



**St. Andrew's  
United Reformed Church  
Eastcote**

**BULLETIN**



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## MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

Have you ever read the book or seen the film "Chocolat"?

Taken at face value it is a rather sentimental and predictable story about a very prim and proper French town. However lurking below the surface there is a profound exploration of the weakness and dangers of some aspects of religion. The people of the town are encouraged by a rather insipid but devout Count to live honourable lives by suppressing all sense of fun.

Into this rather false and dour existence comes a woman called Vianne Rocher and her six year old daughter Anouk. Vianne turns a very run-down patisserie into a chocolate shop where she offers people conversation and acceptance as well as the sheer pleasure and delight of chocolate. The store, which opens during Lent, instills both wonder and angst amongst the repressed villagers.

Vianne likes people and is interested in them.

The church on the other hand is presented as very rigid and excluding. It is controlled by the Count, who, in order to compensate for his own inadequacy, adopts a very austere and repressed view of God and religion. He imposes his version of faith on the village and the church. Religion is presented as something that cannot cope with change or with those who are different and is powerless to make any impact on the life of the individuals within the village. It tries to reform one man by imposing a harsh discipline of prayer, self-denial and the respectability of a new suit, but he soon fails and is worse off than before. By contrast, at some cost to herself, the chocolate lady accepts everyone, even the Count, and she brings life and joy to the village.

As I see it, Vianne is much more like the followers of Jesus ought to be, than was the church. She embodies my dream of a church which celebrates life, shares pain and understands failure. She represents a community where there is a sense of fun alongside a sense of the holy. She portrays a community which stands for stability whilst being able to be always on the move; a community of people who share a real feeling of belonging and yet who are always reaching far beyond their boundaries to express the compassion of God as Jesus did.

It is not surprising that Chocolat has also been turned into a Lent Course in its own right. The story it tells offers a very clear challenge to all of us in the church to think about the way we use our faith. Do we use it as a means of suppression in which we inhibit our humanity, or as the gateway to the truth, liberation and new life which resurrection is all about?

May the joy of Easter be with each one of you.

With my love

Liz

## EDITORIAL

After a rather disruptive year weatherwise, we hope that things are now settling down with signs of spring and lengthening days.

Again we want to thank Arthur Spencer for all his work in printing the Bulletin and Year Book, thus saving the Church a great deal of money. Talking of money, it is that time of year when we ask for Bulletin donations - an envelope is included and this can be put in with the Offertory. We try to be self sufficient and not a drain on Church funds.

We hope to see as many as possible at two forthcoming events - Saturday 13th March, the Church Away Day (on this occasion to be held at home in St. Andrew's) and Sunday 28th March, the Church AGM to be held after the morning service.

Our 70th Anniversary Celebrations started well in November and we are continuing with further events throughout the year.

We too wish all our readers a very Happy Easter.



## St. Andrew's People

At the Anniversary service at the end of November we not only looked back over the past 70 years, but also looked to the future when we welcomed Nicky Bean and Dennis Hobley into Church membership.

Roy Cadoux resigned as an Elder in August. We want to thank Roy for all his work in many various areas of church life.

Many of the Guild members and friends will have fond memories of visits to the lovely setting of Lower Priory Farm and the hospitality of Judy Walker. After many years, Judy and her husband Ron have left Lower Priory to live nearer to their families. We wish them well for the future. They have not yet found a permanent home and so have a temporary address.

We were sorry to hear of the death of former member, Mary Peter, in Comrie, Perthshire, in November. Our sympathy goes to sons Bill and Richard.

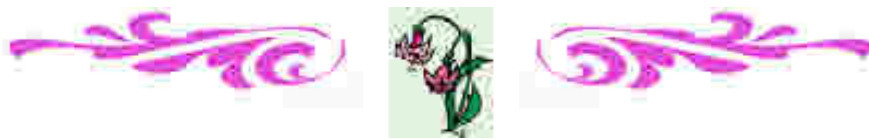
In early December, after many delays, Michael Hepworth finally went out to Saudi Arabia as a member of a team testing and commissioning a newly built chemical plant. He is working hard and misses western style living, but apparently looks good in his Arab robes.

Former member, Betty Hollingberry, now living in Marsden near Huddersfield, has recently been honoured. This was in recognition of her work as a Wren based in Eastcote (an outpost of Bletchley Park) in helping in the gargantuan efforts to break the Enigma Code, which helped to shorten WW2 by 2 years. She was not the only person connected with St. Andrew's doing this, as Nancy Whitecross was also involved in this field.

The January Coffee morning raised £155 for the Leprosy Mission bringing the total raised for Charity, since we started last June, to £1200.



This family photograph is a reminder of a happy occasion at St. Andrew's - namely the wedding of Liz and Doug's daughter Sarah to Jon Shildrick.



# 70th ANNIVERSARY

## 70TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

Our celebration service to commemorate the opening of the buildings took place on Sunday 29th November, a day of torrential rain. The church was full and it was good to welcome many visitors including Gordon Webb. He had been passing the Church and had seen a poster about the 70th Anniversary and wanted to come having attended the Sunday School here from 1941 - 1946. He showed us the actual leaflets handed out at those classes!

Many took part in the service, the theme being pilgrimage - past, present and future. Memories were recalled by three long serving members - Amy Adams, Dorothy Adams and myself. A lovely poem by Millie Rhymer (which we printed in our last issue) was read out. Jean Stevenson spoke on the Church today and our Minister, Liz Shaw on the Church in the future. During the service it was great to welcome Nicky Bean and Dennis Hobley into full membership of the Church. The hymns, accompanied by a trio of organ, piano and double bass, were well sung, rising to maximum decibels for the rousing final one 'Thine be the Glory'.

On entering the Church we each selected a stone which we held for the reading about the house built on rock and during the Prayers of Intercession. At the end of the service they were built into a small cairn which will act as a permanent reminder of the celebration.

The service was followed by a Faith lunch where a wide variety of savouries, cheeses, sweets and cakes were enjoyed with wine and fruit juices. On display was an exhibition of photographs, pamphlets and programmes from the opening in 1939 up to the present day - many memories were recalled.

A most successful and remarkable day; many thanks to all those who made it happen - planners, those taking part, musicians, caterers and numerous others.

Gavin A Gillespie

There will be other celebratory services during the course of the coming year when we will be welcoming back Revd Alyn Owens (16th May), Revd David Batchelor (6th June) and Revd Michael Davies (20th June).



## ANNIVERSARY MEMORIES

When Jack and I came to St. Andrew's, we got a warm welcome from Mr Hancock, the Minister. It always made us smile as we remembered how, on leaving us after a visit, he always had to crank up his car several times before it would start - changed days now with automatics!

Sports Days were always happy occasions at Eastcote House as were the Scouts' Open days for visitors to see how they did the various activities.

When Joe and Joan Hislop came, we had the largest Sunday School in the Presbyterian Church of England. It was run by John Greer after whom our Hall was named. Joe was also Chaplain to our Ruislip and District Caledonian Society and how he loved his haggis! When he was recuperating from an operation in Pinner Cottage Hospital, we took a dance team to entertain the ward and haggis for him too.

I have memories of being in the Parents' Association and cycling to St. Andrew's to clean the annexe windows. There were happy memories of Elders' weekends in Cambridge and walks along the Cam. I remember one little girl who didn't go to Sunday School, but sat near the front with an old lady. We are fortunate to have her now taking services for us some Sundays - Jean Stevenson.

Then we had David and Margareta Batchelor and our Guild continued to thrive. I can remember Anniversary afternoons when we entertained other guilds, getting on some occasions 120 for afternoon tea. The garden parties in members' gardens were popular. We all had fun at Sales of Work and I can remember being on the cake stall and Celia coming in with trays of cakes after a hard week's work at school.

We are fortunate in having had many stalwart workers throughout the years - you will remember many of them.

When Alyn and Josie Owens came, Josie started the Guild lunches which became popular. Many will remember how Alyn relaxed supporting Watford Football team!

Now we have Liz Shaw, our first lady Minister to carry on our mission in the church.

Amy Adams



## ANNIVERSARY MEMORIES (continued)

This is perhaps the first major anniversary when none of the founder members of the Church are still with us. My own journey with St. Andrew's dates back over 63 years. I had arrived with my parents from Scotland during the war and within weeks Dr. Walker, the then Minister, called, asking me if I would help in the afternoon Sunday School in the Back Hall - even then it was growing rapidly along with the congregation. I became a Church Member in March 1946 together with my friend Rosemary Wallace, who some of you will remember and we became founder members of The Fellowship of Youth.

Of course, in those days, few people owned cars, so we all walked to Church and, as the congregation was over 300 with many Sunday School children, there were many people walking down the local roads, gathering up friends on the way - like tributaries joining the river of people in Rushdene Road.

I have always valued being a member of St. Andrew's and regard it as an important part of my life. I am pleased to still be here to take part in this 70th Anniversary service.

Dorothy Adams



My parents were founder members and this Church has been a constant thread throughout my life. My earliest memory must be when I was about 4. Every year the Moderator of the General Assembly came to St. Andrew's. I vividly recall him in formal wear of long black jacket and britches with huge white lace cuffs and, best of all, silver buckles on his shoes.

In our Sunday School class, if we were very good and attentive, after the lesson, our teacher would tell us about her hard life as a girl in Glasgow - much more interesting than all that religious stuff! I have fond memories of Winifred Edwards followed by John Greer, leading the Junior Church. Youngsters flocked here and one first timer was most disconcerted when the collection plate came round gasping in a horrified loud voice, "Ere, do we have to pay?"

We used to have an Army hut where numerous activities took place, including cubs and scouts that I attended. There was always dust everywhere which rose in clouds especially during dances. This hut served until the building of the John Greer Hall.

The Church was always in need of funds (sounds familiar). At our home, as at many, work was always going on to provide handicraft items and, especially, home baking for money-raising at Sales of Work, Bazaars, Christmas and Spring Fairs etc.

So many people came to both morning and evening services that it was a common sight to see stewards running round with extra chairs to squeeze more people into the aisles and it became an obstacle course collecting the offertory and serving communion. There were some great visiting preachers like George McLeod, founder of the Iona Community. St. Andrew's has a great and proud record of members going in for the Ministry.

On the social side there were Congregational meals, including Harvest Suppers, cabaret suppers, children's concerts, plays, choir concerts, Gilbert & Sullivan evenings, Old Time Music Halls and Pantomimes. The Men's Shows saw often rather distant, serious, severe and dignified Elders and Leaders let their hair down (if they still had any!). Just imagine a chorus line like the Tiller Girls of high kicking, dancing Elders dressed in just ballet tutu skirts and army boots!

There were always working parties and I recall the time when the Fellowship of Youth washed down Room 5, halfway up the stairs to the Upper room. Being a small room, when wet sponges were thrown, you could not fail to find a target - great fun.

Each of our former Ministers has left their impression. First, Dr. Walker, who when visiting people, used to throw his hat through the open door and knew, if it didn't return, he was welcome. Philip Hancock had the air of a Saint. He was followed by larger than life Joe Hislop - after years of strict stiff formality, shock horror when he announced, "Call me Joe"! His first batch of communicants numbered about 20 youngsters, including myself. David Batchelor quietly ran everything in a super efficient manner. Then I remember standing anxiously with Alyn and Josie in Intensive Care looking on as medics fought valiantly to save the life of their one year old grandson.

Throughout the years, St. Andrew's has been about people. Thousands, possibly hundreds of thousands have come through our doors, from all walks of life, all nationalities, all shapes and sizes - all have been welcomed into a warm fellowship. I deem it a great privilege to have met and known so many of them and shared friendship. Numerous people in the congregation led, helped and encouraged the youth even to the extent of helping them on their career paths. In this Church community there were great friendships made, great triumphs and, alas, great tragedies.

There is also a whole, often far flung, wider family of St. Andrew's people out there, always eager to hear news of what they still regard as 'THEIR CHURCH'.

Gavin Gillespie

We would like to print some more memories from the past 70 years of St. Andrew's. There must be so many. Please let us have **YOUR** memories - they can be from any of 70 years.



## CALENDAR

**MARCH 2010**

Thursday 4th	7.45pm	Elders' Meeting
Sunday 7th	10.30am	Morning Worship - Miss Lilian Evans
Saturday 13th	10.00am	CHURCH AWAY DAY on this occasion to be held at St. Andrew's
Sunday 14th	10.30am	Morning Worship for Mothering Sunday - Parade Service Revd Liz Shaw & Junior Church
	6.30pm	PAC Worshipping Together at Cannon Lane Methodist Church
Wednesday 17th	10.00am	Midweek Communion in the Vestry
Saturday 20th	10.30am	'Coffee with a Cause' Coffee Morning In aid of Scout Association Fund for Scouts with Special Needs
Sunday 21st	10.30am	Morning Worship - Mr Stephen Burton
	6.30pm	Evening Worship - Revd Liz Shaw (including the Sacrament of Holy Communion)
Sunday 28th	10.30am	Morning Worship - Revd Liz Shaw (including the Sacrament of Holy Communion) Followed by Church AGM and Faith Lunch
Monday 29th	7.45pm	Worshipping Together at Love Lane Methodist Church
Tuesday 30th	7.30pm	Meditation led by Revd Mike Hall
Wednesday 31st	7.30pm	Meditation led by Revd Liz Shaw

**APRIL 2010**

Thursday 1st	7.30pm	Maundy Evening Supper and Communion
Friday 2nd	10.30am	Good Friday Joint Service at Eastcote Methodist Church
Sunday 4th	<b>EASTER DAY</b>	
	10.30am	Morning Worship -
Sunday 11th	10.30am	Morning Worship - Revd Liz Shaw (including the Sacrament of Holy Communion)
Thursday 15th	7.45pm	Elders' Meeting
Saturday 17th	10.30am	'Coffee with a Cause' Coffee Morning In aid of Harrow Gateway
Sunday 18th	10.30am	Morning Worship - Mrs Barbara Fordyce
	6.30pm	Evening Worship - Revd Liz Shaw (including the Sacrament of Holy Communion)
Wednesday 21st	10.00am	Midweek Communion in the Vestry
Sunday 25th	10.30am	Morning Worship - tba

**MAY 2010**

Sunday 2nd	10.30am	Morning Worship - Miss Lilian Evans
	6.30pm	Evening Worship - Vision4Life: Prayer 2 - Jean & Tom Stevenson
Sunday 9th	10.30am	Morning Worship and Parade Service - Revd Liz Shaw
Saturday 15th	10.30am	'Coffee with a Cause' Coffee Morning In aid of Christian Aid
Sunday 16th	10.30am	Morning Worship - Revd Alyn Owens
	6.30pm	Evening Worship - Revd Liz Shaw (including the Sacrament of Holy Communion)
Wednesday 19th	10.00am	Midweek Communion in the Vestry
Thursday 20th	7.45pm	Elders' Meeting
Sunday 23rd	10.30am	Morning Worship - Revd Liz Shaw (including the Sacrament of Holy Communion)
	6.30pm	PAC Worshipping Together at St. John's Parish Church
Thursday 27th	7.45pm	Church Meeting
Sunday 30th	10.30am	Morning Worship - Mr Chris Mortimore

**JUNE 2010**

Sunday 6th	10.30am	Morning Worship - Revd David Batchelor
	6.30pm	Evening Worship - Vision4Life: Prayer 3 - Jean & Tom Stevenson