Eve to eat from this tree although they may eat from any other tree. Do you know what happens next? Try to find out or, if you already know, see if you can answer these questions:

1. Who eats from the Tree of Knowledge first?
2. What animal is responsible for encouraging this?
3. What fruit is eaten?



After eating from the Tree of Knowledge, Adam and Eve are sent out from the Garden of Eden. Now, instead of eating freely from the wonderful trees in the garden, they must cultivate the soil and grow their own food. It's much harder!

All Things Bright and Beautiful

One hymn, written especially for children, celebrates God's creation. Here's the first verse: how well do you know it? Can you fill in the gaps. There are some words underneath to help you and a few thrown in to confuse you!

All things bright and _____, All creatures great and _____.
 All things _____ and wonderful, The Lord God _____ them all,
 Each little _____ that opens, each little _____ that sings,
 He made their glowing colours, He made their tiny _____.

BRILLIANT – BEAUTIFUL – WISE – SMALL – WINGS – FLOWER – SHELL – MADE – BIRD

INTERESTING FACTS

MRS C F ALEXANDER WROTE ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL. HER FIRST NAMES WERE CECIL FRANCES. SHE ALSO WROTE A VERY FAMOUS CAROL – CAN YOU UNSCRAMBLE WHICH ONE FROM THE BELOW LETTERS?

A DRYLY INVITED OCCASION

WHERE IS GETHSEMANE?

Another famous biblical garden is mentioned in the New Testament and is the place where Jesus and his disciples would go to pray. It is the Garden of Gethsemane and is where they prayed on the night before Jesus' crucifixion. It is at the foot of the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. Can you find the correct spelling in this Gethsemane box? It only appears once correctly, but every letter in the box is from the name – confusing!

G E T E N A M E S H T G
 E E G E T H S E M A E E
 T G T G E T M H E E N T
 H E T H S E T E G A A N
 H T H E S E N A M G M A
 S H E H G A E E M A G E
 E S T E G E S A M A N M
 M S T G E H G E T G E H
 A A G E T M T G N E T S
 N M T E E N E E H E H T
 N E G E T H A M A A N E
 E N A M S E M S H T E G

Take care until next time (and thanks to Kate Manz for inspiring the gardening theme!).

By: Charlotte New.

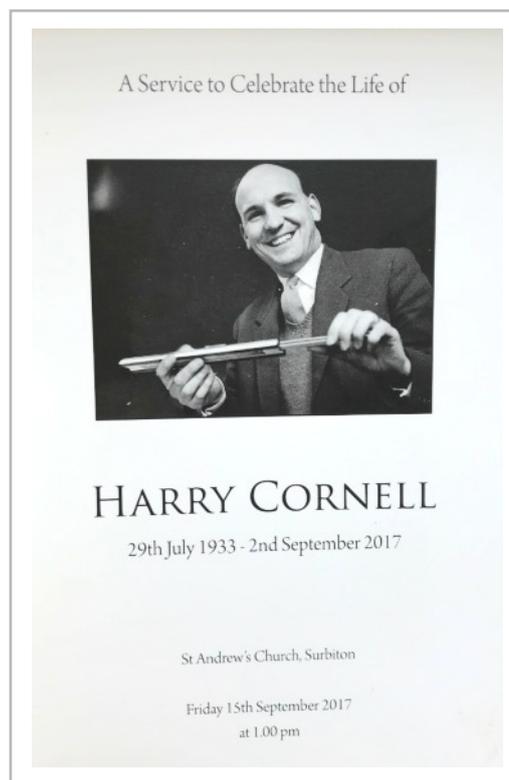


HARRY CORNELL: IN MEMORIAM BY: MARGIE LINDSAY

On September 15th St Andrew's and St Mark's choir, along with many friends and family, had the chance to say good-bye to Harry Cornell, a long-time choir member, at a memorial service. Later that day, after choir practice, SASM choir gathered in The Wagon & Horses for the Harry Cornell Memorial Pint: to remember and celebrate the life of an extraordinary man. The following is a personal tribute to the Harry I knew and considered a close friend long before we both came to St Andrew's church.

You remember people as they were and not what they become as illness, old age and its ravages replace fond memories with regret and sadness. Seeing Harry for the last time (Simon Harvey and I went to see him after the St Mark's service in July), I didn't see the current Harry but the one I wanted to see and remember. To me he was not frail or forgetful; he did not suffer from dementia. He was the same funny, engaging and dapper man I had known for so many years. The same kind-hearted, ever-caring and always there for me friend.

I can't remember when I first met Harry, but it must have been at one of my first choir practices at St Paul's Kingston Hill. Harry was just one of the many friends in the choir there, coming to parties, travelling to sing in cathedrals and other churches. When that choir disbanded, Harry went off to St Andrew's and I took a while to follow.



Over the years at St Paul's and later at St Andrew's, Harry and I became close friends. I remember his sermons and addresses, sometimes at evensong. He made an impression on us all, although I don't think he particularly thought his words had as much impact as they actually did.

What I remember most about Harry are two things: his smile and his dress sense.

He enjoyed coming to my birthday parties – and always had a wonderful present for me – as well as dinner parties and other celebrations. Harry always was immaculately turned out: cravat or tie. He knew how to dress to impress.

One memorable birthday I decided to have a “come as a spy” party. Harry, perhaps in retrospect rather unwisely decided to come as James Bond but eschewed the usual formal dinner jacket and instead showed up in a wetsuit complete with mask and snorkel. This was unwise as my birthday is in July and the weather was rather warm – even warmer for someone in full dive gear.

I remember well his “retirement” party when he hired one of the Thames party boats to take all his friends up and down the River Thames. Jazz band, food, ever-flowing drinks and his infectious charm and joy were the hallmarks of the day.

I knew Harry cared a great deal for his wife Iris and was devoted to her during her illness. What always made everyone smile was Iris's insistence that Harry was Harold. Probably the only person who ever called Harry that (or perhaps his mum).

I know losing her was a terrible blow to him.

HARRY CORNELL: IN MEMORIAM

I also know that as Harry became less able to look after himself, he masked what must have been bitter disappointment with smiles and jokes. It was a big blow to all of us when he decided to leave the choir. We could always count on Harry for a witty remark, an apt insight and always his kindness and tolerance of our eclectic mix of personalities.

One thing about Harry I will always cherish were the Christmas dinner dates we had. He decided he wasn't quite sure what I would like for a present so instead would take me out for a wonderful dinner at a very posh restaurant and always dressed in a dinner jacket, making the night even more special. He knew I loved champagne and always insisted on at least one glass (or more).

Harry was also present at some of my rather interesting dinner parties – not least of which was a rather large and noisy sit-down New Year's Eve dinner party. He always would call the crowd to order at every dinner party and propose a lovely toast to me (with, of course, champagne).



While still at St Paul's the choir was getting ready for choral evensong at Ely Cathedral. On the Sunday of our "dry run", I had the entire choir over for lunch. This perhaps was a tad unwise, as we all had quite a lot of wine. If you ever saw Harry (or me) smile at the point in choral evensong where we ask to live a "sober life", you will now know why. As the choir at St Paul's said this, there were suppressed giggles and I made the mistake of catching Harry's eye and nearly dissolved in silent laughter. Harry was a wonderful singer, with a rich bass voice and always ready to step into solos as well as to guide the newer members of the choir. Given that he claimed he couldn't read music, Harry's ability to sing complex anthems and other music was inspiring.

I will always recall the man who was there to listen to my problems, give support and never let me down as a friend.

When I remember Harry, I see the man in a dinner jacket sweeping me off to dinner, having fun at one of my parties, enjoying entertaining all his friends on the Thames boat, giving one of his sermons, sitting beside me and listening to whatever crisis I thought my life was in.

I shall miss him terribly – but to be honest, I started missing him even before he retired to a care home and disappeared from St Andrew's. There was a space in the choir that was never quite filled when Harry left. He was and always will be Harry One to distinguish him from Harry Two (Harry Gilmore), who joined the choir after Harry One.

HARRY CORNELL: IN MEMORIAM

The same spirit was there, even if the flesh was weak. I saw the Harry I wanted to see and not the one he had become. And he did turn into that man that day: sparkle in the eye, quick with the jokes and smiling.

I've lost a great friend and someone I have known for, literally, decades: someone who was always there, sometimes in the background, sometimes holding my hand and comforting me, sometimes handing me a glass filled with champagne, but always there.



ANOTHER YEAR IS DAWNING

Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be
In working or in waiting, another year with Thee;
Another year of progress, another year of praise,
Another year of proving Thy presence all the
days. Another year of mercies, of faithfulness
and grace,

Another year of gladness in the shining of Thy
face;
Another year of leaning upon Thy loving breast;
Another year of trusting, of quiet, happy rest.
Another year of service, of witness for Thy love,
Another year of training for holier work above;
Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be
On earth, or else in Heaven, another year for
Thee.

By: Frances R. Havergal 1874

This poem was suggested by Judith Gracia

YOUR WAY

Teach me your way, Lord, through days both bright
and dim
Even if it's very hard a song of praise to sing
Let me come with happiness with thanks sincere and
true
And let me come for comfort when I am sad and blue!
Let me learn your way, Lord, in sickness and in health
And let me be thankful when times are hard for
wealth
For there are many, Lord, who starve in other lands
As they hope and pray that they, one day, see other's
helping hands

Let me follow in your way, Lord, helping one and all
Even if I see them sin and from your grace to fall
For my life, Lord, doesn't always go the way it should
And I know how hard it is to be always 'good'!
Teach me your way, Lord, as life brings older years
With aches and pains and other things that bring me
awful fears

Keep me from carping and worrying all the time
For that can drive away my friends and is an awful
crime
Teach me your way, Lord, when life comes to its end
Let me know you as my Saviour and my friend
And then hopefully I join the hosts above
Let me remember, Lord, your other name is LOVE!

Written by: K



JANUARY 2018

Sunday 7th January: Feast of Epiphany

8am St Andrew's, BCP Holy Communion

9.15am St Marks – All age Eucharist with Baptism

11am St Andrew's – Morning Worship with Baptism

6pm St Andrew's, Evening Prayer with silence

Sunday 10th January– (2nd 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

6pm St Andrew's – Compline

Sunday 17th January (3rd Sun of Epiphany)

8am St Andrew's – BCP Holy Communion

9.15am St Mark's – Morning Worship

11am St Andrew's – 2nd Sun of Epiphany

6.30pm Surbiton Hill Methodist Church – Service for Christian Unity (no service at St Andrew's)

Sunday 28th January – 'Candlemas'

8am St Mark's – BCP Holy Communion

9.15am St Mark's – Morning Worship

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

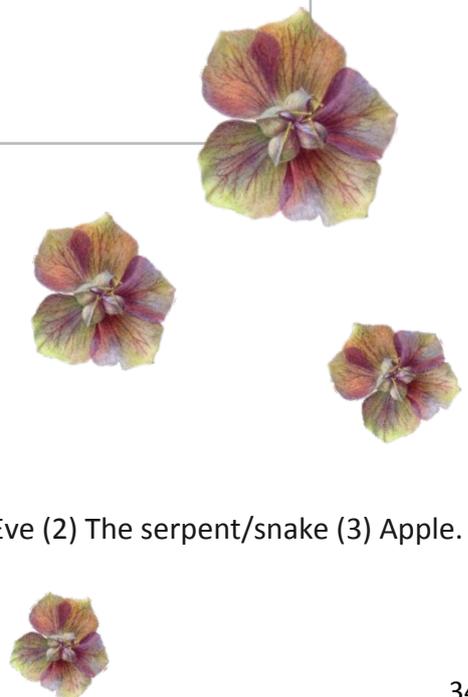
6pm St Andrew's – Service of wholeness and healing

Would you please note that the editors email has changed to:

mjs25smith@outlook.com

Answers to: Children's Corner Pg

Interesting Facts – Once in Royal David's City. Garden of Eden: (1) Eve (2) The serpent/snake (3) Apple.





FEBRUARY 2018

Sunday 4th Feb 2nd Sunday before Lent
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 Andrew's - Choral Evensong

Sunday 11th Feb Last Sunday before Lent
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 Andrew's – Compline

ASH WEDNESDAY 14th Feb

7.30am St Andrew's - Morning Prayer with Litany
12 noon St Mark's Eucharist with ashing
7.30pm St Mark's Choral Eucharist with ashing

Sunday 18th February 1st Sunday of Lent
8am St Andrew's – BCP Holy Communion
9.15am St Mark's – Morning Worship or Holy Baptism (tbc)
11am St Andrew's – – Choral Eucharist with Lent teaching and Sunday Club
6pm St Andrew's - Service of Wholeness and Healing

Sunday 25th February 2nd Sunday of Lent
8am St Mark's – BCP Holy Communion
9.15am St Mark's – Family Worship
11am St Andrew's – Choral Eucharist with Lent teaching and Sunday Club
6pm St Andrew's – Evening Prayer with silence





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

