



Prayer, Services and Events: December 2018

Good News of Great Joy

As we look towards the Christmas season, what is good news for you? Sadly, many people have a lack of joy in their lives. And yet, Christmas is more than a season, it is the annual reminder that the birth of Christ brought in a whole new opportunity and an everlasting hope for all people. The angels couldn't help but burst into songs of praise "Glory to God in the Highest!" when they announced the great news that the long-awaited saviour had been born, offering peace and joy for all people.

A band of shepherds on the hills outside Bethlehem, had gone to work that night just like any other, working together to give company and protection, guarding their flocks of sheep. Hoping for an uneventful night, when God broke into their daily routine. There are a

few times I can recall, when, going about my daily business, I have suddenly been very aware of God's presence reassuring me, comforting me or giving the guidance that I sorely needed at the time. John Ortberg says, "God is closer than you think". God is actually with us all the time, but we are not always aware of it.

However, the scale of the angels' visit is unprecedented in the Bible, and it's not surprising the shepherds were terrified when suddenly a multitude of angels took a few moments away from worshipping at the throne of God to announce: "Good news of great joy for all people." Their message is of earth-changing significance: "A child has been born who is Saviour and Lord, who brings peace to God's people." These ordinary people had heard about a remarkable thing and they lost no time in running to Bethlehem to see for themselves the baby Saviour the angels had told them about. And they worshipped.... "Glory to God in the highest!"



Part of the power of the birth narrative is the sparse detail we are given. Tradition has filled in many of the blanks, but we should feel free to enter afresh into the story and supply some of the side characters. You may well have questions. How did the shepherds find Mary and Joseph? How many shepherds were there? What was the response of the other travellers in the overcrowded house to these nocturnal visitors? Might we linger a little to feel the terror of the shepherds, the joy of the angels, the wonder of the villagers? And as we do this might we recapture some of the wonder of that very first Christmas and find ourselves hurrying, like the shepherds, to share the good news that we have not only heard about but seen for ourselves.

2000 years later, news that God has come to earth as a human being to save us is as significant for us as it was for them. This is news good enough to share with those around us, who may not know about that joy that changes lives now and gives hope for ever. This December let us go and worship the child who is Saviour and Lord. Not to Bethlehem, but to church, to worship and pray with other ordinary people whose lives have also been touched by the wonder of Christ, God's son.

Glory to God and joy to you this Christmas!

Revs Jonny and Cathy

Key Information

Clergy:

Vicars: Rev Cathy & Rev Jonny Blair (off duty Friday) 01932 917736
Curate: Rev Caroline Merrick (available Tue, Thu & Fri) 07419 827739
Curate: Rev Alex Oehring (off duty Saturday) 07920 098867

Church Wardens: Dawn May & Sally Eckes

Youth Minister: Mandy Watts (off duty Thursday)

Under 5s and Families Minister: Amy Maddocks (day off Monday)

Licensed Lay Ministers: John Muggleton, Tessa & John Badcock

Pastoral Assistants: Wendy Fitch, Alan White, Roger Hunt, Linda Muggleton, Margaret Valentine

For enquiries of a pastoral nature, please contact via the Vicars.

A full list of Parish Officers and organisations is on our website.

Information about Weddings and Baptisms can also be found on our website
www.waltonparish.org.uk

Parish Office (open Monday - Friday 10:00-12:30)

St Mary's Church Hall, Church Street, Walton-on-Thames, KT12 2QS
Telephone 01932 224238 Email office@waltonparish.org.uk

St John's Church, 1 The Furrows, Walton-on-Thames, KT12 3JQ



Meditation by Paula Gooder

The birth of a baby
is wonderful and terrifying;
terrible and beautiful

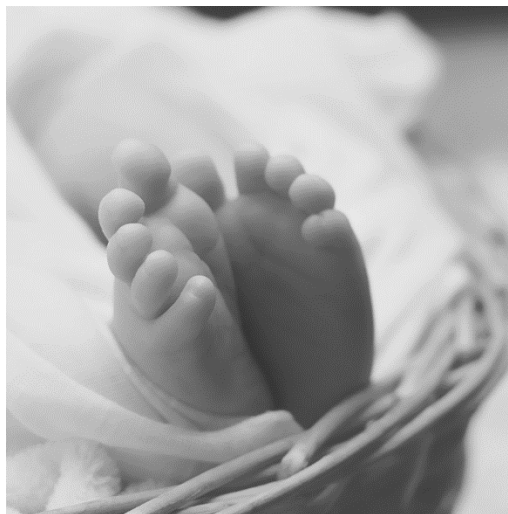
A baby is born
Through pain and with joy;
With love and through fear

The birth of a baby is
Precarious and marvellous;
Mysterious and gritty

A baby is born
With screams of agony;
And shouts of delight

At the moment of birth
Death and life greet each other

The birth of that baby was no different;
Poised between life and death,
God came to us
A tiny human form, with immense stature



Services

DECEMBER 2018 St Mary's and St John's ALL Services		Glory to God in the Highest
<i>Wed 28 Nov</i>	St John's <i>10am Said Communion</i>	
Sun 2 December Advent 1	St Mary's 8am Said Communion 9.15am Lively Service All Age 11am Reflective Service with Communion	Prayer of faith <i>James 5:13-18</i> <i>Matt 6:5-8</i>
	St John's 9am Said Communion 10.30am Morning Praise	
<i>Wed 5 December</i>	St John's <i>10am Said Communion</i>	
Sun 9 December Advent 2	St Mary's 8am BCP Communion 9.15am Lively Service with Communion 11am Reflective Service with Communion 3.30pm and 5pm Christingle	Baptism to make ready <i>Malachi 3.1-4</i> <i>Luke 3.1-9</i>
	St John's 10.30am All Age Nativity	
<i>Thurs 13 Dec</i>	St Mary's <i>10am Said Communion</i>	
Sun 16 Dec Advent 3	St Mary's 8am Said Communion 9.15am Lively Service 11am Reflective Service with Communion 6.30pm Carol Service	Angels bring joyful news <i>Zephaniah 3.14-20</i> <i>Luke 2: 8-15</i>
	St John's 10.30am Holy Communion	
<i>Wed 19 Dec</i>	St John's <i>10am Said Communion with Carols</i>	
<i>Thurs 20 Dec</i>	Walton Community Centre <i>11am Said Communion with Carols</i>	
Sun 23 Dec Advent 4	St Mary's 8am Said Communion 9.15am Lively Service 11am Reflective Service with Communion	Shepherds' surprise <i>Micah 5.2-5a</i> <i>Luke 2:1-20</i>
	St John's 10.30am Carol Service	
Mon 24 Dec Christmas Eve	St Mary's 3.30pm and 5pm Nativity Services	Let's go and find the baby Good news of Great Joy - Isaiah 52:7-10 <i>Luke 2:1-20</i>
	St John's 4pm Crib Service	
	St Mary's 11.15pm Midnight Communion	
Tues 25 Dec Christmas Day	St Mary's 8am Said Communion 10am Celebration for all with Communion	A baby who is Christ the Lord <i>Hebrews 1:1-4</i> <i>Luke 2:1-10</i>
	St John's 10.30am Celebration for all with Communion	
Sun 30 Dec Christmas 1	St Mary's 8am Said Communion 10am Joint Parish Service with Communion	Mary treasured all these things <i>1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26</i> <i>Luke 2:41-52</i>
	St John's <i>No service</i>	



What a fabulous evening we had as we welcomed the Weybridge Male Voice Choir to St Mary's. They were joined by the Ashley School Choir who were delightful and sang beautifully and the wonderful David Henderson known to many of us at St Mary's and John's. An enormous thank you to them all for what was an excellent evening and we hope we'll welcome them all back again soon. The evening was of course a fundraising event we are very happy to share that we raised in excess of £2000 for church funds. To find out more about Weybridge Male Voice Choir, their upcoming events or even joining them you can join their mailing list. Visit www.weybridgemvc.org.uk And you can also see more of David Henderson by following him on social media you'll find him on Twitter as @newmantenor also follow @E_N_O and on Facebook search David Newman (Newman is David's stage name!).

This month... December



1 st	9.00 am	The Abbey, Chertsey	Advent Quiet Day
4 th	2.30 pm	St John's	Christmas Connections
6 th	8.00 pm	St Mary's	Messy Christmas
7 th	2.00 pm	St Mary's	Toddlers' Praise Crib Service
7 th	8.00 pm	St John's	United Worship & Prayer
12 th	8.00 pm	St John's	PCC
13 th	7.30 pm	St John's	Alpha Celebration Supper

Regular fixtures... * monthly

Mondays	9.15 am	St Mary's	Morning Prayer
Tuesdays	8.30 am	St John's	Morning Prayer
	9.30 am	St John's	Alpha Course
	2.30 pm	St John's ^{*1st Tues}	Walton Connections
	8.00 pm	St John's ^{*1st & 2nd Tues}	Baptism Matters
Wednesdays	8.30 pm	St Mary's	Choir Practice
Thursdays	9.15 am	St Mary's	Morning Prayer
	7.30 pm	St John's	Alpha Course
	6.45 pm	St Mary's	Junior Choir
	7.30 pm	St Mary's	Band Practice
Fridays	10.30 am	St John's	Toddlers' Praise
	2.00 pm	St Mary's Hall	Toddlers' Praise
	3.30 pm	St John's ^{* 2nd Friday}	Messy Church
	6.00 pm	St Mary's Hall	Youth Groups (Yr 3-6)
	7.45 pm	St Mary's	Bellringing Practice
Saturdays	9.15 am	St John's	Breakfast Prayer Meeting
Sunday	7.00 pm	St Mary's ^{*3rd Sun}	Evening Praise
	6.00 pm	St John's ^{**monthly}	Solid Ground** (Yr7+)

**check website calendar

(NB: some of these activities only take place during term time.)



Daily Prayer Pointers

Some ideas for prayer for our church & community

Sunday

Sunday Services, midweek Communion, for all who make our Church feel welcoming. For our Singers and Musicians.

Monday

One another in our daily lives at work, in our neighbourhood, wherever we are, to show God's love.

Tuesday

Seniors – Walton Connections. **Other groups** - Mothers' Union and St John's Wives.

Wednesday

Discipleship and Leadership – Small Groups, the Servant Course, PCC, worship leaders, preachers and Pastoral Assistants.

Thursday

Outreach & community links – the Alpha Course, Messy Church, assemblies in Walton schools, baptisms and funerals.

Friday

Children and Youth – Friday groups, Sunday School and Sunday youth groups, Toddlers' Praise. For all helpers and leaders and for more leaders.

Saturday

Missionaries we support – Tear Fund, Compassion, Foodbank, Bible Society, Hannah Satterthwaite, Samaritan's Purse Christmas boxes.

www.waltonparish.org.uk



Walton-on-Thames

St Mary's and St John's

 Sunday 16th December
ST MARY'S
6.30 pm Carol Service

Glory

 Sunday 23rd December
ST JOHN'S
10.30 am Carol Service

to

  Christmas Eve
ST JOHN'S
4.00 pm Children's Crib

GOD

3.30 & 5.00 pm Children's Nativity
11.15 pm Communion

Christmas Day
ST JOHN'S
10.30 am Communion

in the

ST MARY'S
8.00 am Communion
10.00 am Communion

Highest