

September

NEWSLETTER

this month's church family thanks and prayers

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



PHILIPPIANS

Holiness in Hardship

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

Curate: Rev Vlada Rakin

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

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

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 (currently closed)

St Mary's Church Hall,

Church Street, Walton-on-Thames, KT12 2QS

Administrator: Becky Warner (currently on furlough)

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

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VICARS' BLOG: Sprint, marathon or triathlon?

Well, if we thought that come September we would be back to a kind of new normal, we can now see that it's not quite like that. Yes, children will be back at school (hooray!), but there's still so much uncertainty about what our lives will look like over the next few months.

Last month we likened the Covid-19 global pandemic to Biblical exile and spoke of disorientation. There has also been loss for all of us. It has been hard not being in church worshipping together and seeing one another – and our clergy thrive on that interaction! We feel for those who have missed milestones such as leaving nursery or primary school or secondary school or have ended university and are now looking for a job. Add to that, major birthdays or anniversaries, operations that have been postponed... add your own losses... We have all experienced some kind of loss.

And it's not over yet. We have got through the first stage and now what? In March, the Bishop of London warned that the pandemic would be more of a marathon than a sprint and now, James Lawrence (CPAS) says in fact this is turning into more of a Triathlon than a marathon: having finished the run, we now have a swim and a cycle ahead of us. And that looks daunting. (For those who have missed the open water swimming at Hampton during lockdown, the correct way round is swim first, but that spoils the analogy!)

It does feel like we have run a marathon and we may wonder how we can tackle the next challenges of the swim and cycle. We need to resource ourselves and take on fuel for the next stage of the journey.



During lockdown we have been able to access some excellent Christian leadership webinars which have helped us to continue to lead the church effectively. As your leaders, we are resourcing ourselves for our main role - to serve the members of our church family in this time of uncertainty and anxiety. As we look to autumn in our church, I think a huge part of our role as a church, is to encourage and strengthen one another. Our church should be a place where we are equipped and refreshed every week, for each day in the workplace or on our “frontlines” to live effectively as Christians. It’s not easy.

In this Triathlon, we need to remind ourselves that God is with us and that, although we do not know what is coming next there is nothing that can surprise him. Remember, there will be a finishing line, this will not go on for ever! Peter said to Jesus, “we’re sticking with you, Jesus! You are the one with the words of eternal life!”

Here are four things that can help us in these uncharted waters:

- Keep good rhythms of life – pray, read the Bible, exercise, eat properly, have family time, etc.
- Meet with a couple of like-minded people who we can share with and pray with. To find out more about Trios and Life groups email Cathy@waltonparish.org.uk
- Keep in touch with church in whatever way you can on Sunday mornings, evenings, live or online or through Alpha, the Bible Course or midweek groups - feed your faith.
- Be gentle on yourself – we are all making this up as we go along and nobody is judging us, so why judge ourselves?

Our September sermons are from Philipians written by Paul from prison – his words can really help us to live holy lives amidst hardship. There is joy to be found even while running a Triathlon!

Yours in Christ,

Cathy and Jonny



Holiday Club at Home – Jesus and Water was a great success in August with over 60 children taking part at home with daily video stories on YouTube, activities and experiments and a final day Zoom service. A huge thank you to Amy and the team for putting all this together.



Looking forward

Good News – We have a new part-time curate Rev Vlada Rakin joining us this month. Introducing Vlada, his wife Kirsty and their 2 boys –

I was born in Serbia and grew up in Belgrade and the Brethren church. My formative years were filled with exciting education, mostly boring church services and completing my national service in war-ravaged Former Yugoslavia in the 90's.



In 1993, I joined a Protestant Evangelical Church in Belgrade, was baptised, and felt the need to let Jesus Christ shape my life, as opposed to hatred and revenge, widespread in the region at that time. This led me to becoming Sunday school teacher, youth leader, and humanitarian aid worker in post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 1996, after completing Bible and missionary studies in Norway, I returned to lead the church's gospel outreach and was ordained as priest in 2000. My compassion for survivors of the war, led me to being blessed by the church and sent to look after churches and communities in Bosnia thereafter.

In 2003, my gorgeous Kirsty arrived in Belgrade for her medical elective. Little did either of us know we would fall in love and be married the following year. We set up home in Manchester where I completed my degree in Religion and Politics and Kirsty finished her GP training. We were involved in the local Newfrontiers Church working with children and on outreach programmes, such as the Alpha Course. Ewan and Cameron were born and kept us more than busy!

In 2013 we were prompted by God to move closer to family down South and that is when my career in healthcare chaplaincy began and my calling towards the Church of England. We started our Anglican journey at St Paul's Howell Hill, Cheam and I completed my ordination training at St Mellitus College. I currently work full-time as a hospital chaplain in East Surrey and it has been a privilege to serve patients and staff especially during these COVID-19 times. I started my curacy last year in Ewell but sadly it did not work for all involved.

My calling to ordained ministry in the Church of England was an unexpected experience, like solving a jigsaw puzzle where the silhouettes appear early on, yet the full picture will at the very end. The Bible verse from 1 Timothy 4:12 stayed with me since baptism, "Let no one disregard you because you are young, but be an example to all the believers in the way you speak and behave, and in your love, your faith and your purity" (NJB). This had formed the foundation for my calling to follow Jesus Christ and to serve others.

I am excited to be joining Walton Parish and I am looking forward to working with Cathy, Jonny and the team. I can't wait to get to know you all better and I know Kirsty joins me in this!

In Memorium – We pray at this time for those whose anniversary falls in the month of September.

Dennis Abson
Elizabeth Lancaster
Marian Jackson
Jean Dyer
Mark & Charlotte Cheverton
Charles Fox
Christine Scally
Patricia Jolliffe
Marie Orr
Bill Upton
Alfred Ferguson
Eric Blair
Doreen Butler

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Collects for September

The 13th Sunday After Trinity - 6th September

Almighty God, you search us and know us: may we rely on you in strength and rest on you in weakness, now and in all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The 14th Sunday After Trinity – 13th September

Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross: may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The 15th Sunday After Trinity – 20th September

Lord God, defend your Church from all false teaching and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

The 16th Sunday After Trinity – 27th September

Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SEPT 2020	St Mary's and St John's Virtual Services and Events	Philippians – Holiness in Hardship	
www.waltonparish.org.uk			
Sun 6th September <i>Trinity 13</i>	9.00 am Joint Service with Communion <i>booking required</i>	<i>St Mary's and Live stream</i>	<i>Philippians 1:1-11 Luke 6:12-16</i> A new heart - Praying for friends
	10.15 am All Age Service	<i>Live via Zoom</i>	
	7.30 pm Evening Praise	<i>Live via Zoom</i>	
Sun 13th September <i>Trinity 14</i>	9.00 am Joint Service with Communion <i>booking required</i>	<i>St Mary's and Live stream</i>	<i>Philippians 1:12-30 Luke 6:17-26</i> A new purpose - Sharing the good news
	10.15 am All Age Service	<i>Live via Zoom</i>	
	10.30 am Service with Communion <i>booking required</i>	<i>St John's Live</i>	
Sun 20th September <i>Trinity 15</i>	9.00 am Joint Service with Communion <i>booking required</i>	<i>St Mary's and Live stream</i>	<i>Philippians 2:1-11 Luke 6:27-31</i> A new attitude - Jesus God and man
	10.15 am All Age Service	<i>Live via Zoom</i>	
	7.30pm Evening Praise	<i>Live via Zoom</i>	
Sun 27th September <i>Trinity 16</i>	9.00 am Joint Service with Communion <i>booking required</i>	<i>St Mary's and Live stream</i>	<i>Philippians 2:12-18 Luke 6:32-38</i> New responsibilities - Children of God
	10.15 am All Age Service	<i>Live via Zoom</i>	
	10.30am Service with Communion <i>booking required</i>	<i>St John's Live</i>	
Sun 4th October Harvest <i>Trinity 17</i>	9.00 am Joint Service with Communion <i>booking required</i>	<i>St Mary's and Live stream</i>	<i>Philippians 2:19-30 Luke 6:43-45</i> New Friendships - 2 good friends
	10.15 am All Age Service	<i>Live via Zoom</i>	
	7.30 pm Evening Praise	<i>Live via Zoom</i>	

Please note for services in the building:

- There is a requirement to comply with all social distancing and safety guidelines as directed by stewards.
- We apologise that there will be no provision for children, no singing, and no books.
- Although we cannot serve coffee after the service, you can stay and chat to one another outside the building at a safe distance.
- To book go to www.waltonparish.org.uk or telephone 07309 745 695
- We will review our provision of services as conditions change.
- Join us on Zoom for coffee and chat at 11.15 am

