

JAN & FEB 2020

Spire & Tower

REFLECTING GOD'S LOVE IN OUR COMMUNITY

**St Andrew's & St Mark's
Church Magazine**

£1.00

Surbiton

Fare Zone

6

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**

www.surbitonchurch.org.uk



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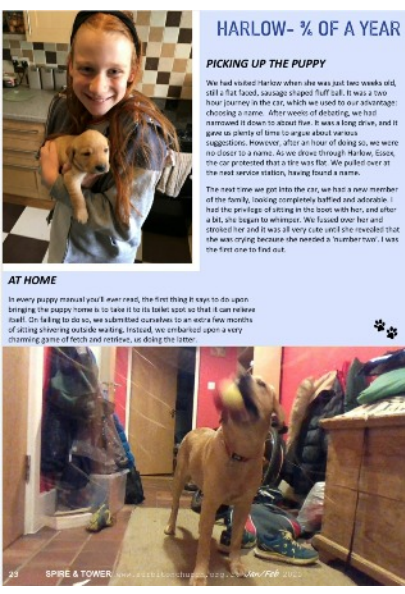
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Image taken from google.co.uk

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A VIEW FROM THE VICAR

By: Robert Stanier

What follows starts off by looking at the Labour party but really it's about the Church of England, so bear with it, even if left wing politics holds no interest for you.

There's a sense in which Jeremy Corbyn's leadership has been a total triumph. Membership of the Labour party has doubled, and he has been able to articulate a socialist agenda in mainstream political discourse for the first time since the 1980s. And if what you are really interested in is being able to shout from the sidelines about wealth inequality caused by the governing party, and feel self-righteous, then that is all fine.

Most even handed commentators, though, would see that his leadership has been disastrous for the Labour party. They have fewer MPs in Parliament than at any time since the Second World War, and the prospects of improving on that look bleak. The Corbynite party is good at shouting from the sidelines, but it will never actually *do* anything about anything, because it will never be in power.

However, there are a huge number of people who will never be Labour party members but who nevertheless might see themselves as voting Labour. And what is noteworthy is these people are actively *put off* by the minority of members: the more passionate and socialist the centre is, the less likely they are to vote for them.

What is the link with the Church?

There's a stream in the Church of England, which is all about a passionate, committed centre, focussed on Christian commitment as evidenced by church membership: coming to church week by week. And you know what? They've got a point. On so many levels, that is needed: for individuals, it gives a context for spiritual growth; it gives a baseline for practical action (just look at the volunteers in the Nightshelter and how many are congregation members); and also they are the most likely to contribute financially to the Church. And these members should demonstrate their Christian faith by being as different as possible from the wider culture.

There's another side, though, in which Sunday worship attendance is a terrible measure of the true health of the Church. Think of all the other things that flow through the Church: schools, toddler groups, coffee mornings, nightshelters, music concerts, home groups, book clubs, gardening activities, pastoral visiting... Our buildings are a base for forty or more groups, where our rooms are a resource for the community. In myriad ways, this church builds up our community to be greater than the sum of its parts, both among those who are Christians, but also among those who are not and active faith is only tangentially involved.

The trick for me is to make deeper Christian commitment ever more possible and attractive, without scaring off those who prefer to dwell in the penumbra of Church, who value the Church and even value Jesus, but may not be prepared to make a personal, public commitment about his role in their lives.

A Corbynite church would be one with an increasing core membership that is alienated from the wider public. I believe that that is not a direction in which we should seek to travel, at St Andrew & St Mark.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHRISTMAS FAIR AT ST ANDREW'S 2019



Photographs by John Kelly



Andrew & St Mark

CHRISTMAS FAIR
Here
SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER, 11am - 2pm



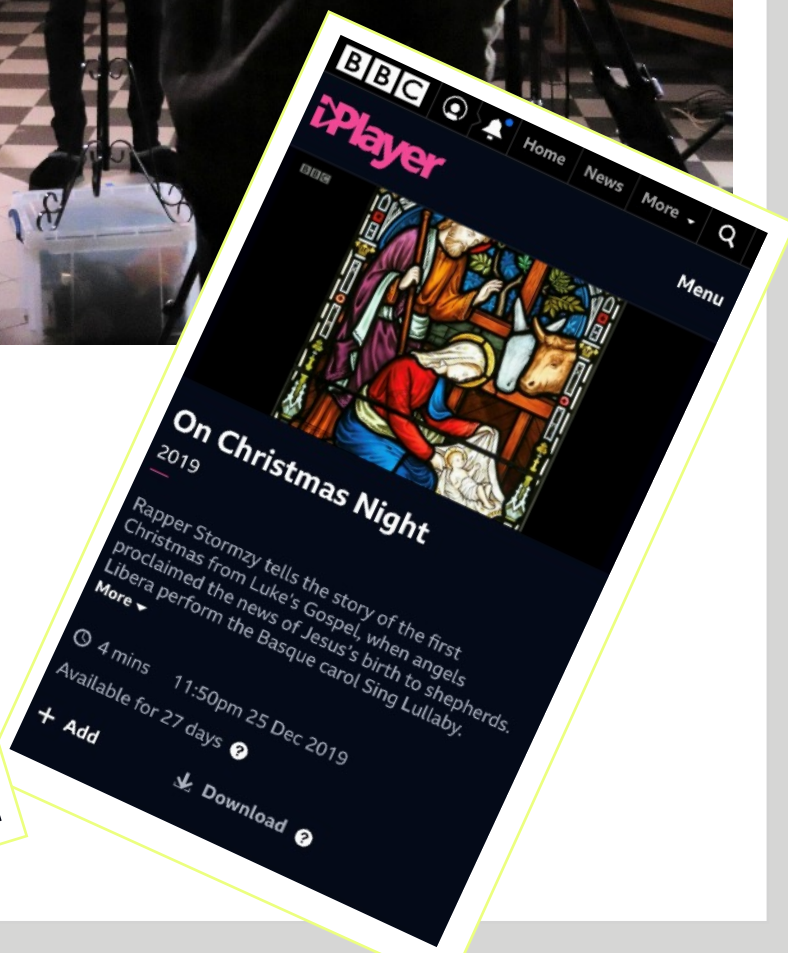
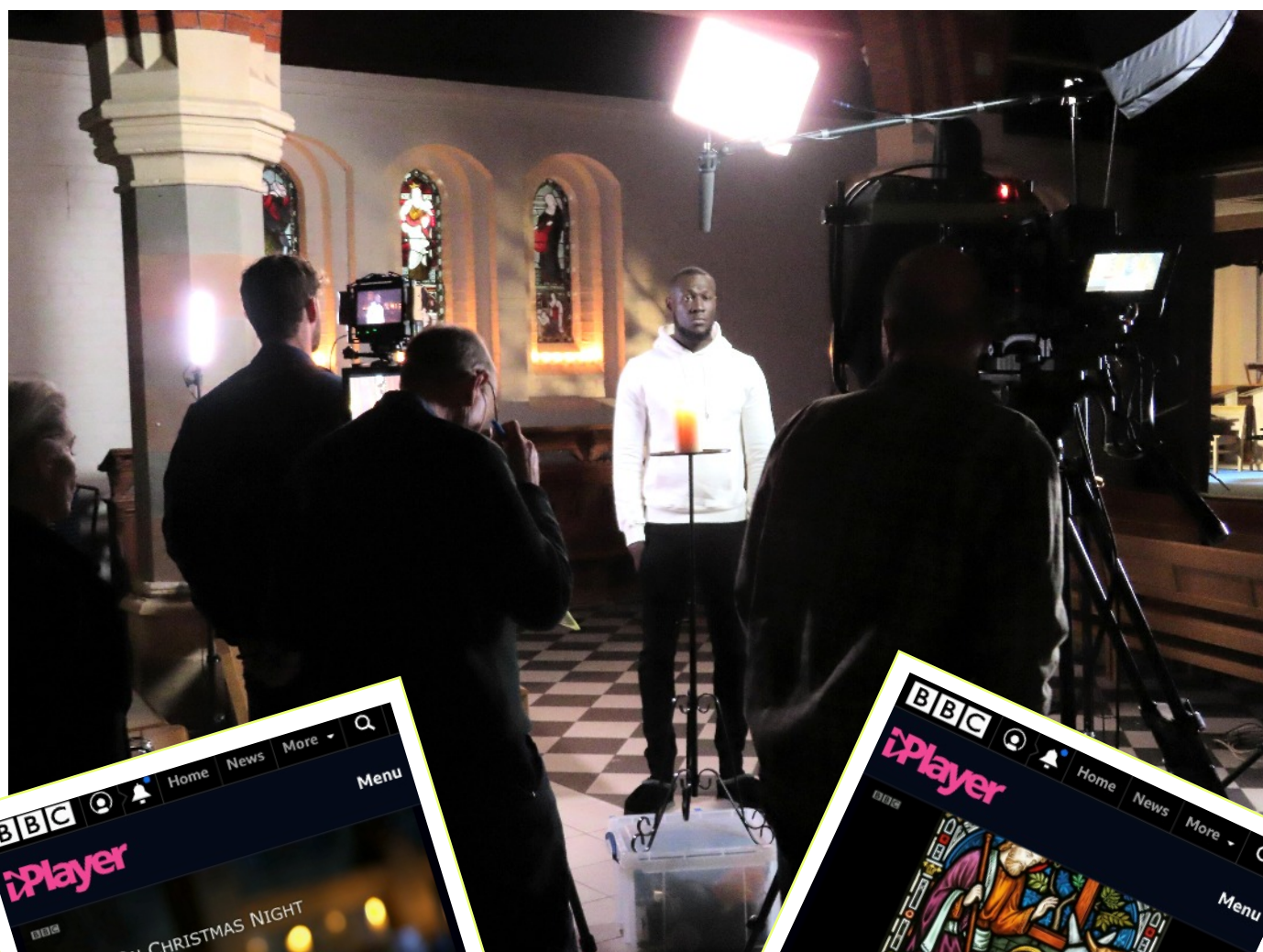
Huge thanks to Irene & Delyth for planning and organising the event and to everyone else who helped out.



ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT

BBC

"The BBC chose St Andrew's to be the location for this year's Christmas programme "On Christmas Night". Stormzy, the biggest selling Grime artist in the world, read out the Nativity story from Luke. He did headline the Glastonbury festival earlier in the year but I like to think that his favourite location for a performance in 2019 was St Andrew's Church, Surbiton."



IRONY

Last month I visited London to do some Christmas shopping. As I walked around town it was impossible to not notice the mass of Christmas shoppers, bags of gifts & numerous coffee cups in peoples hands.

As warm and happy as this scene was, and to see everyone's excitement and joy I also felt extremely sad to see the stark contrast of poverty and worry in the faces of homeless people sat on the pavement trying to keep warm and many sat there, still in their own thoughts.

Such a contrast of wealth and poverty along the streets and all around.

Amongst the litter and waste on one street corner I stumbled across several items strewn across the pavement: clothes, syringes, a family photograph and a book; such a stark contrast to the wealth and spending around me.

I could not believe the books title, 'True Prosperity, How to have everything'.

It seemed such an ironic book to find amongst all the discarded and dirty items.

Had the book belonged to someone once? Perhaps trying to better their life and state of finances? Or an unwanted gift?

I will never know, but it has stuck in my thoughts for several weeks about how lucky I am. The love of my family and friends, the gifts under my Christmas tree, my warm house and full fridge!

The image is very powerful, a reminder of how lucky we are and how much we can do to help others less fortunate than us.

We can help those on our own streets here in Surbiton and support our local food banks.

Please see KCAH advertisement on page 23 to see all the ways you can offer your help and kindness over this winter period.

By- Katie Smith



SITUATIONS VACANT

Two of our stalwart volunteer production team are looking for help, either as a direct replacement or as a job share. **Are you able to assist in any way?**

1. Our Creative Layout Editor Katie Smith is responsible for setting out our bi-monthly magazine in an imaginative and visually appealing way: the role is vital for the continuing production of our magazine. This is an exciting and highly rewarding creative opportunity for someone with reasonable IT skill. You will work closely with the Editor and will be free to contribute and to develop your own 'style'. As a minimum, are you able to take on two magazines per year?

2. After 6 years of producing a high quality Children's section for every magazine, Charlotte New is looking to hand over the reins, or at least share her duties with someone else. This is a more independent role which also allows freedom to develop a personal style and content.

For more information, please feel free to contact me direct, or Katie or Charlotte through the Parish Office. My contact number is at the back of this magazine.

Thank you.

Michael Smith Editor

ADVERTS & NOTICES

DEADLINE

The deadline for all magazine entries for the March/April edition will be February 22nd

Thank you

FRIDAY'S



Drop in for a coffee or tea on a Friday morning at St Andrew's Glass Room

anytime between 10.30—12.noon.

Coffee and Cake £2.00 Tea and Cake £1.50 Just tea or coffee £1.00

All profit goes to the Charity of the month.





WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)



The next **World Day of Prayer** will be celebrated on Friday, 6th March 2020 at 13:45 in The United Reformed Church, Malden Road, New Malden, KT3 6DN. Women, men and children of all ages are called to join this day of prayer. The women of Zimbabwe have prepared the service and they encourage us all to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued their country over many years. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future. They encourage us to **'Rise, take your mat and walk'** with them as they continue their often turbulent journey towards full reconciliation.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 170 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world – through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas – before finishing in American Samoa more than 36 hours later.

For further information and resources see the WDP website:

wwdp.org.uk



I've recently been thinking about who ends up reading our parish magazine and its range of circulation: I had to start somewhere so I dashed off a list of countries Spire and Tower has found its way to. These are the places I currently know of:

South Africa

The United States

Canada

Tobago

Australia

Germany

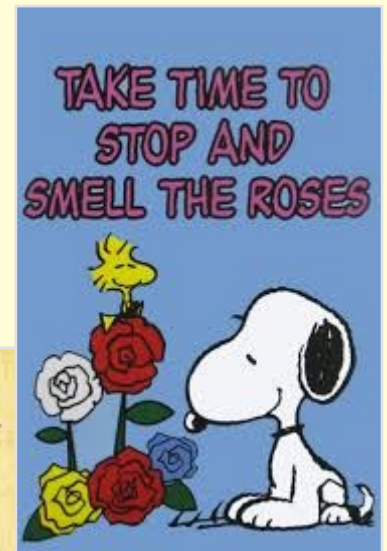
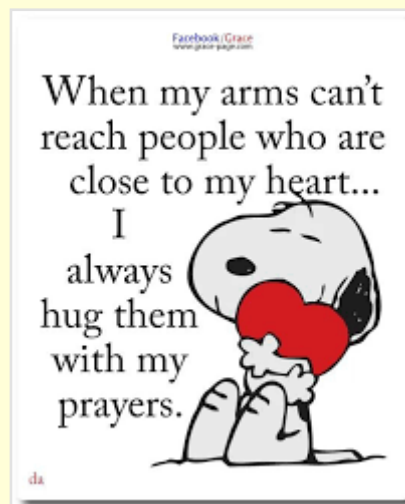
Switzerland

Does anyone else know of other countries our magazine has journeyed to?

I would be delighted to know.

Editor

In 1950, "Peanuts" first debuted in seven newspapers under the United Features Syndicate. Developed by Charles M. Schulz, who was raised Lutheran in Minneapolis and Saint Paul, Minnesota, "Peanuts" ran for nearly 50 years and was published in 2,600 newspapers, 75 countries and 21 languages.



GUESS THE LOCATION IN SURBITON

How well do you know your surroundings?

Beautiful example of Victorian tiles & mosaic flooring.

Answer on page 31



WHO NEEDS A FUTURE RIGHT?



I never considered myself an environmentalist, until about a year ago. Even though I had never doubted climate change was real and serious, I always thought it was something that would impact on the very abstract idea of “future generations”. And even if it came somehow earlier, it was just the case of the world getting a bit warmer and our wonderful civilization slowly adjusting to it.

This was very, very naive of me. No wonder the United Nations IPCC report from October 2018, giving us only 12 years to reduce carbon emissions and prevent a global climate change catastrophe, came as an absolute shock. Since then, climate change impacts have become more tangible. Even in recent months, the world saw unprecedented fires in Amazonia, Siberia, California, Congo and Australia. Zimbabwe ran out of water, Lithuania reported half the usual harvest due to drought, Venice was flooded and Jakarta started moving to a different location due to rising sea levels. Corals in the Great Barrier Reef deteriorated into what the scientists called a ‘terminal stage’. As I am writing this, Borneo is on fire.

The destruction of rainforests by fires, but also through the livestock industry is especially worrying, because tropical rainforests act as one of the best carbon sinks. In other words, they absorb many of the heat trapping gases that we keep adding to the atmosphere mostly by burning fossil fuels. Lack of action to curb our emissions and losing our rainforests at the same time is a dangerous spiral. Is there a way out of it?

According to United Nations, only unprecedented changes on all levels of society can help us keep global warming within safe levels. What is exciting, is that a lot of the changes we see around us seem truly revolutionary. It only took about a year for Greta Thunberg to inspire millions of schoolchildren around the world to strike for their future in what is the biggest coordinated protest in human history. A non-violent protest movement, Extinction Rebellion, was established since and spread into most countries of the world. The UK Parliament as well as many municipalities and other organizations declared a climate emergency. More and more people are understanding that climate change is an existential threat. In May last year, Great Britain was for the first time since Industrial Revolution for a week without coal, and we have just seen a first election debate in the world devoted solely to climate change and environment.

And what can we all do as individuals? I believe that raising awareness is absolutely key in achieving changes on all levels of society, from personal to political levels. Only through understanding, on both intellectual and emotional levels of the urgency of the situation, can individuals feel internally motivated to act, which in turn would bring real and tangible changes in terms of reducing emissions, transforming the economy and protecting biodiversity. No wonder that one climate scientist said the best thing that we can all do about climate change is to talk about it!

Awareness inspires positive action. As people of all nationalities, races, ages, backgrounds, political orientations and religions, we can all connect in what may be the most important task of the humanity. Our differences do not matter, because we are in this together.

We also need hope and compassion, and this is where church becomes very important. SASM in Surbiton is an inclusive and welcoming community where people share both sadness and grief, hope and joy. They empathize, learn from and inspire each other. Compassion also means that we do not wait until the flooding is on our doorstep, we act now, because we feel for those living on the other side of the planet that are already affected climate change (for example low lying Pacific islands or nations in Africa struggling with water supply). Compassion means that we understand that human life has universal value and human suffering is not less important when it happens far away from us.

And last but not least, we need love. Love for humanity, for each other, for our children. When I attended one of my first climate change protests in London last year, one particular banner especially stuck in my mind. It was held by a small middle-aged lady and read: "For the love of our children". She did not need to say anything else.

This article is written by Terezie Wickenden, a SASM pianist, and is part of an invitation to a climate change piano concert on 1st February 2020 2.30pm in St Andrew's Church, Surbiton. For more information on what you can do locally, please email holmerova@gmail.com or join Surbiton Climate Action Group on Facebook.



Climate Change
Piano Concert with
Afternoon Tea &
Cake

Where: St. Andrews
Church,
Maple Road
Surbiton

When: Saturday 1st
February 2020
2.30pm

Tickets £10

Children free

Pianist and speaker:
Terezie Wickenden

Aenean a magna vel pede vestibulum rhoncus. Nulla
cursus orci quis tortor.



Come to have a cup of tea & cake, listen to some
piano music and learn more about the World
Land Trust, a charity that fights climate change
through buying land and protecting habitats in the
most biologically important tropical rainforests.

All proceeds go to the World Land Trust.

Programme: Rachmaninoff, Brahms, Haydn,
Glass and popular tunes.

Contact Olga Wickenden for advance booking

07963 878 218

AS IS THE MOTHER, SO IS THE DAUGHTER



Ann & Clare Mannall hard at work preparing lunch for the 40 Prayer Workshop attendees.

Church Word Search Puzzle

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

BELLS
BIBLE
BISHOP
CHOIR
CROSS
CRUCIFIX
GOSPEL
HYMNS
KNEELING
MINISTER
MUSIC
ORGANIST
PEWS
PRAY

READINGS
ROBES
SERMON
SINGING
STEEPLE
TABERNACLE
VESTRY

TOO EARLY FOR SERVICE

In the foyer of a church, a young boy was looking at a plaque with the names of men and women who had died in various wars. He asked the Vicar, "who are these people?" The Vicar said, "Those are members from our church who died in the service." The boy asked, "The early service or the second service?"



JOKES & QUOTES

A teacher asked the children in her Sunday School class, "If I sold my house and my money to the church, would I get into heaven?"

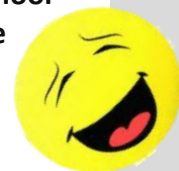
"NO!" The children all answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the lawn, and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get into heaven?"

Again, the answer was "NO!"

"Well," she continued, "then how can I get to heaven?"

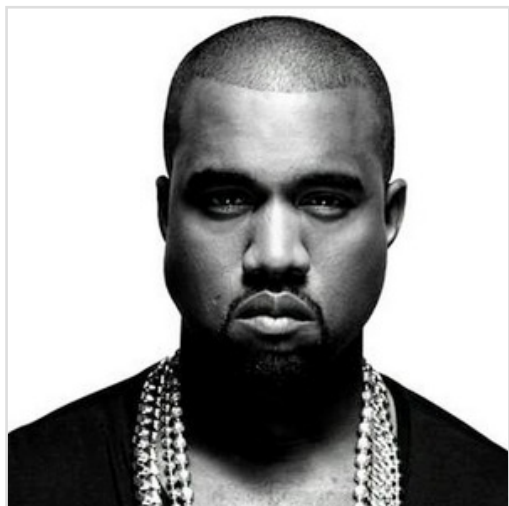
In the back of the room, a five year old boy shouted out, "You've got to be dead!"



"I AM A CHRISTIAN, SO I HAVE A GREAT SENSE OF REVERENCE FOR THIS. THE ENORMITY OF WHAT JESUS DID IS STILL LOST ON US. THE BIBLE, YOU REALLY HAVE TO STUDY IT. GOD IS COMING THROUGH MAN. THAT IS AN EXTRAORDINARY THING THAT HAPPENS, AND I BELIEVE IT."

KELSEY GRAMMER

B 1955



"NOW, I'M LETTING YOU KNOW WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR ME AND IN THAT, I'M NO LONGER A SLAVE. I'M A SON NOW, A SON OF GOD-I'M FREE."

KANYE WEST

B 1977



ONE SOLITARY LIFE

Here is a young man who was born in an obscure village, a child of a peasant woman. He worked in a carpenter's shop until he was 30 and then for 3 years he was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a house. He never had a family. He did none of those things we usually associate with greatness. He had no credentials but himself.

While he was still a young man the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to his enemies. He went through a mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between 2 thieves. While he was dying his executioners gambled for the only piece of property he had on earth and that was his coat. When he was dead he was laid in a borrowed tomb through the pity of a friend. Nineteen centuries have come and gone and he is still the central figure of the human race and inspiration for everything we hold most dear.

All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together have not affected the lives of men upon this earth as has this one solitary life.

***Attributed to James Allen Francis
American pastor and author
(1863-1928)***

Submitted by Jackie Robbs

MAY ALL THE BLESSINGS OF THE
LORD BE YOURS IN ABUNDANCE IN
THE NEW YEAR.

ISAIAH 43:19

HAPPY NEW YEAR

"The Lord bless you & keep you;
the LORD make his face
shine upon you & be gracious to
you; the LORD turn his face toward
you & give you peace."

Numbers 6:24-26

ST ANDREW'S & ST MARK'S MOTHERS' UNION

The St Andrew & St Mark's Mothers' Union Branch have had a busy few months. In November a number of members manned the bottle tombola at the Parish Fair. Also, in November, members had a very inspiring discussion, led by Moira Greenfield, about initiatives that the branch could begin to embrace in 2020.

At the beginning of December there was a Mothers' Union Diocesan Advent Service at St Peter's Church, Brockley. This was the Church where Christine was baptised over 70 years ago and she produced her baptism card. Despite the train strike a number of members from our Deanery area managed to arrive by 10:30am for coffee, buns and croissants. Esther Foss, the MU Chaplain, gave an inspiring sermon. The service was followed by home-made soup and bread.

Celia and Moira attended the showing of an Award-Winning documentary, 'In The Name Of Your Daughter', about how African heroine Rhobi Samwelly and her team save girls from Female Genital Mutilation. It is an inspiring and hopeful story of brave young girls standing up for their human rights and fighting for change in their community. They found it both heart-breaking and heart-warming.



Also, in December Christine attended Christmas Carols at Lambeth Palace. The evening began with mince pies and mulled wine followed by seasonal readings and The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Choir performing a selection of choral pieces and modern festive songs, some of which we could join in with.

Mothers' Union members and friends from other parishes joined our Branch at St Mark's Church as they hosted a Christmas Service followed by seasonal refreshments.

Forthcoming meetings:-

Wednesday 15th January 2020, 7:30pm – Branch AGM, in St Mark's Church

Wednesday 19th February 2020, 2:30pm – A talk about The Lily Trust, supporting survivors of human trafficking and modern slavery, in St Mark's Church



By: Christine Waller

Member editor 2020

DEMOLITION STARTED MID-SERVICE

Government authorities started to demolish a state-registered church in China while the congregation was in the middle of a worship service. According to the charity China Aid, the government didn't have legal papers ordering the church to be torn down. The church in Funan in Anhui province could seat 3,000 people and was part of the country's officially-recognised church network, marking a distinct move from the Government's previously more relaxed attitude towards churches it knew about. 'Underground' house churches, or unregistered churches, were previously the ones primarily at risk but Andrew Boyd from Christian religious freedom charity Release International says this destruction is "a very big statement." After bulldozing the church, its pastors, Geng Yimin and Sun Yongyao, were arrested on suspicion of 'gathering' a crowd to disturb social order. Reports suggest no one was injured in the process.

China Aid President Bob Fu said: "This is yet another clear example showing the escalation of religious persecution today by the Chinese Communist regime. The total disregard of religious freedom's protection as enshrined in the Communist Party's own Constitution tells the whole world President Xi is determined to continue his war against the peaceful Christian faithful. This campaign will surely fail in the end."

TIME FOR A SMILE

How wrong you can be! On the way to nursery school, a doctor had left her stethoscope on the rear seat of the car and her little girl picked it up and began playing with it. "That's OK", thought the doctor, "this may be a sign that my daughter will want to follow in my footsteps and be a doctor one day." Then the child held the end piece to her mouth and said, "Welcome to McDonald's, may I take your order please?"

STRAPLINES

I have no time to worry about anyone who doesn't care about me; I'm too busy loving the people who love me.

I know God won't give me more than I can handle. I just wish He didn't trust me so much. (Mother Teresa)

I know it's the thought that counts, but I often have a secret wish that my friends would think a bit bigger.

The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.

When a cruel word has been said, it may be regretted, but it can never be un-said.

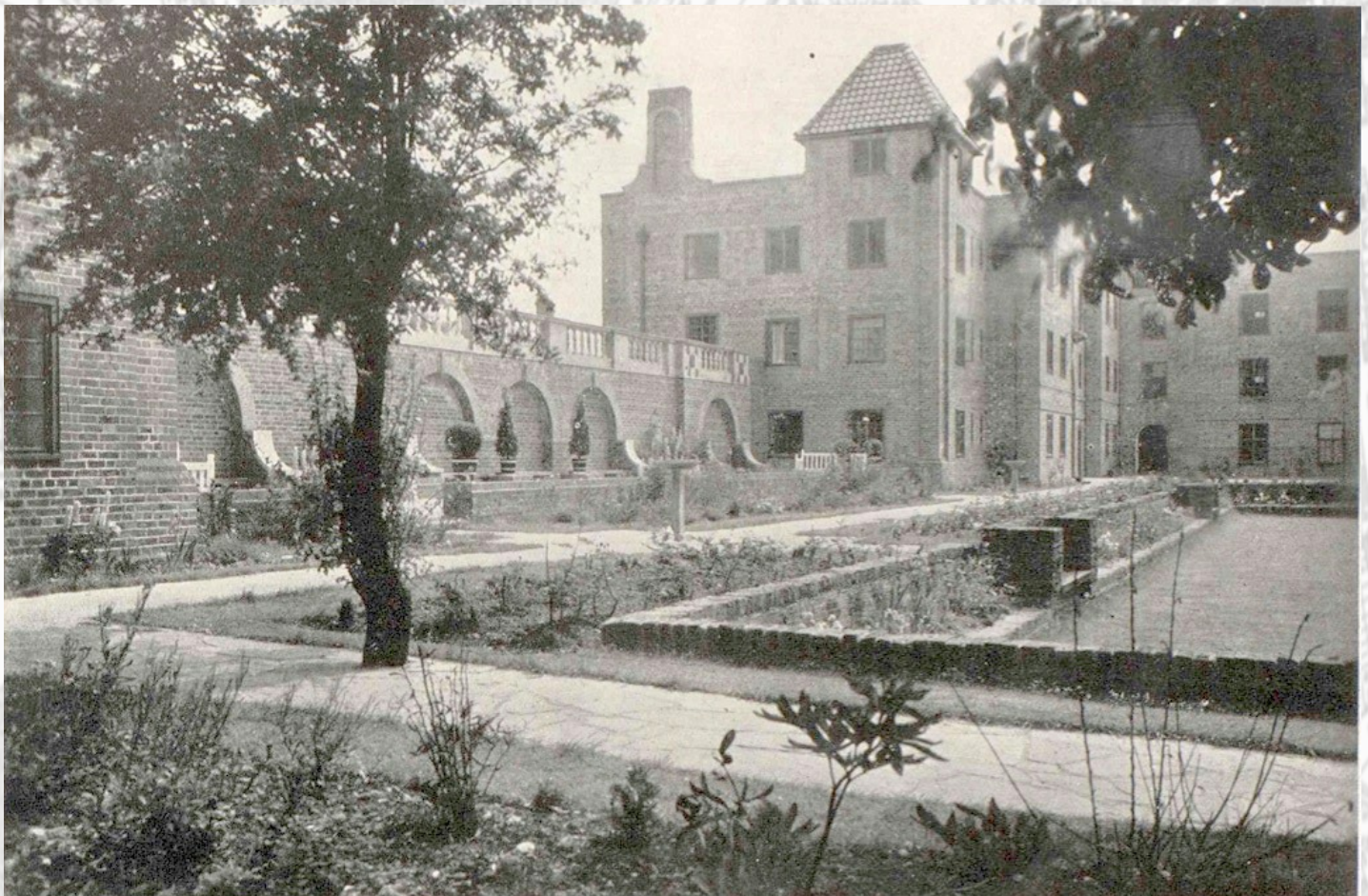
When asked in Junior Church what the Bible means when it says that no man can serve two masters, little Johnny immediately piped up with, "Because you are not allowed to have two wives."

How not to build a relationship with your daughter: When asked by his teenage daughter what he thought about her latest pop record, he said it reminded him of the time he saw a crash between a truckload of milk cans and a van filled with ducks.

PAST TIMES



Queen's Promenade & Raven's Ait circa 1910



A view of the internal courtyard of Surbiton Court, St Andrew's Square.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

By Charlotte New

Focus on: Christians

Our theme this edition is Christians – the name for those whose religion is Christianity – a religion based on Jesus' life and teachings.

WHO ARE CHRISTIANS?

There are Christians across the world – and many branches of Christianity. The main three branches are Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox. Anglicans who follow the practices of the Church of England are Protestants. Christians are in many countries, on many continents, are of all ages, backgrounds and professions. One famous Christian who came to our church last December was Stormzy, who was recording a bible reading to be shown on the BBC!

CHRISTIAN WORDSEARCH

CAN YOU FIND THE FOLLOWING WORDS IN THE WORDSEARCH BELOW?

CHRISTIAN – ANGLICAN – CHURCH – JESUS – TEACHING – RELIGION - VICAR

C H R I S T I A N
H C A P P Y N E O
W R Y E A R T O I
E U V E V Y Y O G
N H E I N I T H I
E C P A R I C S L
H J E S U S C A E
G N I H C A E T R
X N A C I L G N A

INTERESTING FACT

Your first name can also be referred to as your Christian name. Why? Because it's the name you were given when you were christened as a Christian!

AND FINALLY... THANK YOU to everyone who took part in the Posada in December – if anyone would like to organise it next Christmas, please let me know and I will arrange a hand over.



HARLOW- ¾ OF A YEAR

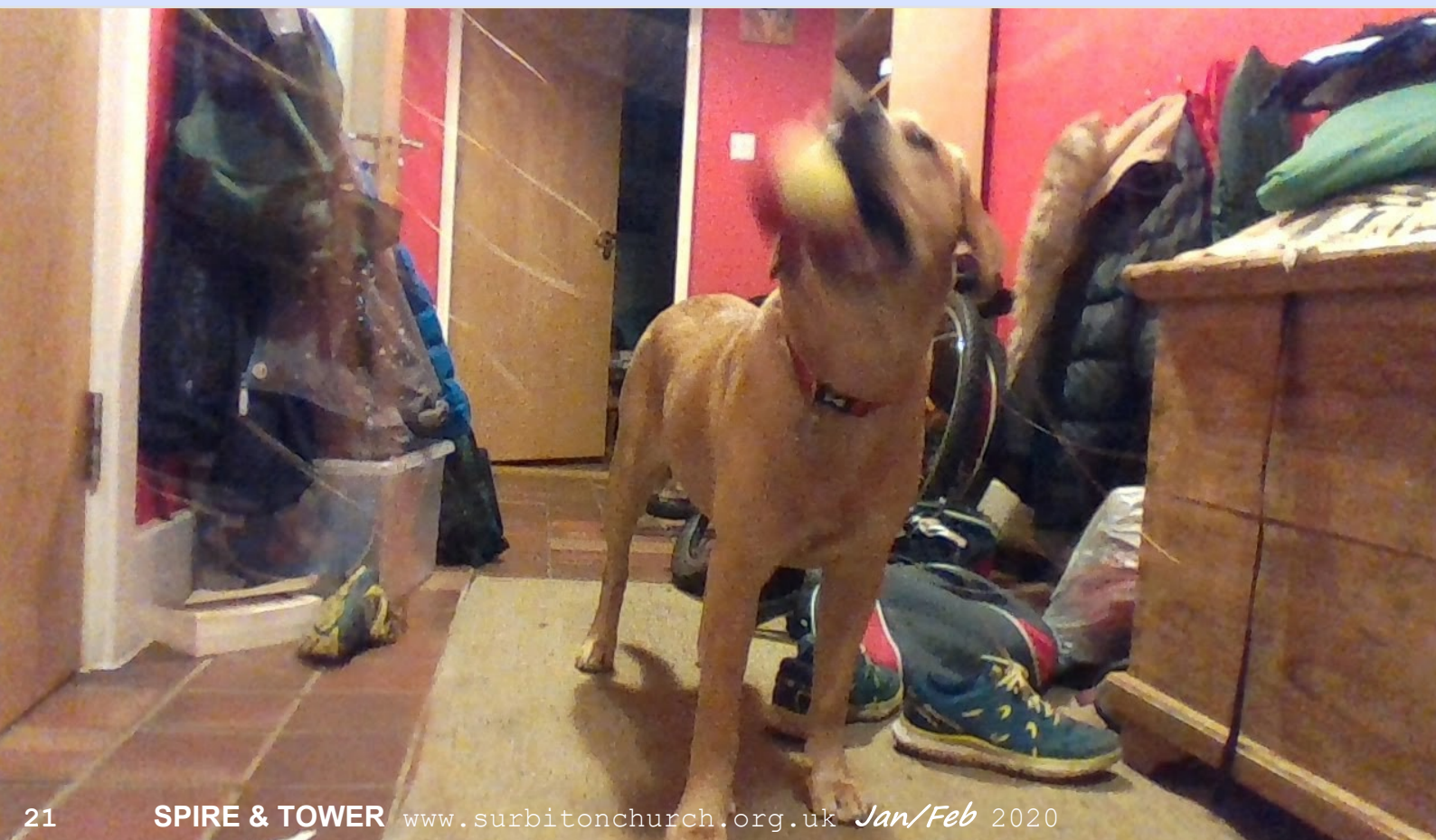
PICKING UP THE PUPPY

We had visited Harlow when she was just two weeks old, still a flat faced, sausage shaped fluff ball. It was a two hour journey in the car, which we used to our advantage: choosing a name. After weeks of debating, we had narrowed it down to about five. It was a long drive, and it gave us plenty of time to argue about various suggestions. However, after an hour of doing so, we were no closer to a name. As we drove through Harlow, Essex, the car protested that a tyre was flat. We pulled over at the next service station, having found a name.

The next time we got into the car, we had a new member of the family, looking completely baffled and adorable. I had the privilege of sitting in the boot with her, and after a bit, she began to whimper. We fussed over her and stroked her and it was all very cute until she revealed that she was crying because she needed a 'number two'. I was the first one to find out.

AT HOME

In every puppy manual you'll ever read, the first thing it says to do upon bringing the puppy home is to take it to its toilet spot so that it can relieve itself. On failing to do so, we submitted ourselves to an extra few months of sitting shivering outside waiting. Instead, we embarked upon a very charming game of fetch and retrieve, us doing the latter.



THE EARLY DAYS OF TRAINING



I say training. From here onwards, 'training' referred to sitting on a bench in the park, throwing treats at the floor and giving the dog meaningful looks. Harlow enjoyed the treats, but wasn't entirely sure what she had to do to get them.

Presently, we gave up.

After missing most of puppy school, we now had the least trained dog in Surbiton, and the most spoiled puppy in history.

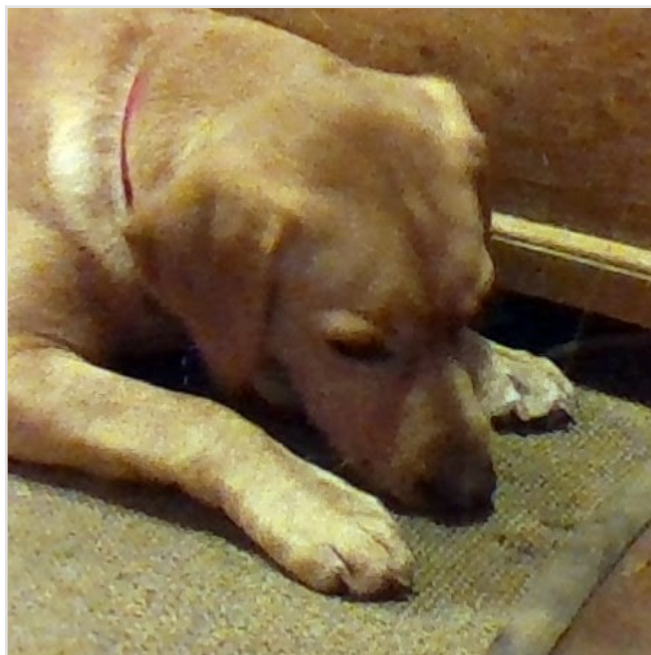
ON HOLIDAY

At about 4 months, Harlow knew 'sit', 'lay down', and was beginning to consider 'come'. Toilet training was going well, as now, during the summer months, we could leave the door open and she would go out on her own.

That Summer holiday, we took her to France. While Dad took us kids on the Eurostar, Mum drove Harlow and Grandma. It was risky. She could decide she didn't like the stuffy car and bark the whole drive. They might have to stop every half an hour to let her do her thing. But, miraculously, she slept pretty much the whole journey (at least that's what Mum said). We stayed in Mum's parents' holiday house in Puissalicon, which has three floors. The first has games, a coffee table, and, thanks to Dad, even a pool table (if half size). The second has general living space (TV room, kitchen and two bedrooms); the last has a bedroom and a roof-eating-space-thing. We decided to keep Harlow down on the bottom floor, and not let her up the stairs due to her joints not being properly developed yet. Despite this, the lack of stair gates meant we had no way of keeping her from going into the kitchen or even up to the roof-eating- space-thing.

Very soon, dog toys littered the floor and Harlow was present for every meal we had.

Harlow's first experience with large expanses of water had been a river we had taken her to. It had no bank, so with no gradual slope, she just fell in. After that traumatic experience, it came as no surprise that when we introduced her to the sea, with its movement and loud crashing noises, she was terrified. In fact, when we finally came to our senses and found her a nice quiet river with a very gentle slope, she looked at us as if to say, "How do I know it won't eat me?". We tried bribing her with snack bars but she would only go chest deep. For some strange reason, we really wanted her to know that she could swim (because she could, all Labs can) so we carried her out to the middle of the river and dropped her in. She sprinted for the side so fast it was as though she was running on the water, her little nose stuck in the air. She will never trust us ever again.



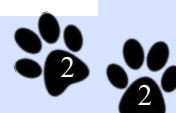
THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Now, 5 months on, she is the sweetest puppy you could ever have. She jumps when she is excited and is every bit as capable as a steam roller when it comes to knocking you over.

We got the Christmas Tree recently, and she has been moved to the kitchen. The tree is mammoth sized, and until we put the decorations on, she found it terrifying. Now, when unsupervised, she takes tiny nibbles out of the lower baubles, and particularly enjoys a colourful fabric one. I don't know what she'll do when we put up gingerbread decorations, but at least they won't go to waste.



By: Tessa Stanier



The Haven

Opening Monday 4th November

In partnership with All Saints Church and Kingsgate Church

***We need more volunteers for
our Night Shelter this winter.
Could you be one of them?***

Please email Sophie, at
winternightshelter@kcah.org.uk



www.kcah.org.uk

KCAH, St Peter's Church Hall, London Road, Kingston, KT2 6QL

The work that goes on at the Night Shelter progresses on into our accommodation project. We have an Asset Coach who's work is about understanding the strengths and motivations of the person and helping them build their self-confidence and resilience so that they are ready to volunteer, go onto education or get into work.

The conversations may start with a cup of coffee or a walk in Richmond Park. Therefore, we are asking for donations to supplement the work of our Asset Coach.

The kind of things we are in need of in terms of donations at the moment and it seems we are most in need of to support our work in our accommodation project are:

- £10 supermarket gift cards,
- coffee shop gift cards,
- cinema gift cards (some of our residents have not been to the cinema for 20 years!)

As for the Night Shelter, I don't currently have any training dates lined up in January or February but it is always worth emailing winternightshelter@kcah.org.uk if anyone is interested in getting involved. That way, they can be notified as soon as a new training date is announced.

Sophie Mayor
Night Shelter Coordinator



ANOTHER YEAR IS DAWNING

1 Another year is dawning!

Dear Father, let it be,
in working or in waiting,
another year with thee;
another year of leaning
upon thy loving breast,
another year of trusting,
of quiet, happy rest.

2 Another year of mercies,

of faithfulness and grace;
another year of gladness
in the shining of thy face;
another year of progress,
another year of praise,
another year of proving
thy presence all the days.

3 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.



Frances R Havergal

1836-1879

"EXPLORING PRAYER" - A WORKSHOP AT ST ANDREW'S ON SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2019



Forty of us took part in this inspirational workshop led by Samuel SSF – a Franciscan brother and spiritual mentor. The day was divided into four sections, each with an introductory talk, some individual exercises in stillness and prayer and discussions in small groups. We were well supplied with coffee and homemade cake at the beginning and a delicious lunch in the middle – thanks to the generosity of Clare and Ann Mannall. The majority of us came from St Andrew and St Mark's, but we were also joined by members of three other local churches. Here is an overview of the day, with comments about what people found most helpful.

1. God is seeking us

Brother Samuel started with various quotations about how God is patiently waiting for us. "In prayer we are never 'getting a conversation going' with God. We are continuing a conversation which God has begun." "No need to call Him from afar; He can hardly wait for you to open up the door of your heart. He longs for you a thousand times more than you long for Him."

Many were taken with the image of prayer as 'being under the loving gaze of God.' One person said, "All we have to do is turn our gaze on God and find that He is waiting for us and looking at us with love and delight. How wonderful is that?!"

"For me it is not finding quiet moments to pray that is difficult, but the stilling of my wandering thoughts. A phrase by Brother Samuel that inspired me was 'look over your shoulder towards God.'" (Sue)

"I was impressed by the idea that the inner silence which we need for prayer can be obtained in noisy places – and that the repetition of a mantra (eg 'Be still and know that I am God') may help us find it." (Peter)

2. Praying with Scripture

We worked with different passages, most notably the Lord's Prayer, which we were encouraged to pray slowly, reflecting on each line as we went. We also practised Lectio Divina: taking a short passage – for us, the incident between Martha and Mary in Luke's Gospel – and reading it through slowly several times, being attentive to our own reaction to it and then using this as a starting point for prayer.

"I found the exercise of repeatedly reading the passage about Martha and Mary really valuable – I don't find it easy to concentrate if I try to do such an exercise on my own." (Anne and others)

"Lectio Divina is a new idea for me: I'm going to try it." (June)

3. Praying with others

Brother Samuel introduced this section by pointing out that we never pray alone; there is no such thing as private, individual prayer for we pray as part of the body of Christ and we pray with Christ to the Father; we also pray with our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world and in every age – with the saints and angels. Why else do we start the Lord's Prayer with "Our Father"?

A number of people said they appreciated the practical suggestions for prayer groups, online prayer resources and for publicising Morning Prayer which takes place regularly in the parish.

"When I use the parish prayer calendar I find it really helpful to know that others are praying too - between 7am and 8am and between 9pm and 10pm each day." (Sue)

"It was good to be reminded that the whole of the Eucharist is a prayer; and not a performance or a social occasion." (Peter)

"I liked it when Brother Samuel said that you don't come to church for the coffee or the interesting sermon: you come to worship God." (Olga)

4. Praying for others

In our groups we discussed what it means to "pray without ceasing" (Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians), whether we should let others know that we are praying for them and how our prayer can be a witness to God's kingdom.

"Brother Samuel described how members of the Franciscan community stood outside Parliament and prayed silently for two hours during one of the key Brexit votes. 'In one way it was full of distractions: we had Brexiteers on one side and Remainers on the other, but we just prayed and we could. Do I know what the impact was? No. But I don't think we were wasting our time.' I was moved by this strong sense of a truth in prayer, even if it is intangible." (Robert)

"*Orare Laborare* is my hospital motto. Brother Samuel said that work can be a form of prayer, no matter how ordinary it seems." (June)

"In my group, one person related how he felt acutely aware of the presence of God when he was incapacitated in hospital and unable to do anything except listen to those around him. This was a starting point for prayer." (Carole)

Another group leader said, "In my experience, people are usually surprised and touched when you say you are praying for them – even if they have no idea what this means."

The strongest impression of all was left by Brother Samuel's approach. "Brother Samuel spoke with authority and humility in equal measure." "It is a rare thing to feel that one is in the presence of someone who is able to exude spirituality and prayerfulness in such a natural and unforced way. There was nothing intellectual or remote in what he was sharing with us, yet it felt very profound to me and I think many of us in St Andrew's that day".

And our curate Michael summed up the day as follows: "The workshop served as a useful reminder for all of us to make time for prayer – to carve out space in the day to be attentive to God. As was acknowledged by many at the workshop, this can be tricky in our busy lives. It was recognised also, however, that prayer can help us to re-centre and, when things are difficult, can help to sustain us."

In 2020 we shall be looking at fresh ways of helping people in the parish to pray, building on the foundations of this absorbing and enriching day.

By Jackie Robbs



The Venerable David Gerrard recently gave an excellent sermon at St Andrews church which included a touching eulogy to two remarkable men: Bishop 'Roy' Williamson and General Sir Hugh Beach. Unfortunately, I never met Bishop Roy, but I used one of his 1990's submissions to Spire and Tower when I first became Editor. The following are David's verbatim sermon notes which he has kindly allowed us to reproduce.

May I speak in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

No sermon this morning about the recent election. No politics during the sermon - as I do not want to burst into tears!

We are now half way through the season of Advent which is traditionally a time of waiting, preparing for Christmas. So we are looking forwards, but also backwards as we think about the past year and some of us write a letter to enclose with our Christmas cards to tell our families and friends the significant events of the past year. And at my advanced age we remember earlier Christmases, and we often think about family, and friends, neighbours, Church members who have died in the past year and to whom we were especially close. So I am going to tell you about two friends of mine who have died in the last few months.

The first was a Bishop who would have been known to some of you. What is our impression of a bishop? Often it is a tall English man or woman with considerable presence, often born into a professional family, educated at a private school, a university graduate, frequently from Oxbridge. Bishop Roy was unlike all of the above.

He was a short Irishman, the fourteenth child of a Protestant Belfast docker.



Bishop Roy



David Gerrard

Roy left school at fourteen to work in a factory, came to London to work as a city missionary, managed somehow to be selected as an ordinand despite lacking the normal educational qualifications. He was a curate, a vicar several times, an archdeacon – well we all make mistakes – and then the Bishop of Bradford, and finally Bishop of Southwark.

He was a wonderful man, full of humility and humour and experience of life. He said of his childhood, "It was wonderful to be the youngest of such a large family, it taught you how to get up in the morning" and I always have this vision of the fourteen children gathered round a huge mound of clothes trying to find the right clothes, any clothes, to wear. It is difficult to think of Roy without also thinking of Anne. They met at a Primary School, courted and married young, and had five children. They both shared huge pastoral gifts and a wonderful sense of humour.

Once when Roy was playing for the Bradford Diocesan cricket team a distraught vicar phoned the ground to say he must speak to Roy. The phone was passed to Anne, who said, "You cannot speak to Roy at the moment as he has just gone in to bat, but hold on I am sure he will not be long" And he was not.

As a Bishop Roy had difficult problems and challenges to face. When he was the Bishop of Bradford there was a very severe fire at Bradford City football ground. Over fifty people died. Roy went straight there, and soon after he called together all the other faith leaders for a memorial service, and they worked closely together afterwards. In Southwark, a very divided and fractious Diocese, he was given a hard time by the Catholic wing when he supported, very firmly, the ordination of women and presided over the first ordination in Southwark Cathedral of over fifty women on the 21st May 1994. But that was as nothing to the opposition of his fellow evangelicals when he supported the Dean of the Cathedral who had organised a cathedral service to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement. The evangelicals felt Roy should have taken their side and stopped the service. Roy used to quote from the prophet Zechariah Chapter 13, verse 6. "The wounds I have received in the house of my friends."

Roy was everything we want in a bishop but seldom receive, a brilliant preacher, a loving pastor, an iron hand in a soft velvety Irish glove. He lived his life for others.

He had a rather sad retirement as his beloved wife Anne was diagnosed with terminal cancer almost at the same time as he retired, and he had to nurse her for five

years until her death, and then live as a widower for another fifteen years. He was not sad to die and be reunited with her. I worked with him for ten years and still miss him enormously.



My second friend was absolutely different. He was not ordained although he had wished to be so. His father was a General and Hugh followed him into the army at a very young age, landing in Normandy at D Day, clearing mines to allow the Allied forces to advance, and when advancing into Belgium was shot in the spine by heavy machine gun fire. He was

paralysed for some months and for his actions received the Military Cross. He became a regular soldier and himself rose to be a General, and was widely thought to be the most intelligent of all



General Sir Hugh Beach

the Generals of his era. A convinced Christian, after his retirement he worked in Windsor Castle helping to run courses for clergy which is where I met him. He was, and I think this must be unique, not only a distinguished soldier but also a member of the third order of Franciscans, who are people who live by the rule of St. Francis, but in the world not in a monastery. He also founded a group of scientists and academics who searched for a way to phase out nuclear weapons. Like Roy, sadly he also had long years of being a widower after his doctor wife died.

Towards the end of his long life he was caught up in one of the recent scandals of our times. It was when a convicted paedophile called Nick accused several high ranking figures, celebrities, politicians, soldiers of being a colluding group who sexually abused young children, tortured them and even murdered them. A convincing liar he persuaded the Metropolitan Police and others that these men needed to be investigated and charged. The police named and investigated them. After some years Nick was convicted of lying and sent to prison but the damage to those who were accused and their families when their names were made public was incalculable. General Sir Hugh Beach was one of those accused. He issued a short statement of denial. Nothing further. When Nick was eventually convicted, several of those wrongly accused, understandably began suing the Metropolitan Police. Not Hugh. He told a mutual friend that he knew he was innocent and that that was all that mattered. I had never, for a single instant believed the accusations. I knew he was innocent. But as with the others it was a horrible, horrible incident at the end of his life. He was 94 when accused, 96 when he died.



Two stories of people whom will be in my memories this Advent. People I greatly admired. People who influenced my life, entirely for the better. Men from who I, and hundreds of others, learned much of what it means to be a minister of the Gospel and how to achieve it. Men who grappled with very difficult problems especially scandalous attacks on their integrity. One man who fought in the war and another who endured the suffering of the Northern Ireland troubles. Men whose faith carried them through opposition, calumny, agonising decisions as to how one can be a fighting soldier and

follow the example of St. Francis and be a bearer of peace. A fighter for persecuted people in the church, women, gay people, black people. Men whose faith was large enough to include people of other traditions and other faiths.

But just two stories. Every single one of you present today will hold in your hearts and minds, different people, each with their own stories, their own struggles, their own victories and defeats, each of whom are a part of your past lives, and an ever-present influence on how you live today. We remember them and we give thanks for them. Let us look back on their lives and carry them with us to a Christmas not marred by the usual absurd outburst of obscene luxury. I read one article where some media person said. "The meaning of Christmas is a joyously extravagant Chanel necklace." It costs £13,000, in a year when there are more homeless children in London than ever before, and when there are more Food Banks in this country than branches of Macdonald's.

One last reflection. We also have, and continue to have, great influence on others, our relations and friends. We affect their lives for good or for ill. In future decades they will remember us after our deaths. Like Hugh and Roy and all the others we mourn in our prayers this past year. Let us, with the support of the church, and the guidance of the Spirit, live our lives in way that will enrich and not impoverish the lives of those people with whom we share our common journey in Christ.

Amen.



THE PRODIGAL SON

Submitted by Olga Wickenden

Afflictions, though they seem severe;
In mercy oft are sent;
They stopped the prodigal's career,
And forced him to repent.

Although he no relentings felt
Till he had spent his store;
His stubborn heart began to melt
When famine pinched him sore.

What have I gained by sin, he said,
But hunger, shame, and fear;
My father's house abounds with
bread,
While I am starving here.

I'll go, and tell him all I've done,
And fall before his face
Unworthy to be called his son,
I'll seek a servant's place.

His father saw him coming back,
He saw, and ran, and smiled;
And threw his arms around the neck
Of his rebellious child.

Father, I've sinned - but O forgive!
I've heard enough, he said,
Rejoice my house, my son's alive,
For whom I mourned as dead.

Now let the fatted calf be slain,
And spread the news around;
My son was dead, but lives again,
Was lost, but now is found.

'Tis thus the Lord his love reveals,
To call poor sinners home;
More than a father's love he feels,
And welcomes all that come.



COMING UP IN THE NEXT EDITION

As part of a forthcoming article, we are looking for information or existing material on the main stained glass panel at St Andrew's.

If you are able to help in any way, would you please contact the Editor.

Photograph taken by John Kelly.

WERE YOU RIGHT?

43-45 Victoria Road, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6-5LR.



Above, marked in yellow 43-45 Brighton Road, Circa 1900.

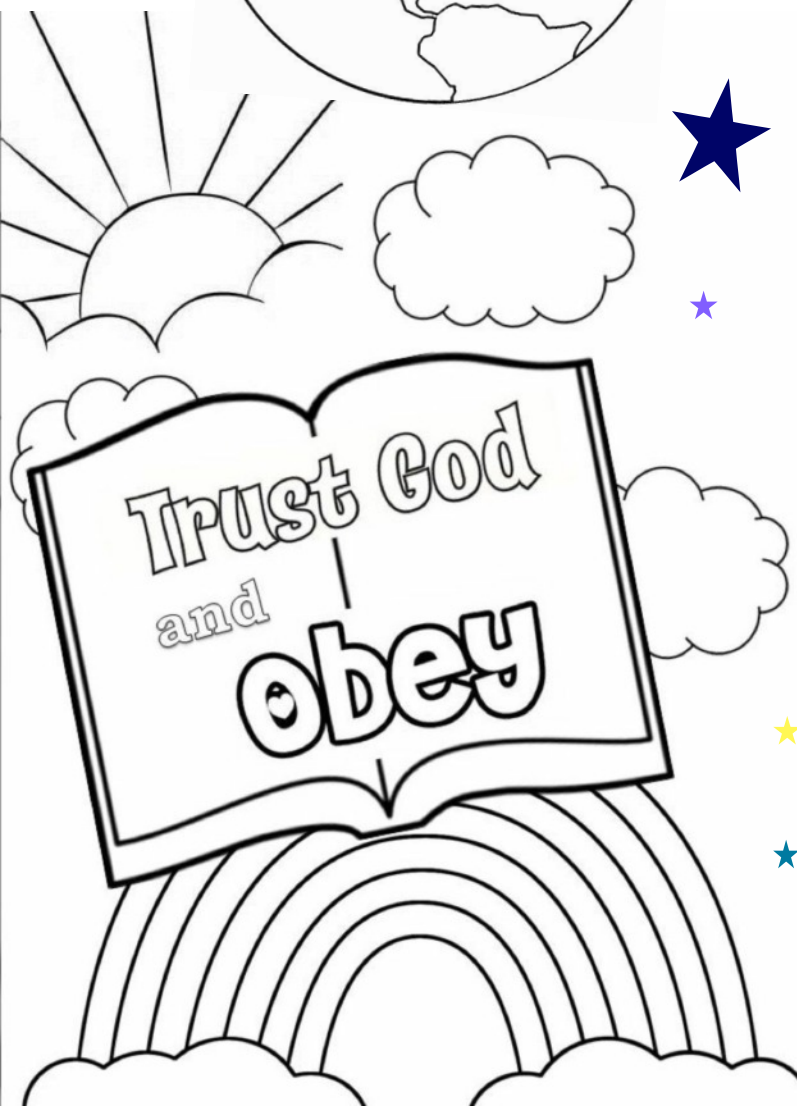


*Above, marked in yellow the beautiful porch
& tiles of 43-45.*

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR



- 1 = tan
- 2 = yellow
- 3 = lavender
- 4 = gold
- 5 = brown
- 6 = pale yellow
- 7 = turquoise
- 8 = lime green
- 9 = light blue



SERVICE CALENDAR

"If you feel this magazine has
been of interest or help to you,
please pass it on to a friend"

January 2020

Sunday 5th January: Feast of Epiphany
8am St Andrew's, BCP Holy Communion
9.15am St Marks – All age Eucharist
11am St Andrew's – Morning Worship with Baptism
6pm St Andrew's, Evening Prayer with silence

Sunday 12th January – (Baptism of Christ)
8am St Mark's – BCP Holy Communion
9.15am St Mark's – Family Worship
11am St Andrew's – Choral Eucharist with Baptism and Sunday Club
6pm St Andrew's – Compline

Sunday 19th January (3rd Sun of Epiphany)
8am St Andrew's – BCP Holy Communion
9.15am St Mark's – Café Church or Holy Baptism (tbc)
11am St Andrew's – Choral Eucharist with Sunday Club
6pm St Andrew's – Service of Wholeness and Healing

Sunday 26th January – 4th Sunday of Epiphany
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 – Evening Prayer with Silence

February 2020

Sunday 2nd Feb Candlemas
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 9th Feb 3rd 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

Sunday 16th February 2nd Sunday before Lent (Sexagesima)
8am St Andrew's – BCP Holy Communion
9.15am St Mark's – Café Church or Holy Baptism (tbc)
11am St Andrew's – Choral Eucharist with Sunday Club
6pm St Andrew's - Service of Wholeness and Healing

Sunday 23rd February Sunday next before Lent (Quinquagesima)
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 – Evening Prayer with silence

Wed 26th February Ash Wednesday
7.30am St Andrew's - Morning Prayer (BCP)
12 noon St Mark's - Said eucharist with imposition of ashes
7.30pm St Mark's – Choral Eucharist with imposition of ashes

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