

Parish Diary

The First Sunday of Advent

3rd December 2017

When everything is shaking

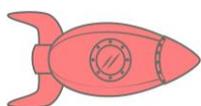
St Mary's

8.00 am Holy Communion
9.15 am Lively All-Age Service
11.00 am Reflective Communion Service
Hymns: 32, 277, 287, 31
3.00 pm Advent Walk Set-up

St John's

9.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Morning Praise

Readings Isaiah 64. 1-9 (OT p.704)
Mark 13. 24-37 (NT p.48)



Time is running out to employ a full-time Under Fives and Families Outreach Minister. **Can you help to get us to 'lift off'?** Thank you to everyone who has given to this special project. We have raised **50%** of the monies needed to employ someone full-time, which is wonderful. Thank you. If you would still like to give to this project, please do so by **TODAY, Sunday, 3rd December**, or email vicar@waltonparish.org.uk to let us know of your intention to give. Please remember that this is not instead of regular giving. Please only give to this project if it is over and on top of your regular giving, which remains vital for the ongoing ministry of the Church.

Our **Parish Christmas cards**, containing details of all special services at both churches, are now ready for delivery. If you've already signed up, please pick up your bundles today. If not, there are still plenty of unclaimed roads – please take as many bundles as you like!

'To be a growing, loving family, with Christ at the centre, reaching out to all'

THIS WEEK in the Parish

Monday 4th – Saturday 9th December
ADVENT WALK

Tuesday 5th December

9.00 pm Compline (St Mary's)

Wednesday 6th December

10.00 am Holy Communion (St John's)

8.00 pm PCC Meeting (St John's)

Friday 8th December

2.00 pm Toddlers' Praise Crib (St Mary's)

3.15 pm Messy Church Christmas (St John's)

Sunday 10th December:

The Second Sunday of Advent

New direction, new hope

St Mary's

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.15 am Lively Communion Service
11.00 am Reflective Communion Service
3.30 pm Christingle
5.00 pm Christingle

St John's

10.30 am All-Age Nativity

Readings Isaiah 40. 1-11 (OT p.677)
Mark 1. 1-8 (NT p.33)

Please pray for all guests attending the **Alpha Course** on Tuesdays & Thursdays, as well as the leaders & helpers. This week's topic is: *How can I make the most of the rest of my life?*



Walton Connections

After our great start in October and November, the next two dates for your diary are Tuesday 5th December & 2nd January, 2.30 to 4pm at St John's. Come along this week for carols, mince pies and, excitingly, Roger teaching us the art of pyrography! If you've ever wanted to decorate something by burning it, now's your chance! Start the year off with a bang in January when we will be talking about New Year's resolutions and painting glass jar candle holders. See you all there, and don't forget to invite friends and neighbours!

The **Toddlers' Praise Crib Service** will be in St Mary's Church at 2pm this Friday, 8th December. There is no service at 10.30 am. Everyone who usually comes to either St Mary's or St John's is very welcome.
Caroline (07419 827739)



Monday 4th – Saturday 9th December 2017

Before & after

Set up TODAY, Sunday 3rd December 3pm and set down Saturday 9th December 3pm. Could you give a couple of hours to help set up the displays or to take them down?

Volunteers for school/group sessions

It will be such a privilege to welcome 13 classes from 2 local schools to Advent Walk. We also have a Brownie Pack and Cub Pack booked in. Each class/group requires 4 volunteers to take round groups of 8/9 pupils. Full resources are provided. Each session requires you to give an hour and a half, which includes praying together, some minor preparation and debrief afterwards.

Welcomers for open sessions

Each weekday from 3-5pm, Saturday from 10am-3pm and Tuesday evening 7-9pm, Advent Walk is open to everyone. Do you have a heart for visitors? Could you give a warm welcome to passers-by, members of the church and visitors from other local churches? We would like to have 2 people available to welcome and help people to engage with the displays.

It's not too late to volunteer! Contact Mandy (07956 295113) for further information on any of the above or to offer help TODAY. Thank you.

This Tuesday, 5th December, the **Advent Walk** in St Mary's will be open between 7.00 and 9.00 pm for evening visitors. At 9pm, there will be a half-hour service of **Compline** to which everyone is warmly invited.

Baptism Matters

There will be no Baptism Matters meeting in December, therefore our next enquiry meetings will be in St Mary's Church at 8pm on Tuesday 2nd & 9th January 2018. If you've already attended two Sunday services at either St Mary's or St John's, we look forward to seeing you. Full details of the application process can be found on our website (www.waltonparish.org.uk/baptism) or speak to Jonny (01932 917736) or Caroline (07419 827739).



Friday 8th December, 3.15 pm, St John's

Please PRAY for all the children, parents, leaders and helpers as they enjoy this special festive last session of the term.

PARISH PRAYER DIARY

Please pray for:-

Those suffering from illness:

Amy Brooks: *Janet Dicker's nephew's wife, with inoperable lung cancer;*
Sheila McMullen: *Morag Darling's sister-in-law, bravely fighting cancer;*
Brian Rofe: *settling into life at Adelaide House;*
Andy Wales: *Janet Dicker's son-in-law's cousin, now having chemotherapy after brain surgery;*
Baby Hollie-Bea Wylie: *in hospital suffering from myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle).*

The families of those who have died

recently: Hazel Woods;

and in times past whose anniversary falls

this week: Pat Atkinson, Joan Benn and Roy Parsonson.

Those who remember **Hazel Woods** will be sad to learn that she died on 22nd November, and her funeral was held at Randalls Park Crematorium on Thursday 30th. Apologies that we didn't have this information in time to print it in last week's PD.

THANK YOU, KATRINA

Katrina has been a friendly, helpful and wonderful presence in the Church office for the last 15 years. She has served us all in the Parish in so many ways and we are very grateful to her. Whilst we are sad to see her leave her role in the Parish office, we are delighted for her as she goes to work for the Diocese of Guildford, and also delighted that she and David will remain familiar faces as part of the Parish. They are not leaving Walton-on-Thames. So do enjoy their company as fellow members of the Parish, serving and giving alongside the rest of us. 'Nice weather for this time of year' - have any normal conversations with her but do not expect her to have any special knowledge of what is happening in the Parish!

Cover in the Parish Office

With effect from Monday 4th December, we are delighted to say that Sally Eckes, with the help of others, will be covering the work in the Parish Office.

Sally will be in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and will ensure phone calls and emails are checked at other times.

So, please contact the Parish Office as you have been doing, whilst remembering that there is a lot of information available on the Parish Website. As part of the process of replacing Katrina in the Church office, the role that is required is being reviewed and we expect to start advertising for the new position in early January 2018 and interviewing at the end of January 2018.

Ashley School Forms for 2018 Entry

Everyone who has submitted a Church Supplementary Information Form (SIF) for entry into Ashley Primary School in September 2018 will be emailed in the first two weeks of December. For those families that receive an email saying they can collect their signed forms, they can be collected at either of the following times:

1. **Friday 8th December**, 1.15 - 1.55 pm or 2.45 - 3.15 pm from the Church Office. This is before or after the 2.00 pm Toddlers' Praise Crib Service at St Mary's.

2. **Sunday 10th December**

Either at: St Mary's Church Office, 10.25 - 10.55 am, i.e. between the 9.15 and 11.00 am services

Or: St John's Church, after the 10.30 am Service.

After that, it will be arrangement. Any questions should be emailed to vicar@waltonparish.org.uk

Thank you, Jonny



December Services

	St Mary's	St John's
Sunday 10th Advent 2	3.30 & 5pm Christingles	10.30 am All-Age Nativity
Sunday 17th Advent 3	6.30 pm Carol Service	
Sunday 24th Christmas Eve Advent 4	8am Holy Communion 10am Communion 5pm Nativity 11.15 pm Midnight Communion	10.30 am Carol Service 4pm Crib Service
Monday 25th Christmas Day	8am Holy Communion 10am All-Age Communion	10.30 am All-Age Communion
Sunday 31st Christmas I	8am Holy Communion 10am All-Age Communion	10.30 am All-Age Morning Praise

The always-popular **St John's All-Age Nativity** is next Sunday, 10th December, at 10.30 am. Children (and adults!) are invited to come to the service in appropriate Nativity-themed costume.

Advance dates for your diary:

The next **Servant Course** will be run on Friday 26th & Saturday 27th January 2018. Have a look at the parish website for lots more information: www.waltonparish.org.uk/servant-course

New group for Year 7s

Sunday 10th December, 6.30-8pm, St John's

The third of three trial sessions. We'll share a meal, play games, have free time to choose from a range of activities and discuss life. Fun, faith and friendship. There will be a £2 charge. Please pass the news on and pray. Further information from Mandy: mandy@waltonparish.org.uk

St John's Choir have once again been asked to sing this Christmas for the residents of Glendale and Sherwood House Nursing Homes, on 14th and 21st December respectively. We are small in number and would be most grateful if any members of our two congregations could, as they have done many times before, join us for one or both occasions. We will just be singing traditional carols but the residents are always very appreciative of our efforts and it is a lovely way to share our faith at Christmas. We will meet at the homes at 7.00 pm and sing from 7.15 pm for about an hour. If you can make it, or have any queries, please contact *Linda Knights on 240180*.



Come and sing in our **Christmas Choir** at the beautiful service of Nine Lessons & Carols on Sunday 17th December at 6.30 pm. Adults and children are welcome – rehearsals as follows:-

Adults Wednesdays 20:00-21:30

Children Thursdays 18:45-19:30

Whether you're a regular at St Mary's, St John's or neither, we look forward to seeing you. Email Rachel via office@waltonparish.org.uk or just come along to a rehearsal and join in!

Easy peasy fundraising!

Don't forget: if you're buying Christmas presents online, you can raise funds for the Parish as you shop. Just visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk and register as a giver to **Parish of Walton on Thames**; then link through the easyfundraising site to your usual shopping web pages. When you make a purchase, the retailer makes a donation to our parish **at no extra cost to us**. It couldn't be easier! We've raised **£3,826** so far!!

Can you **wash and iron** laundry? Would you like to join the team who look after the altar linen at St Mary's? Everyone on the current rota is 'on duty' for a month at a time, just 2-3 times a year. This is something you can do in your own time at home – guidance will be provided. If you'd like to know more without commitment, contact Valerie Saint: 228214 / valerie.saint@btinternet.com