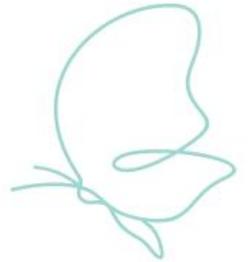


# JUNE NEWSLETTER

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

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

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

Curate: Rev Vlada Rakin

**Church Warden:** David Henderson, Ryan Van der Riet (St Mary's) & Janet Todd (St John's)

**Youth Minister: Sarah Dunn** (day off Weds, Fri, Sat)

**Licensed Lay Ministers:** Tessa & John Badcock

**Pastoral Assistants:** For enquiries of a pastoral nature, please contact Wendy Fitch via the Office or email vicar@waltonparish.org.uk

**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](http://www.waltonparish.org.uk)

## Church Office

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

You can contact the office by telephone or email however it will remain closed to visitors for now in order that we keep everybody safe and well. The office contact hours are now - **Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 1.00 - 4.30 pm**

**Administrator:** Becky Warner

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

**Communications Manager & Strategic Co-Ordinator:**

Sally Eckes (day off Mon & 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: The BIG Welcome

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of June we hope that many of the Covid restrictions will lift, and we will be able to greet one another and meet again. In our church, we are looking forward so much to being able to chat together before and after services and to catching up with all our news. Some people in our church have joined since Covid restrictions and may not have been to a service in the building yet! We should be aware that some of us may feel more cautious and some may be ready for hugs all round!!

We would love as many people as possible to be part of our Big Welcome team. Their remit is to wear big smiles and serve great coffee, creating space for the wonder of God's family relationships to happen in our midst. Please be in touch with us [vicar@waltonparish.org.uk](mailto:vicar@waltonparish.org.uk) or Sally [sally@waltonparish.org.uk](mailto:sally@waltonparish.org.uk) to add your name to the team for all our congregations. Let's give old friends and new a **BIG** Welcome! We look forward to being drawn closer together as a church.

While keeping our service pattern unchanged during June, we will be experimenting with bringing the Zoom services into the buildings. The leadership are continuing to listen and gather people's views about what our priorities as a church should be going forwards. We will be sharing a survey this month where we hope you will share your thoughts and views about our priorities going forward.

### Caring for God's Planet

A Rocha and the Church of England have teamed up and invited us as a church to become an Eco-church. A Rocha says 'Our vision is for churches of all denominations to care for creation as an integral part of loving their neighbours and following God faithfully. Help us bring that vision to reality by participating in Eco Church.' We are so grateful to Janet Todd and her team for heading up this initiative for our church. This is something we can be involved with in our individual lives and as a church family. Let's care for God's planet together.



We first became aware of A Rocha when it was part of Crosslinks – the Missionary organisation we were part of when we served in South Africa. A Rocha has grown and developed since becoming a Christian environmental organisation and has been working through churches to promote good care for God's good earth. The gospel is good news for God's earth. We are delighted to be able to participate in this initiative at such a crucial time for our planet. Let's do all we can as a church family to care for God's earth. It would also be great to win an Eco Church Award.

### Farewells and Congratulations

We will be very sad to say goodbye to the Oehring family on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, but also very excited to see what God has in store for them as Alex takes up the post of Rector of St Bartholomew's and Holy Trinity, Colne in Blackburn Diocese. Alex, Katy, Charlotte, Rosanna, and Iona have been a wonderful part of our church family for the last three years and they have shown us what it looks like to live as a Christian family with care and love for everyone. Alex's preaching reveals his passion for the Gospel, and they have been servant-hearted in their ministry to us all. We will miss them.

A huge thank you to John and Linda Muggleton who are transferring their ministry to St Mary's East Molesey where their daughter, Mary's husband Nate is now incumbent. Linda's ministry here, including running Toddler Groups for many years, has been filled with love and care and it has been extraordinary how God has used the Alpha course under John's leadership over the last 18 years.

Congratulations to Vlada Rakin who will be ordained priest on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July at Guildford Cathedral. He will then be able to do all sacramental ministry including presiding at Communion as he continues his curacy. Congratulations to Caroline who has completed her curacy training and is now a fully-fledged Assistant Minister.

We are thankful to be part of such a great church family and excited as we look forward to what God has in store for us over this next season.

## ***Jonny & Cathy Blair***

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Our mid-week groups are a hugely important aspect of Church life, providing friendship and support, discussion, bible teaching, pastoral care, and encouragement.

Have you ever made a nice hot cup of tea and then got involved in something and gone back to it later only to find it is now stone cold? Sadly, it didn't stay hot. Our faith is a bit like that: we need to constantly keep it heated up, so we can stay close to God.

The Bible's advice is that burning coals need to stay in the fire to keep hot, if they are taken off the fire, they soon burn out. We can liken life to a journey: we do need to keep going forwards – taking on board new challenges and prayer adventures with God to keep our faith alive and vibrant. And it's so much easier to travel with other people. If we don't plug ourselves in to a worshipping community (church) and have a smaller group of people we trust, with whom we can talk about real matters of life and with whom we can pray then the tea goes cold.

But what actually are these groups? Some people to do life with as a Christian – to laugh with, cry, with pray with. Friendships we make with Christians are so much deeper and more meaningful than friendships with others because Jesus is the third person in that friendship offering wisdom, comfort and purpose in our lives. Regularly reading the Bible and chatting with a group of trusted friends helps us all to grow in faith. There are many groups, a great way to give one a try is to join us for Alpha, the Bible Course or the Prayer Course. Talk to Cathy for more information there are lots of options.



In Autumn 2020 the PCC held a preliminary discussion about Eco Church and gave the go ahead to launching our Eco Church ambitions. We are really looking forward to updating you with our progress and to opening up discussion as we think more about how we can expand action and engagement in this project.

Taking part in the Eco Church award scheme is a journey rather than an end in itself. It is the combination of many actions that show, as a church that we care for God's world.

A Rocha UK has five core values:

**Christian** – Underlying all we do is our biblical faith in the living God, who made the world, loves it and entrusts it to the care of human society.

**Conservation** – We carry out research for the conservation and restoration of the natural world and run environmental education programmes for people of all ages.

**Community** – Through our commitment to God, each other and the wider creation, we aim to develop good relationships both within the A Rocha family and in our local communities.

**Cross-cultural** – We draw on the insights and skills of people from diverse cultures, both locally and around the world.

**Cooperation** – We work in partnership with a wide variety of organisations and individuals who share our concerns for a sustainable world.

The Eco Church Survey provides a useful framework on which to measure our current status as well as helping us to shape and prioritise our next steps towards attaining a Net Zero Carbon Footprint by 2030. The survey is designed to equip our church so that we might express our care for God's world through our worship and teaching; how we look after your buildings and land; how we engage with our local community and in global campaigns, and in the personal lifestyles of our congregation – that's you! The actions we take will all count towards us gaining a prestigious Eco Church Award. The survey can be found on the website [www.waltonparish.org.uk/eco-church](http://www.waltonparish.org.uk/eco-church)

We are making good progress working through the survey, we have completed our 2020 Energy Footprint Calculation and submitted a request for an Energy Efficiency Advisor to help us better understand our next steps. We are currently reviewing our energy suppliers and a variety of other things that the survey has helped us identify such as the paper we use, lightbulbs, composting and much more!

**We hope we can encourage all of you to join us on our journey and that the aims of Eco Church will become an integral part of loving our neighbours and following God faithfully.**

## Caring for God's Acre Churches Count on Nature Week – June 5th – 13th 2021.

Churches Count on Nature runs as part of Caring for God's Acre's Love Your Burial Ground. The week is being used as a springboard to help start recording the wildlife within our churchyard. Churches Count on Nature is a joint initiative promoted by Caring for God's Acre, A Rocha UK, the Church of England and the Church in Wales.



The idea is that it will bring together local people to discover the wildlife in the churchyard, we will be recording the species they find, then submitting the results with others so they may be collated on the National Biodiversity Network (NBN), a nationwide database of wildlife in the UK.



So, you are invited to join us in the churchyard at St Mary's. There will be people in and around the churchyard on various days of the week (see below) who will be available to guide you, but you are welcome to come and explore at any time. Please do be careful though as there is a lot of uneven ground around the churchyard and lots of hidden stones and other trip hazards.

Caring for God's Acre have put together a super 'Starter Guide' which you will also find on the website it's designed to help lead you through your first visit to the churchyard and teach you to recognise some of the wildlife and other features commonly found there.

### Join us at St Mary's on...

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2.00 – 5.00 pm

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2.00 – 5.00 pm

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2.00 – 5.00 pm

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June 10.30 am – 12.30 pm



**We should all be contributing towards the protection and restoration of the natural world, both as a response to the biblical mandate to care for the earth, and as a demonstration of the Christian hope for God's world.**

On the website you'll find a few ideas, things you might like to consider doing yourself. We've shared a couple of them below but if you have any ideas you'd like to share, get in touch, we would love to hear from you via [news@waltonparish.org.uk](mailto:news@waltonparish.org.uk)



Bread is full of symbolic meaning for Christians and in another step towards being an Eco Church we ask you to consider using the **LOAF Principles: Locally produced, Organically grown, Animal friendly, Fairly traded.** The decisions we make about our food have far-reaching effects, influencing the way food is produced and animals are treated. Buying food from local and regional sources means less climate-damaging food miles, less lorry traffic and supports the local economy.



A rainwater tank is a water tank used to collect and store rainwater runoff, typically from rooftops via pipes. Rainwater tanks are devices for collecting and maintaining harvested rain. A rainwater catchment or collection system can yield 2,358 litres of water from 2.54 cm of rain on a 92.9 m<sup>2</sup> roof. This water can then be used for watering your lawn, gardens and house plants; cleaning off gardening tools; and even washing your car.

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## **Welcome Team, Stewards, Readers, Intercessors, AV**

We really do need more volunteers to help us run our services. We understand some of you are not ready to return in person yet and that is understandable however if you are willing and able we would encourage you to consider joining/re-joining any of these supporting ministries at either St Mary's or St John's. We would particularly like to hear from anybody who is interested in being a part of the AV team. Live streaming will **ONLY** be possible if we have people to support it. Please email [sally@waltonparish.org.uk](mailto:sally@waltonparish.org.uk) if you would like to learn more about any of the roles mentioned or if you are not sure about where best you can use your gifts.

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## **Baptism**

This month we will welcome the friends and family of Oscar Hiett, Amelia Savva, Esme Arulrajah and Dilhan & Jeshan Navanayagam who will all be baptized on Sunday 27th June.

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## **In Memorium**

Please pray for the families and friends of those who have died in times past whose anniversary falls at this time:

Eric Comley  
Bert Allwood  
David Malden-Browne  
Shirley Perrin  
Win Phillips

Eric Reed  
Revd Mary Stokes  
Tony Darling  
Jean Nissen

<b>JUNE 2021</b>	<b>St Mary's and St John's Services live and online</b>	<b>Online Service can be viewed via <a href="#">YouTube</a> – search Walton Parish</b>	
<b><i>Following Jesus: Listening and Learning – Mark's Gospel</i></b>			
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June</b> <i>Trinity 1</i>	<b>9.00 am Service with Communion</b>	<i>St Mary's Live and online</i>	<b>Welcomed by Jesus</b> <i>Colossians 2:9-15</i>
	<b>10.15 am All Age Service</b>	<i>Live via Zoom</i>	<i>Mark 2:1-17</i>
	<b>7.30 pm Evening Praise</b>	<i>Live via Zoom</i>	<b>Mark 2 – deeper thinking</b>
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June</b> <i>Trinity 2</i>	<b>9.00 am Service with Communion</b>	<i>St Mary's Live and online</i>	<b>Sabbath Rules</b> <i>Colossians 2:16-23</i> <i>Mark 2:18-3:6</i>
	<b>10.15 am All Age Service</b>	<i>Live via Zoom</i>	
	<b>10.30 am Morning Praise with Holy Communion</b>	<i>St John's Live</i>	
	<b>7.30 pm Evening Praise</b>	<i>Live via Zoom</i>	<b>Mark 2 – deeper thinking</b>
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June</b> <i>Trinity 3</i>	<b>9.00 am Service with Communion</b>	<i>St Mary's Live and online</i>	<b>Working with Jesus</b> <i>Isaiah 6:1-10</i>
	<b>10.15 am All Age Service</b>	<i>Live via Zoom</i>	<i>Mark 3:7-35</i>
	<b>7.30 pm Evening Praise</b>	<i>Live via Zoom</i>	<b>Mark 3 – deeper thinking</b>
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June</b> <i>Trinity 4</i>	<b>9.00 am Service with Communion</b>	<i>St Mary's Live and online</i>	<b>A Story of Seeds and Soil</b> <i>Acts 2:14-21</i> <i>Mark 4:1-20</i>
	<b>10.15 am All Age Service</b>	<i>Live via Zoom</i>	
	<b>10.30 am Morning Praise</b>	<i>St John's Live</i>	
	<b>7.30 pm Evening Praise</b>	<i>Live via Zoom</i>	<b>Mark 4 – deeper thinking</b>
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July</b> <i>Trinity 5</i>	<b>9.00 am Joint Service with Communion</b>	<i>St Mary's Live and online</i>	<b>Learning from Jesus</b> <i>Proverbs 2:1-8</i> <i>Mark 4:21-41</i>
	<b>10.15 am All Age Service</b>	<i>Live via Zoom</i>	
	<b>7.30 pm Evening Praise</b>	<i>Live via Zoom</i>	<b>Mark 4 – deeper thinking</b>

- 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.
- To book go to [www.waltonparish.org.uk/featured-events](http://www.waltonparish.org.uk/featured-events) if you do not have access to the internet contact the office – Please note there is nobody in the office after 5.00 pm Thursday – 1.00 pm Tuesday. Outside of office hours please contact the Vicarage 01932 917 736.
- We will continue to review our provision of services as conditions change and we will endeavour to communicate changes as quickly and efficiently as we can.



**YouTube**

[www.waltonparish.org.uk](http://www.waltonparish.org.uk)