

# DECEMBER newsletter



LOVE  
came down



# Key Information

## Clergy:

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

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

Curate: Rev Vlada Rakin contact via Office (off duty Saturday)

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

**Youth Minister:** Sarah Dunn (off duty – Friday & Saturday)

**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

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:** Katharine Scott (volunteer)  
safeguarding@waltonparish.org.uk

**Safeguarding Administrator:** Julia Gorrie (part time flexi hours)  
safeguardingadmin@waltonparish.org.uk

**A full list of Parish Officers can be found on our website.**

Information about weddings, funerals and baptisms can also be found on our website [www.waltonparish.org.uk](http://www.waltonparish.org.uk)

## Church Office

**Administrator:** Sam Harrison

St Mary's Church Hall,

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

The office contact hours are –

**Closed Monday.**

**Open Tuesday - Friday 10.00 am – 12 noon**

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

## Operations & Communications:

Sally Eckes (off duty 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: Love Came Down**

Christmas comes every year. Yet the remarkable message of Christmas never ceases to be a marvel. The fact that the God, who created the universe, came down to earth to be born as a baby, is extraordinary by any standards. The Son of God, Jesus Christ, has his rightful place in heaven, possessing all authority and crowned with all splendour and majesty and yet he chose to give all that up to become one of us and one with us. That's what Emmanuel means. Jesus, God with us. Love came down to dwell among us. Love still dwells among us in our daily lives, in our struggles and sadness's, filling our emptiness and overwhelming us with acceptance and joy. This is love.

Jesus comes to us again this Christmas as a vulnerable baby and asks, "Will you accept me?"

The Son of God limited his divine power and "pitched his tent in our neighbourhood" (from John 1 Message version). Paul says "He made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, humbled himself and became obedient even to death on a cross" Philippians 2:7-8. But Paul does not stop there. A miracle happened. The resurrection changed everything, and this humble servant is now exalted by God to the highest place, where every person will one day confess that Christ is Lord over all. This highly exalted Jesus comes to us again this Christmas as a vulnerable baby and asks, "Will you accept me?"

May you know love came down in your life, and in the lives of those you care deeply about this Christmas to the glory of God the Father.

*We wish you a very happy Christmas.*

***Jonny and Cathy***

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### **Reflections for Advent**

Our Ministry team are offering four weeks of short Reflections through advent finishing on 24th December. Advent is a rich, multi-layered season in which we look ahead a short way and a long way and look inward to ourselves. We look forward to the celebration of the incarnation, of the birth of Jesus, the son of God at Christmas time. We also look ahead to his coming again in glory "on that day" whenever that day will be - with all the implications for the world, the righteous and the unrighteous.

We look first at the end of John's Revelation from God which gives us an exciting view of Christ's ultimate victory and then we read two letters from Paul to the Christians in Thessalonica. Because they were living in a time of intense persecution, they have very real questions about the return of Christ.

The advent season invites us to self-examination, to watching and waiting for Jesus' return, while leading us gently towards the festival of Christmas. The final week we will start Luke's gospel. The Advent Reflections can be found on our [YouTube](#) channel and will be shared daily on [Facebook](#).

# CHRISTINGLE

Jesus is the Light of our world



**Sunday 5th December**

**3.30 pm** a lively, fun filled service suitable for under 5's

**5.00 pm** where we'll celebrate Jesus is the Light of our world

**BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL visit**

**[www.waltonparish.org.uk/christmas-2021](http://www.waltonparish.org.uk/christmas-2021)**

# CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 12th December 6.30 pm

**Traditional Carol Service**

Tuesday 21st December 6.30 pm

**Family Carol Service**



## Advent Window Trail 2021



To get involved all you need to do is to decorate one (or more!) windows in your house, flat or workplace, the bigger and brighter the better so people can see your fantastic displays. Last year we had just short of 80 windows including the office and the Vicarage! All you need to do is [sign up](#) on the website so we can add your window to the map, choose which part of the Christmas story you would like to do, sign up and get designing your window!

We'll create an interactive map that shows where all the windows are so that you can walk around and visit them all. Let's share the hope we have in Jesus and light up Walton-on-Thames with the Christmas story.

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## Evening Praise with the Youth

We had a fantastic Evening Praise with the Youth service with many young people in attendance! The Way, our Monday night Youth Bible Study group helped lead the service and the sung worship, supported by our brilliant worship group and our Youth Minister Sarah Dunn. We thought about Biblical examples of God choosing to work through young people (David in the fight against Goliath, and the young boy who offered his packed lunch which Jesus used to feed 5000!) We all had a chance to consider what our loaves and fishes might be – what we had to offer to God.



Our young people had the opportunity to share pizza together before the service and we all enjoyed brownies and cookies afterwards!

The service took a team of 13 people to put together – some helping on the day with food/audio-visual etc. some helping in the preparation by collecting stones and cutting out cardboard fish! We need more volunteers to enable us to continue demonstrating God's love to Young People in Walton. If you would like to be part of this, please contact [sarah@waltonparish.org.uk](mailto:sarah@waltonparish.org.uk)

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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:

Joan Benn  
Roy Parsonson  
Pauline Wakeford

John Cairns  
Gwendoline Price

## Introducing Dave, Kat & Anaiah

A message of introduction from our new curate Dave Bixby who will start his ministry here on 3rd July 2022.

Hi everyone,  
We are Dave, Kat and Anaiah Bixby.

Dave and Kat met in Kingston about 10 years ago in a New Frontiers church. In 2016 we moved to a church in East Molesey in order to join a "church graft" in West Molesey in 2017. That is when Dave sensed a call to ordination. Our prayer in life is to be ready to go as and when God calls us to action.



We have both had drastic career changes in life - Kat went from beauty therapy to HR administrator; Dave was an actor followed by a support worker for 10 years. Dave is a keen guitarist and likes to brew ale and cook curry. Kat likes baking, swimming, and holidaying in Suffolk. Anaiah likes Peppa Pig and eating food.

We are so excited to be joining this church family next Summer. We look forward to meeting you all and getting involved with the life of the church in due course.

God bless.  
Dave, Kat, and Anaiah (aged 2 years)



All the Christmas services are listed on the back page. You'll also find everything on the website including links to those services which require booking\*. It's important to us that we continue to keep everybody safe this winter so there are restrictions on numbers for some of the services that traditionally can be very busy.

**\*NB Booking is required for -**

All 10.15 am All Age Services

5<sup>th</sup> December - 3.30 pm and 5.00 pm Christingle Services

12<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December - 6.30 pm Carol Service

24<sup>th</sup> December - 3.30 pm and 5.00 pm Nativity Services

To book go to [www.waltonparish.org.uk/christmas-2021](http://www.waltonparish.org.uk/christmas-2021) If you do not have access to the internet, please contact Sam in the office who will be more than willing to help.

<b>DEC 2021</b>	<b>St Mary's and St John's Services</b>	<b>LOVE CAME DOWN</b>	
<b>Online Service can be viewed via <a href="#">YouTube</a> – search Walton Parish</b>			
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	10.30 am Holy Communion	St Mary's	
<b>Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> <i>Advent 2</i>	<b>9.00 am Service with Communion</b>	St Mary's + online	<b>A World In Chaos Needs God's Salvation</b> <i>Malachi 3.1-4 Luke 3.1-9</i>
	<b>10.15 am All Age Service</b>	St Mary's Hall* and Zoom	
	<b>3.30 pm and 5.00 pm Christingle*</b>	St Mary's	<b>Light To The World</b>
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.30 am Holy Communion	St John's	
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>10.30 am Toddler's Praise Nativity</b>	St Mary's	
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	11.30 am – 1.00 pm Connections	St Mary's Hall	
<b>Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> <i>Advent 3</i>	<b>9.00 am Service with Communion</b>	St Mary's + online	<b>A World In Chaos Needs God's Love For Outsiders</b> <i>Zephaniah 3.14-20 Luke 3:7-18</i>
	<b>10.15 am All Age Service*</b>	St Mary's Hall* and Zoom	
	<b>10.30 am Morning Praise with Communion</b>	St John's	
	<b>6.30 pm Carol Service*</b>	St Mary's + online	<b>Love Came down</b>
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.30 am Holy Communion	St Mary's	
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>3.30 - 5.30 pm Messy Christmas*</b>	St John's	
<b>Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> <i>Advent 4</i>	<b>9.00 am Service with Communion</b>	St Mary's + online	<b>Love Came To A Humble Girl</b> <i>Micah 5.2-5a Luke 1:39-45</i>
	<b>10.15 am All Age Service*</b>	St Mary's Hall* and Zoom	
	<b>10.30 am Morning Praise with Carols</b>	St John's	
<b>Tues 21<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	<b>6.30 pm Family Carols* Contemporary Carol Service</b>	St Mary's + online	<b>Love Came Down</b>
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	10.30 am CONNECTIONS and Carols	St John's	
<b>Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> <i>Christmas Eve</i>	<b>3.30 pm and 5.00 pm Nativity Services*</b>	St Mary's	<b>Love Came Right Down To Earth</b> <i>Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 1:18-25</i>
	<b>4.00 pm Nativity</b>	St John's	
	<b>11.15 pm Midnight Communion*</b>	St Mary's	
<b>Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	<b>9.00 am Christmas Celebration with Communion</b>	St Mary's	<b>Love Came As A Tiny baby</b> <i>Isaiah 9:2-7 Luke 2:1-14</i>
	<b>10.15 am All Age Christmas Celebration*</b>	St Mary's Hall* and Zoom	
	<b>10.30 am Christmas Celebration with Communion</b>	St John's	
<b>Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> <i>Christmas 1</i>	<b>9.00 am Joint Service with Communion</b>	St Mary's	<b>Love Became A Boy</b> <i>Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52</i>
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b> <i>Christmas 2</i>	<b>9.00 am Joint Service with Communion</b>	St Mary's	<b>Love came down for us</b> <i>Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:10-18</i>

# Christmas at St Mary's & St John's

## **Traditional Carol Service\***

Sunday 12th December 6.30 pm at St Mary's

## **Family Carol Service\***

Tuesday 21st December 6.30 pm at St Mary's

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## **Christmas Eve Nativity Services\***

3.30 pm at St Mary's

5.00 pm at St Mary's

4.00 pm at St John's

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## **Christmas Eve Midnight Communion**

11.15 pm at St Mary's

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## **Christmas Day Services**

9.00 am at St Mary's

10.15 am \*All Age at St Mary's

10.30 am at St John's

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL\***

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



FULL LIST OF DECEMBER SERVICES INSIDE