

# AUGUST NEWSLETTER

this month's church family thanks and prayers



Our Church



# 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 [vlada@waltonparish.org.uk](mailto:vlada@waltonparish.org.uk) (off duty Saturday)

Curate: Rev Dave Bixby [dave@waltonparish.org.uk](mailto:dave@waltonparish.org.uk) (off duty Friday)

**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](mailto:vicar@waltonparish.org.uk)

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

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

**Treasurer:** Alastair Duke - [treasurer@waltonparish.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@waltonparish.org.uk)

**Assistant Treasurer:** Julia Gorrie - [assistant-treasurer@waltonparish.org.uk](mailto: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](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](mailto:office@waltonparish.org.uk)

**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

### Sizzling summer!

We hope you are all coping OK with the heat. The coolest place without air-conditioning in Walton at the moment is probably St Mary's church!

We heard the phrase so many times during Covid: "we are in unprecedented times..." and now it's true of the temperatures we have experienced lately! It's a good thing that we know that God is in charge of our world and cares deeply about each one of us and those we love.



Congratulations to Dave Bixby who was ordained at Guildford Cathedral on 3<sup>rd</sup> July. He has hit the ground running and has already accompanied one of the clergy team to five school visits, two funerals, a wedding, two midweek communion services, preached at two Sunday services and attended a youth barbecue and water fight. Maybe we should ask him what he has enjoyed most so far! I

hope, for his sake, things will quieten down a bit now and he will have the opportunity to get to know some people a bit over the summer.

Even if we are not governed by school term times, the summer bring a change in routine and hopefully a chance to relax a bit. It's also a good time for us to have a cool drink or coffee with others in the church and get to know one another better. The warm weather has done wonders for the sunflower we planted at the All Age service in May, which is now flowering. If you have a bigger sunflower than us, why not put a picture of it on the St Mary and St John's Facebook page.



Work has now started on the kitchen at St John's church, fully paid for by grants, which is amazing! There will be NO services or activities in St John's until September (Food Bank will be operating outside).

We are still looking for an **Operations Manager** which is a great part-time role for someone local, please pass the Role description (see web-site) on to anyone you may think may have the right gifts.

For those going away on holiday, we hope you have a relaxing time.

Yours,

***Cathy and Jonny***

## Holiday Club

15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> AUGUST

This year's Holiday Club is called Back Packers...

For ages 5 - 11 years - (current reception - year 6)

SIGN UP NOW! [www.waltonparish.org.uk/holiday-club](http://www.waltonparish.org.uk/holiday-club)

Regretfully, we cannot take children currently in nursery due to start reception September 2022.



---

## Connections

**Connections** are going out for coffee! On Saturday 13th August we will be meeting at the Riverhouse Barn cafe at 11am for a coffee and chat. All welcome. Bring a friend! Please speak to Lu or Wendy or email Vlada for more details [Vlada@waltonparish.org.uk](mailto:Vlada@waltonparish.org.uk)

Regular Connections meetings - 2nd Saturday of each month at St Mary's Hall. 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](mailto:vlada@waltonparish.org.uk)

---

## We're recruiting... Could you be our next OPERATIONS MANAGER?

This important role will provide us with the organisational culture, structure, and support that will enable our church to continue to grow and develop in these exciting times. Check out the full role description on the web-site [www.waltonparish.org.uk/vacancies](http://www.waltonparish.org.uk/vacancies)

For an informal chat contact [jonny@waltonparish.org.uk](mailto:jonny@waltonparish.org.uk)



# youth wellbeing journey.

This term, **The Way** (our weekly Monday night youth group) have been looking at God's plan for our physical, emotional, relational, spiritual and financial wellbeing by doing the Youth Wellbeing Journey course. This has been fantastically well attended, and brilliant outreach, with 5 new young people joining us as well as our regular 8 attendees!

The course has received brilliant feedback from both the young people and their parents, with one young person saying they knew they could talk to any of the adults involved in our Youth work if they were struggling. It is wonderful that what we are doing as a Church family means that teenagers in Walton know that there are people in the Church who care about them.

We still have one final session, looking at our vocational wellbeing, to complete in September. We are hopeful that many of the new young people will continue to meet with us as we work through the *Youth Alpha?* course! Please pray for us and our Young People over the summer.

**The Life** (our twice termly Sunday night youth group) finished the year with our annual BBQ and Water fight, which was very well attended with 16 young people attending, included some year 5's and 6's who had done the Footsteps to Faith course earlier in the year. Happily, even though the date was planned in the winter, this fell during the July heat wave!



As well as doing crafting (mug decorating) and games (table tennis, football, giant Jenga) soaking each other plus the volunteers and Dave Bixby, our new curate ... the young people also took some time to reflect on Philippians 4:8 and what good things they have in their lives to think about. Their responses ranged included: music, art, pets, family and friends, sunsets and God!



In September 2021, **The Way** regularly engaged with 6 young people from 3 families. In July 2022 we had 14 young people from 10 different families attending! This is fantastic growth!

Over the past academic year, **The Life** has hosted two Evening Praise with the Youth services, held a silent disco, water fight and games nights which have engaged 50 young people, including some members from Youth Fellowship. This has brought much needed fun, friendship and the chance to discover God's love to young people, many of whom are still struggling with the after-effects of Covid lockdowns on top of all the usual struggles faced in adolescence.

A huge, huge THANK YOU to all of our amazing volunteers without whom our youth programme would not be possible. And thank you to you, however you contribute to the life of our Church; whether that is through financial giving or volunteering in other areas – you help make this possible!

If you are interested in finding out about volunteering with our youth work, please speak to Sarah Dunn, [sarah@waltonparish.org.uk](mailto:sarah@waltonparish.org.uk) – it will only take up as much time as you are able to offer.



We are pleased to announce that our church has been awarded a Bronze Eco Award.

In view of the dangers of climate change rapidly affecting the world, we can all do our bit to keep our carbon footprint down. We also as a church want to do what we can to care for God's planet and we are now monitoring everything that affects our carbon footprint.

Eco Church is integral to who we are and how we 'be' church. It's not a one-off project, it's our future. Please do look at the ideas, resources, and links we have on the website [www.waltonparish.org.uk/eco-church](http://www.waltonparish.org.uk/eco-church).

How can we spur one another on to play our part in caring for creation?



---

## **In Memorium**

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

Molly Dixon  
Maggie Ellery  
Mary May  
Marion Mockler

Duncan Parkes  
Pamela Stannard  
Julie Taylor

<b>AUGUST 2022</b>	<b>St Mary's and St John's Services and events</b>	<b>Luke – Taking our next steps... as Jesus' disciples</b>	
Please note: There will be NO services at St John's from Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> September. Please book in for the All Age Service. For details of all Services and Children's & Youth <a href="http://www.waltonparish.org.uk">www.waltonparish.org.uk</a>			
<i>Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> Aug</i>	<i>10.30am Midweek Communion</i>	<i>St Mary's</i>	
<b>Sun 7<sup>th</sup> August</b> <i>Trinity 8</i>	<b>9am Service with Communion</b>	<i>St Mary's</i>	<b>Faith in action</b> <i>Hebrews 11:1-3,8-16; Luke 12:32-40</i>
	<b>10.15 am All Age Service</b>	<i>St Mary's Hall</i>	
	<b>6.30pm Evening Praise</b>	<i>St Mary's</i>	
<i>Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> Aug</i>	<i>10.30am Midweek Communion</i>	<i>St Mary's</i>	
<i>Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Aug</i>	<i>11.30am – 1pm Connections</i>		<i>Riverhouse Barn for coffee</i>
<b>Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Aug</b> <i>Trinity 9</i>	<b>9am Service with Communion</b>	<i>St Mary's</i>	<b>Destined for eternity</b> <i>Hebrews 11:29-12:2 Luke 12:49-56</i>
	<b>10.15 am All Age Service</b>	<i>St Mary's Hall</i>	
	<b>6.30pm Evening Praise</b>	<i>St Mary's</i>	
<i>Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> Aug</i>	<i>10.30am Midweek Communion</i>	<i>St Mary's</i>	
<b>Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Aug</b> <i>Trinity 10</i>	<b>9am Service with Communion</b>	<i>St Mary's</i>	<b>God's grace and compassion</b> <i>Hebrews 12:18-29 Luke 13:10-17</i>
	<b>10.15 am All Age Service</b>	<i>St Mary's Hall</i>	
	<b>6.30pm Evening Praise</b>	<i>St Mary's</i>	
<i>Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> Aug</i>	<i>10.30am Midweek Communion</i>	<i>Glendale</i>	
<b>Sun 28<sup>th</sup> Aug</b> <i>Trinity 11</i>	<b>9am Service with Communion</b>	<i>St Mary's</i>	<b>Banquet etiquette and hospitality</b> <i>Hebrews 13:1-8; 15-16 Luke 14:1,7-14</i>
	<b>10.15 am All Age Service</b>	<i>St Mary's Hall</i>	
	<b>6.30pm Evening Praise</b>	<i>St Mary's</i>	
<i>Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> Sept</i>	<i>10.30am Midweek Communion</i>	<i>St Mary's</i>	

