

MARCH NEWSLETTER

this month's church family thanks and prayers



Hope & Love

Holding on to Truth

March 2024

Dear Friends,

"In a world of deep fakes and disinformation, Jesus is the truth".

My Lent book is John Mark Comer "live no lies" and his working theory is that as followers of Jesus, we are at war with the world, the flesh, and the devil.

In a world of deep fakes and disinformation, he wants to expose the root of the deception we find all around us as the devil and encourage Christians to hold onto the truth. He says: "The nation of the United States is more divided than it's been since the Civil War, and the last thing we need is more fuel on the fire. He wants to name the felt experience of following Jesus in this cultural moment, and he says he

just can't find a better description than it feels like a war for the soul. His working theory is, as followers of Jesus, we are at war with the world, the flesh, and the devil. But our war against the three enemies of the soul is not a war of guns and bombs. It's not against other people at all. It's a war on lies. And the problem is less that we tell lies and more that we live them; we let false narratives about reality into our bodies, and they wreak havoc in our souls."

Jesus called the devil "the father of lies." Translation: the original point of deception. Then Jesus has that great line about how "when he lies, he speaks his native language." So, lies are unreality; Truth is reality.

John Mark Comer says "Every day can feel like war on our souls. A spiritual assault on our faith. A fight to just stay saved or at least to stay orthodox, to stay faithful to Jesus, and to stay sane, much less to stay happy and at peace. When you're a cognitive minority under constant pressure to assimilate, you can't help but think, am I crazy to believe what I believe? To live how I live?"

Now, I know more about deep fakes from TV drama than from research, but, it's scary; the idea that people can create Deep fakes - constructed videos of people saying things which they never said and may not even agree with ... where is this going? And where does this end.? We live in an age of "Disinformation."

Republican Senator Jeff Flake said the year Donald Trump was elected "was a year which saw the truth - objective, empirical, evidence-based truth - more battered and abused than any other in the history of our country, at the hands of the most powerful figure in our government."

Comer says "Our new environment is one in which a battle is raging between truth and lies, and truth is losing. Disinformation - or in the language of Scripture, deception - is at the root of almost every single problem we face in our society and our souls."

In this cultural moment of 'truth decay', I find Jesus's teachings on the devil and lies more plausible, insightful, and compelling than ever before. Jesus and the apostles warn us over and over again of the dangers of lies, deception, false doctrine, and false teachers, who are wolves in sheep's clothing. Do not be deceived. Jesus is the way the truth and the life. Let's hold onto that truth.

With our prayers,
Rev Cathy, Rev Jonny, Rev Dave and the team.

Fusion Spain

In their recent newsletter, Jo and Olli Davis shared of their joy at the birth of their son, Caleb. They said that whilst having Caleb means a lot of change in how they live and what it looks like to be on mission in Spain, their mission and vision remain the same; to see a student mission movement through the local church established in Spain. At the moment, Olli is taking on more of the responsibility with Fusion, whilst Jo helps out as she is able.

Jo and Olli are training others to set up a second Revolution Small Groups, they will join a Fusion Worldwide team time in the UK in March and return via Madrid where they have been invited to speak to and train young people, before welcoming a team from Open Heaven Church in Loughborough to do some student mission and pray.

They are delighted that, after a lot of hard work and red tape to negotiate, Fusion Spain has now been registered as a Charity. This will help in many ways, including to raise funds, produce and print resources, and eventually, be able to have a team employed by Fusion Spain.

Key Information

Vicars:

Rev Jonny Blair | jonny@waltonparish.org.uk | 07466 401 614 (off duty Friday)

Rev Cathy Blair | cathy@waltonparish.org.uk | 01932 917 736 (available Tuesdays)

Assistant Minister: Rev Caroline Merrick (currently unavailable)

Curate: Rev Dave Bixby dave@waltonparish.org.uk | 07471 090 254 (off duty Fri)

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

Pastoral Matters: For pastoral enquiries contact vicar@waltonparish.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Katharine Scott | safeguarding@waltonparish.org.uk
Wendy Fitch and Louise Turner (Vulnerable adults)

Safeguarding Administrator: Julia Gorrie (part time flexi hours) |
safeguardingadmin@waltonparish.org.uk

Treasurer: Anne Redshaw | 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

Telephone | 01932 224 238 Email | office@waltonparish.org.uk

The office contact hours are:

Closed Monday | Open Tuesday to Friday 10.00 am – 12 noon

St Mary's Church, Church Street, Walton-on-Thames, KT12 2QS

St John's Church, 1 The Furrows, Walton-on-Thames, KT12 3JQ

In Memoriam – March

1st Cyril Rose

27th Derek Dean

MARCH 2024	St Mary's and St John's Services	Lent and Easter	
Thurs 29 th Feb	10.30 am Holy Communion	St Mary's	
Sun 3rd March <i>Lent 3</i>	8.30 am Said Service with Communion	St John's	God's wisdom 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25 John 2: 13-22
	10.00 am Service for all with Communion	St Mary's	
	4.00 pm The Four	St John's	
Thurs 7 th March	10.30 am Holy Communion	St Mary's	
Sun 10th March <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	8.30 am Said Service with Communion	St Mary's	God's mercy and grace Ephesians 2: 1-10 John 3: 14-21
	10.00 am Service for all with Communion	St Mary's	
	4.00 pm The Four	St John's	
Thurs 14 th March	10.30 am Holy Communion	St Mary's	
Sun 17th March <i>Lent 5</i>	8.30 am Said Service with Communion	St John's	God's way – part 1 Jeremiah 31: 31-34 John 12: 20-33
	10.00 am Service for all with Communion	St Mary's	
	4.00 pm The Four	St John's	
Thurs 21 st March	10.30 am Holy Communion	St Mary's	
Sun 24th March <i>Palm Sunday</i>	8.30 am Said Service with Communion	St Mary's	God's way – part 2 Romans 4: 13-25 Mark 8: 31-38
	10.00 am Service for all with Communion	St Mary's	
	11.00 am Service of the Word	St John's	
	4.00 pm The Four	St John's	
Thurs 28th March Maundy Thursday	7.30 pm Holy Communion with Handwashing	St Mary's	Exodus 12: 1-4 & 11-14 1 Cor 11: 23-26 John 13: 1-17 & 31b-35
Fri 29th March Good Friday	10.00 am – 12 noon <i>Please sign up for this worship experience*</i>	St John's	Encounter Easter
	12 noon – 3.00 pm <i>Entry on the half hour for this meditative service</i>	St Mary's	At The Foot Of The Cross
Sun 31st March Easter Sunday	7.00 am Sunrise Service at Cowey Sale		
	10.00 am Service for all with Communion	St Mary's	Jesus is Alive Acts 10: 34-43 John 20: 1-18

*Encounter Easter – visit the website to learn more and to book



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