



Parish of Wargrave  
with Knowl Hill

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

# PARISH

MAGAZINE

JUNE 2023

## CORONATION

A look back at how we celebrated the Coronation from teddy bear teaparties, our schools and a grand day out

## SPECIAL: KNOWL HILL & WARREN ROW

Discovering the history and the close ties to Jane Austen

## RING FOR THE KING

Did you hear the bells?  
Want to do it for yourself?

In other news:  
Summer Camps for Kids  
Joyful Endeavour  
Question Time

# *Lazy Sunday Afternoon*

An afternoon of good company and sweet sounds

**18th JUNE**

**1pm - 4pm**

**MILL GREEN, WARGRAVE**

*Picnic with a difference*

Performances from French Collection  
(as seen at the Platinum Jubilee Celebration last year)

Bring your own picnic, drinks and blanket/chairs

All are welcome

Disabled parking only on Mill Green  
If the weather is wet then we shall postpone to another Sunday



## From the Editor

At last, Summer is with us and I am writing this introduction from Corfu where the weather is beautiful and everything looks bountiful!

Our June magazine is packed with exciting reports of our Coronation celebrations which we hope you will find interesting and entertaining. Despite the fact there was no massive Mill Green celebration, there were plenty of activities going on around the village and our schools also. Thank you to everyone for your contributions. Many of you saw that we were running a competition for the best patriotic image sent in of your celebrations, and I am delighted to announce that the winner is Sarah Wyatt, who had some truly wonderful pictures direct from the Coronation itself in London. Special mention however also goes to Bill Bookless for his teddy bear teaparty.

We are also delighted to welcome Sarah Whiteside to our editorial team as she brings along lots of fresh ideas!

*Bob*

BOB AUSTEN | PARISH MAGAZINE EDITOR



WELCOME

### The copy date for submissions for the July Magazine is noon on Wednesday 14th June 2023.

Articles of up to 400 words are most welcome for publication in this Magazine and should be sent to the Editor: [bobausten@wargravechurch.org.uk](mailto:bobausten@wargravechurch.org.uk). The decision to 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	<a href="mailto:johnmcook@btconnect.com">johnmcook@btconnect.com</a>	0118 940 2202
Associate Minister	The Revd. Steve Turville	<a href="mailto:stephen.turville@ntlworld.com">stephen.turville@ntlworld.com</a>	0118 901 6720
Curate	The Revd. Richard Eves	<a href="mailto:richard.m.s.eves@gmail.com">richard.m.s.eves@gmail.com</a>	07746 383 046
Lay Minister	Andy Ferguson	<a href="mailto:andyferguson1@btinternet.com">andyferguson1@btinternet.com</a>	0118 940 2925
PCC Secretary	Sheila Williams	<a href="mailto:sheilamarywilliams1952@gmail.com">sheilamarywilliams1952@gmail.com</a>	0118 940 3587
PCC Treasurer	Jane Wills	<a href="mailto:paulandjanewills@btinternet.com">paulandjanewills@btinternet.com</a>	0118 940 2030
Administration	Lucy Bowley	<a href="mailto:lucy@wargravechurch.org.uk">lucy@wargravechurch.org.uk</a>	0118 940 2300
	Rosalyn Lane Heath	<a href="mailto:rosalyn@wargravechurch.org.uk">rosalyn@wargravechurch.org.uk</a>	0118 940 2300

### St Mary's, Wargrave

Churchwardens	Mark Puddy	<a href="mailto:markpuddy@btinternet.com">markpuddy@btinternet.com</a>	0118 940 2028
	Sue Witney	<a href="mailto:suewitney8@gmail.com">suewitney8@gmail.com</a>	0118 940 4173
Director of Music	Peter Dart	<a href="mailto:peter@familydart.com">peter@familydart.com</a>	0118 940 1068

### St Peter's, Knowl Hill

Acting	Lesley Bell	<a href="mailto:elbcarillon@gmail.com">elbcarillon@gmail.com</a>	01628 822 500
Churchwardens	Karen Larkin	<a href="mailto:karenlarkins@hotmail.com">karenlarkins@hotmail.com</a>	07507 333 789

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More about the Tin Tabernacle!



## PARISH REGISTERS : WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS & FUNERALS

### Baptisms at St Mary's, Wargrave

2nd April Owen Zachary Lane Heath  
2nd April Greyson Noah Lane Heath

### Weddings at St Mary's, Wargrave

1st April Emilia Darwent & Nathaniel Fabian

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

18th April Adrian Leask Colvin, 89, Cremation at Reading

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

*June*



### 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: **4th June**

9.45am All Age Family Worship

2nd Sunday of the month: **11th June**

9.45am Holy Communion

3rd Sunday of the month: **18th June**

9.45am Morning Worship in modern language with music

4th Sunday of the month: **25th June**

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

## June

Sunday 4th	9.45am	Trinity Sunday All Age Worship	St Mary's
Thursday 15th	2.30pm	CAMEO: Bingo	Knowl Hill VH
Sunday 18th	1pm	Lazy Sunday Afternoon	Mill Green

## July

Saturday 15th	9.30am	Funeral Planning Morning	Church Centre
Thursday 20th	TBC	CAMEO: Outing	TBC
Saturday 29th	7pm	BBQ at The Sutcliffes	The Sutcliffes

## September

Sunday 3rd	9.45am	All Age Service & Brunch	St Mary's
Thursday 7th	7.45pm	The Better Story Part I	Church Centre
Thursday 14th	7.45pm	The Better Story Part II	Church Centre
Thursday 21st	7.45pm	The Better Story Part III	Church Centre
Thursday 28th	7.45pm	The Better Story Part IV	Church Centre

## October

Sunday 1st	9.45am	Harvest Festival Service & Brunch	St Mary's
Thursday 5th	7.45pm	The Better Story Part V	Church Centre
Thursday 12th	7.45pm	The Better Story Part VI	Church Centre
Sunday 29th	3pm	Bereavement Service	St Mary's
Tuesday 31st	3pm	Light Party	Church Centre

*More events coming soon...*

# Our Groups

## WELCOME CAFÉ

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



**Next Sessions:**  
6th, 13th, 20th & 27th June

## BUTTERFLIES

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

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

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

**Next Sessions: 7th & 21st June**

## LADIES' BREAKFAST

Join us on Saturday 3rd June in the Church Centre at 9am when we will be exploring what it means to follow Jesus using pictures, bible verses and song.



## 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](http://wargravechurch.org.uk/groups)

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

## OPEN CHURCH

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





# A King's Coronation

What did you do on Saturday 6th May?

*We had a picnic.*

What. A picnic? But it was raining that day. I remember it well. That was the day of the Coronation of King Charles III.

*A little rain never hurt anyone. And, we had planned to have a picnic and rain was not going to stop us.*

We dressed up for the King, dressed up for the rain, and had a great time.

We hope you all enjoyed the Coronation as much as we did.

*Bill Bookless*



CORONATION

Chris, Rachel and I decided to spend Coronation Day in London rather than watching it on TV.

Having decided not to camp out overnight on the Mall we took an early Elizabeth Line train to Bond Street arriving in Green Park at 7.45am.



We set up our chairs 30 metres from the large screen and next to an American family who had come over especially for the event. There was a great atmosphere despite the drizzle and the frequent bursts of heavier rain. We managed to see the balcony at the Palace in the distance and had a great view of the Red Arrows and the helicopters in the fly-past.

Despite getting wet, it was well worth making the trip to London.

*Helen Perry*

Coronation Day at the Vicarage





# THE CORONATION IN PICTURES

Sarah Wyatt



CORONATION



# A GRAND DAY OUT

Annette Dart

If you perhaps thought the Coronation of the King Charles III, Supreme Governor of the Church of England, was a rather low-key event at St Mary's then you were not part of the trip to the Royal Albert Hall on Sunday May 7th! Over fifty excited church members, friends and family set off after the 9.45am service on a Horseman's coach, some dressed exuberantly for the occasion (see photo of Colleen!), and all accompanied by picnics bursting with delicious treats.



T: Luxury coach transport!  
L: Colleen Scott looking fantastic in Union Jack inspired outfit at the Royal Albert Hall.

The concert at the Royal Albert Hall was a double celebration in fact, combining the 150th Anniversary of the Royal Choral Society and the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla into a choral extravaganza. The event was extra-special as it took place in the presence of HRH The Duke of Kent, who is the President of the Royal Choral Society, and he admitted to feeling a bit tired after attending the Coronation service at Westminster Abbey the day before! Peter Dart, Director of Music at St Mary's, has been Chair of the Royal Choral Society for several years and is passionate about classical and choral music and singing, as many have noticed during his 12-year tenure at St Mary's.

A GRAND DAY

The musical programme for the afternoon was simply one sublime piece of music after the other, stirring emotions of joy, pride and awe at the beauty of the compositions and the thrill of listening to over 200 fabulous voices in perfect harmony, accompanied by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and Richard Pearce in command of the mighty organ. Zeb Soanes, a popular presenter from Classic FM, added celebrity sparkle as MC for the concert. Some of the musical highlights included Zadok the Priest, the Hallelujah Chorus and Nimrod followed by The Hymn of Jesus, Jerusalem and finishing with an I Was Glad sing-along! I'm not sure what the illustrious composer, Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry, would have made of that but it was wonderful to sing with the amazing choir and the words of Psalm 122 are so deeply moving.

At 5pm we were back on the coach heading home after our grand day out, humming those marvellous inspirational tunes. Thank you to Peter for organising the splendid trip with pitch-perfect logistics and creating wonderful memories for us to treasure of the Coronation weekend.



L-R Peter Dart, Richard Cook, HRH The Duke of Kent and Zeb Soanes  
Photo by Michael Bowles



Choir, orchestra and the mighty organ!  
Photo reproduced by Michael Bowles



## RING FOR THE KING

Bill Bookless

There may have been the odd rain cloud and possibly a bit of dampness in the air outside but on the Saturday morning of the Coronation of King Charles III all was bright and cheerful up in the Bell Tower.



At 9.45am fourteen Bell Ringers of all ages and ability met to **RING FOR THE KING**.

It was a joyous occasion with everyone who attended getting in on the act. We had ringers from the Loddon Ringers Hub join the regulars from St Mary's.

As the band, (that is what a group of bell ringers is called), had such a diverse range of skills from beginners through to accomplished experts it was not appropriate to ring a peal, which can last for up to 3 hours in length, it was agreed we would ring Rounds and Call Changes.

Rounds is when the bells ring sequentially from bell 1 through bell 8 continuously, and melodiously. Call Changes is when the more proficient members of the band call for bells to change position within the 1 through 8 sequence continuously. This we did with various degrees of success. The audience that had gathered in the Lych Gate to listen to the bells was really appreciative of the ringing.

We rang for over 30 minutes and everyone went home bubbling with excitement having played a part in the Coronation of King Charles.

BELL RINGING

## DO YOU WANT TO TAKE PART IN BELL RINGING AT ST MARY'S?



You will be made most welcome. If you are a returning ringer who has taken some time out or even if you have never touched a bell rope in your life you will be made most welcome. There are experienced ringers who are also excellent teachers who can either refresh your dormant skills or train you from scratch.

We practice each Wednesday evening from 7.30pm to 9pm and ring for Church Service each Sunday from 9am to 9.45am. We also ring for weddings.

You can pop along to a Wednesday evening session and introduce yourself or call in advance to make enquiries to:

- John Coombes, the bell captain on 0118 940 2937
- Vinni Sullivan, our in house training instructor on 07766 917903
- Bill Bookless, John's current stand in, on 0118 940 4441



## CORONATION WITH OUR SCHOOLS

### THE PIGGOTT SCHOOL

The coronation of our King has given us a unique opportunity to explore some key aspects of British culture and has given us an occasion to celebrate together. The coronation has been viewed both as a celebration and as an opportunity to be thankful for everything that we have and a chance to give back to our society. As an all-through school, the celebrations have varied across the two sites of Wargrave and Charvil.

The primary children adored having a story telling bus arrive on site and experienced the wonder of imagination. This really was a highlight for the children and something they will remember for a long time. They also thoroughly enjoyed making crowns and wearing their wonderful creations to a special lunch service. I asked one student what their favourite activity was, and she exclaimed 'I just don't know, it has all been so much fun!'. We were lucky enough to have the sunshine for our KS2 scavenger coronation hunt. KS1 had a lot of fun designing underpants for the King, based on the book *The King's Pants* by Nicholas Allan.

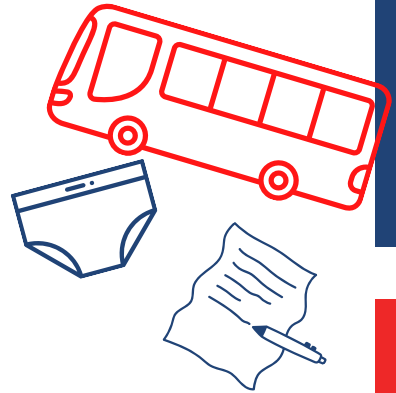
Students have also been writing letters to King Charles III, congratulating him but also clearly articulating their priorities for change. This mirrors work we have completed recently in which our students wrote to their MP with political concerns they have. Our students have also shown their creative side by writing poems/songs to support the coronation. We have even been sampling some delicious food that our students have made using the more limited choice of ingredients that would have been available when Charles III was born.

Furthermore, we have taken advantage of the coronation to really investigate the role of the Monarchy and how it affects our British Values. Our students have explored both the purpose of the coronation itself and the role of the King. This has enabled our students to have a greater understanding of the world in which we live and our rich history as a Nation.

Our school Christian vision is to 'Go and Do Likewise,' based on the parable of the Good Samaritan. As such, we are always looking for opportunities to help and support others. We have used the coronation as a platform to promote service and volunteering. The Big Help out is designed to inspire people to make a difference and to bring communities together. At The Piggott School we have raised awareness of this initiative and have supported our students and their families to get involved where they can. This is in addition to the charitable work that our school community so generously supports throughout the year.

Our students have enjoyed learning a little more about the Monarch and taking part in creative learning experiences. However, the most important message taken from the coronation events has been to consider how we can best support each other each and every day.

*Michelle Bird*



## KNOWL HILL CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

On Friday 5th May, we enjoyed a day of Coronation celebrations here at Knowl Hill to celebrate the crowning of Prince Charles as King.

In the morning, the children worked together creating large royal collages to display on the windows along our school corridor.

Foundation made the King's crown, Year 1 made a union jack, Year 2 made Windsor Castle, Year 3 made the golden coronation carriage, Year 4 made a view of tower bridge, Year 5 made a view towards Buckingham Palace along Pall Mall, and Year 6 made a collage of a stamp.

We then all had a fantastic time altogether in the hall, sharing a picnic lunch of coronation chicken rolls, sausage rolls, crudites, crisps and a very large celebration cake together.

We were joined by local vet Richard Best and some of the school governors and all had a wonderful afternoon celebrating!

*Nichole Bourner, Head of School*





## CRAZIES HILL CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Excitement had been growing throughout the week as the school was decorated with bunting and the final rehearsals for the Coronation songs took place. Performances of the whole school singing, 'Defender of Us All' and 'To the Sound of Trumpets' were recorded for posterity. The children looked smart in their school uniforms, and sounded professional. They were particularly excited to learn that The Keys Academy Trust would be combining the performances from all of the Trust schools to create a 10-school performance.



Friday itself was full of memorable events. All staff and children were dressed in red, white and blue. The infants welcomed Lou from Theatrikids, who brought a "Story in a Suitcase". She told them the story "The King's Coronation" by Frances Rose. Some of the children took part in bread making workshops, others carried out coronation arts and crafts.

At 11am, the school gathered together and sang 'Defender of Us All'. This song was simultaneously performed in many schools throughout the country. The children then enjoyed sitting together to eat their picnic lunches.

The day concluded with parents joining us on the playground. The children carried out an open-air performance of, 'To the Sound of Trumpets' which was followed by a coronation themed cake sale. It was a wonderful start to a very special weekend.



## ROBERT PIGGOTT C OF E SCHOOL

Here at Robert Piggott C of E Schools the Coronation was celebrated in style. On the Friday, the staff and children arrived decked out in red, white and blue - some of the outfits were truly impressive. The children spent time designing and making elaborate crowns, which rivalled any on display at Westminster Abbey. The children were divided into their houses and enjoyed an afternoon of games and party food, served on special Coronation plates.

The highlights of the day were the two collective worship assemblies held at both schools. These were held outside as the key component of the event was the planting of two cherry trees, in line with the school's bible reference 'A tree is known by its fruits' (Matthew 12:33). Fortunately, the weather held and just as the trees were planted the sunshine came out. The children and staff very much enjoyed the day. As Emilia Cashin-Howe (Year 3) summarised, "The whole day felt exciting and very royal!" It certainly felt like great preparation for the actual day.



TL - TR: Infant tree planting, Elaine Huges (Executive Head) & Vanessa O'Byrne (Head of Schools) ceremonial planting of the cherry tree,  
M - The oldest and the youngest pupils in our school had the honour of planting the trees,  
BL - BR: Juniors tree planting and prayers for King Charles III, Crowns & Party Treats

## SUMMER HOLIDAYS:

### The best holiday to send a child on?

Jubi Filho da Silva



What's the most important holiday you've ever been on? Some may say the holiday they met their partner or an experience they had that gave them a new perspective and led to a change of career.

For me the answer is easy – camp. Every summer I would spend a week away from my parents having an adventure, building friendships, and learning about Jesus. These weeks of my life were some of the most important in forming who I am today. I'm incredibly thankful to my parents for sending me on them and to all the leaders who volunteered their time to make them possible

Why did camp matter so much? Because it took me out of my daily life and gave me a chance to really think about God and pause to hear the gospel. I was taught what Christians believe, given a chance to ask questions, and the space to think about it. It was also a lot of fun with a full schedule of experiences from sailing to paintballing, craft to film making.

As you can probably tell, I'm a huge advocate for camps and if you are thinking of signing your children or grandchildren up for one this summer, it's not too late. And why not ask your child whether there's a friend they want to invite along with them – that's what happened to me, someone invited me.

## Kids Camp Organisations

**Ventures and Falcon camps:** These happen across the UK throughout the summer for children aged 8-18 years. ([ventures.org.uk](http://ventures.org.uk))

**Contagious:** These happen across the UK as well and all summer long. They cater for children aged 8-19 years. ([contagious.org.uk](http://contagious.org.uk))

**CYE:** Water sports holiday based in Chichester harbour. You stay on a boat, have loads of fun on the water sailing, kayaking etc... and learn about Jesus. Camps available for 9-18 years. ([cye.org.uk/school-holidays/camps](http://cye.org.uk/school-holidays/camps))

**Adventure Plus:** Based just up the road in Oxfordshire. ([adventureplus.org.uk](http://adventureplus.org.uk))

**Friendships | Fun Games | Adventures**  
**| Learn about Jesus |**

[WARGRAVECHURCH.ORG.UK](http://WARGRAVECHURCH.ORG.UK)



# RIDE + STRIDES for Churches

## SAVE THE DATE: Saturday 9th September

*This national event happens every year across the country. Any mode of transport is fine – you could walk, cycle, ride – simply choose a route and find lots of sponsorship from all your friends and family, perhaps every person in your congregation could sponsor you?*

*Prue Matchwick, Berkshire Ride & Stride Co-ordinator*

The above is a note from Prue, the county co-ordinator and here, Team Wargrave with Knowl Hill is already making plans to make a day of it visiting churches in Windsor and Eton between 10am and 6pm. Some of us have done this previously and are looking forward to another visit since there were so many wonderful and interesting churches to see.

There is also the Daphne Barnes-Phillips trophy which is awarded to the most successful church each year. This is a splendid silver cup which is currently resting with St Peter's, Woolhampton as they raised the most sponsorship in 2022. We are always up for a challenge and hope one day (maybe this year) we can win this.

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, or if you would like to plan your own route Christine can supply more details closer to the event.

Christine Walker  
csw3749@gmail.com, 0118 9403749



# A MONTH OF ECO: The Big One

In May 2021, our PCC agreed a public recognition of the climate emergency. You can read it on our church web site at [wargravechurch.org.uk/z/ecochurch161](http://wargravechurch.org.uk/z/ecochurch161).

The emergency is real. This year alone, millions have lost their crops, livelihoods and homes, and many their lives, to drought, floods, typhoons, cyclones and wild fires.

There is also a nature crisis ([livingplanet.panda.org](http://livingplanet.panda.org)), and many of us face personal crises from time to time.

'Crisis' means 'cross'. This is where those who follow Christ find strength. It also implies choice. A crisis is, quite literally, a crossroads in our lives. We can be part of the problem or part of the solution. We can despair or show love.

Christian agencies and church groups showed they care on 21st to 24th April by taking part in 'The Big One' in Westminster. Services took place in streets and churches every day. An estimated 60-90,000 people took part in the main march on the Saturday. To the dismay of much of the media, the biggest peaceful protest the UK has ever seen chose to be trouble free. Even in Bristol, where my own crisis forced me to be at the time, I met someone for whom it had been a life changing experience.



ECO CHURCH

Two of the agencies, Operation Noah and the Young Christians Climate Network, feature in the **Earthrise** broadcast that was filmed at St Mary's Wargrave in July 2022. You can find it on YouTube. Search for 'Earthrise Believing in Change'. Many of us have fond memories of the YCCN walk that came through our parish in the 2021.



## HOW CAN WE SHOW WE CARE?

01

Donate to a charity that provides help on the ground, such as Tearfund or Christian Aid.

02

Put God first in our investments, even if it costs us in the short term. A new report is illuminating:

[grist.org/business-technology/none-of-the-worlds-top-industries-would-be-profitable-if-they-paid-for-the-natural-capital-they-use/](https://grist.org/business-technology/none-of-the-worlds-top-industries-would-be-profitable-if-they-paid-for-the-natural-capital-they-use/)



03

Be part of the solution and not the problem as we travel, shop, eat and run our homes. Previous Eco Updates in this magazine explain how. Back copies are on the church website.

04

Make your voice heard.  
Let your MP know you care.

05

Keep a wildlife friendly garden. Plant pollinators. Dig a pond. Children: Put an oxygenating plant in a pot of water and watch the mini beasts come.

06

Join us in identifying plants and insects in our churchyards for Churches Count on Nature on 3rd - 11th June:

[caringforgodsacre.org.uk/about-recording/add-your-records/](https://caringforgodsacre.org.uk/about-recording/add-your-records/).

Mike Buckland, Stewarding CoG leader  
[mikebuckland54@gmail.com](mailto:mikebuckland54@gmail.com)

# JOYFUL ENDEAVOUR

DIOCEASAN LENT SERIES

## DAY 23: PART II

Volunteering shows that our church is not just a building but the visible, lively, active body of Christ in our community.

Whatever form church takes going forward, its people will always remain its heartbeat.

There are many practical everyday tasks that we can often take for granted, both inside and outside the church such as: opening and unlocking our buildings, dealing with admin and finance, organising rotas, welcoming visitors, cleaning floors and brasses, plugging leaky roofs, changing lightbulbs, cutting grass and so on. In a nutshell all the jobs, both big and small, that come together to make the church a centre of activity as well as worship.

So, let's ask God to show us the skilled, blessed people among us, for all sorts of tasks, so that his plans for the parish might be fulfilled. Let's also ask ourselves if this might be us! Should we perhaps be offering our time to help in some new way? Whilst there may be exceptions, for most humans, giving and sharing, enjoying friendship and caring for others, be they human or animals brings immeasurable joy that cannot be bought. Knowing this, why, oh why do we so often spend so much time on things that do not make us joyful when the answer might be staring us in the face?

COME  
AND  
SEE

I repeat my words from last month, withdrawing to a quiet space can also bring joy. There can be value in being silent.

Desmond Tutu told a story of sitting beside a blazing fire. Being next to it, we don't have to do anything to feel its warmth. This is like sitting and spending time with God. We don't have to do anything to feel his presence with us. Just as the fire spreads its heat to us, God spreads his love into us. Spending time with him makes us more like him: less judgmental, more forgiving. Receiving this love ourselves, we can spread it to the people we meet.



# WHAT KIND OF CHRISTIAN?

**Richard Eves**

It is so easy to get discouraged in the Christian Life.

“How is your christian walk going?”  
“Oh dreadfully!”



We may not have actually had an exchange like the one above, but it's a feeling we can all get from time to time, or even quite a lot of the time.

In our Young Families' home group we have recently started looking at the letter to the Colossians together. This is a letter to average, bog-standard christians. In the eyes of the world they are total nobodies, living out in the sticks of nowhere. They've never even MET anyone important - even the apostle Paul who writes the letter has never met them, he has only heard about them through a mutual friend. And at the start of the letter he tells them the three things that he has heard about them - they have faith in Christ, they love one another, and they have believed the genuine Gospel. And knowing nothing else about these nobody Christians, these three things are enough to make Paul write:

*“We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you.”*  
*Colossians 1:3*

The Colossians may be nobodies, but in Paul's eyes the fact that they have received the Gospel of Jesus Christ and responded with faith and love makes them unimaginably precious. So precious, that whenever he thinks about them his first feeling is immense gratitude to God. Paul is so delighted by what God is achieving in the world through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that when he sees ordinary people coming to faith, he dances.

The wonderful thing about these three things that gives Paul such joy, is that if we are christians, they are true of us too. If we've heard the genuine Gospel message, and responded with faith in Christ and love for his people, then we are just like the Colossians. And if that's the case, however disappointing or uninspiring we might think of ourselves as being - Paul would call us precious, and dance.

Through the power of the Gospel, God transforms dirty lumps of coal into glimmering diamonds. And though for all sorts of reasons we can all still feel very coal-like, if we can see ourselves as Paul does - with the eyes of faith - we will recognise that there is nothing more precious in all the realms of mankind, than the bog-standard Christian.





## VICAR'S LETTER

Dear *Friends*



On May 6th many across the United Kingdom will have watched the Coronation of King Charles III at Westminster Abbey, which reflects a new era of monarchy following the 70-year reign of Queen Elizabeth II. No British prince has waited longer, and he is the oldest monarch to be crowned in British history. William the Conqueror was the first monarch to be crowned there in 1066, and King Charles is the fortieth

Westminster Abbey has a rich historical background. In the 10th century, Benedictine monks began a tradition of daily worship there that continues today. The Abbey is also the burial place of many famous people, and every English monarch since 1066 has been crowned there. In fact, 17 of those monarchs are also buried there - their reigns ending where they began.

I was very moved by the whole Coronation Service, and the potent Christian symbolism throughout:

**TWO CROWNS:** the Cross at the top of the crowns symbolises that above King Charles reigns a greater King, the Lord Jesus Christ.

**CORONATION RING:** this is inlaid with diamonds, rubies and sapphires for the colours of England and Scotland (made for the coronation of William IV in 1831). It was placed on the fourth finger of the monarch to show his 'marriage' to the nation.

**TWO SCEPTRES:** King Charles held two sceptres. First the Sovereign's Sceptre (made for the Coronation of Charles II in 1661). It is based on a shepherd's crook with a Cross on the top which symbolises the power of Kingship under God's own rule. The second is a bit longer, and on top of it is a dove to represent the Holy Spirit. It is called the Rod of Equity and Mercy. It is a reminder to our new King to show compassion and kindness to his people.

**SOVEREIGN'S ORB:** this hollow golden sphere represents the world with a Cross at the top. It was placed in King Charles's right hand. It reminded us that the Lord Jesus Christ died for the sins of all, and His Kingdom and rule covers the entire earth. Professor Anna Whitelock commented about the plans for Charles's Coronation, codenamed Operation Golden Orb 'reminds us that at the heart of the ceremony, the King is made to swear vows of awesome severity, not to his country, or even his subjects, but to God'.

**BIBLE:** The Right Reverend Dr Iain Greenshields (from the Church of Scotland) gave a Bible to the King, saying: "Sir, to keep you ever mindful; of the law and the Gospel of God as the Rule for the whole life and government of Christian Princes, receive this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is Wisdom; this is the royal Law; these are the lively Oracles of God." In the church and constitution of England, there is no higher authority than that of God's Word written, an authority under which every person, even the King himself is utterly subordinated.

No matter how grandiose their burial, world rulers rise and fall; they live and die. Having recently celebrated Easter we have been reminded that there is another King, the Lord Jesus Christ. Though once dead, he is no longer buried. In his first coming, Jesus was crowned with thorns, and crucified as the king of the Jews (John 19:3,19). Because the Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead in victory, if we are believers and followers in Jesus Christ we have the promise and assurance that we will live with him forever:

*"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die"*  
(John 11:25-26).

We serve a risen King - the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you gladly yield to his rule in your life now, as we look forward to the day when the "Lord God Almighty" (Revelation 19:6) will reign for all eternity?

Yours in Christ,

*John*

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

## MY FUNERAL WISHES - PLANNING MY FUNERAL



There are a lot of ads on TV that talk about taking the financial stress away from loved ones by having a pre-paid funeral plan. There are also a lot of ads that talk about the cost of standard funerals and the money we can save by having a 'direct cremation'.

But one of the best ways we can take stress from loved ones is to save them from having to plan our funeral. To know that mum or dad or their loved one has already chosen what type of funeral they want, and chosen music, hymns, and readings, means that they don't have to worry about that when they are going through the process of bereavement.

So, on Saturday morning, **15th July from 9.30am to 12 noon** in St Marys Church Centre, we will have a morning of planning our own funerals. We will listen to popular funeral music and hymns, and popular funeral readings from the Bible and elsewhere. The aim of the morning will be to come away with your funeral service planned and written down for you to keep, ready for when its needed.

If you'd like to come along, please call or email the Parish Office on 0118 940 2300 / [office@wargravechurch.org.uk](mailto:office@wargravechurch.org.uk) so that we know numbers



St Mary's Church Wargrave  
With Knowl Hill

**SAVE THE DATE**

**SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER  
7.30PM**

*Classical*  
**ANNUAL CONCERT**

The Wargrave Community Choir • Laura Anstee, Cello  
Liz Drew, Clarinet • Paul Speed, Trumpet  
Richard Pearce, Organ • VOCES8 and more...

**TICKET DAY**  
**Saturday 9th September**  
**9am - 12pm**  
**St Mary's Church Centre**  
**Tickets from £10**

Full programme to be announced



# MISSED US THE FIRST TIME?



**We shall be running all of the seminars from the Clearly Christian Thinking course again in the Summer. More details to follow...**

## **SUNDAY AFTERNOONS WITH RAMBLIN' BOB**

**Jane Austen**

A large group of 22 met in Twyford on Sunday 23rd April for a ramble through the Loddon Valley Nature Reserve and across the farmland around Stanlake Park, returning to base through Ruscombe.

The weather thankfully was kind to us although the ground was extremely muddy in places. Bob found the going particularly difficult as he puffed and panted his way through the layers of mud, mud, glorious mud, and his walking shoes bear testament to the ordeal! The presence of a couple of stiles – a rarity these days in our part of Berkshire – added extra spice to the proceedings!

We all thoroughly enjoyed the ramble and 16 of us ate a hearty Sunday lunch at La Fontana, the perfect end to another Ramble with Bob!

If you would like to join us on our walks in the future, please contact Bob Austen to be included in our notices. Email: [austenrobert@hotmail.com](mailto:austenrobert@hotmail.com) Home: 0118 940 3038 or Mobile: 07970 611013.

Next Rambles: 30th July, 27th August, 24th September, 29th October



# ST PETER'S CHURCH: And the connection to Jane Austen

Lesley Bell

## PART 1 – A BRIEF HISTORY

St Peter's church was built in 1841 of brick with stone details and framing. The land upon which St. Peter's and later the school stand, was given by Thomas Wethered (of the brewing company) of Marlow, and the funds for the church were raised by subscription and by contributions from George Clayton-East, Baronet of Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Richard Griffin, Lord Braybrook, supported by J. Wethered, Vicar of Hurley Parish and James Hitchings, Vicar of Wargrave.



The site chosen for the new church was in Knowl Hill to be close to the brick kilns and inns which had been established in the area to exploit the local clay for the growing towns of Maidenhead and Reading.

The foundation stone was laid in 1839 appropriately on St Peter's Day (23rd June), by Lady Clayton East who also placed some coins of the realm within the stone.

John Chessel Buckler and his son George were chosen as the architects as they had a particular interest in the drawings of churches, cathedrals and monuments. The building cost was estimated at £1,783 with a construction period of 10 months.

Following the completion of the building St. Peter's was consecrated on 24th August 1841. The original building was fairly modest, lacking for example such niceties as a clock or an organ. In addition, the layout was such that the Vicar had to preach with his back turned to a considerable proportion of the congregation. The occupants of the pews at the East were almost face to face with those seated in the Nave and it was necessary to put up a curtain to hide them from one another.

ST PETER'S CHURCH



An organ was installed in the gallery in 1846. It was decided to extend the church by adding a Chancel at the East end, which would overcome the seating layout of the original church. The Chancel was added in 1870 at a cost of £640 and was dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Oxford.

The organ was dismantled from the gallery and reinstalled in the new Chancel, which may account for it disgracing itself by breaking down during the very first confirmation service ever held at Knowl Hill!

A clock made by Smith of Derby, was set going on St. Barnabas day on 11th June 1875.

Notwithstanding the addition of the new Chancel and the reorganisation of the seating, 18 years later, the Archdeacon of Berkshire was displeased with the arrangements and said that 'they made people think of first, second and third class carriages in a train. All should be first class in the House of God.' As a result of his strong feelings, the seating was changed once more in 1890 by Silver and Sons of Maidenhead who had also carried out the earlier rearrangements.

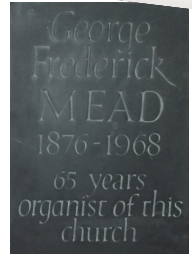
Despite all the seating changes, the seats in the gallery remain in their original form. It is interesting to note that the pews removed from St. Peter's in 1937 and 1948 were reinstalled in the nearby church in Warren Row.

The present organ was built by Abbott of Leeds and was installed in 1875. The new organ cost £250 and the old one sold for the princely sum of £20. Many ex-schoolchildren of Knowl Hill will remember pumping it by hand to keep the air going but now it has an electric pump. The organ has required considerable maintenance to keep it in top condition during its nearly 150 years of service, for 65 of which it was played by George Mead. It was last overhauled in 1985 which was necessary due to the poor foundations causing the pipes to fall out of line with a threat they may even topple over. Repairs were expertly carried out by Rushworth and Dreaper of Liverpool at a cost of £14,000; compare that with the original purchase price of £250!

To celebrate the completion of the overhaul, an organ recital was given by Dr. Harry Gabb who is best known for playing at many royal services, including the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and at the weddings of Princess Margaret and Princess Anne.

The cost of the repairs and maintenance were covered by donations from the Knowl Hill Steam Rally Trust which has had a long association with St Peter's church.

Other highlights in the history of St. Peter's include major repairs being carried out in 1925, including a new ceiling for the Nave. A wooden screen, made by West and Collier of Frieth, was dedicated in 1932. The church go-ers of Knowl Hill had to wait until 1932 to get electric lighting which was installed to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of George V and Queen Mary.



## PART 2 – THE JANE AUSTEN CONNECTION

The first vicar of St Peter's was Jane Austen's nephew, James Edward Austen Leigh. Like his aunt, he was born in Hampshire in 1798. As a child he wrote poems and stories to his aunt who always responded with much encouragement. He was educated at Winchester, then Exeter College, Oxford whereupon he took Holy Orders.

Jane died in 1817 and Edward attended her funeral in Winchester Abbey. By 1820 Jane's unsold copies of *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* were destroyed.

Her mother's brother died leaving his property to his wife Jane Leigh Perrot with a small legacy for Edward. He became the curate at Newtown, near his father's parish at Speen, Newbury. He bought horses with his legacy and became a frequent visitor at The Vyne, near Basingstoke. There he met Emma Smith of Tring Park at a dance and fell in love. Edward married Emma, the daughter of Sir Sebastian and Lady Elizabeth Smith and had three children while they lived at Tring Park.



Great Aunt Jane Leigh Perrot approved of the marriage and doubled his allowance and when she died left him her name Leigh and property, *Scarletts* at Kiln Green. Edward and Emma modernised *Scarletts* and socialised at Linden Hill and Hall Place. Edward helped the poor in the Wargrave area. The vicar suggested that a Church should be built on the Bath Road, Knowl Hill with its busy brick works, not Kiln Green, was chosen.

In 1846 Edward used his wealth to add a gallery, Chancel, and a pulpit. The reredos was painted by Mrs William Smith of Wargrave.

At the same time Rev Edward Austen Leigh built the school next to the church, with accommodation for a teacher and separate class rooms for boys and girls.

He also built the Vicarage on Church land at Knowl Hill Common, at Glebe Cottage. It had an orchard, stables and a paddock. The Curate Simon Sturges lived there.

In 1852, Edward became Vicar of Bray. He had the Vicarge extended, then let *Scarletts* and moved 30 people and farm stock to Bray.

The unwanted pews from Bray were fitted into St Peter's gallery. *Scarletts* was sold to fund his children's education.

In 1870 Edward wrote, 'A Memoir of Jane Austen' which returned Jane to public notice. His son, Arthur later became Vicar of Wargrave. When Emma's mother, Lady Elizabeth Smith died, Edward placed a beautiful monument in St. Peter's church. His son George is buried at St. Peter's.

Edward and Emma stayed at Bray until they died.



*Extracts from a leaflet prepared by the Strategy Team of St. Peter's*



# A HISTORY OF THE KNOWL HILL STEAM RALLY

Jim Hadden

Knowl Hill was internationally famous as the venue for a prestigious Steam Rally held at Bottle Meadow every August. It was started in 1970 with the aim of raising funds to build a modern village hall to replace the old wooden hall which had been erected in 1919. The Steam Rally (or more properly The Steam and Country Show) finally ceased due to insurance problems and health and safety issues in 2004. Originally said to be the brainchild of John Keeley, in reality it was his wife May's idea.



STATIONARY ENGINES  
Traction engines, portable engines, and other stationary engines were a major attraction of the rally. Many were brought from all over the country, and some were specially built for the occasion.

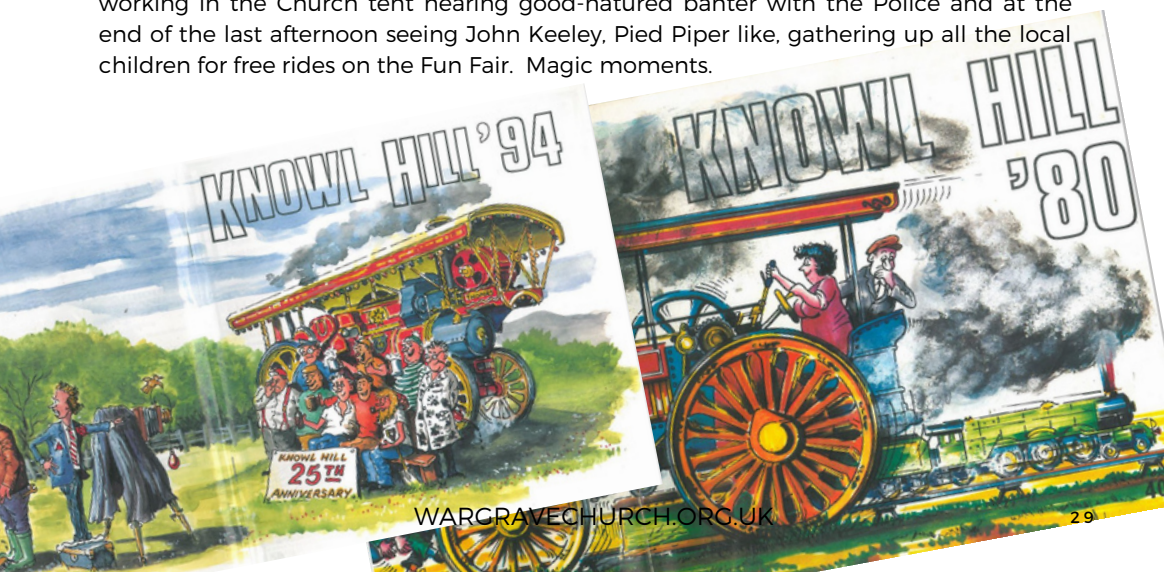
There were so many events happening at the Show. Apart from the main attraction of the steam powered traction engines there were stationary engines, a steam shovel on a railway, classic cars, livestock, model engineers, radio controlled boats, markets, craft exhibitions, helicopter rides etc. In addition there were many tents run to raise funds for local good causes such as the St. Peter's Church tent providing refreshments, the Guides BBQ selling hot dogs, the School tent selling burgers.

To crown it all there was an entertainment stage and a massive Fun Fair. The church tent speciality meal was a Steamman's Lunch which was remarkably similar to a Ploughman's Lunch.

On the Sunday the Vicar of Knowl Hill would conduct an open-air service which was always well attended. In 1980 the vicar was Phillip Elston and the theme was "God's Wonderful Railway." The three hymns were All people that on earth do dwell, the Lord's my Shepherd and Onward Christian soldiers. Music was provided by a fairground organ and the atmosphere was amazing.

My personal favourite memories include seeing "Supreme," a magnificent showman's traction engine, next to the School tent at night puffing gently with all lights shining, working in the Church tent hearing good-natured banter with the Police and at the end of the last afternoon seeing John Keeley, Pied Piper like, gathering up all the local children for free rides on the Fun Fair. Magic moments.

STEAM RALLY



# ST PETER'S POWER OF THREE



**Karen Larkins, Valda Hadden & Lesley Bell**

## **KAREN LARKINS**

Karen was born in Australia and once she graduated she taught English, Speech & Drama in a remote mining town in Tasmania for a couple of years until she decided to have six months off living and working in London. The six months turned into 11 years during which time she met her husband Barry, moved to Knowl Hill and married in St Mary's in Wargrave.

Not long after marriage the decision was made to move to Australia and try life together in sunnier climes. During this time Karen completed a post grad in Counselling and Psychotherapy and worked in a small private clinic on the lower north shore of Sydney. It was here that she became involved in her local church after being invited to a Christianity Explored course by her colleague and boss. Karen had not been raised in a church going family and her husband had been a little put off from his years at boarding school, but soon she became part of a large and active church family and even Barry attended the occasional event. Her counselling work also began to largely involve working with people of faith and members of clergy using and teaching the concepts of an approach called Bowen Family Systems Theory.

In 2015 Barry and Karen made the decision to return to the UK and their house in Knowl Hill. Her initial responsibility was to make connections, renew and build friendships and become involved in local community to make up for the years away.

In looking for her church, Karen met the warm and welcoming members of St Peter's church congregation. In particular she developed a very close friendship with the late Sandra Baker, and her husband Bob.

It is in Sandra's memory and with the hope to fulfil the vision of reviving St Peter's that Karen works with Lesley, Valda and all members of the small Strategy Committee to try and make St Peter's a welcoming and functional centre for the people of Knowl Hill and its surrounds.

Karen and Barry now live in Hare Hatch, half way between Wargrave and Knowl Hill and are delighted and happy to have met so many generous and caring people. They are very happy here and Karen hopes that she might see you at a service in Knowl Hill one day - 1st and 3rd Sundays at 10:30am!

## **VALDA HADDEN**

Born and raised in Birmingham, her father was a professional soldier serving before, during and after World War II. She attended Yardley Grammar School where she became the Head Girl, which Jim says accounts for her occasional bossiness. After "A" levels she decided she needed to get a paid job as going to university would be a considerable burden on her family.

She joined the Gas Council where she was sponsored and achieved a BSc in Chemistry at the University of Aston. It was there that she met Jim and the rest is the proverbial. After graduation she decided she would have a career change and gained a Teaching Diploma at Bolton Technical College. Jim proposed marriage and they moved to Pembrokeshire where Valda wasn't allowed to teach as she was one of the 97.5% of the county who couldn't speak Welsh anyway!

Valda played hockey and captained her team until her marriage.

Valda had a variety of jobs including hotel receptionist, where she used to serve breakfast to the artist Graham Sutherland, a Laboratory Technician and finally as a Civil Servant. She gave up working to raise three children. After 10 years the family relocated to Paris for three years before coming to Maidenhead almost 40 years ago where she was able to pick up teaching and taught at private schools Wycombe Abbey and St. Mary's, Gerrards Cross. All three children went to the Knowl Hill C of E School which accounts for why she attended St Peter's and not St. John's in Littlewick Green.

On retirement Valda and Jim ventured off on their dream holiday touring Australia and New Zealand for four months. Valda was secretary to the Littlewick Green WI and eventually closed it down and formed a Friendship Group which is still very active. She is one of the three Acting Churchwardens at St. Peter's.

### **LESLEY BELL**

Born and raised in Edinburgh Lesley moved, in her teens, to Southern England and upon marriage eventually to Knowl Hill where she has lived for over 35 years.

Her working life was predominantly in the hi-tec sector until setting up her own HR Consultancy, which she ran for almost 15 years until, after an offer she couldn't refuse,



she returned to corporate life and an International HR role.

Her ultimate post saw her directing the HR aspects of de-merging a division of IBM into a separate entity through to a corporate takeover by a Japanese hi-tec company, and finally effecting her own redundancy and retiring.

Much of this work was carried out during a period of ill health and managed around sessions of radio- and chemo- therapy.

An active sailor for many years she and her husband cruised the Solent, the Channel Islands and Normandy and as part of a holiday in Australia, sailed round the Whitsunday Islands. After retirement she now holidays touring by caravan with her husband and dog, interspersed with the odd flight to farther destinations.

In the meantime she is active in the Knowl Hill Village Association, is a keen member of the local WI; is an Acting Churchwarden at St Peter's and has recently accepted an invitation to stand as a School Governor at Knowl Hill school.

Knowl Hill Village Association presents:

Open air theatre with The Pantaloons in:

# ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND

**Saturday 15th July**

Gates open at 6.  
Performance starts at 7

Follow the critically-acclaimed Pantaloons down the rabbit hole for their own hilarious take on Lewis Carroll's nonsensical novel.

All the unusual suspects are here: the mirthful Mad Hatter, the perpetually late White Rabbit, the quarrelsome Queen of Hearts and, of course, the adventurous Alice herself.

A delightfully anarchic show that gets curiouser and curiouser with live music and audience interaction.

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](http://www.khva.org)



# KNOWL HILL ACADEMY WRITING COMPETITION

Richard Best, supported by Knowl Hill Village Association, will be launching the annual writing competition on Tuesday 6th June. The topic for this year is Matilda which is linked to the play they are producing during their drama week.

Submissions will be received by the judges (Richard Best, Steve Glover, David Bell and Lesley Bell) towards the end of the month to decide on the winners. This is always difficult for the judges as the quality of stories is always excellent.

Once the winners have been identified, an awards ceremony will take place in St Peter's church on Tuesday 18th July. This is a wonderful ceremony and always a joyous occasion with many parents watching as their children win awards. Photos of the ceremony will be included in the next issue.



# THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY



On Thursday 13th April David Bell and Steve Glover of Knowl Hill Village Association planted a tree for the Queen's Green Canopy in the churchyard of St Peter's church. It is located near the roadside so villagers can watch as it grows into a beautiful Sorbus Lutescens whitebeam.

KNOWL HILL NEWS



Top & Left (sm) - Taken on Thursday 13th April.  
Far Right - As of 21st May

# A HISTORY OF ST PAUL'S, WARREN ROW

Jim Hadden

St. Paul's Church, Warren Row, affectionately known locally as the Tin Tabernacle, was erected in 1894 at a total cost of £191 8s 11d. It is a prefabricated, corrugated iron mission church supplied by Humphreys of Knightsbridge which cost £104 14s. The land was given by Sir Gilbert Clayton East of Hall Place, Burchetts Green.

It was commissioned by the Church Army and consecrated in 1894 by the Bishop of Reading. In the early days services were led by a member of the Church Army, Captain Grummett. The church eventually became attached to St. Peter's and services were then conducted by the vicar.

The church was originally designed to accommodate 130 worshippers but now seats 60 on pews that were taken from St. Peter's, Knowl Hill in 1937 and 1948 when St. Peter's was remodelled. The font also came from St. Peter's.

The wooden pulpit was supplied by West and Collier of Frieth. Electric lighting was installed in 1947 and the original intricate and ornate brass hanging oil lamps were rediscovered during the refurbishment in 1998 and are now on display at the front of the chancel. An altar frontal dating from 1902 from St. Bartholomew's, Reading was given to the church in 1949 at the same time as the altar rail was added.

The window at the east end of the building was replaced in 1953 with stained glass dating from 1853 taken from St. Michael's church, Oxford. It would appear that the centre window is installed the wrong way round as the hand raised to give a blessing is the left hand whereas it is traditionally the right hand!

The building has a wooden floor that sits on wooden crossmembers. The floor would periodically rot out due to dampness and would need to be replaced. The cause was found to be an underground stream which was located by "dousing." A french drain was dug around the building and the dampness has been eradicated.

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**HOSTED BY**

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**"Black Light"**

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For all enquiries please contact [khce.ltd@gmail.com](mailto:khce.ltd@gmail.com)

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