

APRIL NEWSLETTER

this month's church family thanks and prayers

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



JESUS

the way

the truth

and the life

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

EASTER

at
St Mary's & St John's

Good Friday – 15th April

Encounter Easter

10.00am – 12.00pm @ St John's

All Age interactive trail following the Easter story

Book your space at waltonparish.org.uk/easter2022

At the Foot of the Cross

12 noon – 3.00 pm @ St Mary's

Easter Sunday – 17th April

Sunrise Service

6.00 am @ Cowey Sale

Holy Communion

9.00 am @ St Mary's

All Age Easter Celebration

10.15 am @ St Mary's Hall

Holy Communion

10.30 am @ St John's

VICARS' BLOG:

"Early in the morning on the first day of the week," begins chapter 20 of John's gospel. These are such special words, even bringing a chill down one's spine. Why? Because we know what comes next. We are transported to a burial ground just outside Jerusalem in about 33AD at dawn. We are in the company of some grieving women whose names may be Mary, Mary, Joanna. Their Rabbi, Jesus had been crucified on the Friday and buried in a cave-tomb and now the faithful women are approaching the tomb wondering how they can get past a guard and a massive stone sealing the tomb to reach the body to anoint it with spices in proper honour. What comes next is not only a huge surprise for the women but forms the heart of our faith as Christians. The tomb is broken open, it is empty, the body is not there, and angels tell the women that Jesus is alive!

Jesus is alive, he has been raised from the dead.

Jesus subsequently appears to Mary, the disciples, Thomas and even a gathering of five hundred followers, transforming the lives of the disciples from grief-stricken, terrified, and powerless people, to courageous, purposeful people, ready to lay their lives on the line for faith in Jesus. Jesus' resurrection is the most significant event in human history. A few other people, like Lazarus were raised from the dead and would die later. Not Jesus. Jesus remains alive, death could not hold him and now the way to life is open for all his followers. He said: "Come, follow me" and "In my Father's house are many rooms, I am going there to prepare a place for you". The first Easter has changed the world for ever.

Lee Strobel, lawyer, and journalist who came to faith while examining the evidence for the resurrection says: "*The empty tomb, admittedly, a miracle of staggering proportions, makes sense in the light of the evidence... Based on all the historical data I had examined, I concluded that Jesus really is the one and only Son of God, who proved it by rising from the dead... I believed.*" The words "I believe" have changed the lives of humans from that day to this, for the better.

Today, as we see the suffering of innocent men, women and children following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, we need the hope of the resurrection more than ever. We believe that Jesus has died to end all evil in the world once and for all and that gives us hope in a future where one day there will be no more tears or suffering or pain and in which evil will be punished. We also testify to the loving presence of Jesus in our own lives and believe in the power of prayer for the comfort of a living saviour in the midst of the lives of those who suffer today. 'Therefore, he is able to save eternally, those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.' Hebrews 7:25. We say, Jesus, risen Lord, please bring your peace. This is our Easter hope based on the solid rock of Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

May we wish you a very happy Easter,

Cathy and Jonny

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Thank you to John and Tessa Badcock

John and Tessa will be moving away from Walton-on-Thames at Easter to enjoy their well-earned retirement. This is the beginning of an exciting new phase of life for them, but it is sad for us. We will miss them greatly. They have especially been part of the community of St John's Church and will be missed by many of us there. We will miss their thoughtfulness and care and prayers and John's dry sense of humour. They both completed their Licenced Lay Ministry Training in June 2017 and have led services and preached at both churches and at a variety of services from Messy Church to Evening Praise. We have also seen their faces on our screens during lockdown as we have listened to their morning Reflections. We are immensely grateful for their contribution to the parish and for their participation in the Ministry Team. John's hand has also been evidenced in many practical projects at both churches, painting, gardening, moving furniture, to name but a few.

Tessa first had the idea of starting Connections, a ministry she had seen in action at her placement church, which provided fun and socialising in a Christian context for any retired people. Under Tessa and John, our Connections ministry started well at St John's and, since Covid, has returned and is now thriving at St Mary's on a Saturday 11.30 am to 1.00 pm with activities, games, and a soup lunch. We are glad to say that Connections will continue.

In this new phase of life, John and Tessa expect to be offering their many gifts in service of their new local church. We hope they get plenty of time for walks and all the other things they enjoy.

God bless you both from all of us,
Jonny and Cathy

There will be an opportunity to say thanks and farewell to John and Tessa on Sunday 24th April at 12 noon over lunch at St John's. There will also be the opportunity to contribute to a collection. There will be a link in the weekly email over the coming weeks, or you can go direct via My ChurchSuite or simply put a clearly marked envelope through the office letterbox!

**Saturdays at 11.30 am
St Mary's Church Hall**

Second Saturday of each month

Connections 2022

Youth

The Life met on Sunday 13th March for an evening of air hockey, table tennis mug decorating and considering how we show love to others. We discussed that the best way to show love is by giving time and that God showed us how much he loves us by spending time as a teenager!



"The food was wonderful, and the teaching was very interesting.

I would like if there were more craft-like activities."

"Good pizzas!" "Really fun, especially air hockey."

"Very good food (pizzas). Very fun. Good games." "Loved the activities."

Summer term planning is underway and the Monday evening group – The Way will be doing the 'Youth Wellbeing Journey' an 8-week course based around six areas of wellbeing: physical, emotional, spiritual, relational, financial, and vocational wellbeing. Keep a look out for details next month!

Eco Church

We're really keen to hear from you if you would be interested in getting more involved with our Eco Church Team. We have some very dedicated volunteers, but they can't champion all our eco ambitions on their own! Email news@waltonparish.org.uk to find how you might get involved.

Connections & Midweek Services

We are delighted that Connections will continue on the second Saturday of each month at St Mary's Hall. Thursday Connections which was on the 4th Thursday of each month will after Easter return to being a simple Said Communion Service followed by a time of coffee and fellowship.

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:

Gladys Darley
Mary Thom
Stuart Hawkins

Branko Grisogono
David Marsh
Charles Frise

Everybody Welcome

EASTER

Sunrise Service



**Sunday 17th April 2022
6.00 am at Cowey Sale**

Refreshments available after the service and hot cross buns kindly provided by Two Fat Cats Bakery

Walton Churches Together

War in Ukraine: responding

The brutal war in Ukraine has triggered the largest war-related migration of people since the Balkan War of the 1990s. The Church of England have a variety of useful resources available on their website with information for parishes and individuals seeking to respond. You'll find direct links and other information on our website - waltonparish.org.uk/pray

A Prayer for Ukraine

*God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.*

Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell



A Prayer for the Peace of the World

*Almighty God,
from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed:
kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all, the true love of peace
and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom
those who take counsel for the nations of the earth
that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward,
till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.*

If you are looking to give, there are two safe and secure ways where your gift can support those most in need:

The first is through the Disasters Emergency Committee's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal which is supported by a number of charities including Christian Aid, the ecumenical relief and development agency of the British and Irish churches. Your gift will help provide food, bedding and temporary accommodation for people who have fled the war in Ukraine.

The second is through the USPG-Diocese in Europe Emergency Appeal which is looking to support the frontline work of chaplaincies across Europe as well as Christian charities carrying out humanitarian work both in Ukraine and responding to the arrival of refugees in neighbouring countries.

Again, you'll find direct links via the church website as above. Cathy's sermon on Sunday 20th March includes some help on how to view and pray for Ukraine – You'll find it on our YouTube.

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.

Samaritans

Chad Varah was a young vicar working in London in the 1930's. He regularly witnessed the distress experienced by many people. He offered counselling to his parishioners, but he wanted to reach more of the people who had no one to turn to. One incident that particularly affected him was when a 14-year-old girl committed suicide because she (wrongly) believed she had a terrible disease. She had obviously had no one to talk to about it.

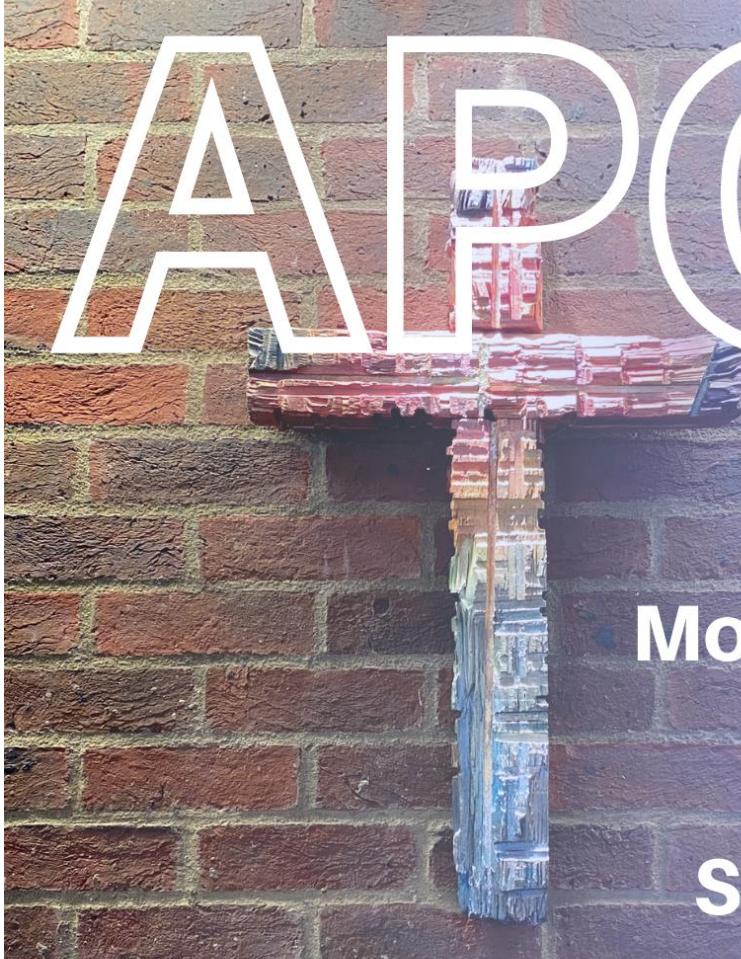
In 1953 Chad Varah became vicar of St Stephen, Walbrook in the city of London, and he knew that the time was right for him to start helping more people. He decided to launch what he called a '999 for the suicidal'. He needed a telephone number that was both significant and easy to remember and decided on MAN 9000. (In those days telephone numbers consisted of letters that represented the town, as well as numbers.) Imagine his surprise when he found that the telephone number of his new church was actually MANSion house 9000!

Chad had some contacts who worked for the national newspapers, and he himself wrote and illustrated articles for children's comics. He was therefore able to gain publicity for the new service. An article in the Daily Mirror referred to the 'Telephone Good Samaritans' and that is how the name 'Samaritans' came about. Within just a few weeks, the demand for both the telephone and face-to-face support grew as so many people needed someone to listen to their problems. Fortunately, many people who had read about the service in the newspapers came forward and volunteered to help.

Soon, other branches of Samaritans were opening in other parts of the country. As the service had strong connections with the church at that time, it was mainly members of the clergy who started the early branches. The number of branches and volunteers grew rapidly. After ten years, there were 41 branches and by 1999 there were 203 branches and 19,500 volunteers.

To learn more about Samaritans and to find out how they are helping people today visit their website: www.samaritans.org





APCM

2022

Monday 25th April

8.00 pm

St John's Church



ANZAC 2022

Lest we forget

Sunday 24th April

6.30 pm

St Mary's Church

Save the Date



EASTER

Sat 16th April @ St John's

3.30 - 5.30pm

Sign up on the website

APRIL 2022	St Mary's and St John's Services and events	Jesus the Way, the Truth, and the Life	
Online Service can be viewed via YouTube – search Walton Parish			
Thurs 31 st Mar	10.30am Midweek Communion	St Mary's	
Sunday 3rd April Lent 5	9.00 am Service with Communion	St Mary's	A Woman's Lavish Worship <i>Isaiah 43:16-21</i> <i>John 12:1-8</i>
	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
Thurs 7 th April	10.30 am Midweek Communion	St Mary's	
Sat 9 th April	11.30 am – 1.00 pm Connections	St Mary's Hall	
Sun 10th April Palm Sunday	9.00 am Service with Communion	St Mary's	A Welcome Fit For A King <i>Psalm 118:19-24</i> <i>Luke 19:28-40</i>
	10.15 am All Age Service	St Mary's Hall	
	10.30 am Morning Praise with Holy Communion	St John's	
	6.30 pm Evening Praise	St Mary's	
Maundy Thursday 14th April	10.30 am Midweek Communion	St Mary's	The Servant King <i>1 Corinthians 11:23-26</i> <i>John 13:1-17</i>
	6.30 pm Holy Communion	St Mary's	
Good Friday 15th April	10.00 am - 12 noon Walk through Service in the garden* <i>for Everyone</i>	St John's	Encounter Easter *Booking required
	12 noon – 3.00 pm Reflective Service	St Mary's	
Easter Sunday 17th April	6.00 am Sunrise Service at Cowey Sale		A Churches Together Service for all followed by coffee, tea and hot cross buns
	9.00 am Easter Communion	St Mary's	
	10.15 am All Age Celebration	St Mary's Hall	
	10.30 am Easter Communion	St John's	
Sunday 24th April Easter 2	9.00 am Service with Communion	St Mary's	Believe, Receive, Become <i>Acts 5:27-32</i> <i>John 20:19-end</i>
	10.15 am All Age Service	St Mary's Hall	
	10.30 am Morning Praise	St John's	
	6.30 pm ANZAC Day Service	St Mary's	<i>All in Walton invited</i>
Thurs 28 th April	10.30 am Midweek Communion	St John's	
Sunday 1st May Easter 3	9.00 am Service with Communion	St Mary's	Fresh Start – Follow Me <i>Acts 9:1-6</i> <i>John 21:1-19</i>
	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	



YouTube

www.waltonparish.org.uk