

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

Prayer, Services and Events: July 2019

Alex and Katy have been such a blessing since they arrived in Walton-on-Thames last summer and we wish them well in their continued ministry amongst us.



Katy and Alex – ANZAC 2019



Once again one of the Curates was reluctant to wear robes. Alex and Caroline at the Cathedral earlier this year.



Iona, Katy, Rosanna, Alex & Charlotte

Praying People Praying Church

Pete Grieg says: *“Every pilgrim gets a stone in their shoe eventually. You wake up one morning and think ‘Is this really all there is to knowing the Creator of 100 billion galaxies?’ you read the book of Acts and ask, why isn’t it like this anymore? Your world falls apart and you desperately need a miracle. You look up at the sky on a cloudless night and gaze at the stars and feel there is something bigger than religious language. Finally, you turn to God and say. ‘Lord, teach me to pray’. And he says ‘I thought you’d never ask!’”*

We continue our sermon series on prayer in July. Because, as a church, we want to take our next steps towards accessible spirit-filled worship and confidence in personal faith, we have taken **PRAYER as a priority in 2019-2020**. This is both praying together as a worshipping community and personal prayer. In this sermon series, we will look at the Lord’s Prayer as a toolkit in which there are a variety of different types of prayer for different occasions, much as we might use a hammer to bang in a nail and a pair of pliers to twist a piece of metal and a saw to cut a piece of wood. So, in Jesus’ masterclass on prayer, we are introduced to Adoration, Petition, Intercession, Contemplation, Listening and Spiritual warfare. What a wonderful tool kit!

What would it look like if we were a praying church? Would we enjoy prayer more? Hopefully! Would we pray more on our own? Yes. Would we pray more together? Yes, we hope so. Would all our prayers be answered? Not necessarily. Maybe it would simply be that our first response in any situation would be to say, “Shall we pray about that?”



Some of us attended a day on Prayer in June called “How to lead a Praying church”. This has inspired us to think about our own prayer life, and more widely, to want to encourage us to be a praying church.

Three questions at the heart of prayer are these:

1 Who is God? If we believe that God created everything in the world including ourselves and raised Jesus from the dead, then God is a God who can answer our prayers and is longing to hear our faltering steps in prayer. Whether he chooses to answer in the way we expect is up to him. Praying is our part.

2 Who am I? If we want something really badly, we will pray and pray with purpose. We may pray heartfelt prayers for family members who are ill, or for ourselves, especially in situations when we feel powerless. What if we prayed like this for the things that are on God’s heart?

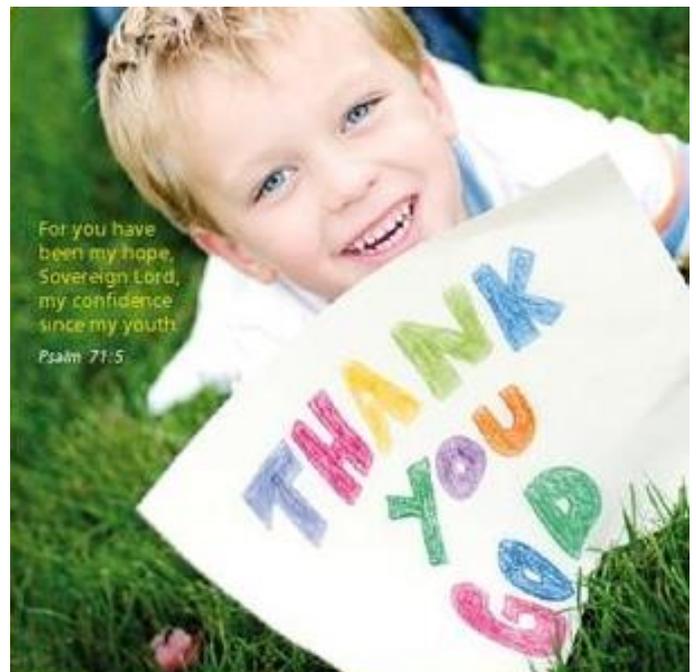
3 What is prayer? If prayer is good enough to get Jonah out of the belly of a fish, and to give Hannah a longed for baby, and to help Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem in spite of opposition, and to be the heart-felt cries of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, then it's good enough for me. "Prayer is how God gives us many of the unimaginable things he has for us" Tim Keller.

What would encourage us to pray more? Our church has many stories of how God has answered prayer over the years. We would love to find out more about this. Hearing stories of how God has answered prayer, certainly motivates us to pray. In May, we had a 7.00 pm Healing service and four people that I know of have come back to let us know of some kind of healing in response to the prayers that were prayed that night. One was Emily, whose Mum had been diagnosed with possible cancer on her lung, but when she went back to the doctor, no evidence of the shadow on the lung could be found. Listen to this here.

Would a four-step process help us to pray more? We may have heard of this helpful acronym: ACTS – Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication. Pete Greig has another one: **PRAY** - **P**ause – be still; **R**ejoice – worship and praise God; **A**sk – Ask God for anything for ourselves and others; **Y**ield (or Yes for children) – Give it to God and don't take it back again!

We would love to hear your ideas about how we can be praying people and a praying church. Meanwhile, let's pray! Keep it simple, keep it real and keep it up!

Jonny & Cathy



Key Information

Clergy:

Vicars: Rev Cathy & Rev Jonny Blair (off duty Friday) 01932 917736

Curate: Rev Caroline Merrick (avail Tue, Thu & Fri) 07419 827739

Curate: Rev Alex Oehring (off duty Saturday) 07920 098867

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

Youth Minister: Mandy Watts (day off Thursday)

Under 5s and Families Minister: Amy Maddocks (day off Mon & Weds)

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

Communications Manager & Strategic Co-Ordinator:

Sally Eckes (day off Friday)

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

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



Services

JULY 2019 St Mary's and St John's Services		Praying People Praying Church
<i>Wed 3 July</i>	St John's <i>10.00 am Said Communion</i>	
Sun 7 July <i>Trinity 3</i>	St Mary's 8.00 am Said Communion 9.15 am NO SERVICE 10.15 am Service at the Cricket Ground – Baseball's Coming Home 11.00 am Reflective Service with Communion	Unanswered Prayer <i>Daniel 3:13-21</i> <i>Mark 14:32-36</i>
	St John's 9.00 am NO SERVICE 10.30 am Morning Praise	
<i>Thurs 11 July</i>	St Mary's <i>10.00 am Said Communion</i>	
Sun 14 July <i>Trinity 4</i>	St Mary's 8.00 am BCP Communion 9.15 am Lively Service with Communion 11.00 am Reflective Service with Communion	Prayer - Contemplation <i>Psalm 19</i> <i>Matthew 6:6</i>
	St John's 9.00 am Said Communion 10.30 am Morning Praise for All	
<i>Wed 17 July</i>	St John's <i>10.00 am Said Communion</i>	
<i>Thurs 18 July</i>	Walton Community Centre <i>11.00 am Said Communion</i>	
Sun 21 July <i>Trinity 5</i>	St Mary's 8.00 am Said Communion 9.15 am Lively Service 11.00 am Reflective Service with Communion <i>7.00 pm Evening Praise BIG QUESTIONS-</i> <i>How can I love the God of the Old Testament</i>	Petition and listening <i>Romans 5:1-5</i> <i>John 16:12-15</i>
	St John's 10.30 am Holy Communion	
<i>Thurs 25 July</i>	St Mary's <i>10.00 am Said Communion</i>	
Sun 28 July <i>Trinity 6</i>	St Mary's 8.00 am Said Communion 9.15 am Lively Service with Baptism for all 11.00 am Reflective Service for all with Communion 3.00 pm Baptism	Prayer as warfare <i>Ephesians 6:11-14</i> <i>Matthew 16:13-20</i>
	St John's 10.30 am Morning Praise for all	
<i>Wed 31 July</i>	St John's <i>10.00 am Said Communion</i>	

Books & Daily Devotionals

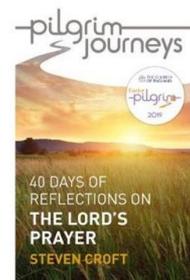
Suggestions for daily prayer ... to get YOU going with praying:

trypraying

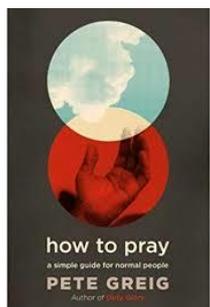
Try Praying – Try Praying for just 7 days, not necessarily in a row. This is a great starter, check out the app below. You could begin the adventure of a lifetime. Available in church £1.

Pilgrim Journeys Easter Pilgrim 2019: The Lord's Prayer (£2.91)

40 days of reflections on the Lord's Prayer invites us to look with fresh eyes at the prayer Jesus taught his followers, which continues to shape the lives of Christians across the world.



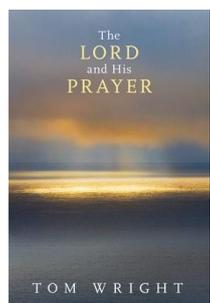
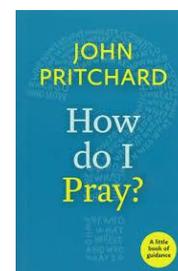
Suggestions to read about prayer (Prices are Eden Christian books online)



How to Pray - Pete Greig £11.50 Founder of the 24/7 Prayer movement, Pete's three guidelines on prayer are 'Keep it simple, keep it real and keep it up'. He also shares real struggles in his life and a God who answers prayer.

You can Pray – Tim Chester (£9.99) Not a great pray-er? Not a problem. There aren't any great prayers, only a great God. If you're easily distracted when praying, you're not alone. Tim Chester says 'the secret to great praying has nothing to do with human effort or skill, it is about knowing God's love and help.

How do I pray? – John Pritchard (£3.96) A little book of guidance on prayer giving a practical introduction. John Pritchard invites all who are curious about how to become more in tune with the Spirit of God to slow down and hear what God wants to say.



The Open Gate – David Adam (£8.92) Celtic prayers for growing spiritually. David Adam's classic book is a rich mine of prayers loosely structured around the Communion service. The Open Gate is an invitation to deepen our prayer life.

The Lord and His Prayer – Tom Wright A fresh and helpful way of looking at Jesus. Phrase by phrase, Tom Wright demonstrates how understanding the prayer in its original setting can be the starting point for a rekindling of Christian spirituality and the life of prayer.

Other resources

There are loads of great apps and websites. PrayerMate, TKC Prayer, Daily Prayer.

www.churchofengland.org/journeying-with-god/learning-pray

www.trypraying.co.uk

Check out the prayer page on our website where you'll find links to various other resources www.waltonparish.org.uk/pray

This month...

BIG QUESTIONS

“How can I love the God of the Old Testament?”

evening praise

JULY 21st @ 7pm



Pints of View

Thurs 11 July

8.00 pm @ The Anglers

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

@ St John's
Dads and Kids
BBQ

Sat 13 July
4 - 5.30 pm



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

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. On our frontlines.

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, the Open the Book team, 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, Hannah Satterthwaite, Jo Davis & Fusion, Home Leone.



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