

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 Friday) 01932 917 736

Assistant Minister: Rev Caroline Merrick (avail Tue, Thu & Fri) 07419 827 739

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

Church Warden: David Henderson, Janet Todd (St John's) and Scott Hay

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

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

Treasurer: Alastair Duke - treasurer@waltonparish.org.uk

Assistant Treasurer: Julia Gorrie - assistant-treasurer@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:

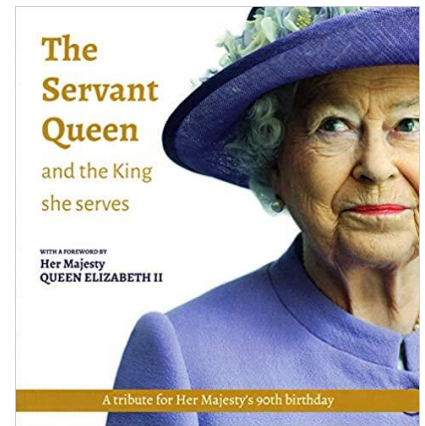
Sally Eckes (off duty Mon & Fri) 07779 623377

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: Generosity and Grace

This could describe our Queen Elizabeth whose Platinum Jubilee we are celebrating this month. A book has been written about her generous and selfless service of our country since she ascended the throne. Mark Greene (LICC) and Catherine Butcher explore the biblical roots of the Queen's vision for the role she has now performed for 70 years in their book called, *The Servant Queen and the King She Serves*.



Looking around at the gardens in Walton at this time of year, God's goodness and generosity are expressed in the profusion of colour and freshness in new leaves and flowers breaking forth. Wandering through the churchyard at St Mary's and looking at the St John's garden, they are both looking beautiful thanks to the loving care and weekly tending by the gardening team. Thank you to them for their commitment. Do have a look at the wildflowers blooming brightly to the side of the hall at St Mary's. There for all to enjoy.

Nothing Keeps Still

In God's world, everything keeps moving on. We are very sad to be losing Sally Eckes as our Operations Manager and also for all the skills she has brought to her voluntary role as Communications Manager. Thankfully she is not moving away and will still remain part of the church. We wish her well in her new role in the Communications Team at Lambeth Palace. Is she replaceable? We are praying for God to bring us the new Operations Manager he has for us at this time and for a person with the right communications skills to help us with our media.

We are looking forward to our new curate Dave Bixby and his wife Kat and daughter Anaiah joining us in July. He will be ordained at Guildford Cathedral on Sunday 3rd July and will preach at both St Mary's and St John's on 10th July. There will be a Welcome lunch for them on Sunday 10th July, do come if you can. More details will be available in the weekly email.

Children Matter

Looking ahead, our treasurer was pleased to announce at the APCM in April that for the first time for many years, we broke even in 2021. This is because of the rigorous cuts we made in 2020. We cannot stress how important the ministry to children and youth is in churches at this time when their education has been disrupted due to Covid and mental health is a struggle for many. We would now like the generosity of church attenders to be kindled so we can raise enough money to employ a Children and Families minister and to increase the hours of the Youth Minister.

Please contact the Finance Team if you would like more information on how to give regularly to the church –

Alastair Duke - treasurer@waltonparish.org.uk or

Julia Gorrie - assistant-treasurer@waltonparish.org.uk

Alternatively pick up a leaflet from the back of church or visit www.waltonparish.org.uk/give

Six of our 9 – 11-year-olds completed the Footsteps to Faith course, and some were admitted to receive Communion on 22nd May. It was an exciting day for the children and youth because the Youth group planned the whole of the Evening Praise service that same day too. We were led in worship through song, drama, videos, and a talk by the young people. We were challenged by the theme “Mustard Seeds and Mountains” to consider what we have to offer to contribute to God’s kingdom.

We were delighted to host 90 children from Ashley Year 1, 90 from Reception and 90 from Year 3 during May. They have been exploring such topics as “How do Christians worship?” and “How did the church start?” while having fun in St Mary’s Church.



Generosity and grace act like a circle of blessing: God blesses us and we bless other people, who in turn bless others. Paul puts it like this in 2 Corinthians 9:

“⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written: “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.” [Psalm 112:9] ¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”

May our lives be characterised by generosity and grace as we enjoy the abundant goodness of our Heavenly Father.

Yours,

Cathy and Jonny



Jubilee Picnic

Sunday 5th June

St Mary’s - 11.30 am after the morning services (hopefully) outside in the Hall garden

St John’s - 11.30 after the service in the garden

Bring your picnics and your deck chairs as we come together to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen as she becomes the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee after 70 years of service.

Introducing Dave, Kat & Anaiah

Back in December 2021 we shared a message of introduction from our new curate Dave Bixby. Dave will begin his ministry here with us on 3rd July 2022 and anybody that would like is invited to the Cathedral on that day.

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 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 month. 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)

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
Revd Mary Stokes

David Malden-Browne
Shirley Perrin
Tony Darling

Win Phillips
Eric Reed
Jean Nissen

Holiday Club

SAVE THE DATE! 15th – 19th AUGUST

This year Holiday Club are going backpacking... so get the date in your diary. Keep an eye out for more information next month and on the website.

As is always the way, Holiday Club is only possible if we have enough lovely helpers – if this is something you think you might like to get involved with, please get in touch with Amy who will be delighted to hear from you! Contact – amy@waltonparish.org.uk



Mission Update

It is a wonderful privilege to be able to actively contribute to what God is doing in the world and to share in the joy of what the people and organisations we support are achieving in Christ's name.

It's also great to share these updates with you along with the messages of thanks from our mission partners as well as their prayer requests. We would encourage you to keep coming back to read this over the coming weeks and months and to continue keep all our Mission Partners in your prayers.

This month we have an update from Hannah who we have been actively supporting over the last few years whilst she was working with a Christian NGO in East Africa. Many of you will have heard her speak in a service and seen photos from her time in East Africa. For security reasons, we have been restricted in what and how we share about Hannah's work however, your prayers are hugely valued and of vital importance.

Hannah writes:

Dear St Mary's and St John's family,

Thank you for praying for my recovery from burnout and for your ongoing financial support. It's been a big help and encouragement in this uncertain season.

I left my life in East Africa suddenly in November 2021 and have been on a recovery journey. I'm grateful to be able to say that I'm building strength and month by month feeling better. I've been staying with my parents in Shepperton, and sometimes visiting church family in Oxford. I've also benefited from a retreat and time with an old friend. Some say burnout recovery takes 12-18 months, others much longer.

I'm grateful for the time to be here and the freedom to rest. I was advised that rest, play, creativity, exercise and seeing friends and family would build strength and resilience. So, I've been enjoying online watercolour tutorials and very simple knitting, going for daily walks, visiting friends and family, and sleeping more than usual. I'm

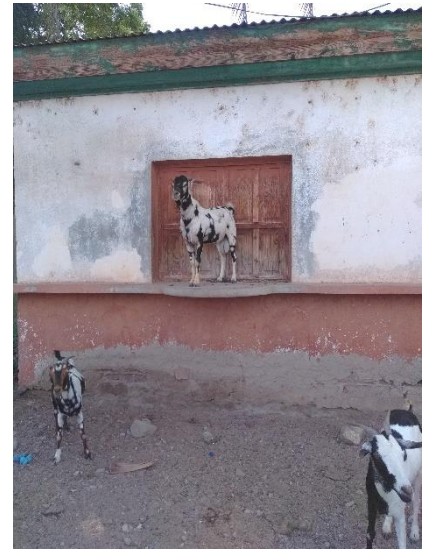
grateful for God's provision of expert advice and a counsellor. It's been a joy to be present for all the family birthdays so far, Christmas and Easter and for the changing seasons. England is surely beautiful, and it is very refreshing after a few years of desert dwelling.





I'm still paying rent and bills for my flat in East Africa though a friend was able to move in for a few months to help with that. So, my plan is to travel there with a former colleague in October to empty my flat, say goodbyes and get some official papers. I'm not closing the door for future work in East Africa, but I think I need to stay in the UK for some more time, build some more skills and find a sustainable way of serving.

I have applied for part time training in spiritual direction, a course designed for cross cultural workers. This would begin in November. I hope to be able to move back to Oxford in around the same time and anticipate being involved in some part time outreach to Muslims. I've discussed a few ideas with my mission agency, and they are supportive.



I'd value your prayers for continued recovery, particularly from fatigue, and for God to continue to rebuild me. I'd also love prayer for suitable accommodation in Oxford, a second-hand car and for good relationships with supporters and the mission agency.

If you have any wisdom or encouragement to share, do email me at hannahsatt5@gmail.com

With love,

Hannah

Connections

Saturday 11th June - St Mary's Hall – 11.30 am – 1.00 pm

Join Vlada, Lu & Wendy for Connections - 2nd Saturday of each month.

No church connection required; everybody is always welcome. This is a group for the over 50's, whether retired or not and is a great place to meet friends, old and new. For more information or if you would like to offer to help this brilliant ministry contact vlada@waltonparish.org.uk



| JUNE 2022 | St Mary's and St John's Services and events | Seven Miraculous Signs In John's Gospel | |
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| <p>Please note: Please book in for the All Age Service. There will not always be a Zoom option for this service.</p> | | | |
| <i>Thurs 2nd June</i> | <i>NO Midweek Communion</i> | | |
| Sun 5th June <i>Pentecost</i> 11.30am Diamond Jubilee Picnics | 9.00 am Service with Communion | <i>St Mary's</i> | God's Spirit Poured Out <i>Acts 2:1-21</i> <i>John 14:8-17</i> |
| | 10.15 am All Age Service with Communion | <i>St Mary's Hall</i> | |
| | 10.30 am Morning Praise | <i>St John's</i> | |
| | 6.30 pm Evening Praise | <i>St Mary's</i> | |
| <i>Thurs 9th June</i> | <i>10.30 am Midweek Communion</i> | <i>St John's</i> | |
| <i>Sat 11th June</i> | <i>11.30 am – 1.00 pm Connections</i> | <i>St Mary's</i> | |
| Sun 12th June <i>Trinity Sunday</i> | 9.00 am Service with Communion | <i>St Mary's</i> | Our God is Three in One <i>Romans 5:1-5</i> <i>John 16:12-15</i> |
| | 10.15 am All Age Service | <i>St Mary's Hall</i> | |
| | 10.30 am Morning Praise with Holy Communion | <i>St John's</i> | |
| | 6.30 pm Evening Praise | <i>St Mary's</i> | |
| <i>Thurs 16th June</i> | <i>10.30 am Midweek Communion</i> | <i>St Mary's</i> | |
| Sun 19th June <i>Trinity 1</i> Father's Day Home for Good | 9.00 am Service with Communion | <i>St Mary's</i> | Amazing Grace <i>Isaiah 61:1-3</i> <i>John 9:1-34</i> |
| | 10.15 am All Age Service | <i>St Mary's Hall</i> | |
| | 10.30 am Morning Praise | <i>St John's</i> | |
| | 6.30 pm Evening Praise | <i>St Mary's</i> | |
| <i>Thurs 23rd June</i> | <i>10.30 am Midweek Communion</i> | <i>St John's</i> | |
| Sun 26th June <i>Trinity 2</i> | 9.00 am Service with Communion | <i>St Mary's</i> | Lazarus – Death Loses Its Sting <i>1 Corinthians 15:50-58</i> <i>John 11:1-16, 38-44</i> |
| | 10.15 am All Age Service | <i>St Mary's Hall</i> | |
| | 10.30 am Morning Praise | <i>St John's</i> | |
| | 6.30 pm Evening Praise | <i>St Mary's</i> | |
| <i>Thurs 30th June</i> | <i>10.30 am Midweek Communion</i> | <i>St Mary's</i> | |
| Sun 3rd July <i>Trinity 3</i> Ordination at Cathedral | 9.00 am Service with Communion | <i>St Mary's</i> | 72 Sent On A Mission Trip <i>Galatians 6:7-16</i> <i>Luke 10:1-11; 16-20</i> |
| | 10.15 am All Age Service | <i>St Mary's Hall</i> | |
| | 10.30 am Morning Praise | <i>St John's</i> | |
| | 6.30 pm Evening Praise | <i>St Mary's</i> | |

Online 9.00 am Service can be viewed via [YouTube](#) – search Walton Parish



www.waltonparish.org.uk