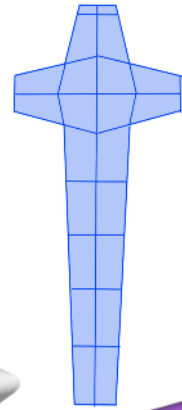
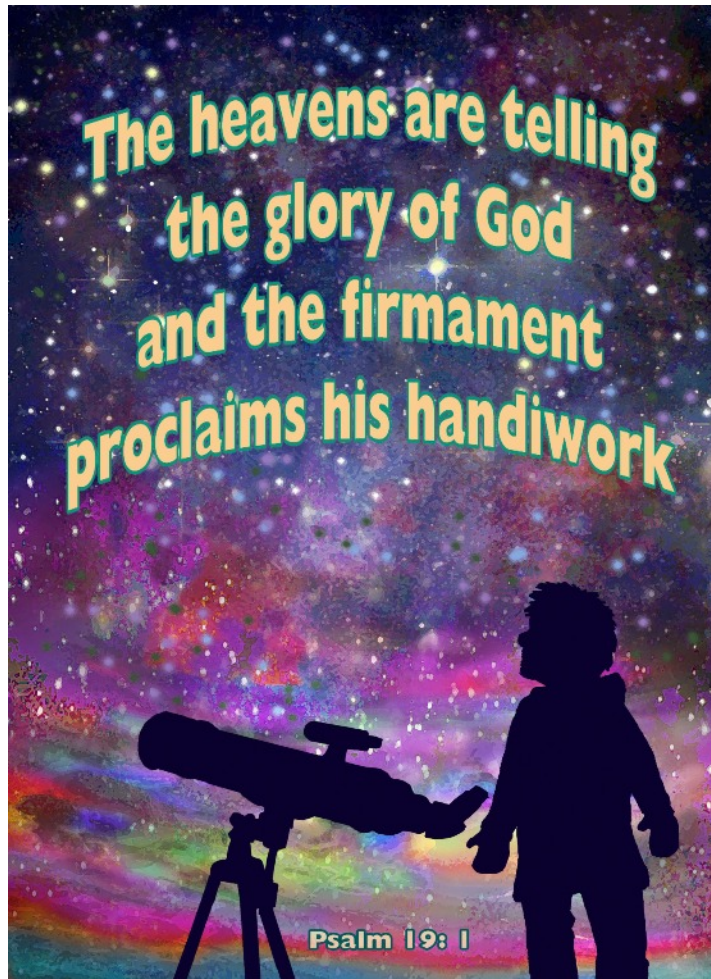


**ST ANDREW'S  
METHODIST CHURCH**

The Stow, Harlow, CM20 3AF



Minister:  
Rev Blair Kirkby:  
bkirkby@msn.com 443400  
or 07913 476934



**MAGAZINE**

**JUNE & JULY 2024**

## MINISTERIAL TEAM LETTER

### **Rev Blair Kirkby**

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Dear Friends,

I am a terrible time waster, partly because I am given to distractions. It's not that I don't know what I am supposed to do first thing. It is just that I am often too easily distracted from it by some second thing. At that point, I might be distracted from that second thing by some third thing. In the process, I may well have forgotten entirely about the first thing and get distracted by some fourth thing. Is this the stuff of dementia I wonder? It sounds complicated, but I manage to do it quite easily and quite regularly. For some of us, distraction comes easily.

Sometime ago I wasted an hour reading old funeral sermons. I'd like to say that I had a good reason, but I didn't. I was doing some other important thing when I opened my filing cabinet drawer and there they were, my funeral sermons, looking like they needed a good reading. So, before I knew it, I had picked them up, and whiled away an hour that I didn't have.

Never mind, I enjoyed it. I like reading old funeral sermons. Many of them are inspirational because the people about whom I was eulogising were themselves inspirational people. They weren't perfect. They were full of foibles and shortcomings, just like the rest of us. Yet, there were things about all their lives through which the love of God shone brightly, just like the rest of us.

So, in that wasted hour, I read about John Smyth, who was a leading member in my first pastoral charge in Canada who once wrote in our church magazine about his experience as a navigator in the Royal Canadian Air Force during WW2. "During the War, faith in God helped me and many service men through difficult situations. One such situation was when our crew was returning home from a difficult mission. Our plane was badly damaged, and we had to get permission to make an emergency landing. The aerodrome was engulfed in fog, and our only ground contact was through Morse Code, and my trusty key. Following a vigorous half an hour of communication with ground control, we were given permission, and landed. Little was said at the time as we all did what was necessary, but we realised later that each of us had been helped through by a faith in God. That faith helps me still. I trust it to bring me in safely." From John I learned that sometimes the way forward in life is absolutely indiscernible, but, if at those times we communicate vigorously with "ground control," it usually helps us to find our way.

I read about Gladys Campbell whose eyes had been dark with blindness for many years, but whenever I visited her in the nursing home the conversation was always full of light. She always welcomed me, and then, invariably, she offered me an *After-Eight Mint*. Invariably, I ate one too, because eating other people's *After-Eight Mints* is just one of those little burdens of ministry. Then, we would talk about one of her, "Talking books," and about life in general, and close with a prayer. On one of my last visits, we got to talking about her age of 91, and I said

that she had lived a long life. To this she responded with, "very long and very good!" From Gladys I learned that sight is as much a matter of the heart, as it is matter of the eye.

And I read about David Pirie. I never really knew David, because he died not long after I arrived. Apparently, he was cleaning his trumpet when it happened. At the age of 76, he had a heart attack, and died with his trumpet on his lap. I was told that he was full of faith in our Lord, that he never said a bad word about anyone, and that the last thing he ever did before he met his Maker was to clean his trumpet. I suppose he thought that he was going to be playing that trumpet again for some special performance yet to come. Who knows, maybe that performance came after all, and his music still sounds and delights in some unseen and heavenly sphere. From David I learned that one should always be ready to play an instrument of praise before God, right up until we take our last breath.

So, there it was, an hour of my time, wasted. Well, maybe not exactly wasted. Distractions can also have their benefits.

In Christ, Blair

## QUOTABLE QUOTES

God has given us two hands – one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing. – Billy Graham

God knows what He is going to make of us. – James Montgomery Boice

Godliness is nothing but Godlikeness. – George Swinnock

Goodness is the only investment that never fails. – Henry D Thoreau

Man is most free when controlled by God alone. – Augustine

Of what does life essentially consist? The Bible answers that life is composed of relationships.  
– Robert Horn

Suspicious subtract, faith adds, but love multiplies. It blesses twice – him who gives it and him who gets it. – CT Studd

Prayer meetings are the throbbing machinery of the church. – C H Spurgeon

The greatest thing anyone can do for God and for man is to pray. – S D Gordon

Successful marriage is always a triangle: a man, a woman and God. – Cecil Myers

Gluttony is an emotional escape, a sign that something is eating us. – Peter Devries

If you're naturally kind you attract a lot of people you don't like. – William Feather

Many people will be surprised when Jesus comes again – but nobody will be mistaken. – Anon

A Christian may not always be conscious of the Holy Spirit's presence, but he would not even be a Christian in His absence. – John Blanchard

Before Christ sent the church into the world, He sent the Spirit into the Church. The same order must be observed today. – John R W Stott.

**POP-IN PRAYERS**

is on the  
**THIRD SATURDAY** each month  
in the CHAPEL  
before  
Spud and Pud Lunches.  
15<sup>th</sup> June and 20<sup>th</sup> July.  
All welcome  
any time between  
11 - 11.30 am

Vaughn Mojzes is continuing with  
Saturday **SPUD & PUD LUNCHES**.

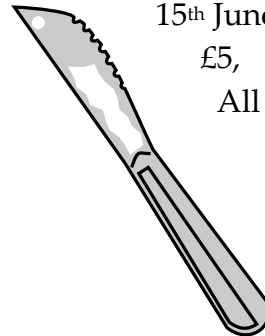
They will be at  
12 noon on the

**THIRD SATURDAY** each month.

15<sup>th</sup> June and 20<sup>th</sup> July.

£5, please book.

All Welcome.



**PARISH PUMP**

Parish pump celebrate 25 years this month,  
helping churches by providing copy for their  
magazines.

I have subscribed to their website for many  
years and give thanks for their help.

*Hazel Taylor, magazine editor.*

**THE FAREWELL SERVICE  
FOR ANN AND BLAIR**

**IS ON SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> JULY**

**AT 6.00PM**

**More details later  
but please book the date.**

**WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED**

Lily Ford who died on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Mary Guy who died on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Joyce Fisher who died on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Roger Schooley who died on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022

*May God comfort those who mourn*

Loving Lord,

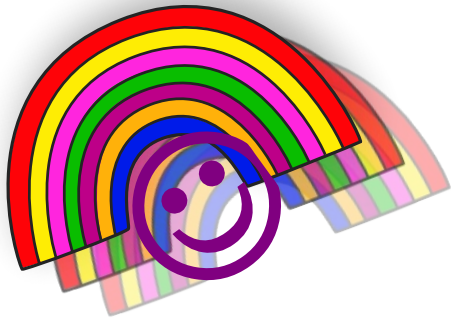
We pray for Ann and Blair as they finish their ministry at St Andrew's. We give thanks for all the blessings we have received through them. We pray that their retirement will be filled with joy and blessing.



We ask your blessings also on Patience and Frank who will join us on 1<sup>st</sup> September. May their move be smooth and may they soon feel at home in Harlow.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**P  
R  
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With thanks to Parish Pump



### **Descriptions:**

Dust: Mud with the juice squeezed out.

Inflation: Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

Raisin: Grape with a sunburn.

Mosquito: An insect that makes you like flies better.

Beauty salon: Where women curl up and dye.

Cannibal: One who is fed up with people

Committee: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

### **Newspaper headlines where you know what they meant, but....!**

Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges

Man Struck by Lightning: Faces Battery Charge

New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group

Kids Make Nutritious Snacks

Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half

Hospitals are Sued by Seven Foot Doctors

Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead

### **With Fathers' Day in mind...**

The most effective way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once. – Ogden Nash

I had some words with my wife, and she had some paragraphs with me. – Sigmund Freud

I took the wife's family out for tea and biscuits. They weren't too happy about having to give blood though. – Les Dawson

Love is grand; divorce is a hundred grand. – Anon

### **Miscellaneous observations on life...**

I had a ploughman's lunch the other day. He wasn't very happy about it. – Tommy Cooper

A gesticulation is any movement made by a foreigner. – J B Morton

Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it. – Mark Twain

### **And finally...**

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took the boy Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: "They couldn't get a babysitter."

## **NEW MEMBERS**

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April

**Grace Opare, Vanessa Botchway,  
Nada France and Ben Owusu**  
were received into membership.

We pray for God's blessing  
On each one of them .

### **OUR THANKS To EDDIE COLLIER**

for leading our Stewards over the past  
few years  
and for all he has done for  
St Andrew's.

Due to ill-health, Eddie has had to take  
a step back from these tasks at present.  
We wish him well and pray for healing.

**Church Cleaning Day**  
Please come and help at our  
Spring Cleaning of the Church  
on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June 10.00 - 12.30.  
Light refreshments will be served.

Please bring an old cloth or two  
and rubber gloves if possible.

## **Christ the King Picnic in the Park**



On Saturday July 6<sup>th</sup>, between 11 am and 3 pm at the Stow Park, we are going to have our annual picnic complete with entertainment, worship, and food; and toilets will be available in St Andrew's. The details are not quite settled yet but there will be Ghanaian food, hamburgers, Ghanaian dancers, our own acrobat and fire-eater, a treasure hunt for the children, and maybe circus praise event.....

This is a free event with food at reasonable prices.

More news to come on this, but put it in your diaries now!

## **ST ANDREW'S FACEBOOK PAGE**

Joanne Castle has set up a FACEBOOK PAGE as a way of growing St Andrew's Church..

Please sign up and tell your friends and family.  
Just search for St Andrew's Methodist Church on FB to join.

## EDITOR'S HOLIDAY BLOG

WEDNESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024 .It's cold and bright as we leave Harlow on our way to Durham. We have dinner in Doncaster then have an uneventful drive up the A1M and park near the river. We are aiming for the Cathedral, a stiff uphill walk. There's a large cross draped in the white cloth as they are still in the Easter period, and the flowers are lovely. My nephew's daughter sang in the choir here while she was at Uni a few years ago.

THURSDAY *From Psalm 122. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.*

*May there be peace inside your walls and safety in your palaces.*

We're in winter clothes as it's only 6°C but the sun is trying to break through. Many of the sheep along the way have had twins. They're so white against the lush grass. I remember the hymn, *All in the April evening* –and it's ending - *and I thought on the Lamb of God*. There was little traffic as we sped up and down the switchback A64, then we had a hail storm outside Melrose.

So far I've seen cowslips, primroses, daffs, broom, dandelions and buttercups along the verges.

There's a steep walk down to a stream then up again to reach Castle Campbell - it closes at 4.30pm and it's just after four! The rain is starting and it's turned to snow by the time we've climbed 5 flights up to the top. One of the huge fireplaces has a recess-shelf to keep a jar of salt. It was a precious and valuable commodity and had to be kept dry. There's a small prison-room for the high-class felons, and below it, through a trapdoor they lowered the peasants. The circular space wasn't even big enough for the poor prisoners to lie down! As we walk back we see wild strawberry and raspberry plants, violets, primroses and the new bracken-fronds starting to unfurl, rising from the dead clumps of last season's growth.

I chat to a couple of Youth leaders as we pass them. Their teenagers are doing their Duke of Edinburgh camp-out and are expecting the temperature to drop to -2°C tonight. They say there is no phone signal so at their last stop the girls played Poo sticks and the boys threw stones in the stream. We somehow got onto animals and the cold weather and I told them about Timmy, my tortoise and how I acquired him in the 1970's and the danger of frost to his sight. They are going to relate the information to their young people round the camp-fire later.

FRIDAY *From Psalm 135. I know that our Lord is great,  
he brings storm clouds from the ends of the earth.*

We go to the small super-market in Pitlochry on our way north. As we leave the town we see the first mountain with snow on the peak. It's a typical April showers and sun day but still very cold. We drive to the Highland Folk Museum at Newtonmore. There's no set entrance fee but they ask for donations. It's over a mile long with buildings brought here from all over Scotland. Each one depicts a date from the past, with furniture plus home, shop or school items or farm implements of a date indicated. There are also re-created ancient round-houses with roofs of dried heather and reeds with a smoky fire in the centre, and people dressed up to play the part and relate the history of bygone days.

There's a sign on the A82 as we near Drumnadrochit: '**CAUTION –Otters for ¾ mile.**' Sadly, we don't see any. On Loch Ness we watch the bobbing boats, moored below the brooding hills. The silver birch leaves are just bursting, pale green and fresh. And on the land side, the rocky hillside rises almost vertically. I can see there's rain ahead, it's already blotting out the mountain-tops with their glistening caps of snow.

On Sunday morning they are closing this road for a cycle race. And it's the only proper road down the length of the loch from Inverness to Fort Augustus. On the east side there's a 35 mile long single track with passing places.

We arrive at our next B & B in a hail storm and sit in the car for ages, waiting for it to stop. Sheila is friendly and our room is warm when the hail and snow lessen. I've booked dinner here

as we are miles from any town. There's a wood-burner in the bar-restaurant, and one local in the corner, nursing a drink. Bob has steak and chips and I have the chicken with cheese and pineapple and Sheila tells us about the area. 'You can drive up to Glen Affric and see the falls and if you want to, you can walk through the mountains all the way to Skye.' When I look at the map there are no roads up there and mountains rise to 1150 metres. That's not far short of Ben Nevis. Sheila is from the Isle of Sheppey and has an east end twang with colourful language to match.

SATURDAY *From Psalm 136. He gives food to every living creature; his love is eternal. Give thanks to the God of heaven; his love is eternal.*

It's the best breakfast so far. Fruit, yogurt, full Scottish breakfast with good scrambled eggs, then toast and jam. But our room and the bar decorations are weird. There are three different wallpapers in our room, plus green wooden planking on the lower half of the walls. But also odd shapes of other bright wallpaper over the top in random places. There's two different clashing plaids, and also four different ceiling finishes in the en suite!

We decide to visit Dog Falls, the first waterfall up Glen Affric as it's only a few miles beyond Corrimony Cairn which I want to see. There are 11 short standing stones around a low, central chambered cairn which is thought to be about 4000 years old. As the passage to the chamber is muddy and only about two feet (60cm) tall I have to shuffle in, bent double. Bob wisely stays outside!

The rain starts as we drive along the valley then up the narrow road towards the falls. We should have put our waterproofs on but think it's not far, when we leave the car park. Dog Falls is under-whelming and not worth the detour! And by the time we get back to the car our shower proof coats are soaked through and I'm shivering in the cold air.

As we drive towards Fort William, I add wood anemones and ladies mantle to my list of flowers on the verges. Fort William is more run down than our last visit, two years ago. We decide to go in the museum, which we've not noticed before. There's an iron coffin protector, used to stop thieves taking bodies and selling them to hospitals. It would be moved on once the body was too decomposed to sell! Also, there's a birching table with two holes for the unfortunate victim to thrust their arms through. Their wrists would be strapped together underneath.

We drive onto the Corran ferry, £10 for the five minute trip across the southern tip of Loch Linnhe. It saves about 25 miles of very narrow roads around the top of the loch. We are staying in Strontian tonight – a bit of Scotland we've never visited before. Bob tries to lock our door but can't so he turns the catch on the inside and then closes the door. When we come back, the key won't open it. Graham gets a hammer and chisel then puts his shoulder to the door, then his boot. He gives us another room, bigger but no view, and calls a builder. My handbag, money, phone and our case and bag are locked in room one! The builder arrives and gives the door a hefty kick with his steel-toed boot and he's in. They sort the lock out, touch up the paintwork and another guest is in there a few hours later. Graham seems to do everything. He takes our dinner order, serves other guests and does all the cooking. He's cheerful and keeps apologising about the door.

SUNDAY *From Psalm 138. You will do everything you have promised; Lord, your love is eternal. Complete the works that you have begun.*

I go in the hot tub before breakfast. The sun is shining through the open French windows as I pray for my family and friends as the jets bubble around me.

There's a white goose on the road as we drive back to the ferry. He doesn't move. Bob slows, then swerves round him at the last moment. He's still standing there, after we've passed.

Inveraray is packed with people. There are coaches and bikers as well as car-parks full of cars. It's a shock to the system, after deserted roads and quiet towns. We order dinner at a crowded pub overlooking Loch Fyne. Bob has haddock and chips and I order the Italian vegetable pizza, not realising that it's 15 inches (43cm) across! Fortunately it has a very thin dough and is lovely. I only leave the crusts and 2 small slices.



We go to the extensive jail. And there's another birching table, this time with straps for across the torso and each leg, as well the arm-holes. Many prisoners were kept here until they were shipped to Australia. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century prisoners were kept apart at all times, with two small exercise cages outside with a wall separating them. They also had to keep themselves and their clothes clean, being forced to bath every week.

Loch Lomond is visible from the road as the trees are still sparsely covered. As we near the southern end we join a traffic jam which stop-starts for the next half hour or more.

We arrive at our next B & B in the country near Drymen, glad to get out of the car. This is an eco-friendly place. Milk in a flask and tea, coffee and sugar in little glass jars, so the minimum of plastic used. There's a septic tank for waste water and bags made from plants on the cistern. But we can watch ducks, chickens and a horse from the side window in our room and there are plants everywhere. Everything's clean and practical even though the room was once a cow shed, with three foot thick walls.

MONDAY *From Psalm 139. Lord, you have examined me and you know me, you know everything I do. All you do is strange and wonderful.*

There is home-made sultana toast in the continental breakfast, which includes one brown and one very large white hard-boiled egg. I check the white one isn't a duck egg as I know they are very strong. 'No,' Anna says, that's from the white chicken, the brown from brown, and we have blue eggs from the blue-legged chickens.' And I don't think she's kidding us!

Bob has such a huge mixed grill at lunch time in Peebles that he leaves some of the meat. A first, on holiday, I think! I have a delicious lasagne with salad.

It's rained most of the day, so far, but we decide to go to Kailzie Gardens. After coffee and carrot cake in front of a huge wood-burner we venture into the cold and wet again. There are formal walled gardens and in the main garden there are gentle hills, trees with daffodils under, some rhododendrons and a meandering stream. If only the sun was out!

At Backbrae, near Lanark, Catherine welcomes us into a hall, overlooking the garden. She takes us through a double-height dining room with the largest table I've ever seen. It seats 16 comfortably! The open staircase leads up to an extensive landing with sofa and chairs and a huge TV. Our room is large and has a shared balcony with a hot tub on it.

TUESDAY *From Psalm 141. Lord, place a guard at my mouth, a sentry at the door of my lips. Keep me from wanting to do wrong.*

The lovely breakfast is served on the huge, polished table. When I ask if the house is a barn conversion, Catherine tells us no, her husband designed it.

It takes six hours to drive down to our Granddaughter Fiona, including brief stops and a picnic lunch. It's dry and bright and the temperature rises as we go south. It's t-shirt weather by the time we reach their village on the Derbyshire-Staffordshire border. Keith and Fe welcome us and we chat until it's time to drive to Burton and our favourite Chinese Buffet. It's a lovely meal and we're all full to bursting. In their village we make a detour to the new village hall and have a look round.

WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> MAY *From Psalm 142. I call to the Lord for help; when I am ready to give up, he knows what I should do.*

After bacon sarnies for breakfast we walk down to the church, which is never locked, and then take a detour back past a front garden with a duck pond and displaying turkey. The chickens take no notice of the magnificent bird trying to attract their attention.

And so it's time to leave. The sun is shining and it's warm already. We reach Harlow by 1.30pm, having covered 1234 miles in the week we've been away. We are so blessed to live in a country where we are free to travel and it's safe to stay almost anywhere. Hazel Taylor

**PETER MOUNTSTEVEN and OTHER MEMBERS  
Of the GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY**



**In the queue to meet  
HRH Richard,  
Duke of Gloucester,  
our Society Patron,  
on the Buckingham Palace lawn.**

**Our attendance was for  
"over and above" service,  
i.e. beyond the call of duty.**

**ANSWERS TO THE BIBLE BOOK QUIZ**

in the last magazine - submitted by Arthur Revels.

Congratulations to Margaret T and Marjorie who managed to find all 30 of the hidden books. They both received a prize. We have some very clever ladies in our church. The solutions are shown in bold text.

This is a **most remarkable** puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, **keeping** him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his **john** boat.

Another friend studied it while playing the **banjo**. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend **judges** the **job** of solving this puzzle so involving, **she brews** a cup of tea to help her nerves. **There** will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a **fact**. Some people however will soon find themselves in a **jam**, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized.

**Truthfully from answers** we get, we are forced to admit **it usually** takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them **at the worst**. Research has show that something in our **genes is** responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph.

During a recent fund raising event, which features this puzzle, the Alpha Delta **Philemonde** booth set a new record. The local paper The **Chronicle** surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was the most difficult they had ever seen.

As **Daniel Humanahum** puts it. The books are right here in plain view hidden from sight. **Those** able to find them will hear great **lamentation** from those who have to be shown. One **revelation** that may help is that books like **Timothy** and **Samuel** may occur without their **numbers**.

Also keep in mind that punctuation and spaces in the middle are **normal**. A **chipper** attitude will help you **compete** really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember there is no need for a mass **exodus**. There are really many books of the bible **lurking** somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God bless

## FLASHBACK

As we approach the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Andrew's Methodist Church since it was built on the present site in 1954, this is an opportune moment to revisit the history of the development of the church through the past 70 years. This article covers the history of the church from the very beginning up to about 2008. A second article in the next issue of the magazine will cover the development from 2008 onwards to the present day, and provide a glimpse into what the future may hold.

In the beginning, the newly appointed Methodist Minister, Rev. Eryl Hughes, came to Harlow New Town in September 1952. He made a few contacts on arrival, and went off to Moot House (on the opposite side of the road to the present church location) to conduct his first service without any real idea of who would be there. He was delighted to find that he had a congregation of thirteen: ten adults and three children. Since that humble beginning the cause of Methodism prospered in Harlow, and soon there were established a Sunday School, Young Wives' Circle and Youth Club; and some thirty full members had been received into the Church. Work then proceeded with the construction of the church hall at The Stow. On 27<sup>th</sup> June 1953 the Foundation Stone of the Methodist Church Hall was laid, and on 30<sup>th</sup> October 1954, the church celebrated the grand opening of the buildings for service, worship and all community activities.

St Andrew's formed part of the Harlow Mission Circuit until 1979 when changes in the way our church was funded led to proposals to work together with the United Reformed churches in Harlow. In 1989, the West Essex United Area was established made up of four Methodist Churches (including St Andrew's), four United Reformed Churches, plus the joint Anglican/Methodist work that had begun at Great Parndon. The new Area included churches in Harlow, Roydon, Ongar, Epping and North Weald.

As time has moved on, the development of new housing around Harlow and its surrounding area has brought fresh challenges, particularly with much of that development planned to occur along the Herts/Essex border. In 2006, a new and larger Area was formed from the merger of the West Essex United Area with the Lee Valley North circuit to form the Herts and Essex Borders Ecumenical Area, abbreviated to HAEBEA, adding churches in Waltham Cross, Hoddesdon, Hertford, Ware and Watton-on-Stone.

Despite these changes, St Andrew's as a building had not changed much in its first 50-year history. The photo below on the left shows what the church building looked like in its first year. In those early days in the formation of the new town, there were many more children from young families who came to attend Sunday service at the church. The photo on the right taken in the 60's shows the Sunday School children with the teachers at their Christmas lunch. There are still a few of those children connected with this church now as adults after all those years. Can you spot them in the photo?

*Andrew Wong*



## **BIBLE READING - St John 1: 1-5, 10, 14. Living Bible**



Before anything else existed, there was Christ, with God. He has always been alive and is himself God. He created everything there is - nothing exists that he didn't make.

Eternal life is in him, and this life gives light to all mankind. His life is the light that shines through the darkness - and the darkness can never extinguish it. But although he made the world, the world didn't recognize him when he came.

And Christ became a human being and lived here on earth among us and was full of loving forgiveness and truth. And some of us have seen his glory - the glory of the only Son of the heavenly Father!

## **Christian leaders killed or disappeared in occupied Ukraine**

Into the third year of Russia's occupation of parts of Ukraine, Christian leaders are still being killed, tortured and disappeared. And in Russia, priests who oppose Putin's invasion continue to be imprisoned or silenced.

"As President Putin begins his fifth term our partners describe growing pressure on the Church," says Paul Robinson, CEO of UK-based Release International, which supports persecuted Christians worldwide.

"And yet," he says, "in the face of fear, insecurity and oppression, hunger for the gospel is growing. We hear reports of churches packed to overflowing and many giving their lives to Christ."

In February, the body of a Ukrainian Orthodox priest was found in the streets of Kalanchak in Russian-occupied Kherson. He was 59-yr-old Stepan Podolchak. According to his bishop, Russian military forces had "tortured Fr Stepan to death". He's not the first Christian leader to be dragged away and dispatched by the occupying forces.

Fr Stepan Podolchak was seized on 13th February and hauled away barefoot with a bag over his head, according to Norway-based human rights organisation Forum 18. His bruised body was found lifeless in the street two days later. Some reports say he had been shot in the head. But the official cause of death was given as a heart attack.

The Kyiv-based Centre for Journalistic Investigations told Forum 18, "He prayed for Ukraine, even under occupation. Apparently because of this the Russians took away his life."

It's believed he was taken by operatives of the Russian Interior Ministry's Centre for Countering Extremism. Increasingly, denominations other than President Putin's Russian Orthodox are being regarded as extremists.

Along with other priests, Fr Podolchak had been pressured to desert the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and join the Moscow Patriarchate.

United Nations Special Rapporteurs have stated in writing to the Russian authorities their 'serious concern for the alleged enforced disappearances and torture... of clergy in the occupied territories'.

*Parish Pump*



# SUNDAY COFFEE

We would appreciate biscuit donations for our Sunday refreshments.

## Sunday Coffee - Alison Brand

- week 1      Gay Brown & Sarah Jones
- week 2      Margaret T. & Maureen Etchells
- week 3      Hazel Taylor & helper
- week 4      Alison Brand & Louise
- week 5      Margery Collier & helper

## STARS

Each Tuesday in term time @ 10am  
Contact: Alison Brand



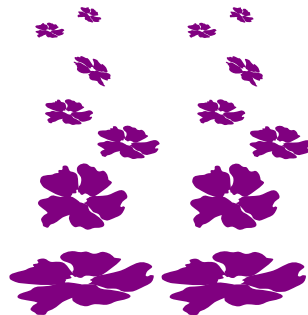
- First Tuesday    Gay Brown
- Second Tuesday    *CAN YOU HELP?*
- Third Tuesday    Gay Brown
- Fourth Tuesday    *CAN YOU HELP?*

*HELPERS*

## Flower Rota

### JUNE

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Cath Ferguson
- 16<sup>th</sup> Alexis and Kirsty
- 30<sup>th</sup> Margaret Torkildsen



### JULY

- 7<sup>th</sup> Amelia Castle
- 21<sup>st</sup> Isabella Castle



**Flowers: contact Margaret Mountsteven or Hazel**

Please let one of the above have the money and any colour preferences **two weeks** before your flower date.

# JUNE DIARY

**WE ARE WORSHIPPING  
IN CHURCH  
and also on ZOOM**

**YOUTH CHURCH  
Sunday 10.30am**

## BIBLE STUDIES

MONDAY - 12 NOON Eat your lunch as you share in a Bible discussion in Luke.  
IN THE CHAPEL, led by Rev Blair.

TUESDAY 7.30pm - Led by Fred Arthur, IN THE CHAPEL. We are studying John.

THURSDAY 12 NOON - ON ZOOM - led by Rev Blair, studying Matthew.

THURSDAY 7.30pm - Led by Fred Arthur. ON ZOOM. Studying Philipians

*Our Monday Morning Coffee Time is now closed for the summer.  
Our thanks to all those who helped.*

Saturday	1 <sup>st</sup>	10 - 12.30	Church Cleaning Morning - please come and help, refreshments provided.
<b>JUNE</b>	SUNDAY	2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am Morning Worship and Holy Communion - Rev John Buxton
	Saturday	8 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm Pastoral Visitors Meeting
	SUNDAY	9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am Morning Worship and Infant Baptisms - Rev Blair Kirkby
	Saturday	15 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am Pop-in Prayers 12 noon Spud and Pud - £5 - Please book with Vaughan
<b>JUNE</b>	SUNDAY	16 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am Morning Worship on Father's Day - Mr Michael Dyer
	Thursday	20 <sup>th</sup>	12.30pm Friendship Group at Margaret's home in East Park
	SUNDAY	23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am Morning Worship and BAPTISM by immersion of Georgina Mclean - Rev Blair Kirkby
<b>JUNE</b>	SUNDAY	30 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am Morning Worship - Mrs Efua Sey Koi Larbi 12.15pm St Andrew's Ghanaian Methodist Fellowship

**JUNE  
JUNE  
JUNE**

### **DEADLINE FOR NEXT MAGAZINE -**

Paper copy by Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July or email copy by  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July to [magazine@standrewsharlow.org.uk](mailto:magazine@standrewsharlow.org.uk)

**YOUTH CHURCH**  
**Sunday 10.30am**

**JULY DIARY**

## BIBLE STUDIES

MONDAY - 12 NOON Eat your lunch as you share in a Bible discussion in Luke.  
IN THE CHAPEL, led by Rev Blair.

TUESDAY 7.30pm - Led by Fred Arthur, IN THE CHAPEL. We continue in John.

THURSDAY 12 NOON - ON ZOOM - led by Rev Blair, studying Matthew.

THURSDAY 7.30pm - Led by Fred Arthur. ON ZOOM. Studying Philipians.

J U L Y	Saturday	6 <sup>th</sup>	11am - 3pm	<b>Picnic in the Park</b> - come along and bring your friends <i>see page 5 for details</i>
	SUNDAY	7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship - Mrs Karen Quelch
	SUNDAY	14 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship & Holy Communion - Rev Blair Kirkby
	Thursday	18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	<i>Friendship Group at Hazel's home in Ladyshot</i>
	Saturday	20 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Pop-in Prayers
			12 noon	Spud and Pud - £5 - please book with Vaughan
	SUNDAY	21 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship - Local Arrangement
			6.00pm	<b>Area Goodbye Service</b> - for <b>Rev Ernie Bosse</b> and <b>Rev Blair Kirkby</b> at St Andrew's led by Rev Gill Hulme and Rev Marcia Tull
	SUNDAY	28 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship - Rev Blair Kirkby
			12.15pm	St Andrew's Ghanaian Methodist Fellowship

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## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September at 3pm - **Circuit Welcome Service** at St Andrew's for

**Rev Dr Frank Okai-Sam** as the new Circuit Superintendent for HAEBBC and Minister for St Andrew's Methodist and Leaside Ware, LEP. Refreshments following the service.

21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> September - **Harvest Weekend**

19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> October we celebrate our 70<sup>th</sup> **Anniversary at St Andrew's**

11<sup>th</sup> May 2025 **AGM**

All updates on church information are on our

**CHURCH WEBSITE** [www.standrewsharlow.org.uk](http://www.standrewsharlow.org.uk)

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