

November 2016



# ST ANDREW'S

NEWSLETTER



**Read page 3 for the story of 'Hope'**

Parish Office, Church Road, Ham Common, Richmond, Surrey TW10 5HG  
tel: 020 8948 7374 | web: [www.standrewsham.org.uk](http://www.standrewsham.org.uk)

**Interregnum news:**

*Geoff Davies*

Following interviews on Monday 24 October we were very pleased to be able to offer the post of priest-in-charge of St. Andrew's to an excellent candidate. The person chosen was delighted to accept the offer. We now have to wait for the Bishop to meet our candidate and for an exchange of letters formally offering and accepting the post. Once this has been done we will be able to share our priest's details with you, on the same Sunday as their current parish is told about their leaving, hopefully Sunday 6 November.

**Upcoming Services at St Andrew's:**

**Sunday 6 November 10.15 am**  
**30 Minutes Service**

**Sunday 13 November \*9.45am**  
**Remembrance Sunday Service**  
**(\*PLEASE NOTE EARLIER START TIME)**

**Sunday 27 November 6.30pm**  
**Advent Service**  
Please join us for our special service of words and music for Advent.

There will be no 30 Minutes Service in December.

There will be a **church cleaning and minor works day** on Saturday 19 November from 10.00am – 1.00pm to make everything sparkle before Advent. Please do come along and help.

**Two Thank Yous**

**Very many thanks to the congregation from Kingston Churches for the gifts from 2<sup>nd</sup> October.**



**Thanks to all helpers at the Harvest Supper which made it such a success.**

**Harvest Thanksgiving: Sister Veronica,  
Chris Ruse and Caroline Ewart  
2<sup>nd</sup> October**

The congregation had brought gifts to the service for Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness. Sister Veronica first reminded us of God's bounty; that some people have so much and some so little before Caroline described where our donated items will be used;

1. Food bank. Long life orange juice is added to a food pack for a young family. Typically families are in crisis, and referred by Social workers or another organisation. Self-opener/easy opening cans e.g. of meat are given to people to make a meal when they don't have access to cooking facilities.

2. Providing food for the 'entrenched rough sleepers' [official term] such as people with ongoing drug and alcohol problems or mental health problems - these people's behaviour can make them difficult to house. Canned soup is heated and taken around by KCAH.

Caroline then gave us an example of a success story: 'Norman' a 'hopeless drunk' - according to statutory services - was being supported by KCH. He became physically unwell and was in hospital for 6 weeks. During that time he took the opportunity to 'dry out' and accept support. He now has a job driving floral decorations around Knightsbridge.

After Chris had led us in a communal Harvest thanksgiving prayer, the men's choir 'filled our hearts with joy and gladness'.

Sister Veronica then reflected on the meaning of Jesus's statement 'I am the Bread of Life'. She raised a laugh by her musing that in the Solomon Islands, the staple food is not bread but coconut as it contains both water and meat. Her point was that souls need to be fed daily, Jesus invites us to walk with him in our daily lives and feeds us all spiritually, whatever our country or nationality.

**Thanks to St  
Andrew's for our  
donation:**

*Frederick Pluvana*

A lovely letter of thanks has been received from Frederick Pluvana, the Headteacher of Muana Primary School, Hograno District, Isobel province in the Solomon Islands. He writes to thank St Andrew's Church for the donation which has meant the School was able to buy building materials and they plan to renovate the old classroom buildings. He says the School is also very grateful for the library books that were sent. Watch this space for the 'after' photo!



## Young person's corner



Margaret Rees told about 'Link to Hope' the shoebox appeal for Families and Elderly. This is a Christian charity set up 25 years ago in Worthing initially to assist Romainia orphans but now extended to Moldova, Bulgaria and the Ukraine. The idea is to fill a shoebox with items for a family or an elderly person. The leaflets at the back of the church describe how to add a donation of £2 to help with transport costs. Although the deadline is 30<sup>th</sup> October, if you've missed this and would still like to contribute go to: <http://linktohope.co.uk/donate>



## The Parable of the Unjust Judge:

*Frances Forward*

*16<sup>th</sup> October*



Frances considered 'Was the unjust Judge really condoned by Jesus?' The Parable of the Unjust Judge (Luke 18:1-8) describes a judge who lacks compassion who is repeatedly approached by a poor widow, seeking justice. In society at the time, widows had no status or security, similar to the situation leading to the Suffragette movement in England. Initially rejecting her demands, the Judge eventually honors her request so he will not be worn out by her persistence. Jesus considered - If the unjust judge responds to the pleas of a widow, then how much more will God respond if people persevere with prayer. Prayer is God drawing us into his own plan, opening up ourselves to God and being changed by God's grace.