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Churchwardens: Norman Steven (01372
 842008), Richard Green (07770 644039)

Assistant Churchwardens: Ruth Burns
 (01372 844377), Mike Newman (01932
 863082)

Church Office: Monday-Friday, 9am-1pm
 (01372 842071 or
 office@standrewsoxshott.org.uk)

Church Administrator: Claire Costard

Assistant Church Administrator: Rowena
 Osman-Robertson

Webeditor: web@standrewsoxshott.org.uk

- This month's cover shows our theme here at St Andrew's approaching Easter – Father forgive – as we discover the wonders of the cross.

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Inside

Church News

The Monthly Letter	5
Church Services	6
Christian Aid	8
APCM	9
Thy Kingdom Come	9
News & Notes	12
CofE: Carbon net zero	15
Learn the organ!	15
Who Moved the Stone?	16
St George's Day Parade & Service	17
Doris Butterworth retires	18
The passionflower	18

Village News

Oxshott Village Sports Club	19
Ladies Friendship Group - Titanic	21
Oxshott Flower Arrangement Socy.	24
What's On in Oxshott	25
Oxshott Art & Crafts Socy.	28
Danes Hill update	29
Oxshott Village WI	31

Diversions

Sudoku	32
--------	----

Oxshott Directory

Who's Who at St Andrew's	33
Community Services	34
Local Clubs & Societies	36

The Monthly Letter

Father forgive

Dear Friends,

Happy Easter!

'Father forgive' is the theme for Easter at St Andrew's this year.

These words were spoken by Jesus whilst he hung on the cross. His full prayer reads, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' (Luke 23:34).

Even in his physical and emotional agony, Jesus' concern is for others. From his elevated position, he could see the Roman soldiers gambling for his clothing, hear the robber on the cross beside him shouting insults at him, the religious leaders mocking him and witness the ordinary people simply watching with gruesome fascination.

This prayer shows us the depth, breadth and height of God's love and mercy evident in Jesus, his Son. Does this mean that everyone present, whether they wished it or not, was forgiven their part in this whole ghastly affair? No. Repentance - the act of admitting they were sorry and demonstrating a desire to turn from their wrong ways - was still necessary.

And so it is with us. Through Jesus' death on the cross our selfishness and sin have been paid for. However, we too still need to acknowledge our need of a Saviour, to humble ourselves before God and to ask him for forgiveness.

This does not come naturally! To admit our need of anything, especially forgiveness, seems like weakness. And yet I believe the opposite to be true. To admit to our failures, to our (sometimes long-held) sense of shame, demands immense courage and determination.

I was reminded of this recently in conversation with a former soldier. Sadly, he had long carried a huge sense of guilt, but he had been helped to reach a point where he could admit to this and so be relieved of the huge burden he carried. He was - and remains - one of the bravest men I have met.

On Easter Day itself our theme will simply be 'Forgiven'. Join us to share the joy of knowing ourselves set free from all we have done wrong through Jesus' death and resurrection and God's amazing love and forgiveness!

Frances
 Vicar



† Church News

Christian Aid Week 10-16 May

Make a difference

Climate change affects the poorest more than others - we will soon have our chance to make a difference. **Mark Currie** looks ahead...

This Lent, the Church of England is focussing on our duty to protect this wonderful earth that we live on #LiveLent. The Church of England is also taking the lead in making a commitment to carbon neutrality by 2030, some 20 years before the UK Government's commitment for the country as a whole (see page 15).

Over the next couple of months, we will have the opportunity to give, act and pray for progress to be made in addressing climate change. As

"This Lent, we hope both adults and children might engage in God's plea for us to "Care for Creation". It is an opportunity for us to rebuild our relationship with our planet, and in turn with the God who is Lord of everything."

- Archbishop Justin Welby & Archbishop John Sentamu

Archbishop Justin Welby has said, "*Reducing the causes of climate change is essential to the life of faith. It is a way to love our neighbour and to steward the gift of creation.*"

Christian Aid Week takes place this year between 10-16 May and will provide an opportunity for us all to show our love for our neighbours and for creation. Keep an eye out for details of how we can all engage in helping those in poverty throughout the world during May – be ready for an outdoor event where we can

enjoy the wonders of nature on the weekend of 9/10 May.

Droughts are now more frequent and more intense due to the climate crisis. Next month we will tell you about Rose and her family in Kenya, struggling to get enough food and water. Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live.

People like Rose need every last drop of water to survive the drought.

Please be prepared to donate in Christian Aid Week to help her stop this climate crisis, and if you would like to get involved, do contact me (mark@thecurries.org).

Mark Currie

April 2020

Church News



Annual Parochial Church Meeting **APCM**

You are very welcome to come to the APCM on Palm Sunday, 5 April - join us for a glass of wine from 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

The meeting will include a brief review of what we've been up to in 2019, and the plans we have for 2020 – including an update on the background and progress towards developing our buildings.

Do please join us for an evening of information and friendship.

Revd Frances Trickey

Thy Kingdom Come 2020

St Andrew's will again be participating in this global initiative, as Christians are called to pray for the nine days between Ascension and Pentecost (21 – 31 May). We will pray for God's Spirit to move within the church, equip us to share God's love with others and to pay attention to how God is speaking to us today.

Watch out for more details next month, but 'Events' will include:

- Daily prayers in Church at 9am (except Sundays)
- Novena booklets, to guide our prayers on the theme of 'Listening on the Way'
- 2 Prayer Walks, where we pray for 'Businesses & Shops' & for 'Schools & Community'

You can also register personally at:

www.thykingdomcome.global/lightuptheworld

We invite you to take part this year – along with churches from over 65 different denominations in 178 countries around the world.

Revd Jolyon Trickey



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Church of England

CofE sets 2030 Net Zero carbon target

The Church of England's General Synod has now set new targets for all parts of the church to work to become carbon 'net zero' by 2030. The original target was 2045.

At its February 2020 meeting, members voted in favour of a revised date encouraging all parts of the Church of England to take action and ramp-up efforts to reduce emissions.

The motion follows the launch of the Church of England's first ever Green Lent (#LiveLent) campaign for 2020.

The Church of England has also announced an appliance-style footprinting tool for parishes to calculate their carbon footprint.

Following the debate, The Bishop of Salisbury, Nick Holtam, the Church of England's lead bishop for the Environment said, "To reach Synod's target of 2030 we will each need to hear this as an urgent call to action. This is a social justice issue, and if the Church is to hold others to account, we have to get our own house in order."



Pipes on the Pilgrim's Way: Thurs 16 & Sat 18 April

PIANISTS! Have you thought of learning the pipe organ?

Four **free taster lessons** on this beautiful instrument are available from www.surreyorganistsassociation.org

Also, **come and chat** about it and listen! **Graham Thorp**, with his experience of performing on German organs from Bach's time, will be giving **3 short Bach concerts on Classical Organs** in atmospheric old churches near the Pilgrim's Way on National Organ Day,

Saturday 18th April, including a performance by an organ student:

10.30-11.10 St Nicholas, Compton GU3 1EG

14.00-14.40 St Mary, West Horsley KT24 6AP

15.30-16.10 St James, Abinger Common RH5 6AZ

Admission is free to all the concerts.

Graham will also be **introducing** the music and the organs at the **Guildford Institute on Thursday 16 April 19.00-21.00**. Booking is essential for the talk. Fee £13.70 at www.guildford-institute.org.uk

Easter reflections

Who moved the stone?

Frank Morison was an investigative journalist who was a sceptic when it came to religion. He decided to write a book to *disprove* the claims of Christ, specifically focussed on the last week of Jesus' life...

However, when he came to consider the evidence for himself, Morison was drawn reluctantly to a different outcome than he had imagined. He found that the evidence proved the story to be true, including the fact that Jesus not only died but rose again.

In the end, Morison wrote a different kind of book called *Who Moved the Stone?*, with the first chapter entitled, 'The book that refused to be written.'

The veracity of the Christian faith is grounded on historical fact.

Not only was Jesus a real person, a figure of history, but His death was real, and so was His resurrection.

Examine the evidence for yourself. Read the gospel accounts openly and honestly and see what happens. The truth is there for anyone willing to consider the facts.

Solid ground

Easter reminds us that our faith rests on solid ground. It is why we celebrate Easter Sunday with such gusto. The Resurrection proves that Jesus was who He said He was (the Son of God) and that He did what He set out to do (save us from our sin).

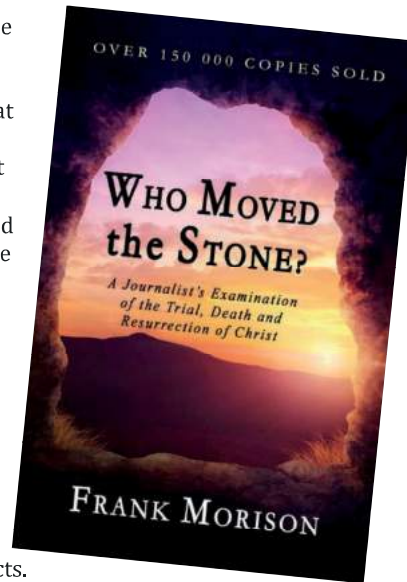
But more than that, it reminds us that He can deliver what He promised and help us today because He is alive for evermore.

Jesus is not a figure of history, locked away in the past. No, He is a risen Saviour who is alive today and who invites each of us to receive the gift of salvation, and to live a new life in fellowship with Him.

Tony Horsfall

Our guest contributor is the Revd Tony Horsfall of Charis Training.

More details at: www.charistraining.co.uk



'When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.' Mark 16:4

Scouts at St Andrew's

St George's Day Parade and Service

This year's parade and service will be on Sunday 26 April, at St Andrew's here in Oxshott, and will be hosted by Oxshott Scouts.

1st Oxshott, 1st Claygate, 1st Hinchley Wood, 1st Cobham and 3rd Esher Scout groups will all be involved.

The Parade, led by 1st Claygate band, starts at 2pm, followed by the Service at 2.30pm, where the theme will be **'Mine, Yours, Our World'**.



...er... the good news is that the OY! youth club have made a great start by pressure-washing the east window...

St Andrew's Lunch Club

Let's do Lunch!

Every special occasion deserves cake, and so it was at St Andrew's Lunch Club on Wednesday 26 February, when guests and cooks gathered to say thank you to Doris Butterworth.

After 8 years as leader and overall organiser of our twice monthly lunches, Doris has sadly decided to step down. Her warm and friendly smile of welcome will be missed by everyone as they arrive - but we are glad that we will continue enjoy her lively conversation as a lunch guest.

We were delighted to be joined at lunch by Sheila and Phillip Herbert, who take over as joint Lunch Club leaders. We are so grateful that they have agreed to take on this important role in the life of our church and the village.

Claire King

St Andrew's Lunch Club takes place on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month in the church hall. Guests are served a home-cooked two course meal with the option of a glass of wine followed by tea or coffee (price £4.50, plus £1 for a glass of wine). Transport can be arranged if required. If you are over 60 and are interested in joining, do contact the Church Office.



Doris, ever smiling!

Passionflower

Why is the passionflower called the passionflower? This beautiful climbing plant was discovered in South America by Spanish missionaries centuries ago.

Drawings were sent back to Europe, and in 1609 an Italian priest interpreted the flower to represent the crucifixion, also known as the Passion.

The five petals and five sepals represent the 10 disciples who remained steadfast (Judas and Peter both abandoned Jesus). The corona is the crown of thorns. The stigma is the cross or nails, and the five stamens are the number of wounds Jesus received.



Village News

Forget the wind and rain - roll on summer!

Despite the endless rain and wind over the last few months OVSC has been busier than ever! **Fiona Stephen** gives us an update...

A bit of rain doesn't stop the hardy players although the windy conditions have been somewhat more challenging for the tennis and netball players! Roll on summer!



Hammers, drills and strimmers can be heard coming from the **bowls** section, where they are busy preparing for the season and their celebrations for this their Centenary year. The bowls green opens on Saturday 18 April and they have a number of events planned to take place throughout the summer including a centenary BBQ and boat trip.

Every Thursday at 11am there is coaching available for club members – so if you are looking for something new to try why not give Bowls a go?!

A Master Coach at Oxshott

We are delighted that our Director of **tennis**, James Starr has had some more good news, following on from being awarded the Elmbridge Sports Coach of the Year. He has recently achieved the LTA's highest coaching qualification. This Level 5 award qualifies James as a Master Club Coach and he joins a select few, not only to have been accepted onto the course with only 12 places available each year, but he passed it as well!

James and his team will be running junior tennis camps throughout the Easter holidays starting from 30 March to 17 April. To book a place please contact James at: james@oxshottsports.com - or go to: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/JamesStarrCoaching/Coaching/Camps>

The club held its AGM at the beginning of March along with a Quiz night which saw nearly all the sections represented, including the **cricket** section, who are looking forward to the start of their season.

In readiness the seniors have started some indoor training and the



*James Starr:
Master Club Coach*

(continued on page 21)



Oxshott
Tennis Club

Easter

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juniors will be starting their training at the club on Friday 24 April. In 2020 we will be including several girls' teams for the first time and we are very excited to have such an influx. Equally the All Stars (5-8 year olds) Sunday morning programme is now live for bookings – follow the link if you wish to book a place: <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/allstars/at/maori>

Finally, the club is encouraging more people to play **racketball** - played on a squash court, but with a larger ball and a shorter racket which helps with hand eye co-ordination, making the ball easier to strike. We are looking at running courses over the next few months. We also have a very active **squash** section, many of whom are currently battling it out in the squash section's annual tournament, which culminates on finals night on Saturday 9 May.

If you would like more information about joining the club please contact the office at OVSC where you can discuss membership options (office@oxshottsports.com or 01372 843652).

Fiona Stephen

Ladies Friendship Group

Surviving the sinking of the *Titanic*

We were very privileged at our March meeting as the author, Angela Young, came to speak to us, the subject being the *Titanic* – BUT – not the usual rendering of the tragic sinking of this great ship, as Angela's talk was based upon the findings in the scrap books of her great, great grandmother - none other than the Countess of Rothes, Lucy Noël Martha.

Consequently, the title of Angela's talk was changed to *The Experiences of the Aristocrat, the Able Seaman and Lifeboat No 8*.

As we know, the *Titanic* sailed from Southampton on 10 April 1912, on its maiden voyage to America. The ship had three passenger decks First, Second and Third Class. The usual safety drill was scrapped, as the Captain



The Countess of Rothes

(continued overleaf)

wished to conduct a religious service. The First Class area was subsequently locked as none of these passengers had been through immigration. The statutory number of lifeboats had been reduced as the passengers did not want to travel on a ship cluttered with lifeboats when after all the *Titanic* was reputedly an unsinkable vessel.

At 11.45pm on 14 April 1912 the *Titanic* struck an iceberg but passengers were not notified until 1.40am. Lifeboats were then allocated and the Countess and Able Seaman Thomas Jones were allocated Lifeboat No 8, together with 24 women and four men. The boat capacity being 65 passengers, Able Seaman Jones immediately started rowing the boat and upon his observation of his fellow passengers requested that the Countess assume responsibility for the tiller.

The Countess's scrapbooks relate lengthy descriptions of this experience and their relief when they were rescued by RMS *Carpathia*.



Thanks to technology and radio a total of 710 passengers were finally rescued by RMS *Carpathia*. Amongst the Countess's papers a letter was found addressed to her parents in which she states that the horror of it all can never be told – 'those fearful cries when she finally sank will never go out of my head'.

Able Seaman Jones removed the metal 8 from the lifeboat and had it mounted on a wooden plaque and gave it to the Countess as a memento. She in return gave him an inscribed fob watch.

Our meeting concluded with the organisers having to request friends to leave as time ran out – such was the impact of this very personal account of the sinking of the *Titanic*.

Ann Harper

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What's On in Oxshott



April

- Thur 2 7.30pm **Patients Participation Group:** *How to Prevent Cancer*, with Dr Mark Jenkins, in the large hall at Oxshott Village Centre
- Sun 5 7 for 7.30pm **St Andrew's Church, Oxshott:** Annual Parochial Church Meeting, at St Andrew's Church
- Tues 7 10am **Ladies Friendship Group:** *Being Mayor of Elmbridge and other Things*, with Jan Fuller, in the Small Hall at Oxshott Village Centre
- Wed 8 2.20pm **The Arts Society Cobham and Oxshott:** *Tribal Rugs*, with Brian MacDonald, at Oxshott Village Centre
- Fri 10 10am **St Andrew's Church:** Good Friday service: Oxshott Praise, followed by hot cross buns
- Sun 12 9.15am **St Andrew's Church:** Easter Sunday Holy Communion
11am **St Andrew's Church:** Oxshott Easter Praise
- Tues 21 2pm **Oxshott Flower Arrangement Society:** *Beautiful Things*, with Kathryn Austin, at Oxshott Village Centre
8pm **Oxshott Village Women's Institute:** *Hats Off to Millinery*, with Sophie Fryer, at Oxshott Village Centre
- Sat 25 11am-5pm **Oxshott Art & Crafts Society:** Spring Exhibition, Oxshott Village Centre
- Sun 26 11am-5pm **Oxshott Art & Crafts Society:** Spring Exhibition, Oxshott Village Centre

If you would like to have details of your event listed here, let us know by emailing oxshottmagazine@yahoo.co.uk

Coronavirus

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Oxshott Art & Crafts Society

Venice with a fresh eye

Oxshott Art & Crafts Society's first demonstration of the year, on 11 February, brought a very welcome return visit by internationally-renowned artist, Hashim Akib, familiar to a number of our members from his workshops and books, as well as several UK galleries.

The subject chosen for this demonstration, an urban scene in acrylics, was Venice, the subject of so many paintings.

But this handling of it, in Hashim's unique, contemporary style, was entirely fresh.

Bold colours

Choosing a turquoise painted canvas and with no preliminary drawing, Hashim applied a variety of bold colours – virtually neat – with a large, flathead brush, swiftly dragging the paints down the canvas - the society members, meanwhile, were searching for the subject amongst it all. In a remarkably short time, though, to our amazement, a view of Venice – canal complete with gondolier (over to the left, for readers) – had materialised, with all the colour and vitality that characterises this artist's work. It was an excellent evening, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

If you are interested in joining us, whatever your level of expertise or experience, do feel free to do so. We meet at the Oxshott Village Hall on the second Tuesday of the month*, from 7.45 to 9.45 pm, and our meetings are friendly and informal. Non-members are welcome to come along too. Our next demonstration will be on Tuesday 12 May – *A Still Life, in water mixable oils*, by popular artist, Max Hale.

*There is no demonstration in April, as OACS has its Spring exhibition on the weekend of 25/26 April. Perhaps we may see you there?

Miranda Fuller



Hashim Akib with his vibrant painting of Venice

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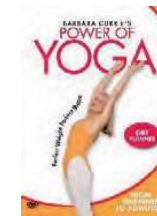
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Oxshott Flower Arrangement Society

Friendship and flowers

The 63rd Annual General Meeting of the Oxshott Flower Arranging Society took place on 18 February 2020. It was well attended with members enjoying a sandwich lunch provided by the committee. Apart from some delicious savouries we were treated to some tasty mini meringues and chocolate eclairs - a specialty of ours.

The meeting began just after 2pm with Jackie Topp reading the President's address. As is right on such occasions, grateful thanks were passed on to the various committee members who do so much to keep the club running. There were also thanks made to those club members who, although not on the committee, always volunteer to help out at times like this. It's invaluable to know that we can call on extra hands if needed

Thanks to our Treasurer, Jill Levitton, we are in a good financial situation. Money ebbs and flows but we seem to be able to ride the tide. Our monthly competition is going very well with members entering on a regular basis. Anita Lee has moved up from Novice class to Intermediate and two members, Jean Geeson and Maddie Todd, have now moved on to the Advanced Class. Well done girls!

The front of our stage was decorated by a lovely selection of arrangements done by Sylvia Thornton. These were very popular and were raffled off to members. Thanks to Sylvia for such a labour of love.

The meeting itself was quite brief, with the committee being re-elected *en masse* for next year, and drew to a close with tea and biscuits.

We meet again next month on the 21 April; the demonstration is entitled *Beauty and the Beach* by Kathryn Austin.

We welcome any visitors, so please just drop in for a lovely afternoon of friendship and flowers.

Jackie Topp



Jean Geeson (left)
and Maddie Todd

Danes Hill School

Construction update...



It continues to be busy at Danes Hill School, not least because of the ongoing construction of the new sports hall. Some people have been asking about how the development is progressing, and you may not be surprised to learn that it is now running about four weeks behind schedule due to the very poor weather, which has made groundwork extremely difficult.

We hope to catch up if the weather improves early in the spring. We will in all likelihood still be working intensively throughout the summer school holidays and hope to be able to open the sports hall on 1 September, but all of these things are dependent on the weather.

For example, the climatic conditions need to be 100% perfect for the concrete screed to be laid on the floor, and then dry for several weeks, before the playing surface – a seamless polyurethane sports flooring – can be laid. The climbing wall, inside the hall, is being delivered in sections in May and will take several weeks to reassemble in position during June and July.

Overall, we are trying to minimise disruption to our neighbours by adhering to the hours of work and notifying them of any particularly noisy works.

Extensive landscaping

The landscaping works, which will take place in summer 2020 (throughout July and August), are extensive in order to comply with planning permission. They will take several weeks to complete once the structure of the building is complete.

The work includes creation of landscaping banks, an adventure trail, a new nature trail, a playground area for the small lower school children and extensive tree planting.

Sarah Colenso

Local Community Liaison Officer - Danes Hill School



Taking shape - the interior of the new sports hall



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Oxshott Village WI

Enjoying life to the full

Our February meeting was most enlightening when Fran Handrick gave a very interesting talk entitled 'Life of the Amish'. The Amish lead a lifestyle that consists of hard work and discipline and calls for them to lead a life which practices humanity, calmness and placidity.

Fran has spent many years studying the Amish people and was able to give first hand information of their way of life as over the years she has spent her summers living with a family who make her very welcome. Members thoroughly enjoyed her talk and look forward to hearing her again.



A lovely walk was taken recently on Headley Down followed as usual by a pub lunch! We aim to walk at least once a month and on a recent walk through the woods to Garson's Farm came across a most interesting tree (left). We did wonder how it managed to get so twisted!

We have a Craft Group which meets monthly, and members share crafts and hobbies. Just before Christmas we decorated plain white paper bags



with the prints from napkins.

As you can see from the photograph (above), it was very successful although a bit sticky at times! At the March meeting we plan to make holders for Easter eggs – another tricky but fun time.

Our Art Group, Book Club, Lunch and Bridge continue with enthusiasm and we have an interesting programme for the rest of the year and new members and visitors are always welcome.

Do contact me for further information (lizmcgibbon@btinternet.com).

Liz McGibbon



Walking is good for you!

Puzzles

Sudoku

2	9	8	7	5	3	4	1	6
3	1	7	8	4	6	2	9	5
4	5	6	2	9	1	7	8	3
5	7	9	3	2	8	1	6	4
1	2	4	6	7	5	8	3	9
8	6	3	4	1	9	5	7	2
9	3	2	5	8	7	6	4	1
6	8	5	1	3	4	9	2	7
7	4	1	9	6	2	3	5	8

Last month's solution

Answers
next
month

			1	4				
7								
		9			3	1	2	
8				9	1			3
	2	5				7	1	
4			2	7				8
	3	6	8			9		
								2
			5	6				

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Bemusement of the Month

Helen went to church
three weeks running, so
she was co-opted to the
PCC...



My Dream...

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