



Parish of Wargrave
with Knowl Hill

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

PARISH

MAGAZINE

JULY/AUGUST 2023

HOLY HOLIDAYS

A look at some spiritual places to
gather your thoughts and rest

HOUSE GROUP SPOTLIGHT

What our house groups are
and how you can discover
more

JUNIOR CHURCH

What's new for the youth of
Wargrave

In other news:
Have you met - Lindy Hope?
Poetry Pieces
Classical Annual Concert lineup announced

BBQ

AT THE SUTCLIFFE'S

FRIDAY 28th JULY
7.30 pm

RSVP NOW!

sutcliffefamily1@btinternet.com

To Bring:

**Salad or pudding to share
Drinks for you and family**

*Burgers, sausages and buns
will be provided*

1 High Street, Wargrave

WARGRAVECHURCH.ORG.UK

From the Editor

I am writing this on a lovely Saturday morning, June 17th to be more precise, dosed up to the eyeballs with antihistamines to combat the pollen menace which has bugged me all week. Unfortunately, the forecast for Sunday 18th June is rain all afternoon which means we had to cancel the Lazy Sunday Afternoon picnic on the Mill Green. Such a shame, especially after such a spell of fine weather, but that's the way it goes.

We are rescheduling the picnic for Sunday 3rd September when, hopefully, we will have better luck with the weather.

Our feature this month is about Holidays in Holy Places and an update on what is going on with our home groups. We hope that you find these interesting and all the other articles in the magazine.

For the September magazine we are looking forward to receiving your pictures and articles of your summer holidays. Please send them to me by 16th August.

Bob

BOB AUSTEN | PARISH MAGAZINE EDITOR



WELCOME

The copy date for submissions for the September magazine is noon on Wednesday 16th August 2023. NB: There is no issue produced in August.

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 edit and 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.

WHO'S WHO

Vicar	The Revd. Canon John Cook	johnrmcook@btconnect.com	0118 940 2202
Associate Minister	The Revd. Steve Turville	stephen.turville@ntlworld.com	0118 901 6720
Curate	The Revd. Richard Eves	richard.m.s.eves@gmail.com	07746 383 046
Lay Minister	Andy Ferguson	andyferguson1@btinternet.com	0118 940 2925
PCC Secretary	Sheila Williams	sheilamarywilliams1952@gmail.com	0118 940 3587
PCC Treasurer	Jane Wills	paulandjanewills@btinternet.com	0118 940 2030
Administration	Lucy Bowley	lucy@wargravechurch.org.uk	0118 940 2300
	Rosalyn Lane Heath	rosalyn@wargravechurch.org.uk	0118 940 2300

St Mary's, Wargrave

Churchwardens	Mark Puddy	markpuddy@btinternet.com	0118 940 2028
	Sue Witney	suewitney8@gmail.com	0118 940 4173
Director of Music	Peter Dart	peter@familydart.com	0118 940 1068

St Peter's, Knowl Hill

Acting	Lesley Bell	elbcarillon@gmail.com	01628 822 500
Churchwardens	Karen Larkin	karenlarkins@hotmail.com	07507 333 789

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PARISH REGISTERS : WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS & FUNERALS

Baptisms at St Mary's, Wargrave

7th May Indigo Louise Thorne

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

18th April Adrian Leask Colvin, 89, Cremation at Reading
12th May John Cooper, 90, Memorial Service & Interment of Ashes, St Mary's
12th May Mary Cooper, Interment of Ashes, St Mary's Churchyard
16th May Diana (Nana) Shirley Davis, 79, Interment of Ashes, St Mary's Churchyard
16th May Paul Anthony Langford Davis, 76, Interment of Ashes St Mary's Churchyard
16th May Ann Iris Flook, 85, Funeral Service, St Mary's Burial at The New Cemetery
19th May Matthew Green, 54, Funeral Service at St Mary's, Cremation at Reading
22nd May Annette Helen Greathead, 93, Interment of Ashes, St Mary's
25th May Maureen Ravenhall, 91, Interment of Ashes, St Mary's
31st May Vera Joan Mitchell, 95, Memorial Service & Interment of Ashes, St Mary's
31st May Jean Hilda Jonas, 85, Interment of Ashes, the New Cemetery

If you are interested in holding your wedding, baptising your child or getting baptised yourself, or need to discuss funeral arrangements, please contact Lucy in the Parish Office or alternatively contact our Vicar, John Cook (see page 3).

SUNDAY SERVICES

July & August

St Mary's Church, Wargrave

8am Holy Communion: a said service in traditional language every Sunday
9.45am Service reflective below

1st Sunday of the month: **2nd July / 6th August**

9.45am All Age Family Worship

2nd Sunday of the month: **9th July / 13th August**

9.45am Holy Communion

3rd Sunday of the month: **16th July / 20th August**

9.45am Morning Worship in modern language with music

4th Sunday of the month: **23rd July / 27th August**

9.45am Holy Communion

5th Sunday of the month: **30th July**

9.45am 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



Parish Activities July

Sunday 2nd	10.30am	Strawberries & Cream	Church Centre
Saturday 15th	9.30am	Funeral Planning Morning	Church Centre
Friday 21st	1.45pm	CAMEO: Riverboat Trip	Henley
Saturday 22nd	4pm	Junior Church Picnic & Games	Mill Green
Friday 28th	7.30pm	BBQ at The Sutcliffes	The Sutcliffes

August

Monday 28th - Fri 1st September	7.30pm Daily	Clearly Christian Thinking Series	Church Centre
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September

Sunday 3rd	9.45am 1pm	All Age Service & Brunch Lazy Sunday Afternoon	St Mary's Mill Green
Thursday 7th	7.45pm	The Better Story Part I	Church Centre
Thursday 14th	7.45pm	The Better Story Part II	Church Centre
Thursday 21st	2.30pm 7.45pm	CAMEO: Whist Drive The Better Story Part III	Knowl Hill VH Church Centre
Saturday 23rd	5pm	Junior Church Film Night	Church Centre
Thursday 28th	7.45pm	The Better Story Part IV	Church Centre

October

Sunday 1st	9.45am	Harvest Festival Service	St Mary's
Thursday 5th	7.45pm	The Better Story Part V	Church Centre
Saturday 7th	7pm	Harvest Bring & Share Dinner	Church Centre
Thursday 12th	7.45pm	The Better Story Part VI	Church Centre
Thursday 19th	2.30pm	CAMEO: Mixed Activities	Knowl Hill VH
Saturday 28th	3pm	Junior Church Family Games	Church Centre
Sunday 29th	3pm	Bereavement Service	St Mary's
Tuesday 31st	4pm	Light Party	Church Centre

Our Groups

WELCOME CAFÉ

The Café is open on Tuesdays from 2.30pm - 4pm in the Hannen Room



Next Sessions:
4th, 11th, 18th & 25th July
1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd August

OPEN CHURCH

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

BUTTERFLIES

Butterflies continues to meet on 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month (during term time) in the morning, where you can, enjoy 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 Session: 5th July

Butterflies will finish for the Summer Holidays returning on Wednesday 6th September



LADIES' BREAKFAST

Join us on Saturday 1st July in the Church Centre at 9am when we will be looking at the various mountain locations which feature in the Bible; how we respond to mountains from the bottom or the top; and climbing our own personal mountains in our daily lives.

Please let Linda or Lesley know if you are planning to attend.



lindacaradine9@gmail.com
lesley.turville@gmail.com

OUR HOME GROUPS

There are a number of groups that meet regularly throughout the year. Not all are every week, so please check with the group leader for more details.

More information found online at wargravechurch.org.uk/groups

Tuesdays	Ladies' Bible Study Ephesians 1:17	9.30am 7pm
Wednesdays	Monthly Prayer (1st) Pints of View	11.45am 7.30pm
Thursdays	Seeking Wisdom Braybrooke Gardens Young Families	2.30pm 7.30pm 8pm
Saturdays	Ladies' Breakfast (1st)	9am

H HOLIDAYS IN PLACES

Y

Summer is here, Covid restrictions gone and the weather is fabulous! It's a great time to take a trip to amazing places of spiritual significance and beautiful landscapes locally or overseas so get those walking boots ready and dig out the passport! Here are a few holiday stories to whet the appetite.

HOLIDAYS IN HOLY PLACES

When in Rome!

Annette Dart

I have wonderful memories of visiting Rome in a half-term break when the kids were very young. We took them on a tour of the Vatican along with vast crowds and officious Vatican guards allowing us just a few minutes in the exquisite Sistine chapel, craning our necks to see the incredible Michelangelo painted ceiling.

As we emerged from the formality and semi-darkness of the Vatican building at the end of the tour and into the sunlight of St Peter's square, there was Pope Francis saying mass for thousands of people all packed into the square with their banners and national flags cheering and clapping as he read out the names of groups of visitors from all over the world, welcoming them and praying for them.



We did not know when we booked the tour that Pope Francis holds mass in St. Peter's square every Wednesday at 11am. What an incredible operation that is! Thousands of people taking communion within just a few short minutes enabled by an army of local priests to make it happen. It was so uplifting! The children don't remember any of the priceless art on the Vatican walls but they do remember the joyous atmosphere that Pope Francis created for thousands of worshippers on that morning.

Treasures on the Doorstep

Christine Walker

For some of us a holiday is a day out with friends.

We travelled just across Henley Bridge into Oxfordshire to enjoy visits to three churches and found the following gems: Windows designed by John Piper in St Bartholomew's Church Nettlebed. Next door, a tasty cheese toastie at The Cheese Shed. And nods to the Coronation at All Saints Rotherfield and in Peppard at Holy Trinity.



The Pilgrims' Way

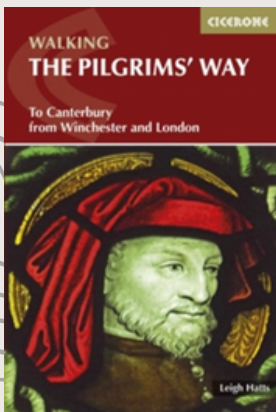
Christine Walker

Have you ever considered taking time out to deepen your connection with God, meet other Christians and visit sites of significance?

Pilgrimage is a journey with a purpose to a holy place. 'El Camino de Santiago' is one of the most famous depicted in the film 'The Way' but for those of us who holiday at home the Pilgrims' Way from Winchester to Canterbury, a distance of approximately 133 miles, could be walked in a couple of weeks or in stages during weekend breaks.



HOLIDAYS IN F



A good description of the route in stages of 5-14 miles is given in a guide book published by Cicerone. But this is just one of several pilgrim routes in Britain. A more 'local' pilgrimage route is St James' Way. Approximately 68.5 miles long it starts at Reading Abbey and finishes at the port of Southampton from where pilgrims sailed on their way to the tomb of Saint James the Apostle at Santiago de Compostela Cathedral. If this is of interest, pilgrim passports and a pocket guidebook, 'A Pilgrim Guide to James' Way' may be obtained from Reading Museum or the Confraternity of St James' website. Details of many others are described on the English Heritage and British Pilgrimage Trust websites. Have you time to put on your walking shoes and go?

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Holy Land Adventure

Jane Austen

I have always wanted to go to the Holy Land and walk in the footsteps of Jesus, and in May 2019 Bob and I had the opportunity to go with a touring group for Christians led by Jeff & Kay Lucas.

We went with our very dear friends Richard & Angela Smelt and spent an amazing week touring with other fellow Christians including a group from the USA. There were two tour buses – one UK and one USA. We joined the USA bus as Richard & Angela had friends from Salt Lake City on the tour and I have to say the fun and energy on the USA bus was a joy.

We initially stayed in a kibbutz in Hagoshrim visiting the Mount of Beatitudes then walking on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. The highlight of the trip for me was taking communion on a fishing boat on the lake after lunch of St Peter's fish – Tilapia. We visited Nazareth and Bethlehem, the Dead Sea to see where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered – a dip in the Sea – Bob floated for the one and only time in his life – I lost a flip flop – the mud was so deep and we made as hasty an exit as we could!

A walk around the old city of Jerusalem visiting the Garden of Gethsemane, visiting the traditional Upper Room where the Last Supper is thought to have taken place and going to St Peter in Gallianti where Peter denied Jesus three times. Lots of other sites of history and interest in between – too many to mention - with finally the last day visiting the Garden Tomb and a final communion with our companions before saying goodbye. It was a truly amazing trip which brought the Bible to life for me by linking places to Scripture and history and if it's on your bucket list of places to visit then I can thoroughly recommend this tour and group!



Inspiring Iona

Helen Perry

The place Chris and I feel is a Holy Place is Iona. We travelled there by ferries large and small from Oban, over Mull and then to the island.

We made our way to the Abbey and felt a spiritual presence there. The stillness and peace took you away from the day-to-day stress of the modern world. Perhaps it was the lack of 'tourists' there that created the tranquility but also the history of the island as the birthplace of Christianity in Scotland, when St Columba and 12 companions arrived on the island in 563 AD from Ireland.



Worship Maasi-style

Camilla Cook

Back in the distant days of 2019, pre-pandemic, John, George, Tom and I had the great privilege of travelling to Kenya as part of John's sabbatical. John was born in Nairobi and has visited several times since and, in my single 20s, I worked at a school in Nairobi for a couple years. While we were in London, we had hosted a Maasai pastor for 6 months, who had returned to stay with us on many occasions. The Lord has used all those threads to give us a real heart for Kenya and, in particular, gospel work there.

In the mid-nineties, as a non-Christian, I had been struck by the joyful life of Kenyan Christians. Whilst I didn't go to church at the time, watching people in their splendid, colourful Sunday best heading off to church with such enthusiasm was striking.

As part of our 2019 visit to Kenya we spent a week with our Maasai friend, visiting a water project that the St Mary's young people had raised money for and joining him at church, both his home church and other churches that had been planted in Maasai land. Culturally we were jumping into a totally different world and Ki-Maasai was the language spoken so it was hard at times to understand fully what was going on! Thankfully, in most churches there was a translator on hand. The translators were essential for John, who had been asked to preach on several occasions.



In all cases we were some of the very few who arrived at church by car. Most church members travelled on foot; some walking quite a distance to get to church. And church was a full day affair! The service would last for 3 or 4 hours: a wonderful combination of loads of singing, Bible reading, a sermon and prayer...and dancing. Lots of dancing: into the building, around the building and on the spot. Much Maasai dancing involves jumping up and down! One noticeable factor was lots and lots of repetition, which was their way of embedding Biblical truth.

On our first Sunday we arrived to see a goat being slaughtered for lunch after the service. This was very common: church defined the way Sunday was spent. Sitting down to eat with your church family was integral to being part of God's family every week. Whilst we did join services in church buildings, we were shown the tree (similar to the one in the picture) where the first Maasai Evangelistic Association had met. Just as much church under a tree as in a building: the meeting of God's people on a Sunday.

SPOTLIGHT ON HOUSE GROUPS

We're thrilled to report that we now have a NEW House Group to add to our already vibrant and well-supported small-group community.

YOUNG FAMILIES

The young families home group started after Easter.

We meet via zoom on a Thursday evening for an hour at 8pm (hopefully after the children are in bed).

Currently we are reading through the book of Colossians. On the third Friday of each month we gather together from 5pm for a families' dinner. Although we've only been going a couple of months, it's been such an encouragement to have adult time together without the children to study the bible and the family dinners have been a chance to get to know each other better.

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Meeting weekly at The Vicarage on Tuesday mornings, our usual pattern is to read and study the Bible followed by a time of prayer together.

On the first Tuesday of the month we have a time of extended prayer for one another.

SEEKING WISDOM

Following on from our Lent study, we have been looking at a four-part series of studies focusing on 'The Good Neighbour', which takes a leisurely look at the parable of The Good Samaritan. Each session focuses on a different topic:

faithfulness, fairness and love, love for others, love seen in action, offering assistance, and, for the final session, forgiveness and encouragement. We're enjoying the format of the John Birch study guides, which provide helpful commentary as well as challenging and interesting discussion questions.

Next study is produced by John Birch - 'Meet the Disciples', which covers both their time with Jesus and what happens to them in the future, once they have received the Holy Spirit.

This term it has been a joy to open up the book of Hosea and to learn about the compassionate heart of God; of his faithful, unconditional love for his people. Later in the term we're setting some time aside to focus on mission, and specifically the missionaries/agencies that we support as a church.

PINTS OF VIEW

The men's house group, Pints of View, continues to meet for study and discussion. The meal we share is certainly a significant part of our gathering but far more than that, it is our study and prayer that opens us to the Holy Spirit.

We have, since the New Year, taken the first 12 chapters of Acts as the basis for our meetings. However, we ranged around many others areas when really trying to get to the grips with the realities for the early church.

More recently, we mixed it up by returning to a small group video course by John Ortberg - "Who Is This Man" illustrating how Jesus' influence has swept over history, bringing his inspiration to the evolution of art, science, government, medicine, and education. And how his vision for us to lead lives of dignity, compassion, forgiveness, and hope continues to inspire and challenge humanity today. It certainly fuelled great discussions, thoughts and some challenges.

Pints of View shortly starts a new study period, after a local social evening, that will take us up to a summer recess for a few weeks.

EPHESIANS 1:17

Paul's prayer for the Ephesians:
'I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.'

The Ephesians 1:17 Group has continued to meet weekly on Zoom since the pandemic. Throughout the lockdown, our meetings had been 40 minutes of Bible study followed by 40 minutes of prayer, but in mid 2022, due to pressures of work and time, we changed to meeting for 40 minutes for prayer only, for mutual prayer and support.

Within our group of 10 we have experienced many highs and lows of life, praying for marriages, pregnancies and births, the seriously ill, the terminally ill, house moves, missionary work, parish work, career changes and work pressures, holding each other, our families and others in prayer.

We continue to rejoice with those who rejoice, and mourn with those who mourn (Romans 12:5).'

BRAYBROOKE GARDENS

After a short post-Christmas break, the Braybrooke Gardens House Group reconvened at the start of Lent following a 5 session course written by John Birch called 'Walking with Jesus,' best described in its introduction:

'Easter is at the heart of the Christian faith and its most important festival, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus on the third day after his death – three days that changed the world ... However, the days leading up to and beyond the Cross are, in the gospel stories, busy ones for Jesus and his followers. There is a potentially dangerous journey to make to Jerusalem for the Passover celebrations and a waiting Cross and later, following the Resurrection, another from Jerusalem to Emmaus. In-between are several incidents and opportunities for Jesus to teach that are maybe not so well known but important in the bigger picture. On our own journey through Lent it is a good time to see how these stories, big and small, shared by the writers of the gospels, feed into our understanding of who Jesus is and what Easter means for us.'

There was plenty to think about in the material, both in the background information supplied, the suggested Bible passages and the stimulating questions. We used the final session, including the 'Walk to Emmaus,' as our first session after Easter.

We have now started another of John Birch's courses, 'The Essential Gospel', a study of Mark's Gospel, the first of the four Gospels to be written. As with the Lent course, there is interesting and helpful background material and some searching questions which lead to lively discussion.

HOUSE GROUPS

OUR GROUPS

Tuesdays	Ladies' Bible Study	9.30am	Camilla Cook
	Ephesians 1:17	7pm	Steve Turville
Wednesdays	Pints of View	7.30pm	Doug Clark
Thursdays	Seeking Wisdom	2.30pm	Ruth Howse & Sarah Whiteside
	Braybrooke Gardens	7.30pm	Rosie Creedon
	Young Families	8pm	Annie Hobden da Silva

Interested in joining a House Group, wish to know more, or want to start your own? Contact Sarah Whiteside - sarahwhiteside@btinternet.com

TUESDAY YOUTH GROUP

One of the great commandments God gives to His people in the Bible is to pass his praise from one generation to the next - to always be instructing the next generation about who the LORD is, all the great things He has done, and what it means to be a part of His people.

David says,

"I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old— things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done."

And Paul agrees,

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

In Wargrave and Knowl Hill our mission is to give every child and young person the opportunity to hear the Gospel, and if they want it, the training and discipleship they will need to prepare them for a lifetime of following the Lord Jesus. This is a giant ambition, and we are starting from a low base. After many years of fruitful ministry among children and young people in the parish, the last two years and especially the Covid disruptions have diminished the number particularly of teenagers we have regular contact with.

When?

We will be restarting the weekly "Tuesday Group" youth meeting in September with a new cohort of secondary-schoolers.

Who is it for?

If you know of anyone of secondary school age who might like to be involved, do get in touch with Richard - richard.m.s.eves@gmail.com | 07746 383 046.

We need your Prayer

Please do be praying that we are able to establish a large group with good relationships, where we can have fun, enjoy one another's company, and encourage one another in following the LORD.

Dates for your Diaries

To give people a feel of what this is like, we will be organising some Youth social get-togethers over the Summer, with the dates to be announced shortly.

HAVE YOU MET?

Lindy Hope



"Write something to introduce yourself"

Two problems - 1) What you say depends on who you are speaking with, and 2) it sounds a bit arrogant, all about me, without the "to and fro" of conversation, I'm struggling.

I moved to Kiln Green in July 2022. My Tutts Clump bungalow was up for sale but, under the Lord's hand, the timing was just right. My brother-in-law fell ill, dying in hospital in July, and my elder sister moved to residential care in Marlow. It was good to be able to help in those first confusing days - staying with my sister in Hare Hatch a few times while my nephew and niece sorted things out. Somehow it's all fitted together; I'm grateful my contract to rent the flat in Kiln Green is confirmed for another year. God is good.

The Tutts Clump bungalow was found for me by Bucklebury church, who had 'commissioned' me some years previously to work in the Philippines with OMF International (formerly the China Inland Mission). After language school and churchwork (Batangas City) and youthwork (in Mindoro, with no electricity!) I was asked to help temporarily at OMF Literature, a Christian publishing house with national staff and managers in Manila.

The "temporary assignment" unfolded into a long-term position in the editorial department - the very best job in Manila! When I had more training, and as my experience grew, I was asked to split my time between editing projects assigned to me by our head of publishing and coaching the Filipino editors, who in turn helped Filipino Christian writers get into print.

It was thrilling to know that as folk in the UK and around the world prayed, books produced in Manila were distributed across the Philippines and exported to many other countries, and not just in Asia. Not what I had envisioned when I made tentative steps towards missions-involvement in my second year of teaching biology in Newbury!

After five years back in Berkshire I'm still a beginner at 'life in the UK'. I'm still learning about shopping-for-one, central-heating, cooking with an oven, dealing with limescale, ironing, supermarket shopping (vendors in Manila walk up and down the streets and stop at your door) and more. I miss Filipino friends and colleagues, but WhatsApp helps.

But I do want to get to know more folk in Wargrave; do please drop by for tea, coffee, or a cold drink - I'd love to see you.

Lindy Hope, Kiln Green
07565048991

Email courtesy of Valda Haddon
vadeleh@gmail.com

RIDE + STRIDES for Churches

WINDSOR: Saturday 9th September

Do come along and join Team Wargrave as we head to Windsor for this year's sponsored walking tour - 'striding'. It's all in aid of a good cause - to raise funds for Wargrave St Marys, Knowl Hill St Peters and Berkshire Historic Churches trust which provides grants towards the cost of repairs to church buildings across the county. Many of you have been extremely generous in sponsoring us in previous years, and your support is very much appreciated.

'Striders' of all ages and abilities are most welcome to join us for all or part of the day. We'll be exploring as many churches as possible on foot, enjoying the history, artwork, interiors and architecture - perhaps finding unexpected hidden gems.

We usually have a target number of churches to visit during the day, and our route will be planned to allow time to look inside open churches, take photos and chat with church members 'on duty'. This year, we also plan to stay in town to attend evensong in St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle at 5pm. You'll need a comfy pair of walking shoes and a picnic lunch. Plus some churches usually serve tea & cake!

If you prefer to travel faster - perhaps running or cycling, and if you'd like to set your own route, there's an excellent 'route planner' available on the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust website to help with this. Alternatively Christine Walker will help you devise a route.

Our churches will benefit hugely as they will receive half of our sponsorship money. The remaining 50% goes to Berkshire Historic Churches Trust which in turn makes generous grants to churches in need.

If you would like to join please speak to Christine Walker, Katie Cosnett or Ruth Howse.



Christine Walker
csw3749@gmail.com
0118 9403749

A MONTH OF ECO

Mike Buckland, Stewarding Lead



Three men and a lady went to mow

On 24th May, Ruth Howse, David Bell, a local conservationist and I attended a one-day course at St Mary's on the use of scythes.

Using a scythe helps to maintain long grass areas in a healthy, nature friendly manner, and is a healthy, relaxing outdoor activity.

The course meets the parish's insurance requirement for the use of church scythes.

Our trainer was Clive Weeke, a local regenerative farmer who teaches hedge laying and using the Austrian scythe. Anyone who is interested is invited to contact Clive via theoldfarmyard.co.uk. His next two courses are 'Introduction to Scything' on Saturday 1st July and 'Creating and Managing a Wildflower Meadow' on Saturday 29th July. Do let me know if you are interested?



Churches Count on Nature

For the 4th year running, on 3rd-11th June, some of us identified flora and fauna for the National Biodiversity Network Atlas, the UK's wildlife database. For details visit caringforgodsacre.org.uk/about-recording/add-your-records.

We are indebted to Sheila Williams for recording lichens, Ron Leech for his photographs of plants and Christine Walker for helping with identification. We hope to involve local schools and Beavers in future years.

This year, butterflies in our Let it Grow Zone and cemetery have included brimstone, orange tip, small white, gatekeeper, holly blue, speckled wood and red admiral.

ECO CHURCH



Use less water

Water is precious. Let's not waste it. Drought-tolerant plants such as sea holly (eryngium), sedum and lamb's ear (stachys) attract butterflies and grow in pots. Bird's-foot trefoil has long roots, thrives where grass is parched, and butterflies love it.

Source: butterfly-conservation.org



POETRY PIECES

POETRY UP CLOSE



THOMAS HARDY (1840 - 1928)

Although chiefly known as a novelist, Thomas Hardy always maintained that he wanted to be a poet. Writing novels was the only way for him to earn a living however, so it wasn't until the financial success of his final novel that Hardy was able to dedicate the rest of his life to writing poetry, penning over 900 poems in total.

In 'Summer Schemes', Hardy expresses joy at the thought of the summer to come, celebrating the beauty of nature. He does, however, acknowledge the way human affairs, in contrast, can be unpredictable. We know that summer will come again in its cycle, and yet we cannot know what may happen in the immediate future.

In 'An August Midnight', the writer describes his interaction with four insects. He considers these creatures his guests, equal to him and writes about their behaviour. He questions the meaning and purpose of life, as one, attracted to the light, hits the shade and spirals down onto its back. In the final lines, he reveals thoughts about 'God's humblest' creatures, commenting on their wisdom in knowing 'Earth secrets'- of which he knows nothing.

'Summer Schemes' (1939)

When friendly summer calls again,
Calls again
Her little fifers to these hills,
We'll go—we two—to that arched fane
Of leafage where they prime their bills
Before they start to flood the plain
With quavers, minims, shakes, and trills.
"—We'll go," I sing; but who shall say
What may not chance before that day!

And we shall see the waters spring,
Waters spring
From chinks the scrubby copses crown;
And we shall trace their on-creeping
To where the cascade tumbles down
And sends the bobbing growths a-swing,
And ferns not quite but almost drown.
"—We shall," I say; but who may sing
Of what another moon will bring!

'An Autumn Midnight' (w.1899, p.1901)

A shaded lamp and a waving blind,
And the beat of a clock from a distant floor:
On this scene enter—winged, horned,
and spined—
A longlegs, a moth, and a dumbledore *;
While 'mid my page there idly stands
A sleepy fly, that rubs its hands...

Thus meet we five, in this still place,
At this point of time, at this point in space.
—My guests besmear my new-penned line,
Or bang at the lamp and fall supine.
"God's humblest, they!" I muse. Yet why?
They know Earth-secrets that know not I.

**Dumbledore
old-English word for bumblebee.*



Do you have a favourite poem you would like to share? Do you have any poems that you have written yourself? If you would like to be involved in

Poetry Pieces in the future, please send your contributions to :

sarahwhiteside@btinternet.com

JUNIOR CHURCH: What's in a name?

Jubi Filho da Silva



Walk into a Burger King store and order a WHOPPER® burger – what do you get? (Trigger warning: this article contains descriptions that some readers may find delicious). According to their website, you get a “savory flame-grilled beef topped with juicy tomatoes, fresh lettuce, creamy mayonnaise, ketchup, crunchy pickles, and sliced white onions on a soft sesame seed bun.” ...I warned you.

And what do you get if you order a WHOPPER JR®? You guessed correctly. You get practically the same goodness, that same marvellously charred essence that makes you salivate, only lighter; hence, the name 'Junior'. Thank God for burgers!

Following the same principle, from this moment in time, we would like you all to call our work with the children at St Mary's Wargave... **JUNIOR CHURCH**.



Why? We don't need the website to tell us. Let's follow the principle, what do we get when we walk into a service at St Mary's? We get someone at the door with a big smile. We see friendly people inside. We sing together, we pray together, we confess our sins together. We listen to God's word and we leave with a blessing, ready for some coffee and biscuits, ready for the week. Thank God for church!

Therefore, call us JUNIOR CHURCH. Because we are not a club. And we are not at all, not in the least, embarrassed about church. On the contrary, we are so encouraged by church, so proud, so thankful to God for it, that the old name “Sunday Club” doesn't do justice to what we pray our children will get.

Call us JUNIOR CHURCH. Names matter, but this is not just a new name. We are correcting our vision in order to give the children what we give each other – the same goodness, that same marvellous essence, only lighter. We want them to have lots of fun. We want them making friends at St Mary's. We set dates this Summer to do just that. Our values haven't changed: “fun, faith and friendship”.

But our time with the children is not Christianised childcare provided while the adults do church. Our time with them is church, because that's who we all are. And may God help us all go to church expecting to give first, before we “get” anything. Meanwhile, thank God for children and call us JUNIOR CHURCH.

FUN, FAITH & FRIENDSHIP



From now until the end of August, Junior Church shall be discovering what The Lord's Prayer is about, what it means to us as Christians and how it helps us pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done
on earth as in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
And forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.

VICAR'S LETTER

Dear *Friends*

The Secret Garden is a novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett which tells the story of Mary Lennox, a young girl who goes to live with her wealthy Uncle Archibald on his estate, Misselthwaite Manor in England. Mary gets to know Dickon Sowerby, a working-class boy who loves nature. The two children discover a walled garden that Mary's uncle has locked up because it reminded him of his deceased wife.

The garden looks dead because of neglect, but Dickon assures Mary that with proper care, it will recover with new life. With the children's help "the secret garden" recovers from the years of neglect, and eventually bursts forth with colourful and fragrant blooms.

All of us have a secret garden of the heart. How we tend it determines what speech, attitudes and behaviour are produced. As Proverbs 4:23 reminds us: "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life."

'Guard' has the sense of faithfully watching or guarding our lives. This is vital as the Lord is much more interested in us living holy lives-than in so called holy places. As we remove the thorns of resentment, weeds of lust, roots of bitterness the Lord can replace them with the fruit of the Spirit: "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5: 22-23)".

Ruth Bell Graham, wife of the evangelist Billy Graham saw a sign by a road which had on it End of Construction-Thank you for your patience. Smiling she remarked to Billy that she wanted those words on her gravestone. After her death in June 2007 her desire was carried out. Her gravestone bears the Chinese character for *righteousness*. This was because Mrs Graham was born in China, followed by the words which made her smile. If we are Christians we are in the construction zone, and when we die our construction will be complete.

Meantime I wonder are you tending the garden of your hearts?

Yours in Christ,

John

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



SPOTTED
The 'John Cook' ocean liner was last seen in Henley back in May.



WEDDING: Helen Puddy to James Duff

Mark Puddy

Ever since Helen and James became engaged, out of breath after climbing to the top of a French mountain last summer, we knew we were on a countdown to 10th June 2023.



We had had the opportunity to see how to organise a wedding when our son Tim was married in York last September. However as Tim and Beth, with the help of Beth's parents, had organised everything, Susan's role was just to find an outfit and put together an itinerary of events and entertainments for the Wargrave contingent travelling to York that weekend. With no speeches to make, we felt very relaxed and happy as the "irresponsible" parents of the groom.

This time round was a distinctly different venture, with a house full of guests needing feeding over the weekend, the doorbell ringing repeatedly for deliveries, and our house converted into a makeup and hair salon starting shortly after the dawn chorus on the day of the wedding. The Woodclyffe Hall needed clearing and decorating and Susan spent months bottom up on the beautification of our garden, where we held the post wedding garden party. We spent the week before anxiously looking at changing weather forecasts for the day, alternating between heatwave and deluge.

It turned out to be a heatwave, so the 3-piece woollen morning suit was warm for me, but not as warm as the heavy black cassock John Cook was wearing for the service. Peter Dart provided wonderful support on the organ, and everyone sung with gusto the 3 "banger" hymns that Helen and James had chosen although Helen's Welsh 'surrogate' granny thought Guide me O thou great Redeemer should have been sung in Welsh.

As father of the bride, I felt so happy and emotional (and relieved) as well as allowing myself to feel a little proud seeing them walk down the aisle, man and wife, despite the nagging worry that there was still a speech to make later in the day. It was fitting that Helen and James, so much in love, were married in the same church where Helen had been baptised and confirmed many years earlier. It was an incredibly joyous and memorable day for The Puddies and we were delighted so many of you could be with us.

CLASSICAL ANNUAL CONCERT: 18th November 2023

Peter Dart

Dear Wargrave St Mary's Music lovers,

I bring you news that Beethoven will feature in our upcoming concert. A piece that he wrote, in 1797, when he was just 27 years old: his Opus 11 Trio for clarinet, cello and piano. We are very privileged to have the talented musicians **Laura Anstee** on cello and **Liz Drew** on clarinet - who you all know and who lives in our Parish. We still have to decide whether they play just the slow movement, or possibly one other if there is enough time (there are 3 in total - listen to it on YouTube, it's lovely!)

I have more news. Our accompanist will be **Richard Pearce**, the official accompanist of the Royal Choral Society - those who came to the Coronation Celebration Concert will know who he is! He is absolutely brilliant, and not only will he be doing the Beethoven, he will also play the famous Toccata and Fugue in D minor by J.S.Bach as a solo on our organ (it's not quite the RAH with 9999 pipes - but it still makes a very nice sound organo pleno!). Richard will also accompany **Paul Speed**, on trumpet, who is a regular at St Mary's - and I will bring you news of that music in the September Magazine.

There's more. We have the **Scholars from VOCES8** coming. They have never been to St Mary's before - and they sing 'acapella' in a very similar style to Apollo5, who featured in the Annual Concert for many years, but are not available this year. The main difference is that you get 3 more voices for the same money! And they will be singing some fun songs - as well as classical. Apollo 5 and VOCES8 are all part of the VOCES8 Foundation where I was recently appointed Chairman.



SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



Finally, we will have the **Wargrave Community Choir**, with their conductor Jonny Fitzpatrick, and managed by Kirsty Andrew. They will be sure to entertain us with some popular music. More news on the programme in a few weeks - but hopefully enough already to persuade you to reserve the date and invite all your friends. There will be a glass of wine in the interval - and I am very confident it will be a sell-out!



SUNDAY AFTERNOONS WITH RAMBLIN' BOB

Jane Austen

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon on 28th May we met in Winkfield for a ramble across the lush green meadows that surround this historic old village. Unlike the previous ramble in April when we were occasionally submerged in mud, this was a much gentler walk and the views were exhilarating.

Bob managed to include a visit to the long disused RAF Winkfield airfield which served as a relief landing ground during the war and a satellite station afterwards. Like most old airfields that Bob has dragged me to over the years, there was virtually nothing to see apart from a piece of perimeter track although Bob assured us that there was a memorial to a crashed B17 bomber somewhere on the airfield. No doubt this will be included in a future ramble!

We also visited the beautiful 12th century St Mary's Church which Nick's grandfather helped to renovate some years ago - a lovely connection with our rambling group!

We ended the ramble with a delicious Sunday roast at the White Hart Inn opposite the Church, a most welcome finale to another Ramble with Bob!

The Austen family is preparing for an invasion of Canadians during June/July and so there will be no rambles until August. Next Rambles: 27th August, 24th September & 29th October.

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES



AUGUST RAMBLE: 27th August



A walk around Monks Alley and Orange Hill in Binfield. Meet at the car park at Wicks Green, accessed along the gravel drive beside 65 Stevenson Drive, off Terrace Road North, Binfield RG42 5TD. Lunch afterwards at The Victoria Arms a short walk away.

If you would like to join us on this walk, please contact Ramblin' Bob by Friday 20th May latest to book your place and advise whether you wish to stay for lunch.

Email: austenrobert@hotmail.com

Phone: 0118 940 3038 or Mobile: 07970 611013

BBQ at The Sutcliffe's: 28th July

Sean & Liz Sutcliffe

We are delighted to again be hosting the Church barbeque at our house on Friday 28th July starting at 7.30 at Thatched House, 1 High St (entrance via steps opposite the George and Dragon or via The Bothy). All are welcome, but please let us know if you are coming for numbers at sutcliffefamily1@btinternet.com by 21st July.



We will be doing burgers, sausages and buns so will need contributions of salads and puddings. Let us know what you would intend to bring and we can then guide others so we have the right balance. If you are vegetarian let us know and we can get enough veggie options, and if you have other dietary requirements you may want to ensure you bring something suitable. Look forward to seeing you.

YELDALL MANOR OPEN DAY: 1st July

We warmly invite all friends old and new to come along to our annual Open Day on the afternoon of Saturday 1st July. Gates open at 1pm for a Hog Roast, or you can bring a picnic. There will also be stalls and games for all the family - bouncy castle (courtesy of A4 Bouncy Castles), golf, penalty shoot-out, hoop-la and crafts.

At 3pm we gather on the Main Lawn for a joyful service of worship, where we will celebrate those residents who have graduated recently and hear news and testimony. For those not able to be there in person, this will also be streamed on our Facebook and YouTube pages. (youtube.com/@Yeldall_Manor/streams).

As always the day will be rounded off by a delicious strawberry tea thanks to our friends at Greys Farm.

To help your visit, you may like to bring cash, something to sit on, a reusable mug for hot or cold drinks (if you would like to) and protection from the sun (or rain, if forecast!).

Please come, and bring your friends!

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

A poster for the Yeldall Open Day. The top part features a photograph of a large outdoor gathering on a lawn with many people, tables, and stalls. Below the photo, the text reads: 'Yeldall Open Day Saturday 1st July'. The event schedule is listed: '1pm: Hog Roast (£6), hot & cold drinks', '1pm: Stalls & games for all ages', '3pm: Open air Celebration service', and '4.15pm: Strawberry tea'. It also states 'Free entry. All welcome.' and 'Blakes Lane, Hare Hatch, RG10 9TA'. At the bottom, it says 'A Christian response to addiction' and 'Yeldall Christian Centres is a registered charity 1000038'. The poster has a purple and pink border.

(If you can help staff a stall or serve food/drink, please contact suehedger@yeldall.org.uk / 0118 940 4411.)

BEING THE BAD GUYS

Richard Eves

CLEARLY CHRISTIAN THINKING SERIES



On Saturday 20th May we were thinking about the changing view that our culture has of Christians and the Church.

We began by looking back at the coronation and the integral place that the Christian faith formally has in the constitution of the United Kingdom, so high in fact that the Monarch legally must be a reformed Protestant Christian as a matter of personal conviction. We then contrasted this with the portrayal of Christianity in the media more generally, and especially with the rough handling that politicians known to be Christians get when they run for high office. This difference illustrates the massive movement in our culture over a very few years, and that we now live in a society where being a Christian is perceived negatively, and brings social costs and disadvantages. We noted that Jesus taught that those who follow him would always experience some degree of social cost, but that this social change felt like something above and beyond that.

In the second part of the seminar we asked how we as Christians ought to conduct ourselves in such a world. Going to the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew, we saw that Jesus teaches his followers to be those who rejoice when they experience hostility

on account of being a Christian, as that experience demonstrates that they are truly His. This instruction helps us not to panic, run away, or try to hide in a hostile environment, but to keep being the salt of the earth and the city on a hill. Secondly we saw that later in the Sermon on the Mount Jesus calls on his disciples to be those who love their enemies. This instruction restrains us from wanting to strike back against the hostile culture, or fight fire with fire. This is not to say that we don't engage with the culture or positively argue for the truth, goodness, and beauty of Christianity. But our motivation for doing that is always to be a desire for the wellbeing of those we are engaging with.

The next seminar will either be on the topic of Artificial Intelligence or Angels. If you have a preference, please let me know.

MISSED A TALK?

We will be running all 5 topics from the series daily from Monday 28th August at 7.30pm until Friday 1st September. If you would like to attend all or some, please let the office know to reserve your space.

CLEARLY CHRISTIAN THINKING

CLEARLY CHRISTIAN THINKING SERIES

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NEWS FROM KNOWL HILL

Lesley Bell

Recently, some of the regular stalwarts spent time clearing both the St Peter's churchyard and graveyard. A great job was done but another session will be needed to try and get on top of all those dreaded weeds! After which we all had a very welcome drink at The Royal Oak.

Improvements at St Peters

A very big 'Thank You' to the local man who has been working hard restoring and painting external woodwork at St Peter's.



Thanks too for all the grounds maintenance and for providing a green bin for the green waste to be recycled.

It all looks fantastic!

Let it Grow

You may have also noticed that the graveyard is looking a bit wild at the moment.

We are caring for the graveyard as best we can, given the rapid growth of vegetation and few volunteers to manage it, but we are also trying to balance the needs of people visiting the graves of loved ones, and the desire to create and encourage a bio-diverse haven for plants and animals. This is increasingly vital as more and more land is given to home building. Some of the graveyard is deliberately left 'wild', and some is a bit wilder than we would like.

Please bear with us while we get the balance right.

Knowl Hill Village Association presents:

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Saturday 15th July

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in the field at The Grange, Knowl Hill Common.
Parking available

Bring a picnic and something to sit on.
No gazebos or tents please!

Tickets: £15 Adult/ £9 Child under 16
available from www.khva.org

CAMEO EVENTS 2023

JAN 19	2 PM	QUIZ
FEB 16	2 PM	BEETLE DRIVE
MAR 16	2 PM	MIXED ACTIVITIES
APR 20	2.30 PM	WHIST DRIVE
MAY 18	2.30 PM	DINGBATS
JUN 15	2.30 PM	BINGO
JUL 20	TBC	OUTING

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

SEP 21	2.30 PM	WHIST DRIVE
OCT 19	2.30 PM	MIXED ACTIVITIES
NOV 16	2.30 PM	BEETLE DRIVE
DEC 14	TBC	CHRISTMAS LUNCH

**EVENTS TAKE PLACE IN THE VILLAGE HALL
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