

JUNE NEWSLETTER

this month's church family thanks and prayers

Walton-on-Thames
St Mary's and St John's



Key Information

Clergy:

Vicars: Rev Cathy & Rev Jonny Blair (off duty Fri) 01932 917736
Curate: Rev Caroline Merrick (avail Tue, Thu & Fri) 07419827739
Curate: Rev Alex Oehring (off duty Saturday) 07920 098867

Church Warden: David Henderson & Janet Todd (St John's)

Children & Youth Minister: Mandy Watts (off duty Thursday)

Licensed Lay Ministers: John Muggleton, Tessa & John Badcock

Pastoral Assistants: Wendy Fitch, Alan White, Roger Hunt, Linda Muggleton, Margaret Valentine, Sue Green and Louise Turner.

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



Administrator: Becky Warner

Telephone - 01932 224238 Email - office@waltonparish.org.uk

MESSAGES ARE BEING PICKED UP AND EMAILS CHECKED

Communications Manager & Strategic Co-Ordinator:

Sally Eckes (day off Fri) 07779 623377

St Mary's Church, Church Street, Walton-on-Thames, KT12 2QS

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

VICARS' BLOG: Life-giving habits

“Thanks to all in the parish who are showing how much more the church is more than ‘just a building.’” Another note of thanks and appreciation to Aaron from the happy recipient of a doorstep loaf. Somehow these inspiring doorstep loaves are evidence of a loving, caring community. This is a good example of how, although this lockdown season has tested us in ways none of us could have foreseen, there are some rays of sunshine in the new ways we are doing things. As we have adapted to staying at home, we have discovered or rediscovered some life-giving habits like personal prayer, serving others and church in our homes. During this difficult time, many are finding strength and even flourishing. The hashtag “the church is not the building” has been proven!



We have been brought together, sometimes sharing our needs for prayer and practical help, sometimes praying, and giving practical help to others. Our “good deeds” are shining out to people around Walton on Thames. Like the lamp that is not hidden under a bushel, the love of God shines out. “We can’t help it, because God has blessed us, we want to bless you!” The church is caring, loving, thoughtful people.

As we start to think about “returning to normal”, our prayer is that we would not lose some of the life-giving habits we have discovered. The church cannot be restricted. The church is in the building and out of the building, we are the church in our homes and in the community.

Having got used to the restrictions that Covid-19 has forced upon us, are there things we really value and don’t want to lose from our lives? Do we have to “go back to normal?” Aware that some people are desperate for children to go back to school and to get back to work and worried about their job future, let’s just suppose that there have been good things in this time and not rush to put everything back exactly as it was. Can we find what God may be preparing for us as we move towards normal? What is it that we have prayerfully discovered should be left behind?

Many have been discovering things that are life giving – having more time with immediate family and eating meals with their children, Zoom

calls with wider family, seeing more of their neighbours, doing regular exercise (which you have always wanted to do). For some, there has been time to prioritise Zoom church services and the Bible Course evening group, or get into a routine of reading the Bible and praying before work (which you have always wanted to do), reading stories at bedtime with children and praying together as a family.

How will we respond to what we are discovering? As we choose to put God first and allow time to feed our souls, we find that God's values are very much aligned with our heart of hearts. Before we rush to get back to normal, let us hold onto those life-giving habits we have found during lockdown.

As a church, we hope we can continue to be "the church in the building and out of the building, in our homes and in the community". God bless you all,



Jonny and Cathy

Action Update

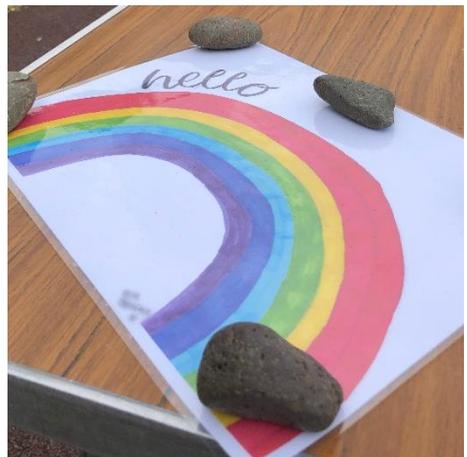
Firstly we want to thank the many people who have offered their time and gifts in volunteering, we have been overwhelmed by the response, over 85 people signed up to volunteer their time in supporting the wider community so many that we've had more people than we could use, a great problem to have!

Alex has used as many people as possible with tasks, always trying where possible to connect elderly and vulnerable church people with people that they already know. Although our reach has gone way beyond the church.

The situation does seem to be calming down, in terms of new people asking for support, many 'roads and neighbourhoods' around town are supporting their neighbours which is much better as it's easier to keep an eye on those who live near us. Many of the charitable organisations, have now adapted to the situation after the initial uncertainty at the beginning of 'lockdown' meaning their processes appear to be in place to respond and support the needs of local people.

As a church here is a taste of some of the things we have done, to support our community over the past few months:

- A committed team of volunteers who are phoning people for weekly chats
- Delivered newsletters and other information to those people without any internet access including some fabulous rainbow pictures painted by all the children of the Parish
- Held 4x Foodbank donation drop offs and collected and prepared 2 tonnes of donations for the Foodbank warehouse
- We have provided over 20 emergency food parcels including fresh meat and veg
- Provided 27 small one-off financial gifts to assist immediate need from our Mission Budget, as well as from a few kind donations.
- Responded to over 45 Requests for help. (Collecting shopping and prescriptions, sorting IT equipment to name a few)
- Delivered over 100 bunches of daffodils, over 100 loaves of homemade bread and we gave away over 60 Easter Eggs.



JUNE 2020	St Mary's & St John's Services & Events	The BIG Story – The Bible Course	
www.waltonparish.org.uk			
Fri 5th June	10.30 am Toddlers' Praise	Live via Zoom	
Sun 7th June <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	From 8.00 am Service with Communion	Recorded	Exile and the Prophets Jeremiah 29:1-14 John 12:37-43
	9.15 am All Age Service	Live via Zoom	
	7.30 pm Evening Praise	Live via Zoom	
Mon 8th - Sat 13th	Daily Bible Readings Mon Luke 1:1-56; Tues Luke 4:1-44; Wed Luke 9:1-36; Thurs Luke 18:1-43; Fri Luke 23;1-56; Sat Luke 24:1-52		
Fri 12th June	10.30 am Toddlers' Praise	Live via Zoom	
Sun 14th June <i>Trinity 1</i>	From 8.00 am Service with Communion	Recorded	Jesus and the Gospels Isaiah 61:1-3 Mark 8:22-38
	9.15 am All Age Service	Live via Zoom	
	7.30 pm Evening Praise	Live via Zoom	
Mon 15th - Sat 20th	Daily Bible Readings Mon Acts 2:1-47; Tues Acts 7:1-60; Wed Acts 9:1-31; Thurs Acts 15:1-35; Fri Acts 16:1-40; Sat Acts 28:1-31		
Fri 19th June	10.30 am Toddlers' Praise	Live via Zoom	
Sun 21st June <i>Trinity 2</i>	From 8.00 am Service with Communion	Recorded	Acts and the Church Matt 28:16-20 Acts 8:26-40
	9.15 am All Age Service	Live via Zoom	
	7.30 pm Evening Praise	Live via Zoom	

Mon 22 nd - Sat 27 th	Daily Bible Readings Mon Rev 1:1-20; Tues Rev 3;1-22; Wed Rev 4:1-11; Thurs Rev 7:1-17; Fri Rev 20:11-15 & 21:1-27; Sat Rev 22:1-21		
Fri 26 th June	10.30 am Toddlers' Praise	Live via Zoom	
Sun 28 th June Trinity 3	From 8.00 am Service with Communion	Recorded	Revelation and review Revelation 21:1-8 Luke 24:36-53
	9.15 am All Age Service	Live via Zoom	
	6.30 pm Solid Ground	Live via Zoom	
	7.30 pm Evening Praise	Live via Zoom	
Fri 3 rd July	10.30 am Toddlers' Praise	Live via Zoom	
Sun 5 th July Trinity 4	From 8.00 am Service with Communion	Recorded	Romans Matthew 11
	9.15 am All Age Service	Live via Zoom	
	7.30 pm Evening Praise	Live via Zoom	Missions Guest speaker

Daily Bible Study

with the Ministry Team
Mon - Sat

#churchonline
#churchisnotthebuilding
#faithbelonginglight

Children@SMSJ

#churchonline
#churchisnotthebuilding
#faithbelonginglight

Join us every Monday, Wednesday & Friday for a **STORY** & a **PRAYER**

WALTON PARISH ONLINE

A DIGITAL STORY THAT YOU ARE A PART OF

You have liked, shared, viewed & engaged with content like never before. Meaning together we have reached thousands of people with a message of hope.

We're sharing our digital analytics with you as a thank you, as an encouragement.

The more you like, share, comment and watch the content we produce, the more it will be seen and shared with others.

#CHURCHONLINE is simply a timely format to share a timeless message -
The hope of Jesus.

Since March 17 2020, just before lockdown began we have launched the following gatherings & resources...

Sundays -

- Holy Communion pre-recorded on YouTube from 8.00am
- All Age Zoom Live @ 9.15am
- Evening Praise Zoom Live @ 7.30pm

Plus -

- Daily Bible Reflection from the Ministry Team
- Morning Prayer Meeting
- Toddlers' Praise Zoom Live @ 10.30am every Friday
- Online Life Groups
- Online Bible Course sermon series & study groups
- Online Youth Alpha
- Bedtime Stories - Mon, Weds & Friday @ 4.30pm
- 5 different online children & youth Zoom groups
- An updated digitally focused website
- Facebook Groups

You

Tube

Since March 17 2020...

77 videos recorded, edited and posted

4000+ views

500+ hours watch time

14,000 impressions

5,700 unique visitors
7,100+ page views
Avg time spent on a page - 2mins 15secs

WEBSITE

Top 5 Pages Visited -

Home | Meet the Team | [Services](#)
Featured Events | Sermons & Talks

Since March 17 2020...

facebook

@WaltonParish

Page Views - Up 21%
22,000+ people reached on Facebook - Up 115%
Videos played - Up 1150%

3 new groups created

In the new St Mary's & St John's group -
184 posts
283 comments
1,200+ reactions

Data collected between
17 March 2020 - 17 May 2020

**Thank You for all the
support & encouragement**

#LOVEWALTON



Walton-on-Thames
St Mary's and St John's

WoT's Going On... (line)

We recognise not all of you use Facebook, links to all our online Church services and daily Bible studies can also be found on the website www.waltonparish.org.uk We are trying our best to share information in every way we can without overloading on emails and WhatsApp's. Life Groups and small prayer groups have proved invaluable, keeping people connected and informed and we certainly couldn't have done it all on our own. If you are still wondering what on earth we're all referring to when we mention Zoom then take a look at the 'Quick Guide' where you'll find some easy to follow instructions.



As you would expect Thy Kingdom Come is looking quite different this year. The main theme is '**Prayer and Care**' - Care for those you are praying for, pray for those you are caring for.

Many of us may already be caring for people right now but not yet praying for them. Would you commit to praying for them during this time?

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. Since its start in May 2016, just three and a half years ago, God has grown Thy Kingdom Come from a dream of possibility into a movement. In 2019 Christians from 172 countries took part in praying 'Come Holy Spirit', so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ. **Which 5 people will you be praying for?**

There are lots of fantastic resources available including a brilliant Digital Family Prayer Adventure Map as well as a downloadable Prayer Journal & the Novena Booklet – Listening on the Way – Nine days of prayer. Each day's reflection invites us to pause and purposefully invite the Holy Spirit to engage with us through art, scripture and prayer. If you would like us to print any of these for you please let us know.

THE DOORSTEP LOAF

Marmalade or Strawberry Jam? Scrambled egg, Avocado or Cheese? Just butter? How did you have yours? If you have been lucky enough to open your front door and find a Doorstep Loaf, you will probably have faced a dilemma; what do I put on such a tasty loaf of bread?

Introducing the Man behind the Doorstep Loaves. Aaron Mozley is no professional baker or cook; rather a sports enthusiast who will turn his hand, very competently, to any ball sport and perhaps now also to almost anything.

Aaron currently works for Keith Prowse, a sports and events hospitality company. Over the summer months, he would have been involved in hospitality at international cricket matches, horse racing and very busy at the pre-Wimbledon tennis tournament, Queens. Unsurprisingly, with none of these events taking place, he is on Furlough, under the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

Aaron says, "I have always been a passionate cook. I enjoy food but I've never really had the time to focus on the technical, or what I thought was more technical task of baking bread. And it is really not. I thought, 'why not give it a go'? So, I did. It was a complete disaster to start with. My very first effort didn't rise at all; it went in the oven at about 2 inches high and I think it came out smaller! It looked awful. It looked like a large biscuit! I soon learnt about yeast and the process required to make it rise! Through researching and watching online videos, I have learnt the process and I can't get over how simple it is to bake bread. But, probably more importantly, is how rewarding it has been for me. From coming up with the idea, baking the bread and delivering it out to people, the really special part has been receiving lovely



notes, words of encouragement and messages of thanks. It started with helping my elderly neighbours, putting a loaf of bread on their doorstep to try and help them to not need to go out. And it has grown from there. By Tuesday 26th May, over 150 loaves will have been delivered to people in the Parish, not counting my neighbours and others.”



If anyone would like to try baking bread either for the first time or as an activity with children, we have put together some simple baking packs, with ingredients kindly donated by Morrisons in Weybridge. The packs contain all the basic ingredients needed and recipe card and Aaron is on hand to talk through the process via zoom. Please get in touch and we can safely deliver the packs.

Looking out for our friends, those we usually sit in the pews with, those in our Life Groups, those we serve with on the coffee rota or in Sunday School has been evident all over the Parish and it's been lovely to hear about all the small acts of kindness taking place. Flowers, marmalade and lasagna to name but a few! Have you checked up on any of your friends today? Tell us about your random acts of kindness over on our social media, we'd love to hear.



If you have read about anything that you are unable to access please let us know and we'll do our best to help, you can call the Vicarage 01932 917736 or email vicar@waltonparish.org.uk



www.waltonparish.org.uk