



St Mary's Church Wargrave
With Knowl Hill



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

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

PARISH

MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2022



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sowing the seeds for the future

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

A few of the treats coming your way

A TRIBUTE

A final farewell to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

In other news:
The Guides & Rangers Remembrance
Christian Book Ideas
The Big Quiz Night

From the Editor

Welcome to our November edition!

We, on the editorial team, are keen to know what you would like to see in the Magazine going forwards. Something entirely new perhaps? We would be delighted to hear your suggestions...**We Are Listening!**

Rosie has written a book review this month and we would like to make this a regular addition to the Magazine. If you like reading books and are able to submit a review, it will be very welcome. Any subject!

With best wishes from all the team!

Bob

BOB AUSTEN | PARISH MAGAZINE EDITOR



WELCOME

The copy date for submissions for the December/January Magazine is noon on Wednesday 23rd November 2022.

Articles of up to 400 words are most welcome for publication in this Magazine and should be sent to the Editor: bobausten@wargravechurch.org.uk. The decision to 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.

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

13th September Gordon Alfred Edwards, 80, Burial at the New Cemetery
20th September Kate Osborne, 84, Committal at Reading followed by a Service of
Thanksgiving at St Mary's

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 2 for details).



SUNDAY SERVICES

November

REGISTERS & SUNDAY SERVICES

St Mary's Church, Wargrave

8.00am Holy Communion: a said service in traditional language

9.45am Service reflective below

1st Sunday of the month: **6th November**

9.45am All Age Family Worship

2nd Sunday of the month: **13th November - Remembrance Sunday**

10am Remembrance Day Service (Please note the later time)

3rd Sunday of the month: **20th November**

9.45am Morning Worship in modern language with music

4th Sunday of the month: **27th November - Advent Sunday**

9.45am Holy Communion

SPECIAL SERVICE

**Sunday 13th November - 10.40am British Legion Remembrance Service - Mill Green
preceded by St Mary's Remembrance Service**

St Peter's Church, Knowl Hill

1st Sunday of the month 10.30am Holy Communion

3rd Sunday of the month 10.30am Village Praise

Special Service 10.45am Sunday 13th November - Remembrance Service

St Paul's Church, Warren Row

There will be no service this month due to Remembrance Sunday services taking place at St Mary's & St Peter's. Please join us at one of these.

Our Groups

WELCOME CAFÉ

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

Next Sessions:

1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th November

BUTTERFLIES

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

Hosted in St Mary's Church Centre, starting at 9.30am, if you are the parent of a baby or toddler, we'd love to meet you!

Details can be found on our Facebook page @butterflieswargrave

Next Sessions:

2nd, 16th & 30th November



OPEN CHURCH

St Mary's Church is open Monday to Saturday 9am to 4pm.



LADIES' BREAKFAST

Come and join us in the Church Centre at 9am on **Saturday 5th November** for a delicious breakfast and stimulating discussion. All welcome.



This month, we will be looking at well known and loved Bible phrases which we take for granted and the context they were written in together with 'Bible inspirations for women'.

Contact Lesley or Linda for more information.

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

REMEMBRANCE: GUIDES & RANGERS

What does it mean to me?

Remembrance Day is an important topic which we cover every year with the Guides and Rangers. We proudly participate in the village's annual Remembrance Service and we like to contribute something to the village at this time of year too. In recent years we have created poppy chandeliers for the church, decorated the lychgate with poppies, and painted stones with poppies and the name of each person on the Wargrave war memorial then placed them around the village.

As part of our act of Remembrance this year we'll be spending an evening experiencing what it was like to be a Guide during the war, including cooking meals from rations.

We recently asked our young members about what Remembrance Day means to them...

THOUGHTS FROM THE GUIDES (ages 10-13)

"To me, Remembrance day means to honour people who sacrificed their lives for others."

"Remembrance Day is special to us because it remembers the people who died in the war for us."

"Remembrance to me is about honouring and remembering all the soldiers that fought and lost their lives in the war. I think it is important as they deserve recognition for what they have done and what they gave up for our country."

"I feel very proud to wear my Guide uniform and poppy on Remembrance Sunday"

"Remembrance is a day for remembering and honouring soldiers who gave their lives for peace."

"We use poppies to remember the soldiers who fought to benefit our future."

"I believe that it is very important to remember those who have died or been injured in the wars."

"I think Remembrance Day is important because people died to improve our lives and they deserve to be celebrated and remembered."

"Remembrance Day is very important to me because my great grandmother was in London during the world wars. It reminds me of her and she was very brave."

THOUGHTS FROM THE RANGERS (ages 14-18)

"To me, Remembrance is an important time to remember the sacrifice and tragedy of war, so that history doesn't repeat itself again."

"It reminds me of my brother who is currently serving in the army. It makes me feel closer to him."

"Remembrance to me is the chance to remember those who fought bravely for us. It is also a chance for me to celebrate those who are currently serving for us."

"Remembrance Day helps to remind me of the hardships that others before us have gone through and current-day soldiers continue to go through."

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Join us on Sunday 13th November at St Mary's Church to remember those that gave their lives for us during World War I & World War II. We also remember those that have served in our Great Wars and those that continue to serve in our Armed Forces.

Sunday 13th November

10am Remembrance Day Service at St Mary's Church

10.40am British Legion Remembrance Service on Mill Green

St Peter's, Knowl Hill will also be holding a Remembrance Service at 10.45am

Lest we Forget



REMEMBRANCE

THANKSGIVING SERVICE: HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Annette Dart

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the longest reigning monarch in British history and Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England, passed away on Thursday 8th September. Her remarkable reign of 70 years bridged the 20th and 21st centuries, encompassing enormous social and political changes, international crises, national tragedies and personal storms within her own family. Throughout her trials and triumphs Queen Elizabeth credited her Christian faith as a steadying anchor in her life and reign and it was entirely appropriate that plans for the St Mary's morning service one week later were adapted to create a fitting service of Thanksgiving for her inspirational life.

During the days after her death, throughout the nation thousands of bouquets, messages, tributes, Books of Condolence and over a thousand Paddington bears were placed at Her Majesty's homes and palaces. The queues for the lying-in-state at Westminster Hall stretched for miles with waiting times of up to 20 hours! What an incredible outpouring of love and respect for a monarch who devoted her life to duty and service.

On the morning of September 18th our wonderful church bells rang out into a glorious sunny Autumn day for the 9.45am service of Thanksgiving. During the service a beautiful and moving video was played covering the monarch's life, with the voice of Her Majesty talking about her faith. She said:

"Although we are capable of great acts of kindness, history teaches us that we sometimes need saving from ourselves—from our recklessness or our greed. God sent into the world a unique person, neither a philosopher nor a general, important though they are, but a Saviour, with the power to forgive."

QUEEN ELIZABETH II



The Collect for the day was 'Gracious God, we give thanks for the life of your servant Queen Elizabeth, for her faith and her dedication to duty. Bless our nation as we mourn her death and may her example continue to inspire us.' Readings included Revelation 21: 1-7 and Mark 10: 32-45, the latter forming the basis for John Cook's sermon where Jesus tells the disciples about his impending suffering and sacrifice, declaring 'whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all'. Her Majesty followed the example of Jesus in giving her life to the service of others.

The music team prepared a special and fitting programme of hymns and songs including 'All my hope on God is founded', 'There is a higher throne' and ending with 'The Lord's my Shepherd'. To the delight of all, as we stepped out into the sunshine, we were treated to the amazing sight of choir member Colleen Scott in full No1 dress of the Reading Scottish Pipe Band (it weighs an incredible 9 kilos!) playing the bagpipes outside the Church Centre. Colleen played the lament 'Flowers of the Forest' followed by 'Green Hills' and 'Balmoral'. Given the Queen's love of Balmoral, where bagpipes were played every day during her stay at 9am, it was a poignant and beautiful gesture at the end of a very special service.

As we enter the season of Advent how strange it will be this Christmas without Her Majesty's Christmas Day address when millions gather around the TV. As a young woman at the of age 21 she said, *"God help me make good my vow and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it"*. We thank God he answered her prayers, and for her life of service.

Special thanks for the effort, many extra hours worked and commitment of all involved in the planning and organisation of this wonderful service.

BOOK OF CONDOLENCES - ST PETER'S

Within a couple of hours of discussing it Reverend Steve and Jim had set up a book to put in the church. Steve found a beautiful framed picture of the Queen, a loose-leaf binder and had printed up pages for people to write on. Flowers, a candle and a poem were added to the table. It was agreed that Jim should toll the bell for one hour at 10 second intervals. Jim thought this would mean standing up for an hour so he was smart and brought a chair from home, dragged it up the stairs to the bell tower only to find there was a chair there already! Valda and Lesley tidied the church and put out the "Church Open" banner.

The church was opened daily from 8am to 4pm to allow villagers, walkers and parents delivering their children to and from the school to add their condolences. Many did so showing their love and gratitude to our Monarch of over 70 years.



QUEEN ELIZABETH II: A TRIP TO WINDSOR

Our beloved Queen Elizabeth died on the 8th September and we, along with the rest of the country, went into a period of sorrow.

On 14th September we were due to stay with friends in our old village of Woldingham, Surrey. We wished to pay our respects to our Queen so decided to return via Windsor and lay flowers at the Cambridge Gate.

Bill picked dahlias from his allotment, very bright and jolly (Spanish Dancer), and we transported them in a large vase of water wedged behind the front seat of the car.

We happened to drive from Woldingham to Windsor along part of the route the cortege would later take, and saw barricades being put up along the roads round Runnymede, and police lying on the ground inspecting manholes. I think we found the last car park space in Windsor, and proceeded to walk up through the town with our bunch of dahlias.

As we neared the Cambridge Gate more and more people gathered, very quietly, very solemnly. We laid our flowers and silently thanked our Queen for all she had given to this country: her time, her devotion to duty, her wise counsel, her ever smiling face, the sense of stability she radiated.

I think it will only register that she is no more when the Christmas broadcast goes out on Christmas Day.

Bill and Clare Haines

HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Harvest Festival will live long in the memory.

Not only did the Church look a picture, with all the lovely decorations, but Mike Buckland, already honing his acting skills for A Christmas Carol, made a shock interruption, in a state of great distress. If someone had thrown the ball away in a West Brom football match with the fury with which Mike threw seeds into the congregation, he would surely have received at least a yellow card. However, when he returned later in the service (by popular demand) he was utterly transformed after Richard's encouraging talk based on Psalm 126, into a man of hope and optimism, reassured by God that his seeds would grow, and everything will be all right, as God's plan is worked out. Not knowing Mike as well as we do, some of the visitors for the baptism might have been a bit surprised. However, they took it well, and baby Joshua Tucker behaved impeccably throughout (clearly Richard is in practice, as M^{el} enters the last few weeks of her pregnancy).

After the service, some 70 members of the congregation then went into the Church Centre for a sit-down (or, if you were late, and all the seats were taken, stand-up brunch). This was such a jolly affair that we have decided to do it every month following the All Age Service on the first Sunday of the month (except New Year's Day).

Then Mike and Angie took the younger members out into the Churchyard to plant seeds in a patch which had been prepared ready for planting. We will look forward to seeing what grows next Spring.



ECO CHURCH: CHURCHYARD WILD FLOWERS

Mike Buckland



Visitors to St Mary's may have noticed a freshly dug strip in the 'Let it Grow Zone', our wild flower area, on the north side of the churchyard between the gate and the Church Centre.

Members of our Sunday Club sowed yellow rattle seeds after our Harvest Festival service on 2nd October. Angie Buckland then sowed native British species such as red and white campion, field poppy, lesser knapweed and ox eye daisy. Bill Haines and I have provided signs that explain the project to church members and visitors.

The aim is to bring more colour, life and biodiversity to an area that has struggled for years.

Yellow rattle parasitizes the roots of long grasses, thereby giving wild flowers more chance to grow. Adults and children from St Mary's sowed some at the shadier western end of the reserve four years ago to good effect: it's not easy terrain, but we have seen some positive results. The area has been poor for years, being mostly shaded, so improvement is slow, but it's a rewarding and enjoyable challenge.

If you enjoy nature and would like to see more colour and life on this side of our churchyard, or in any area of our land, we would love to have your help. Little training is required, but where it is, we can arrange it.

As followers of Christ, who the Bible says holds God's creation together, we want to show that we care for the environment, at home in small ways like this, as well as by helping projects in poor countries.



ECO CHURCH



CLEARLY CHRISTIAN THINKING

On the 24th September our second Clear Christian Thinking seminar met to discuss the topic of Biblical Justice. The question before us was whether the Bible provides sufficient resources to equip Christians to engage with the breadth and complexity of issues of justice.

From cheating at chess, to the historical consequences of the slave trade, to progressive taxation, to the criminal justice system itself, questions of justice often lie at the heart of news and current affairs, the discussions are as wide and varied as they are complex and sometimes (seemingly) intractable. Does the Bible give Christians the means to deeply and powerfully engage with such questions, or do we need to look elsewhere?

We began by observing the biblical connection between justice and righteousness. Biblically, justice is the way in which a righteous person acts, and conversely, to enact justice is to be righteous. The heart of the Christian message is the righteousness of Christ that is imputed to his people, and which He subsequently leads them in living out. This could equally well be described as Christ making his people just, and then leading them in living out justice. Therefore, we should expect Christians to be the experts when it comes to talking about (and living out!) justice.

However, how do we work out exactly what constitutes justice in any given situation? Some argue that applying the principle of "Love your neighbour as yourself" is all that is needed. We found this to be insufficient, but used it as a starting point, and remembered that this is a part of Jesus' summary of Old Testament Law. This led us to the Ten Commandments, where we found a much more fleshed out vision of justice that applied in a wider range of contexts. We then turned to the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus' most extended teaching on the Law, and saw how Jesus draws out the underlying principles contained in the Ten Commandments, and applies them in a wider range of circumstances than expected. We saw that this approach was followed by the other New Testament writers, who applied this method not only to the Ten Commandments, but also to the Case Law, the civil laws that governed the nation of Israel.

The morning was very engaging, with stimulating contributions from all present. We left having seen how the bible provides us with not only principles of justice, but a methodology for applying those principles in any situation.

The next seminar on Identity will take place in the new year.

WHO AM I?

Who are you, what do we do about it?

**A Clearly Christian Thinking
Seminar on Identity**

Coming in 2023

St Mary's Church Centre

CHRISTIAN BOOK IDEAS

Rosie Creedon

During the autumn, the Braybrooke Gardens house group have been exploring some Bible passages from the Gospels, helped by a book written by our previous Bishop of Oxford, John Pritchard, called, "Twenty Questions Jesus Asked and How They Speak To Us Today."

John Pritchard's introduction talks about how questions can open up our thinking and understanding of ourselves. He says, "Jesus was brilliant at asking the right questions, the sort that opened up new spiritual space and helped people to listen to whispers and hopes from deep within themselves. We tend to think that Jesus was always in 'transmit' mode, always preaching and teaching and sharing the good news of the kingdom. In fact, his method was very often to drop a seemingly innocent question into an encounter, then wait to see what happened. He wasn't looking for 'yes' or 'no' binary answers, he was inviting people into participation and transmission." In the book, we are invited to imagine ourselves into various scenes in the life of Jesus, and ponder the questions he asked.

His first chapter is based on the passage in John's gospel in which the first disciples begin to follow Jesus. Andrew (Simon Peter's brother) and another un-named disciple have been following John the Baptist, who then testifies to Jesus being the Son of God. Andrew and the other disciple see Jesus and, as they start following him, Jesus asks them: "What are you looking for?" As John Pritchard helps us explore this passage he challenges to ponder that question for ourselves: What are you looking for? and encourages us to think how we would answer that question to Jesus.

Whilst we are using the book as a stimulus for our group discussion, it is one that raises many deep questions to ponder and is also well suited to reading alone.

In the September All Age service, Kieran gave a testimony about the ways in which his faith has grown and deepened. Kieran mentioned that one of the questions he had pondered had been whether the Christian faith and current scientific understanding of the world were compatible, and he mentioned a book he had read, and from which he had concluded that they are! The book is called "The Language of God. A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief." It is by Dr Francis Collins, an eminent American scientist who headed up the Human Genome project, and who is one of the world's leading scientists, working at the cutting edge of the study of DNA. He describes his journey from atheism to faith, which, for him, as a scientist, demanded that he looked at the evidence. He then attempts to explain some of the current scientific understanding of the world, showing how physics, chemistry, biology and reason are compatible with belief. It's not a particularly easy read, as he describes some of the complex wonders of modern science, but for those who have some scientific interest and a curiosity about these matters it is a fascinating book.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

The Confirmation Service, held on Sunday 9th October, was a joyful affair, particularly because of the warmth and humour of Bishop Tim Wambunya. Finding out that one of the candidates was a doctor, and daughter of a medical Churchwarden, he immediately came to the (correct) decision that his favourite doctor was the candidate rather than the Churchwarden!

He spoke about how the devil eyes up Christians who stray from the support of their Christian community, just as a lion spots an antelope separated from the herd, before charging for the kill. Helen Puddy was joined by Sarah Whiteside. They both gave touching testimonies of what their faith meant to them, Sarah finding the strength to come through a debilitating episode of ill health a few years ago, and Helen preparing herself for her day of attending to the health of her patients, with a time of quiet reflection and prayer. We are all delighted to see the journey Sarah has taken over the last few years, reaching the point now where she is so strong in her own faith, that she is willing and able to share it by becoming lead of the Nurturing CoG in the Church.

There should have been a third candidate, Sophia Monté, but, unfortunately, Sophia had broken her leg playing football the day before, and was in hospital awaiting surgery. If we can get Tim Wambunya back to confirm Sophia when she is fit, then that is a day we will all look forward to with eager anticipation.



TEARFUND: SEND A COIN

Tearfund, whom our church has supported since the 1990s, are asking people to send a coin to our Prime Minister to remind him that the climate finance bill is overdue.

People in low-income countries are suffering the worst effects of the climate crisis, falling further into poverty. This is not God's plan. Wealthy nations who promised \$100 billion to climate-vulnerable communities in 2021 have failed to deliver.



Yet, when we are moved by faith to act, God can use our voices for good. By asking the UK Government to influence wealthy nations to keep their promise, we can keep climate finance high on the political agenda. This is an issue of justice.

What can I do?

Please visit tearfund.org/campaigns and scroll to the picture of 10 Downing Street, to download or write a letter, attach a 1p or 2p coin and post it to Downing Street. You may also like to share a selfie with your letter on social media using #SendACoin, or you can email it to campaigns@tearfund.org.

70 YEARS OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

“Even to your old age and grey hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.”

Isaiah 46 v 4

This Bible verse was given as we marked Bob Whiteley's 70 years of ordained ministry at the Sunday 9.45am service at St Mary's on September 25th September. I wrote a little about those 70 years for the September magazine, and John Cook gave a brief summary of Bob's years of ministry at the start of the service, followed by this Bible verse from Isaiah. During the intercessions later in the service we prayed for Bob and gave thanks for his many years of dedicated service to God and to the church.

We then celebrated with a specially made cake, by a local talented baker. The cake looked and tasted wonderful! The decoration included a model of a Bible with a cross, and a vine with grapes, symbols which remind us of communion wine and of Jesus' saying, "I am the vine and you are the branches." As we seek to live our Christian lives rooted in the vine of Christ, like Bob, we have the assurance that, even into our old age, God will sustain us, carry us and rescue us.

70 YEARS





NOVEMBER

Sunday 13th: 10am – Church & Mill Green
Remembrance Service

Saturday 19th: 7pm – Church Centre
Tear Fund Quiz Night

Saturday 26th: 4.30pm & 7.30pm – Church
A Christmas Carol adapted from Charles Dickens

EVENTS CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Thursday 1st: 7pm - Church Centre
Advent Guest Evening

Saturday 3rd: 9am-Noon – Mill Green
Leaf Clearing

Saturday 3rd: 4pm – Church Centre
Christmas Decorating & Christingle Making

Sunday 4th: 9.45am – Church & Church Centre
Christingle followed by Brunch

Sunday 11th: 3pm – Church Centre
Sing-a-long Carols for under 5's and carers

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST MARY'S

Friday 16th December 2.30pm Senior Carols followed by Christmas Tea (CC)

Sunday 18th December 6pm Carol Service

Saturday 24th December 3pm Nativity Service on Mill Green
6pm Family Carols
11.15pm Midnight Communion

Sunday 25th December 8am Holy Communion
9.45am All Age Holy Communion

CAROL SERVICE

It's November! The count-down to Christmas is underway in the shops, and the Music Team are getting ready to dig the 'Carols for Choirs' books out of the cupboard and start rehearsing for the annual Carol Service on 18th December at 6pm.

To make this a truly uplifting occasion we need extra singers to join with our regular Music Group. There will be four rehearsals: Saturday morning at 9.30am on November 26th, and then 7pm on Friday evenings for the 2nd, 9th & 16th December. If you enjoy singing, please come along and join us. Don't be put off if you can't make every rehearsal, although, of course, the more you can attend the better.

The final rehearsal will be held on the day of the service, 18th December, after the 9.45am service. Following the Carol Service there will be a party in the Old Vic, to which, all the singers will be invited. What a great way to start getting into the mood for Christmas!

Please let Rosie Creedon know if you would like to join the choir for this wonderful occasion. Email: rosiecreedon@btinternet.com

CHRISTMAS 2022

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS & CHRISTINGLES

For all ages, we'd love you to join

Saturday 3rd December
4pm

St Mary's Church Centre
(tea & cake on offer too!)

WARGRAVECHURCH.ORG.UK

A CHRISTMAS CAROL: THE EXCITEMENT IS BUILDING

Annette Dart (Assistant Producer)

The box office is open, rehearsals are in full swing, costumes being fitted, props and scenery crafted (or borrowed from homes throughout Wargrave), musicians are practising, and the excitement is building. Cast members and back-stage crew are working tirelessly, cheerfully and enthusiastically under the guidance of our experienced Director, Joe Haynes and extremely organised Producer, Steve Turville.

The atmospheric setting of St Mary's church became even more authentic during recent rehearsals as the heating thermostat has been set lower to save church funds, but we can hardly compare our small hardship to the times of Dickens! A Christmas Carol was published almost two hundred years ago and includes a wonderful array of characters, good and bad, happy and tragic, young and old. I spoke to a few cast members to find out about their role and the characters they portray, whether they relate to their character, if they have a favourite line and crucially what they enjoy about Christmas.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL



Scrooge, played by Tony Moul. Tony is a regular and experienced performer with Wargrave Theatre Workshop and is relishing the opportunity to portray the miserable Scrooge's journey from frosty misery to radiant joy. Tony's favourite line is when he refers to his former very jolly boss Fezziwig saying, 'The happiness he gives is quite as great as if it had cost a fortune.' Christmas is Tony's favourite time of year so definitely no Bah Humbug here.



Bob Cratchit, Scrooge's down-trodden Clerk, is played by Mike Buckland. Mike describes his character as a poor god-fearing family man who is mistreated and poorly paid but never wants to sound ungrateful. Mike relates in some ways to Bob Cratchit, having grown up in a poor city suburb, but says he has always got on well with his bosses. Mike loves Christmas and seeing all the family on the day we celebrate Christ's birthday.



Fred, Scrooge's nephew, played by Mark Puddy. Mark's character is a jolly and kind soul who tries unsuccessfully to persuade his uncle to join him for Christmas celebrations. His favourite line regarding Christmas is 'though it has never put a scrap of gold in my pocket, I believe it has done me good and will do me good, and I say God Bless it!' Mark entirely agrees with this sentiment.



Scrooge's Cook. In a fine display of inspired casting we have the cook played by Camilla Cook! Camilla is known for her wonderful baking skills and has previously performed roles with Wargrave Theatre Workshop. Camilla's character feels a bit sorry for her master, the miserable and lonely Scrooge. Camilla loves Christmas, organising children's activities and the nativity play at St Mary's and baking delicious Christmas treats.

This production is an abridged version with a running time of around 50 minutes and FREE mulled wine, or soft drink and delicious mince pies will be served after the performance to warm our hearts even more. This is a not-for-profit event and any surplus over and above the costs of production will be shared between St Mary's Church and local charities.

St Mary's production of A Christmas Carol will bring this uplifting and heart-warming story of love, hope and compassion to our community on Saturday 26th November so hurry and book your tickets now at acc@pursuitnha.com.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

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- Centre Aisle tickets £12 Adult / £6 Child (up to 16 years old)
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- Recommended for age 7+
- Tickets are non-refundable and not available through the church office



 St Mary's Church Wargrave
With Knowledge

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**A CHRISTMAS
CAROL**

**SATURDAY
26th NOVEMBER
4.30PM & 7.30PM**

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**Directed by
JOE HAYNES**

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**Performed by
MEMBERS OF
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Tickets are non-refundable & not available through the church office.
Not-for-profit event. Proceeds will go to St Mary's Church & local charities.

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS WITH RAMBLIN' BOB

Jane Austen

A lovely late Summer day with the sun shining, and a large group of 15 gathered for another Ramble with Bob!

We met at the old waterworks building on Blakes Lane and across a little known footpath to reach the Queen Victoria which Bob remembered as an old-fashioned pub back in the early 1980's when he was a member of their darts team. A new landlord then came along and reorganised things and it became more of a restaurant, removing the darts board and many of the regular drinkers in the process, including Bob! The Queen Adelaide and Queen Victoria were both excellent pubs in those days but alas became early victims of the changes in habits which have seen many of our local pubs closing down in recent years.

On then down the A4 and past two interesting old properties the Old Forge and the Old Post House, both listed buildings and reminiscent of the days when the A4 was a major highway for stagecoaches heading West. We then walked the mile-long gentle hike up Bear Hill Road to the summit of Bowsey Hill and the old sawmill which is shown in the photograph. Many of us remembered it as a working sawmill but alas it now stands forlorn and decaying, a bit like Bob looked after reaching the summit!

On then downwards to Green Lane and returning to the starting point where 11 of us left for the Bull to enjoy one of Jayne's tasty roasts! A few beers later and Bob spent the rest of the afternoon and evening comatose on the settee; is this what is meant by well-being I wonder?



RAMBLIN' WITH BOB: SATURDAY 27th NOVEMBER

A walk that begins along a fine stretch of the Thames Path in Hurley and then climbs gently to the hills overlooking the river valley, passing across fields farmed by the Berkshire College of Agriculture. We shall meet at the car park opposite the Church in Hurley and return in time for Sunday lunch at 3pm at the Rising Sun.



If you would like to join us on this walk, please contact Ramblin' Bob by Friday 18th November to book your place and please advise whether you wish to stay for lunch.

Email: austenrobert@hotmail.com

Home: 0118 940 3038 or Mobile: 07970 611013



TEARFUND'S THE BIG QUIZ NIGHT 2022 **Saturday 19th November**

The St Mary's Wargrave Missions team invites you to take part in Tearfund's annual Big Quiz Night on Saturday 19th November in St Mary's Church Centre.

Hundreds of churches will be taking part across the UK, but don't worry, we shan't be competing against them, only against each other!

Our Parish has supported Tearfund for over 30 years.

This is an opportunity to have fun and help some of the poorest people in the world. Entry is free, and donations will be invited.

Please bring a shareable prize. We like to award one at the end of each round. We shall provide quiz sheets, pencils, soft drinks and nibbles.

We'll open the doors at 7pm for a 7.30pm prompt start and expect the results by 9.15pm.

Over 50 Wargravians, family and friends have taken part in previous years, in teams of up to 6. If you put a team together, please tell me in advance. Otherwise, just turn up at 7pm and we'll allocate you to a table.

As ever, your hosts will be Mike & Angie Buckland and Ian & Li-Yen French. Queries and team names please to Mike or Angie on 0118 940 4960, or email mikebuckland54@gmail.com.

VICAR'S LETTER



'But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?'
(Jonah 4:11)

Dear *Friends*

The story of Jonah will be familiar to some, but perhaps not to all of us (you can find this book of the Bible amongst the prophets) and is a powerful story. Called by the Lord to go to tell the people of Nineveh to repent, Jonah disobeys God and heads in the opposite direction, gets thrown off a boat in a storm and eaten by a large fish. When he repents, he's spat out of the fish and heads off to Nineveh to call the people of the city to repent and turn to God, which they do.

Despite this Jonah has not really learned the lesson and clings to his own personal views and wants his own needs met. In response to God's question about his right to be angry, he leaves the city and sits and watches. Presumably he still hopes to see God's judgement come. He makes a shelter and sits in its shade. God provides a vine and the added shade made Jonah happy. It withers and Jonah is angry again. The point is to highlight Jonah's selfishness. He cares far more about a bit of shade than he does about the destiny of 120,000 people!

He is happy for God to help him, but he hates God helping those he does not care for. Jonah did not have a right to be angry about the plant because it was not his and did not belong to him. But Nineveh is God's: it does belong to Him, and so He is concerned for its future. He wants to have compassion on a city; Jonah simply wants some shade for his head!

'Should I not be concerned about that great city?'

The answer to the reader is unmistakably clear - of course the Lord should be concerned. He has already rescued pagan sailors and His runaway prophet. The Lord's grace is for all without distinction.

But as the answer is unmistakably clear when asked of the Lord, it is less so when asked of Jonah and his readers. If God is concerned for the loss of Nineveh and elsewhere, should we not be as well? That is where the rub is. God is deeply concerned about the cities, towns, and villages of our country and the world. For us it means that as a church we should show a concern for the local communities in which we are placed. We should care about what God cares about. A church will care less about personal comfort or preference (eg Jonah's shady vine), and more about displaying and speaking of the depths of God's grace to those around us.

PCC REPORT: 26th September

Sheila Williams

At the meeting, in addition to the essential reviews of finance, safeguarding, etc...the PCC spent time discussing how the Parish would move forward in certain areas:-

- The Reintroduction of the Common Cup was now an option, but as the majority of the congregation had shown a wish to continue with the use of tweezers and a dipped wafer this would remain. The PCC would keep the Reintroduction under review.
- The New Pattern of Services at St Mary's has now been in place since Easter. A survey of the views of the congregation had taken place which was essentially a listening exercise, and the feedback will be considered further and decisions communicated as soon as possible so that people know something is being done. The PCC would continue to listen to their views as further decisions are taken.
- Eco Church Initiatives will be developed, building on the success of achieving the Silver Award. The next developments will centre on converting to LED lighting in St Mary's, the possibility of heated cushions in St Peter's and re-seeding of the wild area of Wargrave Churchyard.
- CoG Leaders will be asked for regular reports to the PCC about their particular aspects of Ministry. Sarah Whitehead was thanked for volunteering to become the new Leader of the Nurturing CoG. The Reaching CoG would be meeting shortly to bring together some formal proposals for instruction and training based on the findings of the 2022 Talking Jesus Survey.

Look out for news and updates on these areas at services, on posters and in the Parish Magazine.

PCC UPDATE

ANNUAL LEAF COLLECTION

**Saturday 3rd December
9am**

**Bring a leaf rake and good footwear
Coffee & Bacon Butties**

**Contact
Bob Austen**

TUESDAY YOUTH GROUP

Richard Eves



Do I have enough in Jesus to stick with Him? Or are there things I need that I have to go elsewhere to find?"

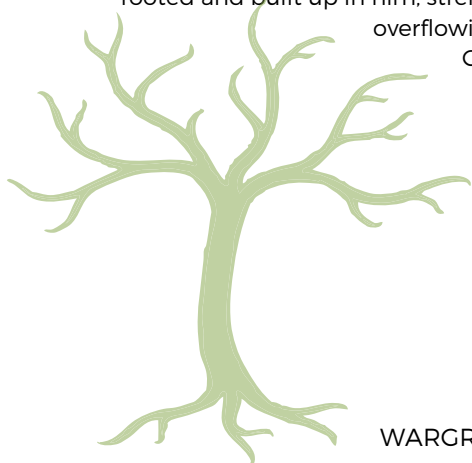
This term at Tuesday Group we have been reading through Paul's letter to the Colossians. It's a very encouraging letter. Paul is writing to a group of believers who he has never met, and who have never met him. But Paul has recently met Epaphras, the missionary evangelist who had taken the Gospel to the Colossians, and Epaphras has told him all about them. Epaphras was a faithful and careful teacher of the good news of Jesus. So what he presented to the Colossians was the true Gospel, the same gospel that other apostles and evangelists were proclaiming all over the world. And wonderfully, the Colossians responded to Epaphras's message with genuine faith, they loved and believed in the Lord Jesus. Paul says that because of all of this, he can be sure that they are real deal Christians, and so he wants to encourage them to keep on as they have started, and not to be lured away from Jesus by any sort of deception. This could come in the form of those offering them 'extra' knowledge - saying the Colossians didn't yet know everything they needed to be truly one of God people. It could come in the form of those suggesting new religious practices that can help one to be a proper or more spiritual Christian. Such people and claims were common in the Colossians' day, as they are in our own.

No, says Paul, Jesus is the one who fully meets all of His people's needs. If we have him, we have everything that we need.

At Tuesday Group we have been applying this encouragement to ourselves. If we have heard the genuine message of Jesus, from faithful teachers, and have a genuine faith in Jesus, Paul would say to us, just as he did to the Colossians, "You guys are real deal Christians". And he would encourage us that we have everything in Jesus, and so don't need to be taken in by anyone claiming to have extra things that we need.

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

Colossians 2:6-7



SUNDAY CLUB:

What I've learnt from the team so far

Jubi Filho da Silva



A great way to learn things is to try and teach them. And a great way to do things better is to gather people who are better than yourself, in some way, to do what needs doing together. Looking back this last term of Sunday Club it was easy for me to see what I myself learnt from the people working in the team.

Kieran Jolly and Sally Reason are teaching leaders alongside both Annie and myself. Kieran taught me to plan a lesson ahead of time so that we aren't putting down fires on Saturday morning before the lesson on Sunday – metaphorical fires. Kieran is helping me manage the stress and find... yes, serenity, even in children's ministry.

Sally taught me to ask good questions after a story. Our vision for Sunday Club is to provide the children with faith, fun and friendship and I tend to think fun first, making sure we keep the children entertained at all times, but the work would amount to nothing without good questions that make them digest a story and grow in the faith. Sally is helping me remember why we do what we do.

Annie, my wife, taught me to plan a whole season ahead of time. As I like to say to her, "Wifey, you are on it!". And she is – thinking rotas, emails, series of lessons, visual props, festivals, Christmasses and other things too elevated for my exotic, spontaneous brain. For example, Annie is thinking about the **Nativity service**. Would you like your school age child to participate in that? Please let her know by emailing her. Annie is helping us all see the year ahead so that we can count on each other and give.

And I can think of Christine Walker making fun props for us, and Lucie Jolly, Nicola Uniacke, Matt Perowne, Lucinda Bryers, Karen Dax, Maria Monte, Mel Eves – all who generously give their time to be present, do the actions in singing, join the craft and discussion activities, interacting with the children and the teachers, showing keen minds and willing attitudes. I am constantly learning from all of you and we, Annie and I, are so grateful for you. If you are joining us next term, welcome! I think it is fair to say that we are all learning to do this as we go, really, and we are looking forward to learning from you too.

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

Creché - Camilla Cook camillacook@btconnect.com

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

Pathfinders - Marc Uniacke marcuniacke@gmail.com

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

KNOWL HILL NEWS

Elvis Night: Saturday 15th October saw 'Elvis' (aka Gary Roman) return to Knowl Hill village hall to entertain the villagers and friends. Not only did he sing Elvis songs but also some of the great classics to which the majority of the audience were dancing and singing along. With over 50 attendees we raised over £600 for St Peter's. He also managed to get Anne, Karen Larkin's mum, to join in one of the songs. A great evening was had by all.

Harvest: On Sunday 18th September the congregation of St Peter's came together to celebrate Harvest Festival. A further celebration took place on Friday 14th October with the pupils of Knowl Hill Academy. The school's church council led the service with the pupils singing modern harvest songs. Revd Steve gave the final blessing. An announcement was made during the service that all food kindly donated would be taken to Maidenhead's Foodshare for distribution to those less fortunate.

CAMEO: Our monthly Cameo group will meet in the Village Hall on Thursday 17th November where we are having a beetle drive and will be joined by some children and teachers from Knowl Hill Academy for afternoon refreshments and a chat. For further details please contact Lesley Bell on 07966 178142.



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Contacts:
Lesley 07966 178142
Karen 07507 333789



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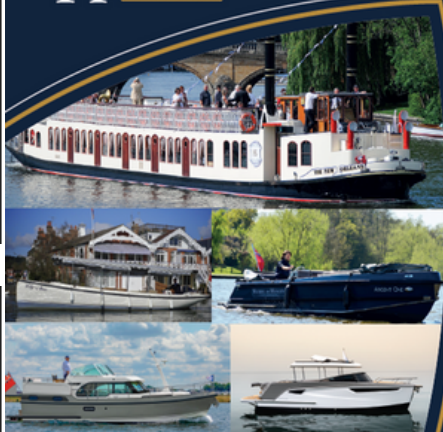
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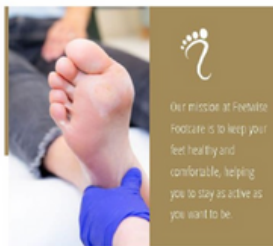
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