

MARCH NEWSLETTER

this month's church family thanks and prayers



#LIVE LENT



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

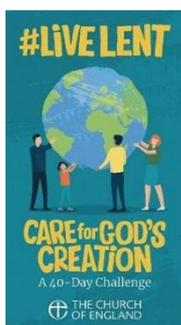
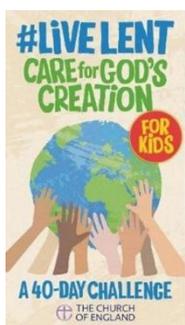
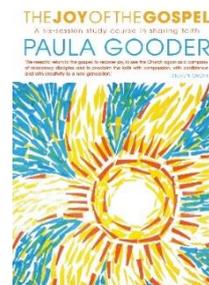
St Mary's Church, Church Street, Walton-on-Thames, KT12 2QS

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

VICARS' BLOG: Spring Forward

As the daffodils begin to bring their radiant yellow colour to grace our gardens and parks, there are signs of Spring approaching all around us. A reminder that in God's world nothing stands still: growth and life are all around us.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday - 2nd March and we have some suggestions of ways we can use this Lent to help us to spring forward in our own spiritual lives, our Life Groups and as a church. We highly recommend this study guide by Paula Gooder called The Joy of the Gospel. It is full of realistic wisdom and infectious enthusiasm for reaching out to others with the enduring joy that comes from Jesus Christ. Great for personal or group study.



The six weeks of Lent are a really good time to be thinking about how we can care better for God's world. The booklets Live Lent - Care for God's Creation for adults give reflections, Bible readings and prayers for each day while the Kids version gives weekly ideas of how we can care for our planet in practical and fun ways. Suitable for children of any age. Caring for God's Earth booklets for Lent are available in church. Suggested donation £2 each or a copy of both for £3

How do we spring forward as a church? As we mentioned last month, the PCC have been working on some practical steps to help us continue to spring forwards, forming three Church development goals for the year. The Diocese encourage every church to do this, and we are being supported by the "Mission Enabler Team". We were inspired by the Nehemiah language of restoration and building. We will: build our discipleship and worship, build our church community, and build our links with the local community.

Let's take one at a time.

We can build our faith and discipleship by doing one of the suggestions already mentioned above alone or as a group.

Secondly, our church community is built on our relationships with God and one another. Paul says we are the Body of Christ. In a body every part depends on all the others. Everyone has been given spiritual gifts with which to serve the others in the body. Please can we all think of ways in which we can use our gifts to serve one another in our church to help us to spring forwards. It is like a jigsaw in which all the pieces are needed and valued. If you are wondering what gifts you have, may we suggest you try the Servant Course. Here are some comments from participants on the November course "I learned a lot about myself and my natural capabilities" "I found it interesting and insightful" "It unwrapped a layer of myself". "I would definitely recommend this course to others!" The next course is running on 8th and 15th March and will once again be on Zoom. Sign up now on the website, last date to sign-up Thursday 3rd March. If your partner has done it, it's a great time to do it too!

Thirdly, caring for our world. We are well on the road to gaining our first Eco Church – but are we really doing what we can to reduce energy and care for God’s world. If you want to help us do is, please chat to Cathy. There are lots of ideas for us at home in the booklets above. Also, let’s not forget to pray for those in our community who are struggling with life at this current time. We are looking for ways for our church to serve people more. There is already a toddler group on Tuesday mornings which needs more volunteers. Please talk to Jonny if you would like to help with that.

In God’s world nothing stands still: growth and life are all around us. May God bless us all as we spring forwards during Lent this year and bless us as we continue to grow in our relationship with our saviour Jesus Christ.

Cathy and Jonny

Taking our next steps towards:

Deeper Faith in Christ,
Welcome and Belonging
Shining God’s Light



Church Development Goals for 2022

Using the framework of our Vision and the language of restoration and building from Nehemiah

Deeper faith in Christ

Building our discipleship and worship:

- a. Review our building needs for our worship/social/outreach plans
- b. Support Midweek groups, youth, and children’s discipleship
- c. Encourage “Everyday Faith”

Welcome and Belonging

Building our church community:

- a. Focus on prayer
- b. Focus on social times including around services
- c. Support Connections
- d. Encourage giving – money and serving

Shining God’s Light

Building our links with the local community:

- a. Make Walton CAN (Walton Community Action Network) operational to serve local people
e.g. Play and Chat toddler group. Get funding for a community link role
- b. Redevelop kitchens at St John’s and St Mary’s
- c. Define the mission of and from St John’s Church
- d. Develop our Eco Church strategy

Mission Partner Update

Ministry in East Africa

As part of our Mission Giving, we have been supporting someone working in East Africa: see www.waltonparish.org.uk/eastafrica

In June 2019, she took on the team leader role in East Africa during a time when the team was experiencing many changes. Despite her many gifts and abilities, this role proved to be not a good fit for her. Sadly, doing this stressful job in a stressful environment, led to near burnout and she returned to the UK in November 2021 to recover. She is currently on furlough with an extended period of recuperation and will review plans later in the year.



Her current prayer requests are:

- For her to get the rest she needs and for God to rebuild her strength.
- Pray for her to be able to trust God with the future, for God's provision and purpose and for her to draw near to God.
- Please also pray for the team in East Africa to continue to be faithful to God and fruitful in ministry in His name.

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Jo and Olli Davis are coming to the end of their road trip around Spain in their campervan. They have been meeting Church leaders, Protestant and Catholic, in cities which have a University as they seek to encourage and assist Churches to reach out to Students with the good news of Jesus.



They have been travelling since September 2021 and are due to have visited every city with a University by the middle of March 2022. At the beginning of March, they will have visited 34 cities with just 4 still to visit.



If you want to follow where they have been and find out what they have found in the different university cities, you can via the link on the website www.waltonparish.org.uk/fusion

Their current prayer requests are:

- For the seeds that have already been sown -
- Pray with us for all those we've met on this Road Trip so far - that God would bless them with more of him and his Holy Spirit, and that he would continue to wake them up to the students on their doorstep, sharing with them his passion and love for them, and stirring them into action!
- For a Prayer Gathering in Madrid 13th – 15th March - With that, there are obviously many more seeds still to be sown! In Madrid, as part of our final stop, we'll be gathering students and leaders from different church communities for a night of praying for students - please pray God uses this to stir people's hearts and to stir up unity in that City too!
- A City to live in! A final but very important point - we still need a City to live in and a church to be part of (and try out some student mission from) at the end of all of this. And we don't feel much the wiser as to where that will be! Please do pray that God speaks clearly on this, and doors open for us to serve a local church somewhere in student mission as our local church.



Youth Update



Silent Disco

After much Covid uncertainty and many hours of praying, 'The Life Silent Disco' went ahead at the end of January! (A silent disco is like a regular disco, except the music is played via wireless headphones so you don't disturb the neighbours and you can be dancing to different music simultaneously!) 20 young people (aged 11-16yrs) came. Half of these youngsters do not usually attend church.

As well as dancing to a choice of current hits, timeless classics and worship music, there was also T-shirt decorating and a short message from Sarah,

explaining how Psalm 149 shows God loves dancing and that Jesus came to give us life in all its fullness!

The evening was a great success, practically showing these young people that they matter to God, so they matter to us!

Feedback from the young people:

*"Was Amazing! 😊" "I loved it. It was the best!" "Yes, I enjoyed it. Thank you for setting it up."
"BEST NIGHT EVER!!!" "So fun." "It was fun, I would do again." "Lots and lots of fun, thank you!"*

Special thanks to the amazing team who gave up their time to make this happen: Megan, Lillie and Lily (our teenage helpers) Amy Maddocks, Jill Mills, Paul Erler and Kate Mills.

Thanks also to Morrisons for donating the food, and to you, if you give financially to the Church – you are doing Youth Work!



THE LIFE - Sunday evenings at St John's – once each half term – 6.00 – 8.00 pm at St John's (check calendar for details) Come and join us for fun, food and thought-provoking questions. Each session is slightly different but usually includes games and crafting.

THE WAY - Monday evenings at St John's 6.30 – 8.00 pm during term time at St John's Join us for games, friendship, Bible study, prayer and chocolate! Come and grapple with life's 'Big Questions' and discover what being a Christian means to you. We aim to look at a different theme each half term and to make use of our musical equipment (drums, guitars, keyboards, microphones) once a month for some worship time. No need to pre-book, just come and be made welcome.

The 2022 Youth Fellowship pantomime - Beauty and the Beast

After COVID delays and despite stormy weather, YF were finally able to perform their annual pantomime last weekend.

With twelve young people on stage, and others helping backstage, three capacity audiences in the Church Hall were treated to lively performances of 'Beauty and the Beast', joining in with gusto!

YF had rehearsed since last October, intending to perform at Christmas as is traditional. When COVID caused cancellation, the YF members were determined that all their hard work would not be wasted and returned to rehearsal in the half-term holiday last week. The pantomime featured wonderful acting, singing, and dancing from the whole group, and, as always, the process of rehearsal and preparation has been one of friendships formed, confidence built, and fellowship amongst the group. Astonishingly, the pantomime was the 51st performed by the YF since it was founded in the 1960's!



YOUTH FELLOWSHIP meets in St Mary's Hall every Sunday evening during term time between 7.00 – 9.00 pm – Youth Fellowship is for secondary school age children aged 12-18 years.

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Once a term, all our Youth join with Evening Praise our Sunday evening service where they will get involved with all aspects of leading, music and production of the service.

If you would like to find out more about our Youth program and how you can be involved, please get in touch with our Youth Minister Sarah Dunn - sarah@waltonparish.org.uk



Servant Course – 8th & 15th March

We'll be running the Servant Course again this month. It's a journey of discovery, an opportunity to explore something about the way God has made you – we look at what interests you, how God has gifted you, how you prefer to work, your personality and your passions – It will help you to identify how best you can serve God and yourself in tune with the way God made you in order that you be fulfilled and effective in all areas of your life. We will again hold the course on Zoom. To find out more contact cathy@waltonparish.org.uk or sally@waltonparish.org.uk



Lent Study Group

The Methodist Church will be hosting a Lent study group looking at Andrew Roberts' book along the theme of "Holy Habits," based on Jesus' life habits reflected in Luke's gospel. Groups will meet on Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm and Thursday afternoons at 3.00 pm – week commencing Monday 7th March. Contact Jeanette Curtis from the Methodist Church if you would like to join - jeanettecurtis@googlemail.com

World Day of Prayer

This year the World Day of Prayer Service will be held at Walton Baptist Church at 10.30 am on Friday 4th March 2022. The World Day of Prayer worship service has a special annual theme which is developed by women of a different country each year. The service this year is by the women of England, Wales, and Northern Ireland themed, "I know the plans I have for you". All are welcome to this thoughtful, caring worship. Refreshments will follow the service. Any information, please contact Carol Heyden via the office.



Electoral Roll Revision

The revision of the Electoral Roll for St Mary's and St John's will take place during the period of Sunday 20th March to Sunday 3rd April 2022 inclusive. Forms of application for enrolment or amendment will be available from the Church office, in both churches and on the website before and during that period. These should be returned to the Church Office no later than Monday 4th April after which no further changes can be made until after the Annual Parish Church Meeting which will be held on Monday 25th April.

Masks and Social Distancing

- There is no longer a requirement to wear masks in services however there will be, as before an area at the back of church saved for those people who prefer to continue wearing masks and to be socially distanced.
- We would ask that everyone continue to always exercise caution and consideration.
- In order that we continue to keep all the buildings well ventilated we may have more doors and windows open than usual and therefore we would like to encourage you to wrap up warmly if attending a service.

In Memorium

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

Cyril Rose

How Did They Start?

Sylvia Green has written a series looking into the history of several charities that will be well known to many of us. It's fascinating to see how many of these charities were originally set up by Christians, though many no longer have faith connections today, the work they set about doing clearly demonstrates how faith has the power to transform lives and to transform communities.

Preaching the good news in word and action demonstrates that faith is real, and that faith is more than something confined to a church building.

Barnardo's

Dr Thomas John Barnardo was born in Dublin in 1845. His religious beliefs led him to the decision to become a medical missionary in China, so in 1866 he left Ireland and travelled to London to train as a doctor.

However, when he arrived in the East End of London, he was appalled to see the poverty and squalor there. Many people were destitute and one in five children died before their first birthday. He found that thousands of children were begging on the streets and sleeping on roofs and in gutters.

Thomas realised that his work was here. He changed his mind about going to China and dedicated himself to working with destitute children. He set up the East End juvenile Mission in Stepney, where children could receive a basic education. In 1870 he opened a home for boys to provide them with shelter, food, clothes and some training for work. The home, which was at Stepney Causeway, bore the sign 'No Destitute Child Ever Refused Admission'.

Victorians thought that poverty was shameful and a result of laziness, but Thomas Barnardo thought that every child deserved the best possible start in life, whatever background they came from (a belief that is still held by Barnardo's today). In 1872 he bought an old gin palace in Limehouse and converted it into a coffee house and mission church. There he preached and gained support for his work with the children. A year later, he married Syrie Elmslie and she supported his work. Together they opened the Girls' Village Home in Barkingside, Essex.

Thomas Barnardo was fired by his faith and inspiration and was totally dedicated to saving children from poverty and hopelessness. He worked tirelessly to promote and raise funds for his work. Over the years, many new homes were opened, and children were taught trades and household skills. However, Dr Barnardo came to realize that, ideally, children should be part of a family, so in 1887 he started a scheme of fostering out children to good, clean families living in the country. Also, during the 1880's children were sent to Canada on an emigration programme. Dr Barnardo believed that they could start new lives, away from the squalor they had been forced to live in.

By the time he died in 1906, the charity was caring for more than 8500 children in 96 homes. There were more than 4000 children boarded out and about 18,000 children had emigrated. During the 40 years that Thomas Barnardo was carrying out his vital work, he transformed the lives of 60,000 children.

To learn more about Barnardo's and to find out how they are helping children and families today visit their website: www.barnardos.org.uk

We are invited to this evening event hosted by Kings Church

Contact Pete Matthew at Kings Church to book – details below



Life Stories
King's Church **Walton**

kingschurchwalton.co.uk

Jeremy Marshall

Jeremy worked for Credit Suisse for 20 years in senior management, and after that was CEO of C Hoare & Co, Britain's oldest Bank. Then, in 2016, he was diagnosed with terminal cancer. From great success to the depths of despair. Join us as we hear Jeremy's story about the difference Jesus has made to his life and as he faces death. The evening will conclude with an interview and Q&A.

Drinks & canapes from 7.30pm
At Bell Farm School

For more information, or to book, please email
pete@kingschurchwalton.co.uk



Save the Date



EASTER

Sat 16th April @ St John's

3.30 - 5.30pm

Sign up on the website

MARCH 2022	St Mary's and St John's Services	LENT – The Joy of the Gospel	
Online Service can be viewed via YouTube – search Walton Parish			
Wed 2 nd March Ash Wednesday	6.30 pm Holy Communion	St Mary's	
Thurs 3 rd March	10.30 am Holy Communion	St Mary's	
Sunday 6th March <i>Lent 1</i>	9.00 am Service with Communion	St Mary's and online	Warnings In The Wilderness Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Luke 4:1-13
	10.15 am All Age Service	St Mary's Hall	
	10.30 am Morning Praise	St John's	
	6.30 pm Evening Praise	St Mary's	Philippians 3:1-11
Thurs 10 th Mar	10.30 am Holy Communion	St John's	
Sat 12 th March	11.30 am Saturday Connections	St Mary's Hall	
Sunday 13th March <i>Lent 2</i>	9.00 am Service with Communion	St Mary's and online	Jerusalem – City Of Promise Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Luke 13:31-35
	10.15 am All Age Service	St Mary's Hall	
	10.30 am Morning Praise with Communion	St John's	
	6.30 pm Evening Praise	St Mary's	Philippians 3:12-21
Thurs 17 th Mar	10.30 am Holy Communion	St Mary's	
Sunday 20th March <i>Lent 3</i>	9.00 am Service with Communion	St Mary's and online	God's Judgement – Just Deserts? Isaiah 55:1-9 Luke 13:1-9
	10.15 am All Age Service	St Mary's Hall	
	10.30 am Morning Praise	St John's	
	6.30 pm Evening Praise	St Mary's	Philippians 4:1-9
Thurs 24 th Mar	10.30 am Connections	St John's	
Sunday 27th March <i>Lent 4</i> <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	9.00 am Service with Communion	St Mary's and online	A Son Welcomed Home Joshua 5:9-12 Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
	10.15 am All Age Service	St Mary's Hall	
	10.30 am Morning Praise	St John's	
	6.30 pm Evening Praise	St Mary's	Philippians 4:10-23
Thurs 31 st March	10.30 am Holy Communion	St Mary's	
Sunday 3rd April <i>Lent 5</i>	9.00 am Service with Communion	St Mary's and online	A Woman's Lavish Worship Isaiah 43:16-21 John 12:1-8
	10.15 am All Age Service	St Mary's Hall	
	10.30 am Morning Praise	St John's	
	6.30 pm Evening Praise	St Mary's	Healing Service



YouTube

www.waltonparish.org.uk