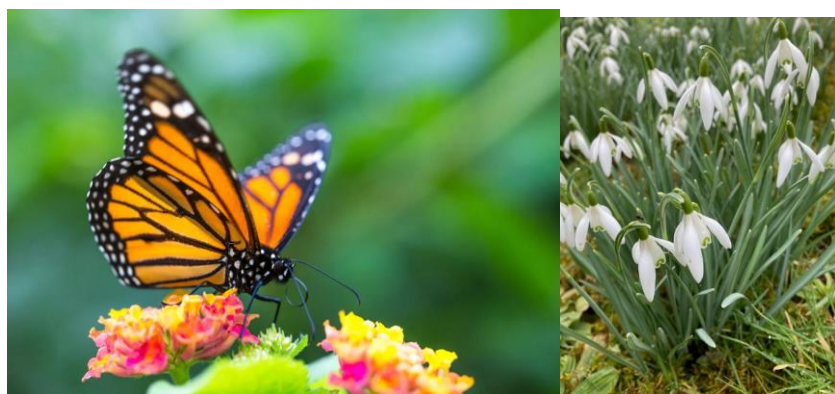


JUNE NEWSLETTER

this month's church family thanks and prayers

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



Coronation Celebrations



It was a joyful weekend of coronation celebrations on 6th and 7th May, 2023. The coronation of King Charles III (not pictured left) and Queen Camilla was shown in St Mary's Church Hall, where tea and homemade cakes were served.

On Sunday our joint service "Together at 10" was coronation themed where Rev Cathy showed us that no matter how good King Charles or Rev Jonny are as kings, King Jesus is even better!



VICARS' BLOG

A new Season

Dear Friends,

It is an exciting time in our gardens and the world around us, as plants burst into leaf and flower in glorious colour as summer approaches. There are seasons in our world and seasons in our lives and the church too.

It is an exciting time for our church as we restructure the leadership team and welcome a new PCC. Cathy has now started her new role working for the Diocese two days per week overseeing all the curates in training. She has reduced her days in church and this will go down to two days in September. The biggest change for the church is that, where we have shared the leadership, Jonny is now leading the Team and some of the areas Cathy has been covering will need to be covered by someone else. The PCC, recognising the gaps we already have in Youth and Children and Families ministry, have created a new role for an Associate Minister with particular responsibility for the discipleship of adults and children, youth and schools ministry. Although we have some funds to cover this post, we will need to dig deep and all consider how much we are able to contribute to this person's salary on a regular basis.

This is a step of faith for us all, and we must be praying for the right person to step into this position and for required funds to be forthcoming.

The new PCC

We are very grateful to the PCC members continuing to serve and the new members who were elected at the APCM. The PCC consists of:

Churchwarden; David Henderson. Vacancy for a 2nd Warden

Deputy Warden; Janet Todd (St. John's)

Deanery Synod reps: Nick Stuart (also PCC Secretary), Becky Warner

Clergy; Jonny Blair, Cathy Blair, Dave Bixby, Vlada Rakin (leaves in July)

Members: Carol Abson, Elizabeth Cairns, Thomasin Clarke, Helen Gaunt, Andrew Harding, Funmi Le Moign, Katharine Scott, James Waggott.

Vacancy for a Treasurer

Invited to attend: Amy Maddocks, Russell Nixon

Our Vision is:
Taking our next steps towards:
1 deeper faith in Christ,
2 welcome and belonging and
3 shining God's light

This gives us a springboard for action in three key areas. We review our priorities annually.

Our Five priorities for 2023 are:

1. Building our discipleship and worship including:
 - a. Pursuing investigation into removing pews at St Mary's
 - b. Refreshing worship and discipleship for youth and older primary children.
 2. Building up our church community and surrounding everything we do with prayer.
 3. Building our links with the local community especially around St John's church.
 4. Building a strong team of lay, ordained, paid and unpaid ministry based on people's gifts.
 5. Generous giving linked to our purpose undergirding all we do.
- Embedding Eco-church in everything we do.

We look forward to celebrating Dave's Ordination as priest on Saturday 1st July and Berenice's ordination as Deacon on Sunday 2nd July. We will miss Vlada, Kirsty and the boys, Ewan and Cameron, when they move on from us on 16th July. Leaving gifts can be made via ChurchSuite.

It is an exciting time for the parish as we seek to be guided by God and step out in faith together.

Jonny and Cathy

Berenice Page's Ordination 2nd July

I am to be ordained on the 2nd July at 10:30 at Guildford Cathedral.



I have had to articulate my calling on many occasions in the last few years. Even though I can specifically recall events in the last few years there is no doubt that my life experiences are all part of the process in preparing for such a calling.

Particularly poignant in the process was my time as church warden. This was interesting as I distinctly heard God's voice encouraging me to offer myself for this role. I was sat in church as, yet another appeal was being made to the congregation. I remember the sense of disbelief

being communicated that nobody in the congregation was prepared to consider this role. I quickly dismissed this idea or so I thought. God had different ideas as I could not erase the thought that had been planted.

On becoming church warden, I decided to be studious and read the church wardens handbook but left out the last chapter which was about a vacancy. Only to discover 6 months into the role that the vicar was leaving! This was a role that God certainly equipped me for. The time as warden was pivotal for my move into ministry. God equipped me for the task but widened my horizons to other aspects of ministry.

Then began this small voice that was persistent. Initially I thought I felt a connection to ordained ministry as members of my family were ordained. As time progressed it became clearer that I might be being called to ordained ministry.

Within the first few weeks of Jonny and Cathy joining the Parish I made an appointment to see them and told them how I felt. The servant course was a revelation, and I hadn't attended anything like this previously. I was surprised to find out that my conviction for music in worship was a passion and a form of ministry. God has always and still does speak to me through the words in music. It was a privilege to be part of the worship group and certainly God equipped us and was very much at the centre of the group.

I finally was recommended for training in July 2020 after many years of discernment. I began training in lockdown and spent the first year on Zoom. Here I am – hopefully to be ordained on July 2nd . I just want to say ‘thank you’ for all your support and encouragement. I am so grateful for the kind words and at times words of affirmation. I will miss worshipping with you and being part of the Parish.

I feel fortunate to be going to be going to St Paul’s Church Addlestone to serve as a curate. I leave you with the words of the hymn by Charlotte Elliot, words I have found to be encouraging during the process. It is a hymn about salvation and God’s call to us all:

Just as I am - without one plea, But that Thy blood was shed for me, And that Thou bidst me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come. Just as I am - of that free love The breadth, length, depth, and height to prove Here for a season, then above, -O Lamb of God, I come.





**‘Caring for God’s Acre’
‘Churches Count on Nature’ and ‘Love your Burial Ground’**

Everyone is welcome to this Eco Church Event
Saturday June 10th, 2023, 11.00am - 4.30 pm

Please come! Have fun!

on our ‘Mini Beast Safari’ and ‘Wildflower Treasure Hunt’!

Bring your friends; bring a picnic; sun hats or brollies(!); or just yourself!

-Let’s see how many different species we can find and help us record them to put the biodiversity of our Old Burial ground on the Map!

‘Caring for Gods Acre’ encourages us to prepare by downloading the **iNaturalist** App: this will help us to identify what we find very easily. If you want to find out more about getting the best out of iNaturalist go to www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk.

-The area is exposed in some areas so don’t forget your sun hats and water!
Or Wellies and waterproofs!

-Wear long trousers as we anticipate long grasses after ‘No Mow May!’

-You may have fun with a magnifying glass or a bug-box.

-There are areas of uneven ground -so stout shoes may be best for some of us!

Come and find us on Church Walk and the Old Burial Ground and collect activity details and information to ensure you all have a super-fun, happy and safe time!

-It will it not be necessary to book onto this event and the EcoChurch Volunteers for the day really look forward to seeing you there!

- To get any last-minute variation on arrangements for this event see our notice in the weekly ‘WoTs Going On’- Thursday June 8th.

Whilst churchyards and Old Burial Grounds can be a haven for wildlife, and we are excited about exploring ours at St Mary's again this year we may please be respectful of this sensitive and special place.

- 'Caring for God's Acre' - a conservation charity for burial grounds across the England and Wales.



The Church Gardening Team – from Mary Felstead

On behalf of the gardening team for St Mary's and St John's I'd like to say thank you for the compliments and thank yous we have received regarding the church gardens. As a group of volunteers, our ethos is to ensure God's houses have a welcoming path and acts to invite individuals to have a moment or two of pleasure and peaceful reflection whether going to the church or passing by. Over the past few years, we have worked towards creating planting that invites the wildlife which supports the Eco Church

including the Love Your Burial Ground and Count on Nature campaigns.

We work to nurture plants that are low maintenance and can survive in dry weather. Some places are intentionally left in a managed untidy state to encourage wildlife. In other places some plants are left to self-seed and naturalize. Having cleared an area that was very overgrown by the church hall a few years ago we have created a wild flower patch. Along with tending the flower beds we do like to clear graves when time permits and keep the general areas looked after. One project we started is to clear St Mary's carpark of the brambles. It is a big job so if anyone is up for helping clear the area let us know by contacting Sam in the church office.

Gardening can be very healthy on so many levels and a social activity with the team and people who walk by and stop to chat. We are always happy to have volunteers join the team. We share our weeks between St Mary's and St John's on a Tuesday morning 9:30 to 12:00. It's a great activity if you've just retired too. If you like to get outdoors, love to hear and see wildlife, have a few hours

of time to volunteer and don't mind getting a little dirty come and join us help tend God's garden.



Focus on Mission

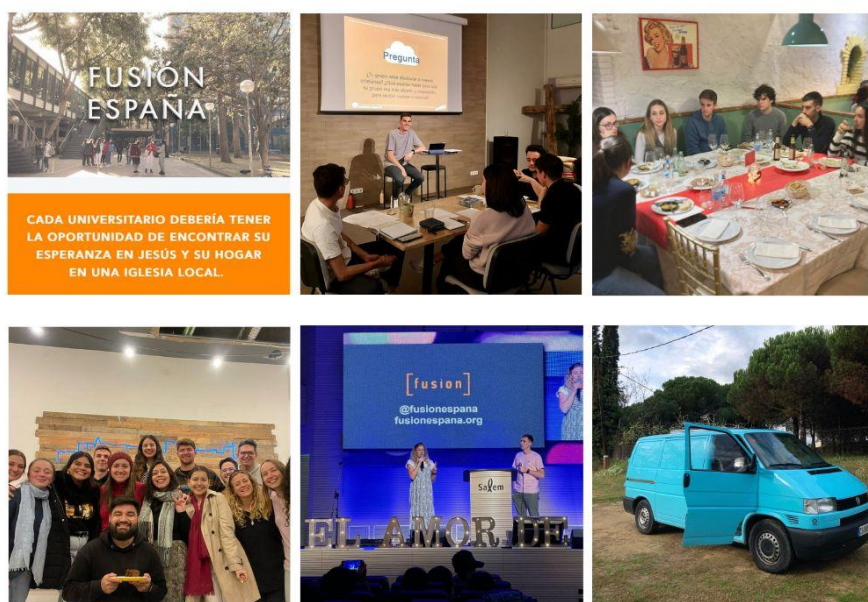
Outward Giving 2023

Sharing the love of Jesus with all people Matthew 28:16-20

[fusion] SPAIN

In Spain there are two university semesters - the first ending with January exams, and the second going from the end of February through to June exams. So we're slowly approaching the end of our first full academic year in Granada, and it has been quite a learning curve for us!

This term has been one of two halves for us, with some new doors opening in Granada and in other places here, and a trip to the UK in March in the middle. Here are some of the breakthroughs from this last term and places we're seeing God move:



1. ***Our Brand New Website:*** a simple thing, but it feels like an exciting step forward for us, as it makes Fusion Spain more of an official thing and gives us a shop window, so that people can better understand what we do and trust us more easily.
2. ***First Small Groups Training in Spain:*** Part of the key training we offer to churches as Fusion is training their students to lead small groups that multiply. We got to do our first of these training days with a church in Madrid in April. Alain, the group leader, sent me this message [translated], *"everyone I've spoken to about today has said how good it was and how they appreciated how you shared knowledge and passion in such a simple and practical way - different to any training we've had on this before!"* - very encouraging for us as a start to learning how to use this training here in Spain and what it has to offer the church.
3. ***Alpha & New Small Groups:*** We have been helping the catholic diocese student group run an alpha to get the group going again after a new & brilliant priest took it on this year. This has been a brilliant door into a different world for us, and we are now using Fusion training to train those who have completed Alpha to lead small groups that multiply - an amazing opportunity for us to learn how to equip people in the catholic context to reach students! This training we have has so much potential to transform campus in the hands of catholics!
4. ***Local Church:*** Our local church continues to be a main focus of our prayers, but we are grateful for the ways we are starting to see God breakthrough, and have particularly been enjoying Thursday evenings, when a girl who is new to our church and from a nominal catholic family has been inviting lots of her nominal catholic friends round to our house to read the Bible together and talk about Jesus!
5. ***Relationship Building:*** It's important to us to keep building relationships with more churches and ministries around Spain, partly to support and encourage each-other, partly to learn more of the context here, but also to be able to serve and be better known around the country. At the end of April we had an opportunity like this with a very well-known church in Spain who held a national conference (gathering all their different church plants around the Country), and invited us to do some of the seminars. A brilliant opportunity to build relationship with them and meet more people.

Brief Summary of Things to be Praying for:

Local relationships and local church:

God really is up to something here and we really feel there are a few key people for us to be investing in at this time - some students and some leaders. We ask for your prayers because we believe that God is wanting to unite his church and pour his Spirit out, so would these people and relationships spark that!

Wisdom in decision-making:

Constantly living outside of our comfort zone means that our energy is still limited, and coming to the end of the academic year, we are certainly feeling it. Please pray for wisdom in knowing what to initiate, what to prioritise now and what to leave for the future.

Board Members:

We feel more positive about this having spent time with some brilliant leaders recently who God has put in our path from the beginning. Please be praying for God to speak to them about Fusion and speak clearly to us about who to ask!

Thank you so much for your continued support of us, and your prayers. We are so grateful, and so aware that we only get to do this because of what you guys and others like you sow into it. May you be truly blessed in all that you give.

Love and blessings, Jo and Olli

Saturdays at 11.30 am
St Mary's Church Hall

Second Saturday of each month

Connections

We meet once a month on the second Saturday of the month, from 11.30 to 1pm, at St Mary's Church Hall.



It is an opportunity to meet together with other retired people for tea, coffee, a soup lunch and most importantly, a good chat. The focus of Connections is friendship – meeting new people, making new friends, and keeping up with long-established friends too. We aim to provide a warm, informal, friendly environment where everyone is welcome.

We have celebrated two 80th birthdays and one 90th birthday so far this year, but it doesn't need to be a big birthday in order to add cake to the menu !

We have a short thought for the day and an optional craft activity around seasonal themes. So far this year we have read love poems and made bookmarks in February, origami flowers for Mother's Day, chocolate krispie cakes at Easter, and in May we started a jigsaw swap.

We have a lovely selection of 500 piece puzzles to share each month, which has already proved very popular. Please come along and see what you think – our numbers are growing and we have plenty of space in the hall, and would be delighted to see new faces, including men !

The next Connections is on Saturday 10th June.

Holiday Club 2023

This year Holiday Club will be Mega Makers based on Matthew's Gospel



14th - 18th August 10.00am - 12.30pm

with an extended day on the Friday for lunch 10.00am - 1.00pm

There will be a Sunday service at St John's on Sunday 20th August 10.30am to round off the week and for the families and church members to hear about what the children have been learning all week.

For ages 5 - 11 years - (current reception - year 6) - we cannot take children currently in nursery due to start reception September 2023.

Places are limited so please sign up Church Suite below if you want to join us.

Don't forget each child must be signed up separately.
Please use the Monday on the calendar to sign up, selecting the days your child(ren) can attend.

Next Service Sunday 4th June

1st Sunday of the month Walton-on-Thames
St Mary's and St John's



the 4

EXPLORING JESUS TOGETHER

4pm | Tea & Cake | Informal Service

NEW SERVICE

St John's Church

www.waltonparish.org.uk/services | 1 The Furrows (Corner of Ambleside Ave)

Next Meeting Sat 10th June

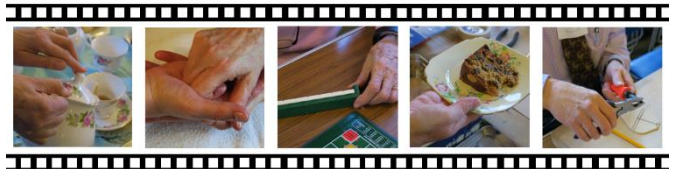
Walton-on-Thames
St Mary's and St John's

Connections 2023

An opportunity to meet together with other retired people for tea, coffee, cakes, games, crafts, general chat and a short thought for the day

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

Saturdays 11.30 am - 1.00pm
St Mary's Church Hall, Church St
May 13th
June 10th
July 8th
August 12th



Thursday Morning Communion Service
A said service with a short sermon
10.30am at St Mary's



Messy church at St John's Dates

Due to recent circumstances, it has been decided that Messy Church will not continue on a monthly basis for a while.

In Memoriam May

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

2nd Eric Comley
6th Bert Allwood
12th David Malden-Browne
15th Shirley Perrin
15th Win Phillips

21st Eric Reed
25th Revd Mary Stokes
29th Tony Darling
29th Jean Nissen

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, Janet Todd (St John's)

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

Community Engagement Officer – Amy Maddocks –

amy@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

JUNE 2023	St Mary's and St John's Services	Hebrews – Jesus is Greater	
For details of all Services, Events and Youth groups see www.waltonparish.org.uk			
Sunday 28th May <i>Pentecost</i>	9am Service with Communion	<i>St Mary's</i>	<i>Filled with the Spirit of God</i> Acts 2:1-21 <i>John 7:37-39</i>
	10.15 am All Age Service	<i>St Mary's Hall</i>	
	10.30am Morning Praise	<i>St John's</i>	
	7.00pm Evening Praise	<i>St Mary's</i>	
Thurs 1 st June	10.30am Holy Communion	<i>St Mary's</i>	
Sunday 4th June <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	10am Joint Service with Communion	<i>St Mary's</i>	<i>In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit</i> 2 Cor 13:11-14 <i>Matt 28:16-20</i>
	The 4pm Service	<i>St John's</i>	<i>Home sweet Home</i>
Thurs 8 th June	10.30am Holy Communion	<i>St Mary's</i>	
Sunday 11th June <i>Trinity 1</i>	9am Service with Communion	<i>St Mary's</i>	<i>Keep on Going</i> Hebrews 4:16; 5:7-14 <i>Matt 13: 10-17</i>
	10.15 am All Age Service	<i>St Mary's Hall</i>	
	10.30am Holy Communion	<i>St John's</i>	
	7.00pm Evening Praise	<i>St Mary's</i>	
Thurs 15 th June	10.30am Holy Communion	<i>St Mary's</i>	
Sunday 18th June <i>Trinity 2</i>	9am Service with Communion	<i>St Mary's</i>	<i>New Priest, new Promise</i> Hebrews 7:1-5,23-28 <i>Luke 11:1-4</i>
	10.15 am All Age Service	<i>St Mary's Hall</i>	
	10.30am Morning Praise	<i>St John's</i>	
	7.00pm Evening Praise	<i>St Mary's</i>	
Thurs 22 nd June	10.30am Morning Prayer	<i>St Mary's</i>	
Sunday 25th June <i>Trinity 3</i> Berenice last Sunday	9am Service with Communion	<i>St Mary's</i>	<i>Holy Place, one sacrifice</i> Heb 9:1-5; 11-15; 10:19-25; <i>John 14:1-7</i>
	10.15 am All Age Service	<i>St Mary's Hall</i>	
	10.30am Morning Praise	<i>St John's</i>	
	7.00pm Joint Walton Churches service	<i>St Mary's</i>	
Thurs 29 th June	10.30am Holy Communion <i>St Mary's</i>		



YouTube

www.waltonparish.org.uk