

December NEWSLETTER

this month's church family thanks and prayers



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THE GREAT
INVITATION



CHRISTMAS

at

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 vlada@waltonparish.org.uk (off duty Saturday)

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

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

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

Wendy Fitch, Louise Turner (Vulnerable adults)

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

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

The great invitation! All are Welcome!

Following a series of difficult Covid Christmases, we're all hoping that 2022 offers a chance to gather together and celebrate Christmas together properly. Thank you to all who have helped to bundle and deliver some of the 5000 Christmas invitation cards. We are preparing to welcome the children and adults of Walton on Thames to a whole variety of Christmas services in St Mary's and St John's churches. There really is something for everyone. Many people respond to a personal invitation, so let's all be bold and invite someone to something! It could be the start of a journey in faith which changes their life. One of the people doing the current Alpha course is so glad that her friend invited her to church and to Alpha at just the right time for her. There will be another opportunity to invite someone to the new Alpha course starting in January. The birth of a baby is always good news and the birth of Jesus, God's Son, born to be our Saviour is the best news ever for us all!



Advent

Over the next three weeks, we will engage again with the season of Advent. It is a time of anticipation and waiting. In our world today, waiting is hard. We have come to expect things supplied instantly. We want to be in control and not to have to wait for resolution. We see pain and darkness in our present world and long for the light to shine. And yet, God is in the gap, in the waiting. If we zoom out to the big picture, to the time we live in as a cosmos, it is a time of tension between Jesus' ascension and his return in glory. The "now and not yet", between the promise of his glory and its fulfilment. And yet, for people of faith, this in-between time, is a time of joy and hope because we know how the story ends and who is on the winning side! Jesus says, "I'm on my way!" As we approach Christmas, we rejoice in the gift of God's Son, present with us in our lives now, as Emmanuel, and we remember again, with wonder, the astonishing story of the birth of God's son as a real, vulnerable baby.

We wish you a very blessed Christmas, *Revs Cathy and Jonny*



Focus on Mission

Jo and Olli Davis News September 2022

The start of a new academic year for Students, is an exciting time for us – and it starts to get gradually cooler and cooler in Granada, where we now live!

A whole new year ahead...

Now we have completed both our language learning and the roadtrip – to every town in Spain with a university - we're on our way to the next 'marker post', which is setting up Fusion Spain as a charity, building key relationships and starting to resource churches in student mission.



What will this year look like?

Prayer - we are convinced that God is wanting to move in big ways in Spain this year, but only prayer can pave the way and really make that possible.

Local Church - we're excited to get stuck into the life of our church this year - a church that is hungry to engage more with students and is open to God's leading.

Relationships – we are focusing on relationships with Churches in Granada and Madrid and building relationships with other organisation leaders, with priests and with Catholics generally

Charity Status - we have begun the long process of starting an evangelical Christian charity in Spain. The laws don't make this easy and this process can take about 2 years.

How can you pray for us?

Connections: that we could build good relationships with those wanting to reach students & be able to serve them well.

Finances: we are praying for provision for another £600 month.

Wisdom: That God would give us direction to know what to prioritise.
May you be abundantly blessed.

Love and prayers, Jo and Olli



Hello! We're Jo and Olli Davis

We are mission partners of Walton Parish. We moved to Spain in November 2020 and now live in Granada in the South. We are in the process of setting up Fusion Spain.



What is Fusion?



Fusion is an organisation that started in the UK in the late 90s out of a desire to see God move among university students. We believe that all students should get the opportunity to find hope in Jesus and home in a local church in their time at uni. We come alongside local churches to equip them with the tools and confidence they need to love, reach and disciple students.

The Vision: Every student should get the opportunity to find hope in Jesus and home in local church.

What are we doing in Spain?

We are in Spain long-term to set up the work of Fusion here, helping churches in Spain reach out to and invest in the university students on their doorstep, so that many many more of them can come to know Jesus.

10-year plan... a big vision stretched out before us





How to help:

Packing at Tolworth Recreation Centre on Monday 19th December

Deliveries on Tuesday 20th December from 8:30am-midday.

What is Christmas Lunch on Jesus?

This project began when a local church leader observed families struggling to put food on the table at Christmas and wanted to do something to help - we deliver a hamper of fresh food to the doorstep, providing everything a family needs for the Christmas meal - from vegetables to gravy, stuffing to mince pies it's all in there.

The project has grown over time and in 2021 almost 2000 hampers were delivered across 14 London boroughs - and 1 in Surrey (Elmbridge)! It is coordinated by local churches, manned by volunteers, and funded by generous donations from across the community. Read more about the project on the website <https://www.christmaslunchonjesus.org.uk>

How to help: Packing and Delivery

Christmas Lunch on Jesus only works because hundreds of local people volunteer. It's a fantastic atmosphere on the day and its very simple to join in and do a role that suits you - I don't know anyone who has volunteered to pack who wouldn't do it again!

Packing at Tolworth Recreation Centre on Monday 19th December.

Deliveries take place on Tuesday 20th December from approx. 8:30am-midday. To take part you'll need a car and willingness to be a friendly face.

- we'll provide an online training session nearer the time so that you know exactly what to do and place you in a delivery team. Sign up online and be sure to say you want to deliver in Elmbridge.

<https://www.christmaslunchonjesus.org.uk/youcanmakeadifference>

If you have more questions about how to refer, how to get involved or just about the project in general do get in contact and I'll do my best to help,

Amy Maddocks amy@waltonparish.org.uk

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In Memoriam

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

4th Joan Benn

9th Roy Parsonson

14th Pauline Wakeford

19th John Cairns

22nd Gwendoline Price

CHRISTINGLE

Sunday 4th December
3.30 & 5.00 pm @ St Mary's Church

MESSY CHRISTMAS

Saturday 10th December
3.30 pm @ St John's Church

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Sunday 11th December
6.30 pm @ St Mary's Church

FAMILY CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 18th December
6.30 pm @ St Mary's Church

NATIVITY SERVICES

Christmas Eve
3.30 & 5.00 pm @ St Mary's Church

MIDNIGHT COMMUNION

Christmas Eve
11.15 pm @ St Mary's Church

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

9.00 am @ St Mary's Church
10.15 am All Age @ St Mary's Hall
10.30 am @ St John's Church



DECEMBER 2022	St Mary's and St John's Services and events	The Greatest News Ever	
<i>Thurs 1st Dec</i>	10.30am Midweek Communion	St Mary's	
Sun 4th Dec <i>Advent 2</i>	10am JOINT All Age Service	St Mary's	Make way for the King Isaiah 11:1-10 Matt 3:1-12
	3.30pm) Christingle services* 5.00pm)	St Mary's	
<i>Thurs 8th Dec</i>	10.30am Midweek Communion	St John's	
<i>Fri 9th Dec</i>	10.30am Toddler's Praise Nativity	St Mary's	
<i>Sat 10th Dec</i>	11.30am – 1pm Connections	St Mary's hall	
Sun 11th Dec <i>Advent 3</i>	9am Service with Communion	St Mary's	The King's messenger Isaiah 35:1-10 Matt 11:2-11
	10.15 am All Age Service	St Mary's Hall	
	10.30am Holy Communion	St John's	
	6.30pm Carols by Candlelight	St Mary's	
<i>Thurs 15th Dec</i>	10.30am Midweek Communion	St Mary's	
Sun 18th Dec <i>Advent 4</i>	9am Service with Communion	St Mary's	Jesus is God with us - Immanuel Isaiah 7:10-16 Matt 1:18-25
	10.15 am All Age NATIVITY – come dressed up	St Mary's	
	10.30am Morning Praise	St John's	
	6.30pm Family Carol Service	St Mary's	
<i>Thurs 22nd Dec</i>	10.30am Midweek Communion	St John's	
Sat 24th Dec Christmas Eve	3.30pm) Nativity Services* 5.00pm)	St Mary's	Good news of great Joy to all people Isaiah 52:7-10 Luke 2:8-20
	11.15pm Midnight Communion Praise	St Mary's	
Sat 25th Dec Christmas Day	9am Service with Communion	St Mary's	The Saviour is born Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:1-20
	10.15 am All Age Service	St Mary's Hall	
	10.30am Morning Praise	St John's	
Sun 1st Jan <i>Christmas 1</i>	10am JOINT All Age Service	St Mary's	Good news – treasured and spread Gal 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21
Sun 8th Jan <i>Epiphany</i>	9am Service with Communion	St Mary's	Follow the Star Is 60:1-6 Matt 2:1-12
	10.15 am All Age Service	St Mary's Hall	
	10.30am Holy Communion	St John's	
	6..30pm Evening Praise	St Mary's	



YouTube

www.waltonparish.org.uk