



St Mary's Church Wargrave  
With Knowl Hill



St Peter's Church Knowl Hill  
With St Paul's Warren Row

OUR VISION IS TO BE A CHURCH AT THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY

# PARISH

MAGAZINE

JUNE 2022



## VILLAGE FESTIVAL

Discover all that St Mary's  
has planned

## JUBILEE LUNCH

Do you have your picnic  
ready?

## ROYALTY IN WARGRAVE

Where has royalty graced us  
in Wargrave?

In other news:  
Generous Giving  
Honorary Canon  
APCM Summary  
Church Manual  
Pathfinders  
Knowl Hill News

## From the Editor

Thank you to those that have expressed their approval for the new style magazine. It is gratifying to note that we are doing the right thing in livening things up! A big thank you to Rosalyn in the Church office who is so knowledgeable in this area.

June is all about the Village Festival and our feature this month is a preamble on our various Church events.

We hope that you will support these as a great deal of prep goes into organising them and it is reassuring to see Church members involved!

Wishing everyone a happy Festival!

*Bob*

BOB AUSTEN | PARISH MAGAZINE EDITOR



WELCOME

### The copy date for submissions for the July/August Magazine is noon on Wednesday 22nd June 2022.

Articles of up to 400 words are most welcome for publication in this Magazine and should be sent to the Editor: [bobausten@wargravechurch.org.uk](mailto:bobausten@wargravechurch.org.uk). The decision to publish material is at the Editor's discretion. Views expressed in articles included in the Magazine are not necessarily shared by the Editor. The Parish Magazine cannot accept responsibility for any products or services advertised in this publication.

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## PARISH REGISTERS : WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS & FUNERALS

### Funerals, Cremations and Ashes at St Mary's, Wargrave

22nd April Adrienne Rance, 81, Interment of ashes at St Mary's

26th April Phyllis May Jacob, 96, Interment of ashes at the New Cemetery

#### A Reminder:

#### Service of Remembrance - Lord Remnant

For those that wish to join the friends and family of Lord Remnant, a service of remembrance will be taking place on Monday 30th May at 12 noon at St Paul's, Knightsbridge. Please RSVP to [stpaulsthanks@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsthanks@gmail.com).



## SUNDAY SERVICES

*June*

### St Mary's Church, Wargrave - 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th June

8.00am Holy Communion: a said service in traditional language

9.45am Service reflective below

1st Sunday of the month: **5th June - Pentecost**

9.45am All Age Family Worship

2nd Sunday of the month: **12th June - Trinity**

9.45am Holy Communion

3rd Sunday of the month: **19th June**

9.45am Morning Worship in modern language with music

4th Sunday of the month: **26th June**

**10.30am** Wargrave Festival Service  
followed by BBQ on Mill Green



### St Peter's Church, Knowl Hill

1st Sunday of the month 10.30am Holy Communion

3rd Sunday of the month 10.30am Village Praise

### St Paul's Church, Warren Row

2nd Sunday of the Month 9.15am Holy Communion in traditional language

# Our Groups

## BUTTERFLIES

Butterflies continues to meet on Wednesday mornings (1st and 3rd of the month in term times), enjoying a delicious breakfast, chat and parenting discussion time in the church centre.

If you are the parent of a baby or toddler, we'd love to meet you! Details can be found on our Facebook page @butterflieswargrave

Butterflies is held in the Church Centre, 9.30am - 11am.

**Next Sessions: 1st, 15th & 29th June**

**Please note, that the meeting on the 15th June will take place as part of the 'Festival of Love'. It is essential to book. Details can be found on page 7.**



## LADIES' BREAKFAST

Come and join us in the Church Centre at 9am on **Saturday 4th June** for a delicious breakfast and stimulating discussion.



We are a friendly group and welcome newcomers of all ages!

Contact Linda for more information. [lindacaradine9@gmail.com](mailto:lindacaradine9@gmail.com)

## OPEN CHURCH

St Mary's Church is open Monday to Saturday 9am to 5pm.

## WELCOME CAFÉ

The Café will be open on Tuesday 7th, 21st & 28th June from 2.30pm - 4pm in the Hannen Room. Please note, no Café on the 14th June.



# VILLAGE FESTIVAL: CHURCH ACTIVITY

WARGRAVE  
VILLAGE  
FESTIVAL

The much anticipated and hugely popular Wargrave Festival returns this year for two weeks of events in the village.

Along with many other events taking place, St Mary's are hosting several of our own events again this year:

- Midsummer Music at the Manse (formerly Brass on the Grass)
- Folk Night
- A concert by The Academy of St Martin's in the Fields
- Butterflies Festival Mother & Child Breakfast
- Family & Friends BBQ
- Ramble & Picnic Brunch
- Worship Service

If you have yet to purchase your tickets for the Festival, please visit the Wargrave Festival Website - [wargravefestival.org.uk](http://wargravefestival.org.uk), where you will also find details of other activities.

VILLAGE FESTIVAL

## MIDSUMMER MUSIC AT THE MANSE Sunday 12th June

For a long time, Brass on the Grass has been a key part of the village Festival with all proceeds being given to Tearfund, a Christian Charity working through local churches abroad to overcome poverty and transform lives in some of the poorest nations of the world. However, with the loss of David and Verna Houghton and subsequently their lovely garden, another venue needed to be found where people could picnic and listen to music. John and Camilla have kindly offered theirs and this location has been well received by the Band. It was also a very popular event on ticket day as all 145 tickets were sold before the end of the morning which was amazing.

The Blue Sky Big Band who are playing for this good cause on the 12th June are a Berkshire Band specialising in swing music, popular jazz and even some rock and roll. It promises to be a truly memorable evening.

## THE ACADEMY OF ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS Monday 13th June

The Academy of St Martin in the Fields have come to St Mary's twice before, in 2017 and 2019, as part of the Wargrave Festival, and we are all excited to welcome back the world's finest classical orchestra for the third time!

There will be music from Mozart, Mendelssohn, Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Haydn. We are also privileged to have Tomo Keller playing 'The Lark Ascending' and Mark David playing Haydn's famous trumpet concerto.

Church doors open at 7pm and we ask that where possible, you walk to the Church. All cars should park on Station Road or the Station or Village Car Parks.

Drinks will be served from 6.45pm and will be a cash only bar. Please bring your ticket with you. Carriages at 10pm.

VIP Sponsors: please arrive at the Bull for supper by 6pm.

## FESTIVAL FOLK CLUB Tuesday 14th June

This is the 16th time that we have put on this show and we are hoping for another sell out this year.

Starting at 7.30pm, this will be an evening of songs old and new, no 'finger in your ear' material but plenty of contemporary songs from the likes of Joni Mitchell, The Seekers, Lindisfarne and of course Bob Dylan, and a sprinkling of memorable ditties from the Summer of Love - the theme of the 2022 Festival.

Repeating the success of the 2019 event, this will be a folk club setting in the Church Centre and will feature our own Wargrave group, 'French Collection', and ably supported by Wargrave Community Choir and other local talent. There will be a bar selling beers, wine and soft drinks at Festival prices.

Tickets cost £12.50. Contact Bob Austen to book: 0118 940 3038 or 07970 611013  
austenrobert@hotmail.com

## RAMBLE & PICNIC Sunday 19th June



A new event for the festival which will appeal to everyone, young and old!

An easy climb through fields and tracks to the modest heights of Crazies Hill, taking in some lesser-known sites on the way. Roughly 4 miles, this ramble will not be suitable for buggies. We shall stop half-way round for a bring-your-own picnic brunch.

The ramble starts at the kissing gate on Blakes Road opposite Purfield Drive at 10am and ends at Highfield Park.

This event is weather dependant so if raining, will not go ahead.

To join, please contact Bob Austen  
0118 940 3038 or 07970 611013  
austenrobert@hotmail.com

Join us for a delicious brunch, singing & craft activities. Take part in the best dressed butterfly competition (for parents & children)!

 St Mary's Church Wargrave  
With Knowl Hill



# BUTTERFLIES

at the Wargrave Festival  
for parents, babies, toddlers  
& pre-schoolers

Wednesday 15th June  
9.30am-11.30am

St Mary's Church Centre  
Mill Green, Wargrave

Tickets £5 per adult, available at Butterflies or via [wargravefestival.org.uk](http://wargravefestival.org.uk)

## END OF FESTIVAL SERVICE Sunday 26th June



Join us on Mill Green at 10.30am as we give thanks at the end of the festival for the opportunity to come together to enjoy so many wonderful events and support the vibrant community of Wargrave.

Our guest will be Fiona Castle, a committed Christian and widow of the popular entertainer Roy Castle.

## FAMILY & FRIENDS BBQ Sunday 26th June



THE CALLS OF GOD

On Sunday 26th June, St Mary's are hosting an end of Festival BBQ after the Festival Service. This is always a wonderful time to relax with friends at the end of a busy two weeks and the spread of delicious food has been a real highlight for many.

This year we are asking people to book tickets in advance so that we know how many to cater for and to cover the cost of the meat and rolls. Have you booked your tickets yet?

These will be on sale after the St Mary's 9.45am service on Sundays in the run up to the event or through [wargravefestival.org.uk](http://wargravefestival.org.uk).

Tickets are £5 per adult and £2 per child.

To ensure that the BBQ event runs well we going to need YOUR HELP!

### CAN YOU HELP US?

Would you be able to help with any of the following things:

- Setting up and/or running the BBQ?
- Making a salad?
- Making a pudding?
- Setting up on the day?
- Running the bar?

There will be sign up sheets at the back of church for all of the above.

Please do sign up or contact Camilla on [camillacook@btconnect.com](mailto:camillacook@btconnect.com) for more details.

Thank you in advance for your help!





**All tickets for this event have now been sold**

PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 11.30AM AS TABLES & CHAIRS ARE ONLY BEING DELIVERED ON THE SUNDAY MORNING & WILL NOT BE READY BEFORE THEN

There is no parking on site but a drop off facility will be available between 11.30am and 12.30pm

The event will begin with a **WELCOME AND PARTY PHOTOGRAPH** at 12.45pm

Don't forget to enter the **Wargrave's Platinum Pudding Competition...**  
Deliver your pudding to the Hannen Room before 12.30pm...  
(you will get it back before 1pm)

**Steamed or baked?  
Layered or rolled?  
Pie or Crumble?**

Copy the National Pudding Competition entry (it may take up to 4 hours to recreate) or design your own (Aldi Swiss roll, Waitrose tinned peaches, Birds custard and a bottle of Harvey's Sherry?)

**AND**

### **The Best Decorated Table Competition**

FABULOUS PRIZES AWAIT THE WINNERS OF BOTH COMPETITIONS

Bring some cash if you want to buy:

**\*Coffee and treats from the Daisy Love Stall\***

**\*Ice cream from our mobile van\***

**\*Sweets from the Wargrave Community Choir\***

**\*A nail polish or painting from Silvers Beauty\***

**Please bring a bag to take your rubbish home**

The Party will finish at 5pm when the tables and chairs will be collected

A not-for-profit event organised by St Mary's Church and sponsored by Castle Royle.



# JUST ONE WAY SEMINAR REPORT



**Richard Eves**



**JUST ONE WAY?**

Being a Christian in a World of Options

On Saturday 14th May we had our second 'Clear Christian Thinking' Seminar on the topic of 'Just one way? Being a christian in a world of options'. The seminar was split into two halves.

In the first half we explored the wide range of religions, ideologies, 'worldviews,' and philosophies that are out there in the world, of which christianity is only one. We discussed some of the alternatives that have been proposed to explain this diversity - pluralism, which claims that all of these different worldviews point to the truth in different ways - inclusivism, which attempts to maintain the uniqueness of Jesus Christ, but claims that he can be found in many places, outside as well as within the christian religion - and exclusivism, which claims that it is only in faith in Jesus Christ that truth and salvation can be found. With pluralism we saw the logical contradictions that emerge as soon as competing worldviews make unique or mutually exclusive claims, of which Christianity makes a great many. Inclusivism was seen to be out of step with the practice of the apostles as we looked at the evangelism of Peter and Paul in the book of Acts. We were left with the conclusion that only exclusivism is an accurate representation of the biblical teaching. We then spent some time discussing objections people might have to the exclusivist position that salvation and truth are only found in Jesus Christ.

In the second session we thought about engaging with the world on the basis of what we had discussed in session one. We thought about how although we have a wide range of views about the world, because all human beings are made by God there are certain common things that are just 'baked-in' to all of us.

These human commonalities can be the basis for conversation between people of very different worldviews. For an articulation of what exactly these commonalities might be we turned to the dutch missiologist J. H. Bavinck, and his 'Five Magnetic Points', which all people find themselves drawn to, 'I and the cosmos', 'I and the norm', 'I and the riddle of my existence', 'I and salvation', and 'I and the supreme being'. Finally we spent time discussing how these magnetic points could be used to foster discussion between people of very different points of view.

We had a very stimulating time, with everyone making valuable contributions and helping to push the discussion along. The next seminar has yet to be scheduled, and when it is you will be most welcome.

JUST ONE WAY

# LADIES' BREAKFAST: MAY

You might think that 'Trees' was an odd choice of subject for May's Ladies' Breakfast but if you had come along you would have discovered that it was a most 'fruitful' topic indeed.

What's not to love about trees, to me, one of the glories of God's creation? - the sheer variety, the ways in which they move, sound, change, sustain life, hold back erosion, clean the air...

You might think that 'Trees' was an odd choice of subject for May's Ladies' Breakfast but if you had come along you would have discovered that it was a most 'fruitful' topic indeed.

What's not to love about trees, to me, one of the glories of God's creation? - the sheer variety, the ways in which they move, sound, change, sustain life, hold back erosion, clean the air...

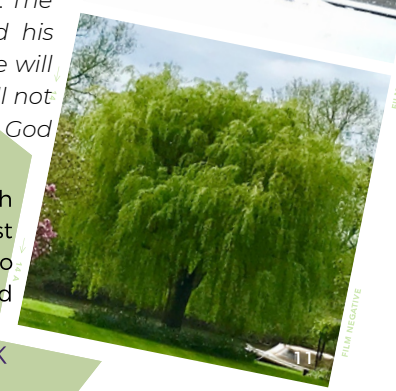
After looking at photos of Lis Hobden's willow tree throughout the year, at first pollarded, then snow-covered, marooned by flood waters, beginning to bud and finally in its full glory, we discussed what life lessons we could learn from trees. This really seemed to capture the Ladies' imagination and they probably would have been content to ponder on this all morning, but I had my agenda and was keen to use some of the many references to trees which I had researched in the Bible!

There was much that we could have considered, but after a brief foray into the main trees which feature in the Bible, we focused chiefly on the tree which flanks the Bible narrative, namely, the tree of life, from which humankind was barred following disobedience, but to which access was restored by Jesus' death on a tree. The symbolism was not lost on us and we rejoiced in what awaits those of us who believe:

Eden Restored      Revelation 22: 1-5

*Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.*

After a few more readings concerning the ways in which creation rejoices - the fields jubilant and the trees of the forest singing for joy before the Lord - what better way was there to finish than by singing, 'You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace'...



LADIES' BREAKFAST

## APCM SUMMARY



On Sunday 24th April, the Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held in St Mary's after the morning service.

Can it really be a year since the last meeting, when I was elected as Church Warden? I must have really enjoyed my time, if it has sped around so quickly. Er, no! Because of covid, the last APCM was held on 4th July, so I have had barely 10 months working alongside Ian Matthews. Oddly however, he has now stood down, and is looking considerably more relaxed, possibly helped by the bottles he received from John Cook.

At the APCM, the Church Wardens, Officers and Parochial Church Council were elected for the coming year. Doug Clark and Sarah Whiteside are standing down from the PCC. Over the last year, they have both asked me tricky questions in PCC meetings, which is absolutely how it should be, and they will both be greatly missed.

Sue Witney was elected Church Warden, joining me in the Northern Powerhouse of Churchwardenship. Sandra Baker continues to fly the flag for Knowl Hill. Jubi da Silva, Nicola Uniacke and Andrew Imlay have joined the PCC, and we will be all the stronger for their expertise and enthusiasm, while Lesley Turville and Bob (Rocky) Austen have entered the ring once again. Sheila Williams and Jane Wills are continuing as PCC Secretary and Treasurer respectively. The voting was swift and unanimous. The highlight as always was Jane Wills' clear and cogent presentation of the state of our finances. Three cheers for the Prudent Chancellor!

Please pray for these new Church Council members, and continuing members, that God will give us wisdom as we discern His plans for us in the coming year.

Mark Puddy, Churchwarden

## NEW PRAYER MEETING TIME 1st Wednesday of the Month



After much consideration we are moving the monthly prayer meeting from its current time of 8pm on the first Thursday of the month.

Starting in June, the meeting will be on the first Wednesday of the month at 11:45am in the Church Centre.

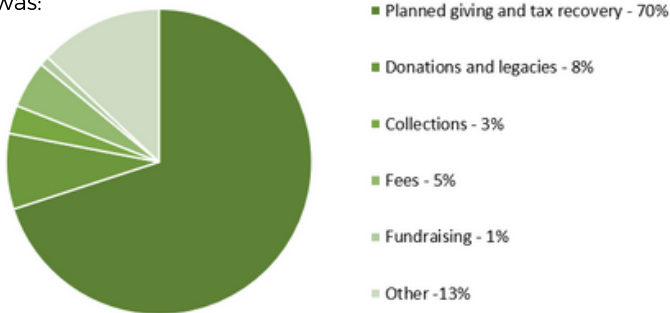
Please do put this time aside to come and gather as we ask for the Lord's help in all areas of our life together.

# GENEROUS GIVING

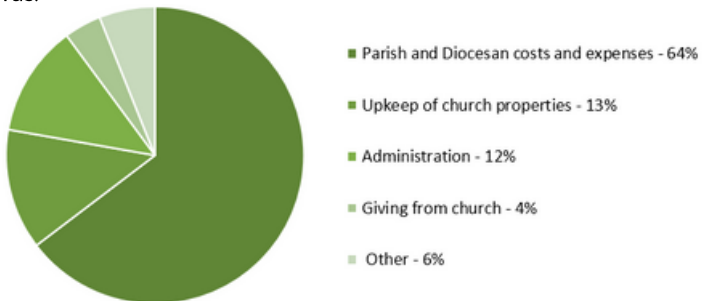
Following on from John Cook's sermon on Sunday 15th May, when he made clear the Biblical basis and necessity for sacrificial giving, and Sean Sutcliffe's talk about the Parish Giving Scheme, we thought it would be helpful to publicise the current state of Church Finances, for the benefit of those who did not hear Jane Wills' explanation at the Annual Meeting in April.

Although, under Jane's prudent supervision, we are in a better position than some Churches, in that our income exceeded our expenses last year, we need to work hard if we are to maintain this situation moving forwards, as expenses are bound to increase with the higher cost of energy needed to heat the churches in the parish, and inflation rising. Covid has resulted in a people carrying much less cash, and there has been a marked drop in the amount of money in collections each week in church. This is not just because of times when the Church was not open because of lockdown, but it has persisted to the present. In order that we can maintain our income, we are needing to increase the amount we receive by regular donations by planned giving, such as via the Parish Giving Scheme, to offset the drop in income from collections.

In 2021, St Mary's Church Income was £173,041  
The breakdown was:



The cost of running the Church was £158,655 or £435 per day.  
The breakdown was:



Would you like to contribute to the upkeep and work of this Parish Church through planned giving? If so, please contact Sean Sutcliffe - [sutcliffefamily1@btinternet.com](mailto:sutcliffefamily1@btinternet.com)

News regarding the situation at Knowl Hill will follow next month.

# UPDATE FROM JAPAN

**Nicola & Len Biaukula**

We arrived in Japan on April 11th. Walking out of customs we were greeted by a large sign reading "welcome to Japan" and were overwhelmed with emotion at that moment, despite the long hours of travel, the joy and gratitude welled up into happy tears as we realised we are actually here in Japan!

## We made it!

One month later, what have we been doing? A couple of our team tested positive for Covid a week after we arrived, so we had to isolate for 10 days as we were considered close contacts. Since we didn't have Covid ourselves we were still able to go on walks and go to buy food which gave us a bit of time to explore our local area and get a handle on where to get what groceries and other small things like that.

This last week we have been able to continue with orientation, learning more about the culture, the base and its ministries, as well as sharing out various roles and responsibilities amongst the staff team. We have also been checking off various logistical tasks such as setting up bank accounts and registering at the city hall for health care and child allowance.

Fun Fact:- The YWAM Takatsuki staff team has more than doubled in the last 2 months since borders opened to new long term visa holders. Before there were just 4 staff and now we are a team of 9 (11 including the kids!) And in true YWAM fashion our team includes people from 7 different nations (USA, Bulgaria, Belize, England, Fiji, Indonesia and Mexico.)

As we split up the various tasks needed to keep the base running there are a few areas that Len and I will specifically be taking on. Len has joined the maintenance team, as well as working with a couple of others on local ministries and organising staff events. Nicky will be helping with the base social media accounts as well as working in the admin department.

A role that we have volunteered for together is helping to host and coordinate outreach teams that come through the base. Although this is not a possibility currently with the border situation, we are really excited to connect with teams in the future.



On a weekly basis we will also be joining in base family nights with the neighbours, English teaching ministries, times of worship and prayer, Japanese language learning and more. We also feel really strongly to continue with intentional evangelism in both Osaka and Kyoto and so will try and head into the cities regularly to see where God leads and who we can connect with. As a base we are also pursuing connections with a local Orphanage trying to re-establish regular visits now Covid restrictions have relaxed a bit.

We all have a lot of anticipation for what will come in this new season, with new staff, new ideas and new opportunities!

## THE TROUBLE WITH TRINITY

Every year in the month of June we celebrate Trinity Sunday. This is placed at the pinnacle of the church year; the culmination of the sequence begun with Christmas, Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost.

Yet despite this prominent placement, Trinity Sunday is the festival of the church which has often been the most neglected in church life, and is even sometimes deliberately ignored. There is even a tradition of vicars finding someone else to preach on Trinity Sunday, in order to avoid having to do it themselves!

Unease with the Trinity isn't limited to the church calendar however. The 18th century German theologian Friedrich Schliemacher was so uncomfortable with the doctrine that in his five hundred page theology textbook, 'The Christian Faith', the doctrine of the Trinity was relegated to an appendix.

Schliemacher's opinion can resonate with christians today. The doctrine of the Trinity can seem doubly unappealing - hard to understand and articulate, whilst at the same time not having much real world application. When seen in this way it's not surprising that many christians are happy to leave well enough alone.

And yet the doctrine of the Trinity is the key dividing line which Christians have used to distinguish between groups that are genuinely christian and groups which are not. This is because, uniquely, the doctrine of the Trinity is the Doctrine that defines who our God is. The glory of the Christian message is that our Maker has made himself known to us in the coming of the Son and the coming of the Holy Spirit. And if that 'triune' God - the God found in the coming of Jesus, and the coming of the Holy Spirit - is not the God you are worshipping, then you are not worshipping the Christian God.

Trinity Sunday is a celebration of the revelation of our God, a God who far from being the theorized 'omni-being' of a thousand RE textbooks, is unique and beautiful beyond everything that he has made. One God, in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is the most foundational application of the doctrine of the Trinity - that our God is a beautiful God, and more marvelous than anything in this world.

Of course there are many legitimate questions about what God in three persons actually means, and we are rightly careful as we discuss this weightiest of topics - the very nature of God. But at the same time we should feel welcome to explore them as we dive into the doctrine of the Trinity, for he is our God, and he has made himself known.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Saturday 10th September



Are you a cyclist? For several years one intrepid cyclist has toured the local churches and raised funds shared between our church and the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust. If you would be interested in forming or joining a cycling group for this event please let me know and we can plan a route.

The walking group, 'Team Wargrave', keen as ever, will be visiting churches in Wallingford and Abingdon. All are welcome to join us for all or part of the tour. For those who have already expressed an interest the sponsorship forms will be available soon.

Contact: Christine Walker on 0118 940 3749 or email: [csw3749@gmail.com](mailto:csw3749@gmail.com)

RIDE & STRIDE & HONORARY CANON

## JOHN COOK - AN HONORARY CANON

On Saturday 14th May, at a service at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, John was privileged to be made an Honorary Canon of the Cathedral. This was at the invitation of the Bishop of Oxford as a way of marking John's contribution to the diocese. This is an honour bestowed on clergy, and there were 3 others installed at the same time: The Revd Charlotte Bannister-Parker (University Church of St Mary the Virgin), The Revd Geoffrey Bayliss (Rector of the Cowley Benefice) and The Revd Liz Jackson (Associate Archdeacon of Berkshire). Two lay members of the diocese were admitted into the Order of St Frideswide (not quite sure who she was?!): Alison Jestico and Gavin Oldham.

Although a little quirky (the service ran on old 'Oxford time' i.e. five minutes behind GMT!), the service was very simple and moving. The Bishop of Oxford, The Rt Revd Dr Stephen Croft, talked personally about each candidate and what they had contributed to the diocese, in sometimes visible but most often unseen ways.

John wanted to say that he really feels that this is an honour bestowed not just on him, but on all his colleagues, past and present: The Revd Pam Gordon, The Revd Jon Drake, The Revd Hugh Barne, The Revd Steve Turville, The Revd Richard Eves and Andy Ferguson. Colleagues with gospel priorities, who have made a significant contribution across the benefice of Wargrave with Knowl Hill.







St Mary's Church Wargrave  
With Knowl Hill



St Peter's Church Knowl Hill  
With St Paul's Warren Row

# Grapevine



Every Wednesday

***Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled.  
Do not be afraid. Trust God. Trust me." (John 14:1)***

Hi everyone! Have you heard of 'The Grapevine'? 'Grapevine' started 2 years ago when we first went into lockdown, as a way of helping parishioners keep in touch with church and vice versa. 'Grapevine' is a weekly, midweek publication and comes in two forms: e-version via email to your inbox, or paper version hand delivered through your front door. It includes:

- Very brief news of what is happening in our churches
- Christian encouragement from Scripture
- Prayer needs and suggestions
- helpful telephone numbers

Although lockdowns have long ended, we realise there are still many people who are unable to get to church for many valid reasons. If you would like to receive the email Grapevine, please contact the Parish Office on 940 2300.

If you (or someone you know) don't do email, and you would like a paper 'Grapevine' delivered weekly, please contact Rev Steve on 9016720. This is the typesize we usually use, but if you would like a larger-print version, please ask.

*The Parish Ministry Team*

# ROYALTY IN WARGRAVE

1924 Nurse Olive Cameron, a Queen's Nurse lived here in Hare Hatch



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The Evelyn Home opened by Princess Marie Louise 1926

## The Eleanor Wemyss

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To learn more, visit their  
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Queen Emma's Palace, early 11th century, Church Street

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ROYALTY IN WARGRAVE

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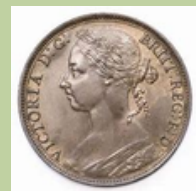


'Festival Queen 1981',  
Lizzi Denham with Sir  
Robert Morley



In Memoriam  
HM Armed Forces,  
Mill Green

Mid 19th century,  
Penny Savings Bank  
at the Vicarage



# IN SORROW & IN JOY

**Andy Ferguson**



IN SORROW & IN JOY

As a chaplain at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading, I conduct a significant number of funerals. These are usually for babies who have died in the hospital or for adults when there is no one available to pay for the funeral, so the hospital bears the cost.

The saddest thing is to have to conduct a funeral where the only people present are the undertaker and myself: no family, no friends, no neighbours.

One of the most memorable services I have conducted was at the end of March this year at the height of the pandemic, when Covid 19 was highly contagious. I only knew the name of the deceased at this hospital funded service and was surprised to be greeted by a congregation of over twenty. After welcoming everybody and saying a prayer I explained that I had never met John and invited people to share his life story.

John was only fifty seven. He had been an alcoholic and slept on the street. His social worker of seven years was present because he was such a good "client".

A lady who runs a soup kitchen in Reading was there because he was always so thankful for anything he was given. A fellow rough sleeper attended out of respect for a man who was concerned about others in their homeless community. Some school friends were there because he had been such a good mate when they were growing up.

I choose music for these services that I like, in this instance Pachelbel's Canon in D and Fields of Gold by Eva Cassidy. Realising that they might not be John's choice I asked if anyone knew of any of John's favourite music. The answer I got was "Salt Shaking" by Damon Hall. Having now heard it I certainly would not have chosen it (check it out on Spotify!) Anyway I asked the Chapel attendant to load this on the Crematorium music system.

After the commendation and committal the curtains had been drawn. I invited everyone to sit and explained that I would say a final prayer, turn on the music then leave through a door to my right and that others should follow me when they were ready.

Well, the music was very strange and after about ten bars someone pulled a bottle of Jack Daniels from his bag and shouted "Here's to John". He took a healthy swig of the liquid then started to pass the bottle around (well it was 10.15am by now!) The bottle moved in an anticlockwise direction, people sharing happily and toasting John with little regard to cleaning the bottle. Then I realised that the bottle was heading towards me. I have never left the chapel as quickly in my life.

# CHURCH INSTRUCTION MANUAL: MAKING OUR OWN

I spent my early months as Churchwarden desperately writing down vital nuggets of information about my role and everyone else's in the smooth running of St Mary's. I am now involved with the induction of Sue Witney, as she takes over from Ian Matthews who very patiently mentored me. We have a wealth of wisdom and experience in this Church which we must preserve to cope with the loss of knowledge when people move away or can no longer continue. Our corporate memory needs to be treasured and kept polished.

A User Manual would make life so much easier for any new volunteer to step into their role, and, if someone else has to cover for a while, they would know the place to go to find the key information. We are very lucky we have so many people who do so much to help the Church to function. I remember Peter Mayes saying that if you add together all the people on all the rotas, we have well over 100. Starting in the office, Ros and Lucy have different roles but when one is away, the other has to cover their role.

Over the next few months, I should like everyone who has a role in the church and has ways of doing their job which work for them, to write them down. Ros and Lucy will then help me compile this into a single document, the Great Instruction Manual, which will be accessible both as a hands-on folder in the parish office, and as an electronic document. It is easier if you give us the information electronically, but if you prefer pen and paper, or quill and parchment, we will still be delighted to receive the details of your work. There will obviously be some information e.g. about alarms, which will need to be kept in a separate confidential appendix, but nearly all of what we now do as a church will be accessible to all.

Please can everyone who is responsible for any task in the church, however straightforward it seems to you, write down the key information that you would need to pass on to anyone else who might be required to take over your role. This might include a schedule of the important things to do throughout the year, who you call upon to help, both volunteers from within the church or outside, and handy hints you have found effective to get the job done.

Once you have done it, please then hand it in at the office, or else send it to Ros, via email: [rosalyn@wargravechurch.org.uk](mailto:rosalyn@wargravechurch.org.uk). I will be contacting people directly, but rather than wait for me, go ahead anyway. Over 30 years ago, the village pooled its collective memory in producing The Book of Wargrave. This is our chance to collect our combined wisdom and experience in The Book of Wargrave Church. It won't replace the Bible, but perhaps it'll reach number 2 on our bestseller list!!



Mark Puddy  
Churchwarden

## PATHFINDERS

At St Mary's Wargrave, we have relaunched (after the COVID pandemic) Pathfinders, our gathering of youth at our Sunday morning services for bible study, prayer and discussion.

We are meeting twice a month, giving the youth an opportunity also to be with family in the main service, which we recognise is important. The numbers are small, but hopefully as we are faithful with what we have, we will see more growth with time. As we grow and get more established we hope we can share more with you, but we ask for now that your prayers be with the youth at this time and that Pathfinders be a vessel of outreach. We began Pathfinders in April, starting with the theme of Easter in line with the season we were in. Thank you for your prayers.

A reminder of the contacts to reach out to for all our Young Clubs.

**Creché - Camilla Cook** camillacook@btconnect.com

**Sunday Club - Annie da Silva** hobden.da.silva@gmail.com

**Pathfinders - Marc Uniacke** marcuniacke@gmail.com

**Tuesday Youth Group - Richard Eves** richard.m.s.eves@gmail.com

## KNOWL HILL NEWS

Regarding our renovation project, we are making slow but steady progress. We are waiting for hopefully successful outcomes of two grant funding applications in the next few months which should enable us to actually begin the building work later in the year. We will start by replacing the nave floor including under floor heating and installing toilets and a kitchen. It is probable that we will have to delay replastering and redecoration until further funding has been sourced. If anyone knows of relevant sources of funding please let me know. We have been successful in receiving grants from the Garfield Weston Foundation, the All Churches Trust, the Big Lottery Fund, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and the Louis Bayliss Trust for which we are enormously grateful. We have also been extremely fortunate to receive anonymous donations towards the project and for repairs to the church clock and the gate which are hugely appreciated.

We are also so grateful for responses from residents for contributions to funds for the day to day costs of maintaining St. Peter's, also to everyone who attends our fundraising events and helps with churchyard and cemetery tidy ups. More helpers are always welcome as the cemetery has rewilded itself and will need some serious attention once No Mow May is over. It does have an abundance of wild flowers which of course we want to keep.

It has been such a pleasure to be able to resume our community and fundraising events including a quiz and skittles evening and CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other). The next event is:

Pantaloons Theatre Group

"The War of the Worlds" on 29th June

Contact Lesley Bell 07966 178142 or the KHVA website for tickets. Do get in touch if you would like more information on local events.

Sandra Baker, Churchwarden at St Peter's  
sbakerdalc@hotmail.co.uk / 01628 822402

WARGRAVECHURCH.ORG.UK



## VICAR'S LETTER

Dear *Friends*

Camilla and I returned recently from a week's holiday in the Lake District. During that time we took the opportunity one evening to watch the film 'Operation Mincemeat'. If you haven't seen the film yet and intend to do so I may need to issue a 'spoiler alert'!



I remember very clearly sitting on a sofa, probably around 1968, with my brother in our family home as our father read to us before bedtime. The book was 'The Man Who Never Was' (published in 1953), written by Ewen Montagu CBE, KC, DL. Montagu was a British Judge and Naval Intelligence Officer, who had a key role in Operation Mincemeat. Operation Mincemeat was one of the most daring intelligence plots of all time: a plan to convince the Nazis that far from intending to invade Sicily in 1943, which had enormous potential as a military game changer, the allies were in fact getting ready to invade Greece.

To do this, a corpse was obtained from a mortuary and given a completely false identity- the non-existent Royal Marine Major William Martin. The body was transported to the coast of neutral Spain, via a submarine, and the corpse, carrying false documentation and false military information, was floated off near the coast of Spain. The hope was that the documents would end up with German High Command, which they did.

What is much less well-known is the role of Alexis von Ronne who was a German army colonel. Historians have described him as 'Hitler's favourite intelligence analyst'. He rose to a prominent position as direct adviser to Hitler. In this role he was able to deliberately mislead Hitler and von Ronne passed on the fake Operation Mincemeat information to him, helping divert German focus and military planning to Greece, rather than Sicily where the Allies did indeed land.

When 160,000 allied troops invaded Sicily on July 10th 1945, the Nazis eyes were looking towards Greece. Several thousand allied troops lives were saved, Benito Mussolini's downfall was aided, and the tide of the war was turned to an Allied victory.

Alexis von Ronne was a committed Christian believer and deliberately acted to deceive Hitler because of his faith. Later in the war he was arrested. At a show trial, he declared that Nazi race policies were inconsistent with his understanding of the Bible and the Lord Jesus Christ's teaching. His Christian conscience had been previously outraged by the SS terror unleashed on Poland.

He was hanged on a meat hook at Plotzensee Prison on October 12th 1944. His final words to his wife were, 'In a moment now I shall be going home to our Lord in complete calm and the certainty of salvation.' He never lived to see the end of the Second World War and the end of Nazi tyranny. But his faith leading to his actions, had an extraordinary impact for good.

Whilst none of us are in the same position as von Ronne was, it might be useful for us to prayerfully consider what role we - even unknowing- might play in our daily lives and even in history because of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

*John*

John R.M. Cook  
Vicar of Wargrave with Knowl Hill

## ECO CHURCH UPDATE



**tearfund**

*Following Jesus where  
the need is greatest*

As we enjoy warmer weather and sweeter strawberries, it is easy to forget that in many places God's earth is warming in ways that are destructive, and that they need our prayers and support. Here is an example from a Tearfund worker, a charity our parish has supported for over 30 years.

Promise Salawu works for Tearfund Nigeria and has lived in Jos, Plateau State, for 20 years. She grew up giving thanks to God for favourable weather. Jos would drop to 2°C during the harmattan (autumn/winter) and, during the dry season, never get hotter than 27°C. This was good for people, animals, crops and plants.

But the climate has changed. In Jos, the temperature now reaches 42°C. This has brought an increase in pests and diseases, unpredictable rains, disrupted farming cycles and less reliable harvests. Food is becoming scarcer, so prices and poverty rates are rising. She is sad to see farmers struggle without good resources to help them adapt. She sees God's creation, of which we are a part, as one of His greatest gifts to us and something we should value.

Nigeria is big, and the effects of climate change are felt differently across the country. In the south, an increase in sea levels is displacing coastal communities and causing them to lose their indigenous lands. On a trip to Lagos, she saw an entire community flooded by rains, the ground floors of shopping malls under water, goods damaged and properties lost. All she felt able to do for them was pray. The people were facing, she says, a disaster they do not understand, and for which they are not responsible.

Meanwhile in the north, temperatures are reaching 48°C. Droughts and rapid desertification are forcing people to migrate to regions with better vegetation as never before. The increased demand for land and water creates tensions.

Without financial help, it will be impossible for many families and communities to adapt to and survive the impacts of the climate crisis. Our actions have an effect on others, no matter how far away they are.

We can make a difference by minimising our impact on the planet and supporting Tearfund.

All proceeds for Midsummer Music at the Manse in the Wargrave Village Festival on 12th June will go to them. You can help further by supporting Tearfund's **Time to Deliver** campaign at [tearfund.org/campaigns](https://tearfund.org/campaigns).

Promise believes this will have a bigger impact than you can imagine.

Mike Buckland  
Parish Tearfund Rep





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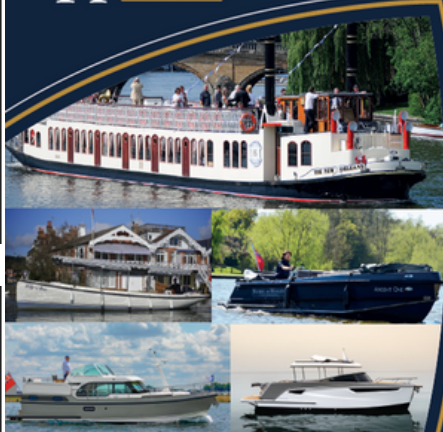
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