

JANUARY 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 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 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 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

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: People of Hope and Restoration

It has been a disappointing end to 2021 with Covid restricting our health and freedoms. We have been glad that the Government has seen the value of allowing people to meet to worship and we are grateful to have been able to celebrate the birth of our Saviour in our churches and online. As we look ahead, the next month holds many uncertainties, and we are continuing to pray especially for the health professionals who are again in the front line serving those who are most ill and risking their own health to do so. We will continue with all our protective measures including masks, social distancing and booking in for services. All Age Services will remain online for the mean time. Please keep an eye on the weekly email for changes.

Christians are a valuable commodity at times of national fear and disappointment because we are a people of hope when hope is in short supply. Someone was recently speaking about rebuilding our lives and church communities as “bouncing back”. He said, “I don’t want to bounce back, I want to bounce forwards!” This is a hugely positive way of looking at our rebuilding or “restoration”. We believe that the Lord will be close with us in 2022 as he has been with us so far through this pandemic. And of course, our hope extends even further, to his promise of an eternal future with him which outlasts all our dreams and fears for this world. Jesus is on the winning side and so are we.

As we look ahead, we turn to the Bible to guide us and teach us about our God who neither changes nor grows weary. This next two months, in our sermons, we draw inspiration from Nehemiah and his programme of restoration and rebuilding in Jerusalem at a time of national fear and disappointment for the people of Israel. They had been away from their homeland in exile for seventy years and the walls of Jerusalem were in ruins. Hope was needed, and action, too. Nehemiah was the kind of man you would want to work for you in your organisation. He was loyal, dependable, and efficient. No wonder, while he was in exile, he soon rose through ranks and entered the service of King Artaxerxes, the Persian king. His story is one of the liveliest in the Bible. Nehemiah teaches us the spiritual principles that hold life together whether in the business world or Christian ministry. Selwyn Hughes says “As a young man I was told that whatever career I chose for myself, I would never be able to serve the Lord effectively until I understood the principles set out in the book of Nehemiah. I found that advice to be true.”

We hope that our study of the book of Nehemiah, especially at this time, will turn out to be one of the most profitable spiritual journeys we have ever taken. Study guides are available for Life groups or personal study. Contact Cathy for details.

We hope you can find ways to bounce forward into 2022!

Jonny and Cathy

In Memorium

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

Joan Badcock
Pamela Gilbert
Gerald Gilbert
Michael Badcock
Joan Creed

Edward Malone
Revd Iris Keyes
Roger Jenkins
Ray Collings

JAN 2022	St Mary's and St John's Services	Restoration – Lessons from Nehemiah	
Online Service can be viewed via YouTube – search Walton Parish			
Sunday 2nd January <i>Epiphany</i>	9.00 am Joint Service with Communion	<i>St Mary's Live</i>	Gifts for the King of Love <i>Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12</i>
Thurs 6 th Jan	10.30 am Holy Communion	<i>St Mary's Live</i>	
Sunday 9th January <i>Epiphany 1</i>	9.00 am Service with Communion	<i>St Mary's Live and online</i>	Nehemiah planning and praying <i>Nehemiah 1:1-11 Luke 11:1-8</i>
	10.15 am All Age Service	<i>Zoom</i>	
	10.30 am Morning Praise with Communion	<i>St John's Live</i>	
	7.30 pm Evening Praise	<i>Zoom</i>	
Thurs 13 th Jan	10.30 am Holy Communion	<i>St John's Live</i>	
Sunday 16th January <i>Epiphany 2</i>	9.00 am Service with Communion	<i>St Mary's Live and online</i>	Confidence in God's purposes <i>Nehemiah 2:1-10 Luke 5:1-11</i>
	10.15 am All Age Service	<i>Zoom</i>	
	10.30 am Morning Praise	<i>St John's Live</i>	
	7.30 pm Evening Praise Healing Service	<i>St Mary's Live</i>	
Thurs 20 th Jan	10.30 am Holy Communion	<i>St Mary's Live</i>	
Sunday 23rd January <i>Epiphany 3</i>	9.00 am Service with Communion	<i>St Mary's Live and online</i>	Principles of Leadership and work <i>Nehemiah 2:11-20; 3:1-5 Luke 9:1-6</i>
	10.15 am All Age Service	<i>Zoom</i>	
	10.30 am Morning Praise	<i>St John's Live</i>	
	7.30 pm Evening Praise	<i>Zoom</i>	
Thurs 27 th Jan	10.30 am Connections - TBC	<i>St John's Live</i>	
Sunday 30th January <i>Epiphany 4 Candlemas</i>	9.00 am Service with Communion	<i>St Mary's Live and online</i>	Overcoming opposition <i>Nehemiah 4:1-23 Luke 4: 1-13</i>
	10.15 am All Age Service	<i>Zoom</i>	
	10.30 am Morning Praise	<i>St John's Live</i>	
	7.30 pm Evening Praise	<i>Zoom</i>	

NB Booking is required for all in person services.

To book go to www.waltonparish.org.uk If you do not have access to the internet, please contact Sam in the office who will be more than willing to help.

As always, we will continue to review services as guidance dictates.



YouTube

www.waltonparish.org.uk