



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

JULY / AUGUST 2022

VILLAGE FESTIVAL

A round up of some of the events that took place with St Mary's

SUNDAY CLUB

Discover what St Mary's offers to our children

BISHOP OLIVIA

A Special Service on the environment at St Mary's

In other news:
Mission Support
A License to Serve
Nature in our Churches
Yeldall Open Day
Knowl Hill News

From the Editor

Welcome to our Summer edition of the Parish Magazine which has as its feature reports on the Church-organised events for the Wargrave Village Festival. All these events were superbly organised and thoroughly enjoyed by the audiences, and we must congratulate all those who set to in making them such a success. Reports on the End of Festival Service and Family BBQ will be covered in the next issue.

The feature for the September magazine will be 'What We Did on Our Holidays' and so do let us know how you spent your vacation. The copy date will be Wednesday 17th August and so it would only apply to early holidaymakers!

In the meantime, may I wish you all a very happy and care-free Summer.

Bob

BOB AUSTEN | PARISH MAGAZINE EDITOR



WELCOME

The copy date for submissions for the September Magazine is noon on Wednesday 17th August 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. 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

Weddings at St Mary's, Wargrave

14th May Matthew Griffiths & Zara Canty
1st June David White & Bethany Cardy
4th June Christopher Wellington & Louise Rees

Wedding Blessing at St Mary's, Wargrave

19th May Stephen & Hannah White

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

7th May John Malcolm Akers, 92, Interment of ashes, St Mary's Churchyard
13th May Ruth Margaret Turton, 82, Cremation at Reading
23rd May Ralph Reginald Rattley, 92, Burial in The New Cemetery
30th May Ann Maureen Callender, 82, Burial in the New Cemetery



SUNDAY SERVICES

July & August

St Mary's Church, Wargrave - July & August

8.00am Holy Communion: a said service in traditional language
9.45am Service reflective below

1st Sunday of the month: **3rd July & 7th August**

9.45am All Age Family Worship

2nd Sunday of the month: **10th July & 14th August**

9.45am Holy Communion

3rd Sunday of the month: **17th July & 21st August**

9.45am Morning Worship in modern language with music

4th Sunday of the month: **24th July & 28th August**

9.45am Holy Communion

5th Sunday of the month: **31st July**

9.45am All Age Holy Communion

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

Why not join us on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month, in the morning, for some time to meet with other mothers and carers, enjoy a delicious breakfast, chat and have the opportunity to take part in a parenting discussion.

Hosted in St Mary's Church Centre, starting at 9.30am, 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](#)

Next Sessions: 29th June, 6th & 20th July.

No sessions will take place in August due to holiday period.



LADIES' BREAKFAST

Come and join us in the Church Centre at 9am on **Saturday 2nd July** for a delicious breakfast and stimulating discussion. All welcome.



This month, you are invited to a session where we will continue to look at the Holy Spirit considering the following questions. What do we mean by the fruits of the spirit? What are the gifts of the spirit? When have we known the work of the spirit in our lives?

Contact Linda for more information.
lindacaradine9@gmail.com

WELCOME CAFÉ

The Café will be open from 2.30pm - 4pm in the Hannen Room on the following Tuesdays:

5th, 12th, 19th & 26th July
2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th August



OPEN CHURCH

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

VILLAGE FESTIVAL: CHURCH ACTIVITY



Another fantastic year for the Wargrave Village Festival and what a treat we have all been given. It is such a joy knowing that the church family can work with the Community to put on such a wide range of entertainment for all ages.

Here is a reminder of what St Mary's was involved in:

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

MIDSUMMER MUSIC AT THE MANSE

or, in old terms, Brass on the Grass

Sue Witney

Midsummer Music at the Manse was held on the first Sunday evening of the Festival in its new location. John & Camilla had very kindly agreed for us to use the vicarage garden and such a lot of preparation went into getting the venue ready. The gardening team were called in to help but such was the enthusiasm of Camilla and one or two others, namely Mike Etwell & Bill Bookless, there was very little left to do.

John was allocated the task of car park attendant quickly showing his expertise in this area. Teas, coffees and soft drinks were kindly overseen by Camilla as well as Helen Vonka.

I have to admit there was some apprehension on my part as to how this event would unfold and be received by people in its new location but my worries were unfounded. The acoustics were good, there was plenty of room and even though we didn't have the river at the bottom of the garden, the vicarage garden looked lovely, and the lights put up by the festival committee only served to enhance this.

Our first guests arrived 45 minutes before the gates were due to open but they made themselves comfortable and enjoyed the ambience.

The weather was kind to us and the Blue Sky Big Band, a Berkshire band, played some great music and they themselves enjoyed the venue (and the food at half time which was put on for them - a big thanks to

VILLAGE FESTIVAL



Sarah Whiteside, Camilla Cook and Margaret Tumber for the sandwich preparation). Chris Perry came along to take photos of the event for us which was very much appreciated.

As with Brass on the Grass, all proceeds are in aid of Tearfund, a Christian Charity working through local churches abroad to overcome poverty and transform lives in some of the poorest nations of the world. We think we will have raised just over £1000 for Tearfund.

Thanks to all of you who supported this event and we look forward to the next one.



ACADEMY OF ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS

Mark Puddy

On the sunny evening of June 13th, Peter Dart welcomed the Academy of St Martin in the Fields back to the 2022 Wargrave Festival.

The capacity audience was held entranced by a mixed programme, opening with Mendelssohn's Fingal's Cave, followed by the strings of the orchestra for Elgar's Serenade. The first half ended with Haydn's Trumpet Concerto, with the solo part played by Mark David. I have never heard the finale taken as fast and flawlessly as he played it in the rehearsal, and, despite the altered acoustics of a full church, he played it almost as quickly in the concert. It was spectacular and the audience erupted with prolonged applause.

The interval drinks were coordinated from the marquee behind the church, and such was the enthusiastic chatter that it needed a Bayreuth-like fanfare from Siegfried on the horn to summon us back to the church for the second half. This opened with Vaughan Williams' the Lark Ascending with Tomo Keller, leader of the orchestra, playing the solo violin. I was amazed how he could create the quietest possible sound and yet still be audible throughout the church.

It was so quiet that I could even hear the fan in the projector from the roof, and the whole audience was concentrating so hard that no one dropped a pin. The concert programme ended with a vibrant rendition of Mozart's 40th symphony, showing how the orchestra, despite playing on modern instruments, have incorporated historically informed performance practice into a style of their own. It is remarkable how the orchestra can maintain such cohesion without a conductor, which here is due to

the dynamic playing of the leader, and the alertness of the orchestra to play as one.

After the end of the official programme, we were treated to an encore of more Elgar with Chanson du Matin.

I had heard them rehearsing this, so knew what we had in store. Following on from the cleaner sound of the Mozart, the tone of the orchestra playing was like sun shining on honey. Scrummy! Talking to members of the orchestra before the concert was fascinating; the celebrated percussionist, Tristan Fry, told me about his experiences performing for Vaughan Williams and Stravinsky over 50 years earlier. It certainly was clear how much the orchestra enjoys coming to Wargrave. Long may this continue!



ACADEMY OF ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS

All photos courtesy of Tim Hodges

VILLAGE FESTIVAL



FESTIVAL FOLK CLUB

Jane Austen

Tuesday evening 14th June was the date of our Festival Folk Club and what a lovely evening it turned out to be. The weather was gorgeous and a full house turned up at the Church Centre to enjoy an evening of music and fun!

The programme started with a set from French Collection, most of whose members are recognisable from our Church music group. Fresh from their successful appearance at the Jubilee Party on Mill Green, the band was in good form! The highlight of this set for me was 'There But For Fortune', beautifully sung by Karen with delicious accompaniment from the rest of the band.



The next act was a group that used to perform occasionally at The Greyhound, Ian and Christina with Paul. Their set was composed of self-penned songs and a beautiful rendition of 'Crazy Man Michael', an early Richard Thompson song from his days with Fairport Convention. The combination of guitar and flute was mesmerising!

After the interval we were treated to a wonderful performance from the Wargrave Community Choir, who came in force and delivered a great set. The highlight for me was 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow'; such lovely harmonies! Their set concluded with a rousing rendition of 'Wild Rover', a real crowd pleaser! It is amazing there is so much talent in Wargrave!

The evening concluded with another set from French Collection which included a song written by Bob in the 1960's when he was a member of a band in Cardiff. This set was full of great songs, many of which were instantly recognisable by the audience. Highlights for me were 'If You Could Read My Mind' sung superbly by Steve, 'Puff the Magic Dragon' which Karen sang exquisitely and 'Les Bicyclettes de Belsize' which Steve sang with gusto! The set finished with 'Sweet Caroline' which went down a treat with the audience! It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces and all agreed it had been a great night! Big thanks to Nigel and his daughter Chantelle for running the bar, Graham and Ed for the superb PA and everyone that helped out on the night.

BUTTERFLIES

Camilla Cook

Butterflies took on a new angle this month for the 2022 Wargrave Festival 'Summer of Love': hosted by our wonderful team, we enjoyed a blessed morning of a delicious brunch, a variety of crafts and singing.

Helpers and the church centre were bedecked with butterflies. Stations were set aside for cupcake and biscuit decorating and craft making, and there was even a butterflies' photo booth. Rosie Creedon joined us midway through with her guitar to lead us in a sing-a-long, which she ably did amidst all the chatter and play.

It was wonderful to see many children dressed as butterflies. A special shout out to Rose Adkins for her wings and to Geordie and Finn Robinson for the amazing face painting! We were delighted to welcome quite a few new mums with new babies to the event and hope to get to know them better in the months ahead.

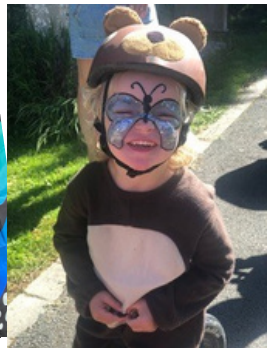
A huge thank you to the home team for their ongoing love and care for our mums and tots, as well as for their

planning and execution of a really lovely event. Thanks to Cynthia, Alex, Lesley, Jane, Cath, Michele, Kerry, Angie and Jo.

Butterflies is a group for mums and pre-school aged children and babies. We meet in the St Mary's Church Centre on 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month, during term time. Our next sessions are on June 29th, July 6th and 20th. If you have a young child, do pop in and see what we're all about - we'd love to meet you!

Photo credits: Michele Bryan and Fiona Mowlem

VILLAGE FESTIVAL



RAMBLE & PICNIC

Jane Austen

Despite gloomy weather forecasts, the Festival Ramble and Picnic was bathed in sunshine as Ramblin' Bob led us on a 4 mile circular walk across the fields and paths to Crazies Hill.

14 of us met up at the kissing gate on Blakes Lane and set forth across the farmland to Hennerton Golf Club where Bob showed us pictures and diagrams of the memorial to the crew of the B17 Flying Fortress that crashed in the area during WW2. A short while later we entered Penny's Lane, an ancient sunken track that connected Crazies Hill with the Henley Road.

Further on we passed Crazies Hall which used to be the old Henley Town Hall before it was removed in 1897 and rebuilt in Crazies Hill. Unfortunately, the building is now shielded with a tall wooden fence which prevented us from admiring this beautiful edifice although Bob showed us a picture to stir our imaginations!

We then had a brief exploration of the hamlet before entering the footpath past the delightful Rebecca's Cottage to visit Rebecca's Well which used to be the water supply for the village. Leaving the copse we sat down in a field to take a rest and enjoy our picnics, with only the waving grass and occasional airliner overhead for company. Such a peaceful place!

Passing Highfield Farm (where Bob remembered in earlier days seeing cattle walking across the road from what is now a business park) we entered Bottom Boles Wood and then into a hedged byway known as Green Lane. The final stage of our ramble was across a field to Highfield Park, passing in the distance the area which Bob explained was in WW2 the site of a tented camp for American troops prior to their evacuation to the beaches of Normandy. Highfield Park was built to house the facilities needed for the troops; ablutions, canteen, cinema, first aid post and the like. Its role now as a housing estate is a long way from its original purpose!

We then parted company and everyone agreed it had been a lovely event!



OBITUARY

Lord Remnant



23RD OCTOBER 1930
4TH MARCH 2022

IN MEMORIAM

John Cook writes:

"Over the last 14 years it has been a privilege to have known Lord Remnant. Jimmy Remnant's life was one of very distinguished public service across a whole range of spheres. He was also Patron of this parish with the responsibility of appointing the Vicar of the Parish of Wargrave with Knowl Hill in 2008, the year I was appointed. He took a keen interest in the life of the church and, until recently, joined us with Serena on Sundays, where he was simply 'Jimmy', a member of the church family. Personally, I am grateful for his constant encouragement and support: to me as vicar but also to us as a family. We miss him enormously."

TRIBUTE BY PHILIP REMNANT

We have all come here today to celebrate Jimmy/Dad's life. On behalf of myself, my mother and the whole family, may I thank you all for being here and also Alan Cyle for allowing us to hold this service in such a beautiful church - indeed the church in which my parents were married in Coronation year some 69 years ago.

I am not convinced that children are particularly suitable for giving tributes to parents. There may be a tendency to view them through rose-tinted spectacles and to be blind to any possible character deficiencies, as they themselves are likely to have inherited the same characteristics.

Self-awareness was never one of my stronger suits.

I am further constrained by my mother's diktat that just reciting Dad's long list of achievements would be extraordinarily

boring, so I will stick to the edited highlights. Further, Dad will be looking down from above, doing what he normally did when a sermon stretched beyond a few minutes, rather ostentatiously looking at his watch.

It may have escaped your attention that Shane Warne, Rod Marsh and my father all died on 4th March. Whilst it may have been an exaggeration for my son-in-law to say that the world had lost two cricketing legends and Rod Marsh on the same day, Dad was no mean sportsman.

He excelled at those two idiosyncratic Etonian games: the Field and the Wall.

The latter is a game of legalised brutality where nobody, least of all the participants, understands the rules, other than the umpire who can't actually see anything that is happening under a mass of heaving,

but unmoving, bodies. Dad emerged from one encounter with the skin on his face rubbed raw by the fives gloves which had been baked in the oven the night before by one opposing Colleger.

He was surprisingly quick over short distances. This speed was put to best advantage in the Father's Race at my prep school. After winning it comfortably in my first two years, he was then handicapped by having to start 30 yards behind the competition – and the other side of a barbed wire fence.

It was also much in evidence on one family holiday to France when, just as the train was poised to depart, he remembered that he had left his briefcase, containing all our money and passports, in the station restaurant. Having hopped off, the train did indeed start to move, with my mother draped theatrically through the window gesticulating to the guard and crying “mon mari, mon mari”, when my father was to be spotted, briefcase in hand, haring down the platform in hot pursuit. Fortunately, in those days, you could open train doors and he was hauled into the rear carriage by a bemused, but unusually helpful, Frenchman.

Back to the cricketing field. He was President of the local Wargrave Cricket Club, the highlight of which each year was the Remnant side consisting of family and friends, playing against the village. There was always a sumptuous lunch beforehand, washed down by wine from Dad's small vineyard which he had planted and cultivated himself long before English wine was remotely fashionable. The wine would not have won any prizes from Decanter but it was very drinkable. The most impressive part was the label which my father had persuaded John Piper to design.

It was neither the cricket pitch nor his vinification skills at which my father most excelled.

It was through Touche Remnant, which he co-founded in 1970, that his reputation in the City was defined. It became one of the leaders of the asset management world,

specialising in investment trusts, and in the mid 1970s was the same size as M&G.

He always maintained that investment trusts were managed primarily for the benefit of the trust shareholders, whereas unit trusts were managed with the interests of the managers predominating over the interests of investors. Relative performance would tend to support this view.

Some fifty years later, the Touche Remnant trusts now form the core of the Janus Henderson investment trust business.

I am told that, as the best dressed person at Touche Remnant, he set high standards and treated everybody in the same courteous fashion right down to the tea lady. He was firm but measured. At one moment, he might be putting a restraining hand on the arm of one increasingly exercised colleague, advising sotto voce “pick your battles”; at another, he might be defusing a contentious situation by saying “we may disagree but let us agree to disagree agreeably”.

It was suggested somewhere that he did not relish the professionalism that accompanied the post Big Bang world from the late 1980s. That is not so: he was always professional in the way he approached everything he tackled.

He had very firm views and good judgement, on what was right and wrong. The perverse consequence of more and more rules and regulations was that compliance with the strict letter of the law was considered sufficient, rather than consideration of whether the resultant behaviour was acceptable according to the spirit of the legislation. In essence, law was not an adequate substitution for ethics, and this he felt strongly.

His charitable commitments over the years were many and varied – and they were serious commitments in terms of time and energy. They ranged from the Salters Company to the Florence Nightingale Foundation, from the Royal

Jubilee Trusts under Prince Charles (for which he was awarded his CVO), from Learning through Landscapes to the Order of St John.

Several others were connected to the Church of England. He was President of YMCA England, a Church Commissioner and a Trustee of the Anglican Fund chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury. That one of my great friends was at the current Archbishop's enthronement was surprise enough, only surpassed by his comment that he had a fascinating conversation with my father there.

One of my father's more endearing qualities was knowing his own limitations.

At Prince Philip's behest he became the Christian co-ordinator for the Interfaith Foundation which was set up to promote harmony between the three participating religious groups of Jews, Muslims and Christians. Those leading from the other groups were Evelyn de Rothschild and the Crown Prince of Jordan. As my father said, you should never take on a responsibility which you know you are not capable of carrying out properly, and in due course he managed to extricate himself gracefully.

He also had a deep affection for the Coldstream Guards. This always intrigued me, given that it was a relatively short direct engagement during National Service. It, therefore, says much both for the Coldstream as an institution and for what it delivered to Dad personally, including several life long friends.

But throughout, and by far the most important, it was love of the family – and theirs for him – which pervaded my father's life. Central to that was, of course, Mum/Serena.

In the relatively early stages of their relationship, my mother suggested they took a three month break from seeing each other to concentrate her mind. This news spread like wildfire in London social circles and all eligible bachelors started flocking to Eaton Place as bees to a honeypot.

Immediately the time was up, Dad put a letter through the letterbox inviting Mum to dinner the following evening, or that was the end. Six weeks later they were engaged.

The happiest of marriages lasted the best part of 69 years. There is no doubt that my father would not have been who he was without the unfailing support and devotion of my mother. He was indeed a fortunate man.

On Dad's death, I was struck by how Mum's grief was exacerbated by her despair at the general state of the world today. In my father's papers, I came across a wise and very old Chinese proverb:

"If there be righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character. If there is beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home. If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation. When there is order in each nation, there will be peace in the world".

The kernel of this quote seems to be that it is individual conduct that determines what kind of world we make. I can't help but feel that, if we were all to live by the same standards and values as Dad sought to, then the world would be a slightly better place.

We will all have our own memories of my father and have much to be thankful for in the life which he spent with us. The lovely letters we the family received were remarkably consistent in stressing his warmth, his charm, his sense of humour and sparkle. Someone put it rather well when saying that he always very much looked as though he had discovered the answer.

As for me, I will remember him as someone who in an increasingly amoral world knew instinctively what was right and what was wrong, who basked in the relatively modest successes of myself and my siblings, but who above all was a wise, loving and immensely supportive father.

MISSION WE SUPPORT: INTERACTION BELGIUM

"I thank my God every time I remember you.

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now"

Philippians 1: 3-4



One (among very many!) of the great joys of being part of the church of Jesus Christ is the way that we as a local gathering of believers can share in the work of mission with other believers from all over the world. We are never alone as Christians, and we can partner with and support one another in our missions through prayer, practical and financial gifts, and by sending individuals for a short or long time to help in the work.

This summer we are sending Richard, Mel, and Alice Eves to believers in Belgium to work with them to reach Belgian and British teenagers. Interaction Belgium is a Christian Bilingual Camp bilingual camp which runs for ten days in July at Chateau de Courriere near Namur in southern Belgium. For the first time since 2019 around fifty British and Belgian teenagers will be gathering to make new friends, try loads of new activities, including volley-ball, football, swimming, high-ropes, arts & crafts and drama as well as fantastic team games, and all in French and English! At the same time in morning and evening meeting the campers hear about the heart of the Christian message in the

Lord Jesus, and are invited to explore further and share their own views and perspectives in daily small group bible studies. This year the campers will be looking through the book of Exodus. There is also a unique theme for the entire ten days of camp, and this year it is the Asterix and Obelix series of comics by Goscinny and Uderzo, so there should be lots of iron age themed chaos and excitement.

Do please be praying for the camp as we send the Eves family as leaders. Ask that God would be at work in the hearts of the teens and preparing them for what they are to learn about Him. Pray particularly for campers who have been coming for a number of years but have yet to show a personal interest in the gospel. And pray that all of the leaders will have wisdom and energy as they engage with the teens over a very demanding ten days.

ORDINATION: A LICENCE TO SERVE

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

~ Mark 10:45 ~

There’s quite a lot of kneeling in an ordination service, and during lockdown Reading Minster Church had gotten rid of all of their kneeling cushions for reasons of hygiene. Because of this, they asked each of us getting ordained to bring a kneeling cushion from our parish to use during the service. St Mary’s has a diverse and beautiful array of kneeling cushions, so one Sunday between the morning services I strolled up and down the pews searching for the cushion that seemed just right. It wasn’t only the pattern and design that had to be born in mind; like modern mattresses, these cushions came in a wide range of springiness, for knees of every variety. Eventually I settled on one that seemed to fit the bill. It featured in yellow and green a simple cross, flanked by the alpha and omega, and had just the right firmness to aid rising to your feet.

It was not until some time later that I realised that there was a dedication patch on the underside of the cushion, recording in whose name the cushion was being given to the church, and who had made it. I was delighted to discover that it had been made by one of the most long standing and beloved members of the congregation (I will spare them blushes by preserving their anonymity). It gave me a real joy to think that as I went off to my ordination I was going to be literally held up by this person’s gift to the church; that I was just the latest in a long line of people that this person had served and cared for with their time and dedication, many years before.

That sort of patient, consistent, person by person, service in love is exactly the way of living that the Lord Jesus modeled so perfectly in his ministry, and calls on all those who follow him to adopt. His call is to all of His people, but especially so to those who are to serve in set aside roles of leadership. Having been ordained on Saturday 25th June, please will you join with me in praying, that I would hear His call, and follow His example, by seeking always, not to be served, but to serve.

Richard Eves



A LICENCE TO SERVE

WHAT'S ON - DISCOVER MORE FROM OUR WEBSITE

For many, a church website is the window to a church for those that are not normally regular goers, however, did you know that it also has a lot of information about what is happening in the church, especially each week, which can be a great source of knowledge. So, next time you have a moment, why not check out the 'What's On' section for the following:

- Sunday Services
- Weekly Thought
- Weekly Notices
- Calendar
- Magazine

We will also have pages that come and go regarding our special events e.g. Festival, Christmas, so make sure you keep checking back.



PRAYER IS A STEERING WHEEL

Someone has written these beautiful words. They are like the Ten Commandments to follow in life at all times.

1. Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble. But it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.
2. So why is a car's windshield so large and the rear view mirror so small? Because our past is not as important as our future. So, look ahead and move on.
3. Friendship is like a book. It takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.
4. All things in life are temporary. If it's going well enjoy it; that won't last long. If it's going badly, don't worry that won't last long either.
5. Old friends are gold. New friends are diamonds! If you get a diamond don't forget the gold! Because to hold a diamond, you always need a base of gold.
6. Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, God smiles from above and says, "Relax sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end."
7. When God solves your problems, you have faith in His abilities; When God doesn't solve your problems, He has faith in your abilities.
8. A blind person asked St Anthony, "Can there be anything worse than losing your eyesight?" He replied, "Yes, losing your vision."
9. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them; sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
10. Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles; it takes away today's peace.

THE BIG JUBILEE LUNCH

Arriving on Mill Green on Sunday 5th June for the Giant Jubilee Picnic we were enchanted to be met by an impressionistic burst of patriotic colour, noise and movement - a blur of red, white and blue fanning out from the church, spilling around the trees and marquees, flags and bunting fluttering in the excitement. Over 1100 Wargravians and friends had gathered for the party, everyone had dressed up royally - the patient queuing for tickets 3 months earlier about to pay off.



THE BIG JUBILEE LUNCH

Planning and preparations had started weeks earlier chez Puddy but gazing around it was very clear that Trestle Table Puddy had fallen behind on the bunting though gained points for appropriately themed napkins, tablecloth and attire including masks of the royal family circa 2012 and a nicely colour-coordinated floral arrangement. Our cake didn't trouble Judge Julia but it was our patriotic duty to make the effort. Just as Tim Hodges, photographer for all things royal, manfully climbed the belltower to take the iconic photo of us all waving enthusiastically but then he should really have abseiled down for Queen and country.



The Queen is known to prefer tuneful music and front men Bob The Voice Austen, Karen Lloyd and Steve Turville of the Wargrave band French Collection sang old favourites from the 60s. We'll never know if Puff the Magic Dragon is actually on Her Majesty's playlist. Then followed upbeat show songs from Wargrave community choir and a subversive magician for the children delighting in slapstick and toilet humour. No party would be complete without Redcoat Andy Ferguson on the microphone explaining, instructing and cajoling, that jacket of his still fitting like a glove after 4 decades.



Full of sausage rolls, crisps and cake the crowds drifted off to the bouncy castle and slide, the sweet stall and a quiet nap. As was fitting for a royal occasion there was no thunderstorm, no sunburn and no flies.

Susan Eggleton



LADIES' BREAKFAST: Saturday 4th June

Ladies' breakfast in June offered an invitation to all to join in a conversation about the Holy Spirit and started with a specific invitation for the Holy Spirit to be with us.

We started with an open discussion on how we saw the Holy Spirit, who He was and how He relates to the Trinity. We looked at different pictorial ways of representing the Trinity. Was it a vertical line implying some sort of hierarchy, was it a horizontal line showing a flatter structure, or a triangle or a circle or something else entirely demonstrating something more significant, immense and personal? Could a banana help our understanding? Had our understanding changed over the years?

We then considered the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament, described by the father as the Spirit of Truth. We looked at how He 'came upon' and 'departed from' key personalities chosen by the father, who would lead or teach at specific times.

In the New Testament we followed the Holy Spirit's involvement with Mary, in the birth of Jesus, in the baptism of Jesus and in his temptation. As our meeting was the day before Pentecost we spent some time considering Jesus' promise to send the Helper to his disciples and consequently to all his followers. We focused on Peter and his transformation, Philip, and the way he followed the leading of the Spirit to the Ethiopian and the conversation of St Paul.

Perhaps our biggest lesson that Saturday morning was that we cannot restrict the Holy Spirit and that our discussion had only just touched the surface of who He is. There is still so much more to consider...what do we mean by the fruits of the spirit? What are the gifts of the spirit? When have we known the work of the spirit in our lives? We decided to continue the discussion in July. Do feel free to join us on the 2nd July at 9am in the Church Centre before the summer break.

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS with Ramblin' Bob

Sunday dawned bright and sunny as a group of 15 of us met at the lovely St James Church in Ruscombe on Sunday 29th May for another ramble with Bob.

Our ramble took us through Twyford and alongside the weir pool on the River Loddon where Bob waxed lyrical of the occasion when he caught a mighty barbel! We then entered Loddon Nature Reserve, a beautifully maintained area surrounded by disused gravel pits which had become a haven for wading birds. So peaceful and quiet!



Linda Caradine

We then entered the lovely farmland around Stanlake Park, with the imposing gothic mansion overlooking our progress. We peered around for the herd of deer that Bob had seen here on his previous walks but alas they were not around this time.

The walk continued across fields and stiles and back to Ruscombe and this was followed by a delicious Sunday roast at The Bull.

Jane Austen



SPECIAL SERVICE

with Bishop Olivia



St Mary's, Wargrave has been chosen to host a short service on **Wednesday 20th July**, at which, Bishop Olivia will deliver a brief sermon on the environment.

You are all invited to attend and are asked to arrive at 10.15am for a prompt 10.30am start. A film crew will be present from 9am until 3pm, filming before, during and after the service, with a focus on aspects of our Eco Church activities.

This is for a series called Earthrise, which will be broadcast worldwide on Al Jazeera.

As the filming of the service could include shots of the congregation, you should only attend the service if you are happy that you might feature in the programme.

A SPECIAL SERVICE

'A CHRISTMAS CAROL' - INTERESTED?

As part of our Advent and Christmas celebrations, we plan to present an adaptation of Charles Dickens', 'A Christmas Carol' to be performed at the end of November.

We have an experienced director and an enthusiastic team and all we need are: Actors, Singers, Musicians and anyone keen to help design and build a simple set. We will also need assistance with costumes, lighting and sound.

We know we have a great deal of talent in our parish and we need you to come forward.

We hope to have an initial presentation and play reading at the end of July with auditions and rehearsals to commence in September.

If you are keen to be involved, please contact Steve at stephen.turville@ntlworld.com.

Enthusiasm is more important than experience, so please join us for a wonderful start to the Christmas period.



YELDALL MANOR OPEN DAY: 2nd July

Sue Hedger

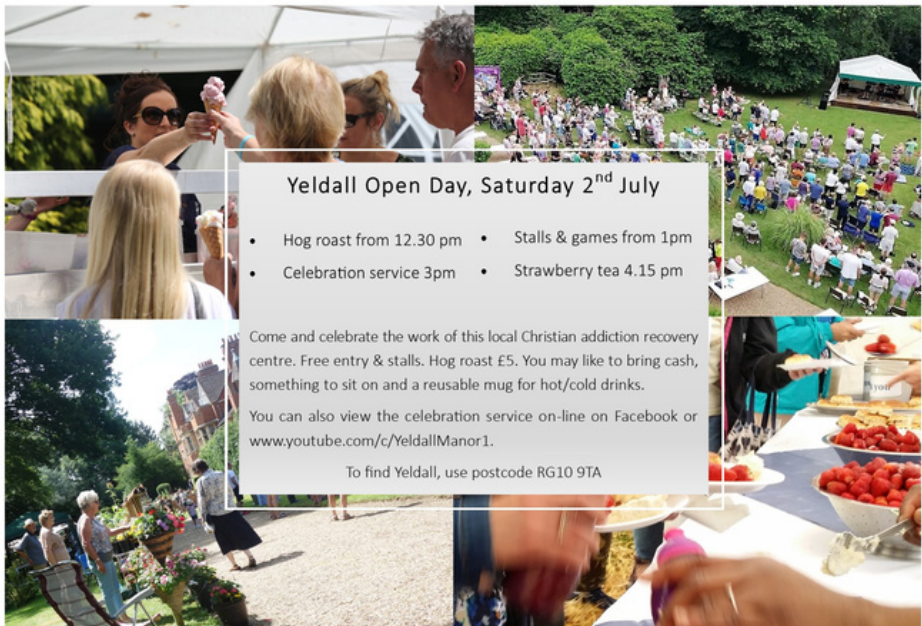
After two years of virtual events only, we are delighted to be able to welcome people to our annual Open Day at Yeldall on the afternoon of Saturday 2nd July.

Free parking and admission. Gates open at 12.30pm for a hog roast (£5) or bring your own picnic. At 1pm, stalls and games open for all the family. There will be a bouncy castle, golf and football game, craft items to buy, or just enjoy a tea/coffee and ice-cream with friends old or new. You may want to bring some cash for any donations or payments you make, and why not bring your own mug for hot/cold drinks to reduce waste? At 3pm, we will gather on the lawn for a service of celebration as we mark the graduations of some of the men who have completed our programme over the past year. (Feel free to bring chairs or rug to sit on; just a limited number of chairs will be available for those who most need them.) After the worship service finishes, we will end the afternoon with a strawberry tea on the lawn, courtesy of our friends at Grays Farm.

We are off Blakes Lane, Hare Hatch (Sat Nav postcode: RG10 9TA). Please join us, and bring your friends and family to enjoy our lovely grounds whilst finding out more about the work of this local Christian drug and alcohol recovery centre. However, for those who can't make it (or have any cold or Covid symptoms, however minor), the celebration service itself will still be live-streamed at 3pm on our Facebook and YouTube pages.

Offers of help on the day, or small brand new items for use as prizes would be gratefully received by Sue Hedger by 27th June at the latest.

YELDALL MANOR OPEN DAY



HAVE YOU MET?

Sue & Steve Witney



Sue has been in the village now for over 20 years and Steve, 16. She started life in the north of England and it was only after completing her Theology and Religious Studies degree in Leeds and teacher training in Cambridge that she migrated south to teach in Upminster and then continued to work in Essex for 16 years in three different schools.

She moved into Wargrave in January 2000 having secured a teaching job which included responsibility for Collective Worship. It was a big move and she had no idea about Berkshire but Wargrave just seemed a pretty place to be and near enough to Maidenhead where she was going to be teaching. She had already made enquiries as to what the church was like from David Houghton, a name she found on the website, and as he assured her it was a 'good' church, Wargrave was decided upon. Her first home here was in one of the lovely terraces at the top of School Lane.

It was while she was working at Altwood School that she met Steve, a well-established Physics teacher and Head of Science, who had worked at the school for 23 years. After a few years of working together, it became apparent that there were some common interests such as travel, skiing and horses and, after a lot of persuasion on her part, Steve agreed to go out with her! Steve had been under the impression that Sue was very wealthy as she went on three skiing holidays a year. However, what he had not realised was that she was cooking on these holidays with Gold Hill Skiing for about 60 people at a time and this enabled her to afford these trips.

Perhaps, having got over the initial shock, on one of these skitrips, after the evening meal had been served, he decided to propose; it was Valentine's Day. They were married in St Mary's on April 1st the next year (Steve thought the date was appropriate!). Verna and David Houghton kindly allowed Wargrave Court to be where the wedding started from. In fact the bride's family and friends were having such a good lunch, they were nearly late for the ceremony. Both Sue and Steve had their own houses and as Sue couldn't be prised out of Wargrave, it was decided to buy one together lower down School Lane, which is where they have been ever since.

Sue and Steve both continue to enjoy skiing (Sue more than Steve), horse riding (Steve more than Sue) and travelling as well as visiting the north west where they have a little house on the sea front about 5 miles out of Blackpool near to where Sue grew up. Sue retired 18 months ago and Steve had been retired from teaching a while but is still involved in exam work as Chief Examiner for GCSE Physics and in writing student textbooks. Sue has been involved with St Marys for a number of years with Pathfinders, as a PCC member and has now just embarked on a new venture as a Church Warden, alongside Mark Puddy.

NATURE NOTES FROM ST MARY'S

Mike Buckland

St Mary's Wargrave registered for the Churches Count on Nature week again this year, from 4th to 12th June. It is run by Caring for God's Acre, a Shropshire church based charity which provides excellent advice on looking after churchyards.

Christine Walker reported on this last year. This year, Sheila Williams identified lichens and butterflies, and Ron Leech our flowers.

We send our findings to CfGA, who upload them to a database via an app called iNaturalist. (This is easier to use than iRecord, the app they used last year.)

Ultimately, the hope is that churches' records will appear on the National Biodiversity Map (nbnatlas.org/). Patience is required as thousands of entries are checked.

If you would like to spend half an hour or more in the churchyard or cemetery, please let me know. We would welcome help in spotting plants, butterflies, other insects, birds and reptiles. No expertise is needed: apps are available that identify species on your phone.

We count butterflies through the summer for the Upper Thames region of the Butterfly Conservation Society. I have taken over from Annette Greathead in this role. Thank you Annette for your many years of doing this. You have earned your retirement!



Such work has never been more urgent, with half of UK species now on the red list, a shocking 26% increase on last year, and 4 more thought to be extinct. The reasons are being investigated. Meanwhile we are asked to grow native pollinating flowers. For details see <https://butterfly-conservation.org/news-and-blog/half-of-british-butterfly-species-on-new-red-list>

Please let me or Angie know if you can spare the occasional hour in the wildflower zone at St Mary's. We need to control invasive species such as alkanet, and cut and sow seeds in the late summer. Contact Bob Austen if you can help with grass cutting elsewhere in the churchyard. Nature needs grass of different lengths.

Top (L-R) Pencil crane's-bill, False Stinking Chamomile, Fuzzweed
Bottom (L-R) Biting Stonecrop, Meadowsweet, Hedge Woundwort
Photos courtesy of Ron Leech

IS SUNDAY CLUB FOR YOUR CHILD?

Jubi da Silva Filho

Do you have memories of Sunday School? Maybe you do and I wonder how they feel to you? I remember being led out of the grown-up service feeling awkward, as so often happens to a 7-year-old, but also feeling some excitement. Sunday School was my deliverance! Let's just say I felt a sense of "eternity" in the grown-up service (and juice and digestives were provided). But Sunday School was also exciting because I genuinely loved learning the stories - Jonah and the fish, Moses and the golden calf, Daniel and the lions ... and of course Jesus on a donkey.

But this was some thirty years ago in a very Baptist church in South Brazil. I'm now living in a different century, on a different continent, and in a different church. So why think about Sunday School?



SUNDAY CLUB

Well, I'm the grown-up now. I'm a father and want my daughter to grow up with memories of Sunday Club that are more than just juice and digestives. So, Annie and I have created a vision for Sunday Club that will hopefully make great memories for the children of Wargrave.

Some things never change - the stories are still there to be told (and acted, and watched, and sung) because they belong to the greatest story ever told - the story of God and Jesus. Our prayer is that children will come to have a personal relationship with Jesus. But we also want them to have a lot of fun. We want them to want to come to Sunday Club because they know they will have a good time. And let's face it, we want to have fun at it as well!

And we want to see friendships built - perhaps friendships that will last for years. So, Annie and I see Sunday Club as a place where your child (or grandchild, or friend's child) will learn about faith whilst having fun and building friendships. Faith, Fun and Friendship. We hope that when you think "Is Sunday Club for my child" you will say "YES!".

Sunday Club runs every 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday of the month in the Church Centre for children from Reception to Year 4.

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

TUESDAY GROUP: UNCOVERING THE LIFE OF JESUS

Richard Eves

“Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word.

With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you”

Luke 1:1-3

This term at Tuesday Group we have been using the book “Uncovering the Life of Jesus”, a series of Bible studies in Luke’s Gospel by Rebecca Manley Pippert. The studies each take an encounter or set of encounters that Jesus has with different people in the book of Luke, and what each of these encounters reveal about Him and His mission.

The joy of using this resource has been just how simple it is.

Each week we read a short section of Luke’s gospel where Jesus meets someone, and then the book guides you through a discussion of what we can discover about Jesus from the encounter. The questions are really simple, and anyone, from a lifelong believer to someone with no knowledge of christianity whatsoever, could engage with them. This is very much a book that could be read with a non-christian friend or relative, as well as something that will encourage and edify believers.

One thing that has come out again and again as we’ve gone through these studies is just how committed Jesus is to the people that He came to save. Again and again He is willing to court the disapproval of the crowd and attract hostility from the religious authorities because He knew just who He was coming to save, and wasn’t going to let anything prevent Him from coming to them. This comes out most clearly in the way he ‘sets his face towards Jerusalem’. He knew that He faced His death in that city, and yet He resolutely traveled there, because He knew that it was only by that death that He could ultimately meet the deepest need of all those He met - forgiveness of their sin. Jesus didn’t offer platitudes or sticking plasters, He came to save His people to the utmost. And His love for them was such that nothing and no-one, not even death itself, would hinder him from completing that mission.

What a joy - to have a Savior like that!

KNOWL HILL NEWS

Now that summer is finally here we have been enjoying getting together for lots of community events which have been great fun and well supported. We held our annual Murder Mystery in April which showcased many fine race meeting costumes and excellent performances. Not being one to boast I thought my own portrayal of the Queen was one of the highlights of the evening. In May we held a fundraiser for St. Peter's and grateful thanks are due to all the young members of the community who replaced the skittles which saved the backs of the more senior players. Along with the rest of the nation we celebrated the Queen's Jubilee Year on 2nd June with an excellent party, BBQ and appearance by "Tom Jones". Many thanks to the Knowl Hill Village Association for funding this and congratulations to Her Majesty for her lifetime of service to our nation.

The next event will be the performance of "War of the Worlds" by the Pantaloons Theatre Group on 29th June. This is always an excellent evening (it's never rained yet) and huge thanks are due to the Pickavance family for their continued support in allowing the use of their field.

Thank you very much to all organisers, helpers, supporters and attendees of all the events which make Knowl Hill such a special place to live in.

If you would like any information about events held by St. Peter's, the CAMEO group, the Knowl Hill Village Association or Knowl Hill WI then please contact me or Lesley Bell on 01629 822500

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

CAMEO

On Thursday 19th May the Knowl Hill Cameo group were delighted to welcome several pupils from Knowl Hill Academy to join in the afternoon's activities and more importantly for squash and cakes (kindly provided by Caroline Shailes). It was a most enjoyable afternoon.



VICAR'S LETTER

Dear *Friends*

The Roman Empire was ruled by emperors who demanded absolute loyalty & worship. As a gesture of fidelity, citizens were required to burn incense before the Greek gods such as Poseidon, Artemis, & Demetrius. All citizens were required to do this.



It was February 2nd, probably in the year AD 156 that a Christian called Polycarp died. He was bishop of Smyrna, who had fled from the city at the pleading of his congregation. One night, Roman officials arrested him at a house outside the city. He knew why they were there, and he knew what happened to Christians who refused to worship the emperor - tortured and put to death either at the stake or torn apart by animals.

He made no attempt to flee. Instead, he offered food and drink to his captors and asked for permission to retire for prayer, which he did for two hours. Then, as they travelled into the city, the officer in charge urged him to recant. 'What harm can it do', he asked, 'to sacrifice to the emperor?' Polycarp refused. On arrival, he was roughly pushed out of the carriage, and brought before the proconsul in the amphitheatre, who addressed him: 'Respect your years...swear by the genius of Caesar...' And again, 'Swear, and I will release you; revile Christ!'

Polycarp replied: 'For eighty-six years I have served Him, and Jesus has done me no wrong; how then can I blaspheme my king who saved me?' The proconsul persisted: 'swear by the genius of Caesar...I have wild beasts; if you will not change your mind, I will throw you to them...' 'call them', Polycarp replied. 'Since you make light of beasts, I will have you destroyed by fire, unless you change your attitude.' Angry Jews and Gentiles then gathered wood for the pile. He stood by the stake and asked not to be fastened to it and prayed, saying he did not need to be tied as he would remain there. He then thanked God for judging him worthy of the honour of testifying to his faith.

Polycarp had spoken to the end of the resurrection and eternal life. The horror of his trial could not kill him. He looked past it to heaven's horizon. Our Lord wonderfully can also keep us firm to the end.

What about ourselves? We are people who shrink from suffering, and we tend to do this by compromise. I have recently observed that nothing provokes the world's opposition more than the gospel of Jesus Christ. Why? It emphasizes such unpalatable doctrines as the gravity of sin and guilt, the reality of God's wrath and judgement, the impossibility of self-salvation. The necessity of the cross, the freeness of eternal life, and the danger of eternal death. Then Christ's moral standards are also unpopular, so we dilute the gospel and lower our standards in order not to give offense.

Perhaps if we as individuals compromised less, we might suffer more? What might that look like for us at home, at work and in our community?

Do we have the boldness of Polycarp when people take the name of Jesus in vain? Knowing the unique claims of Jesus, do we speak up when the suggestion is made that all religions lead to God? Are we standing firm on issues regarding sexual immorality, fidelity or even greed? There are so many areas in which following Jesus is countercultural. I pray that all of us, like Polycarp, will be in a position to thank God for judging us worthy of the honour of testifying to our faith.

Is it worth it? A resounding 'YES!'

John

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



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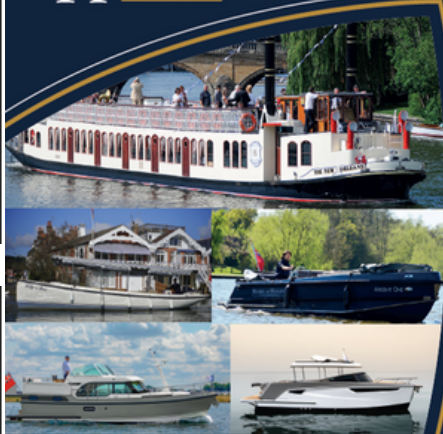
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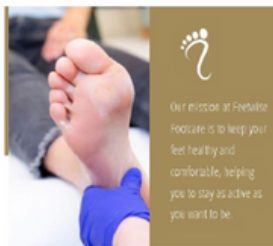
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