

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

PARISH

MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2022



SERVING SUNDAY

Discover ways that you
can support your
church

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Last days of summer

BACK TO SCHOOL

What are our junior schools
looking forward to this year

In other news:
Christmas in the Parish
Roynon Wedding
Ride + Stride

From the Editor

This has been an extraordinary period with the passing of our beloved Queen Elizabeth.

The arrangements for the funeral and the occasion itself have been handled with great dignity and respect and has shown our country in the best light to the world.

In recent years, the Queen had stressed how important her faith in the Lord had been to her; the knowledge that Jesus was walking beside her throughout her life was indeed a powerful message to the world.

We must hope that her shining example of devotion and service will be replicated by the new King and politicians alike.

May she rest in peace and rise in Glory.

Bob

BOB AUSTEN | PARISH MAGAZINE EDITOR

P.S. We shall be featuring how St Mary's responded to the news in the next issue.



WELCOME

The copy date for submissions for the November Magazine is noon on Wednesday 12th October 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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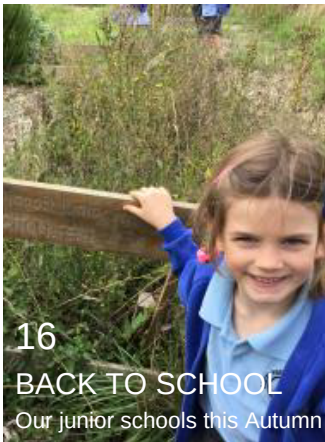
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PARISH REGISTERS : WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS & FUNERALS

Weddings at St Mary's, Wargrave

3rd September Elizabeth Jane Rankin & Charles Maclean Steedman
10th September Anete Velta Klucnika & Nicholas John Roynon

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

7th August Constance Mary Williams, 96, Interment of Ashes, St Mary's Church
8th August William Wood, 91, Cremation

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.



SUNDAY SERVICES

October

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: **2nd October - Harvest**

9.45am All Age Family Worship

2nd Sunday of the month: **9th October - Confirmation Service with Tim Wambunya**

9.45am Holy Communion

3rd Sunday of the month: **16th October - Serving Sunday**

9.45am Morning Worship in modern language with music

4th Sunday of the month: **23rd October**

9.45am Holy Communion

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

9.45am All Age Holy Communion

SPECIAL SERVICE

Sunday 30th October - Parish Bereavement Service at 3pm

St Peter's Church, Knowl Hill

1st Sunday of the month 10.30am Holy Communion
3rd Sunday of the month 10.30am Village Praise

St Paul's Church, Warren Row

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

Our Groups

WELCOME CAFÉ

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

Next Sessions:
4th, 11th, 18th & 25th October

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: 5th & 19th October



OPEN CHURCH

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



LADIES' BREAKFAST

Come and join us in the Church Centre at 9am on **Saturday 1st October** for a delicious breakfast and stimulating discussion. All welcome.



This month, we will be discussing those extraordinary things that may have happened in your life?

Amazing coincidences, strange events, coincidental phone calls, letters, meetings with people etc...

Discover the extraordinary, coincidental happenings that turned out to be extremely significant!

Contact Lesley or Linda for more information.

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

SERVING SUNDAY

16th October

St Paul's teaching in 1 Corinthians 12 tells us that each Christian has a God-given vocation (calling), and is specially and deliberately gifted by the Holy Spirit to build up Christ's Church. On Sunday 16th October, the 9.45am service in St Mary's will focus on 'serving'.

Some of you may remember that in the summer of 2018, eight Areas of Ministry were identified to support our vision and that were integral to Church life. These can be referred to as "Calls of God" (CoGs). A reminder of what these CoGs are is shown in the image below.

CALLS OF GOD (CoGs)

SERVING SUNDAY



Each CoG is overseen by a member of the Clergy/PCC and focuses on a key area.

- STEWARDING (Managing church land and buildings sustainably) - Mike Buckland
- GATHERING (Church services) - Rosie Creedon & John Cook
- NURTURING (Growing in our Christian discipleship) - Sarah Whiteside
- REACHING (Making Jesus known in our community) - Richard Eves
- CARING (Coming alongside others in times of need) - Steve Turville
- CELEBRATING (Coming together for fellowship and fun) - Sue Witney
- COMMUNICATING (Engaging the community in church life) - Mark Puddy
- SUPPORTING (All of the admin that is needed to run the church) - Mark Puddy

STEWARDING

Mike Buckland

People often say our church is beautiful. We owe this to faithful volunteers, some of whom are over 80 years old. Many of our roles need more volunteers, or will do soon.



The Stewarding CoG works alongside our churchwardens in looking after our church land, buildings and furniture.

If you like being outside, we need people to help with

- Nature conservation & scything*
- Gardening / mowing*
- Leaf clearance in the autumn
- Nature counts in June (plants, butterflies, birds – you choose)

If you like being inside, we need people to help with

- Cleaning *
- Sustainable practices, recycling
- Electrics
- Heating & plumbing
- Looking after & raising the flag
- Flower arranging *
- Laying of altar for communion services
- Candles and candle oil *
- Church Clock
- Locking & Unlocking

Areas marked * have been flagged by their leaders as in urgent need of helpers.

No task is arduous. Some are small, such as looking after the candles. Some are annual, such as nature counts and leaf raking. Some are done in pairs, others in larger groups. Some such as mowing and cleaning have weekly rotas. Training is provided where it is needed. There is also scope for shadowing (learning from others).

If you can help, or would like to know more, or are already helping but would like a change, please talk to any of the clergy or the church office, or the CoG leader Mike Buckland. They will be glad to suggest roles that suit you. Whatever you do, we want it to enrich your life.

And if you can see a gap - something we could be doing but aren't - please tell them. We are for example always looking to move forward with eco church - in every area of church life, not just Stewarding. How can we be greener? Could you, for example, start a community allotment that grows fresh food for people who can't afford it? Or organise a litter pick in the parish?

Having lived through the pandemic, we might not all want to do in 2023 what we were doing in 2019. This is an opportunity for a fresh start.



GATHERING

Rosie Creedon



The job of the Gathering CoG is to support the services that take place at St Mary's, mostly Sunday mornings but also the occasional mid-week service.

The most important thing we can all do is just to be there, to come together to praise God, to listen to his word and to remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us as we share in communion. However, as part of the Body of Christ, there are also a variety of ways in which we can be more involved.

There is a team of people who **read** the Bible passages, and others who write and read the **prayers of intercession** that take place in our Sunday morning services. **Singers** and **instrumentalists** are always welcome to join the Music Group in leading the singing, and the **AV team** who operate the computer for the screens with the words of the service are keen to recruit more volunteers. You don't need to be a technical expert, just a basic knowledge of using a laptop. The **sides-people** welcome people as they arrive at church and keep an eye on the congregation to ensure that everyone is OK, joining that team would be a great way to get to know people!

After the service many of us are very pleased to enjoy a **cup of tea or coffee** in the church centre, and the team who prepare that would love some more volunteers. Occasionally after a service, especially on special occasions, we like to have a meal with for the whole church family; if you enjoy **cooking or organising** others to cook, this might be something you'd like to help with.

As we make our way to church we are greeted by the joyous sound of the **church bells**, and the bell-ringing team would be delighted to share their skills and expand their team. During the service we have a dedicated team of **youth and children's workers** who are nurturing our youngsters, from babies through to teenagers. The leaders of the groups are supported by helpers, and would be pleased to hear from anyone wishing to become involved in this work.

If you would like to become involved in any of these areas of church life we would love to hear from you. Contact any of the clergy or the church office who can put you in touch with the right person, or Rosie Creedon (rosiecreedon@btinternet.com) who jointly co-ordinates the Gathering CoG with our vicar John Cook.

NURTURING

Sue Witney



A number of groups run by the church fall under the Nurturing CoG umbrella.

House groups are a key part of these and whilst we think it would be great if everyone in the congregation could be part of one, we do recognise that it's just not feasible for everyone, for a variety of reasons. However, if you have never considered joining one, now is your chance..

The house groups are all different, run at different times and respond to the needs of the individuals in the group in terms of appropriate material. It's a great way to get to know other Christians and learn more about God in a more informal setting.

St Mary's has up to 6 meetings in Wargrave throughout the week, for both young people and adults. If you would like to find out more, please contact Steve Turville or contact one of the people below who are running groups.

- Tuesday 9.30am Ladies' Bible Study (Camilla Cook)
- Tuesday 7pm Youth Group (Richard Eves)
- Tuesday 7.45pm Ephesians 1:17 (Steve Turville)
- Wednesday 11.45am Monthly Prayer (1st Wednesday of month) (John Cook)
- Wednesday 7.30pm Pints of View (for men) (Doug Clark)
- Thursday 2.30pm Seeking Wisdom (Sarah Whiteside)
- Thursday 7.30pm Braybrook Gardens (2nd & 4th of month) (Rosie Creedon)
- Saturday 9.30am Ladies' Breakfast (1st Saturday of month) (Linda Caradine)

We are keen to welcome others to these groups and if numbers dictate, create new house groups to benefit our congregation.

We are looking for people to be willing to help lead some **Bible Studies** as well as help with room lay out and refreshments in the **Seeking Wisdom** group.

The **Tuesday Youth Group** are also looking for additional helpers who could help lead on occasions.

CARING

Steve Turville



With Covid lockdowns a fading memory, there are still many people in our community who are locked down because of old age or physical impairment. This can be a very lonely life, so these are the people that we seek to come alongside.

Do you have time to **visit** someone in their home, maybe for an hour a couple of times a month, or even once a week? Maybe to provide them with **company and conversation**, or put out a bin, or change a lightbulb (nothing technical), or do a little job or two that they now find too hard. Could you as a family, 'adopt' an elderly person?

Or would you be willing to take **Holy Communion** to someone, or pray with them as part of your visit?

A lot of elderly people used to be regular church goers, but because they no longer drive, cannot get to church. Would you be able to **bring someone to church** on a Sunday morning?

We have a growing clientele at the weekly **Welcome Café** (Tuesdays, 2.30pm - 4pm in the Hannen Room), many of whom no longer drive, so we have a need for **drivers** who can bring folk and take them home afterwards. If you'd like to join a host team that provides the **refreshments** (expenses paid) on a once-a-month rota, that would also be very helpful.

If you have a heart for the lonely and or elderly, please email Revd. Steve (stephen.turville@ntlworld.com)



COMMUNICATING

Mark Puddy

We have met to consider what developments we would like to see, and what extra help we would need, across the various areas covered by the Communicating CoG.



Parish Magazine

We felt that the Parish Magazine needs more input related to young people and their activities. We also wondered if there is more scope for educational and informative articles rather than reporting what has gone in within the church over the preceding month. Anyone who wants to contribute on an occasional or regular basis would be most welcome. Please contact Bob Austen (austenrobert@hotmail.com) if you are interested.

Social Media

We feel the need to have a more active presence on social media in the Village. Does anyone feel that they would like to help the Parish Office team with this work?

Website

We are updating the structure and contents of the Website over the coming months. You should notice improvements.

Audio-visual Support in St Mary's Church

We are grateful for all the commitment from the AV team who have been very stretched over the Summer, but are glad that they are now expanding to be a team of 7.

SUPPORTING

Mark Puddy



The work of this CoG is to provide administrative support so that the work of our Church remains financially viable, and procedures are well organised, safe and legal. As part of the consideration of work throughout the Church, there are areas for development. We would be delighted if anyone would consider helping us in any of these areas.

DBS and Safeguarding

Lesley Turville has been running this most efficiently, but she is having to perform both the "overview and advisory" role alongside the administration. Could you help support?

HR

Andy Ferguson has provided the support to the Church in the past, and he is happy to continue in an overview role, but we could do with administrative assistance.

Data Protection, the Database and the Parish Office

We are updating the church database to be relevant and GDPR compliant. Are you good with spreadsheets or know many of our congregation? Additional projects: Church Manual, website update and cemetery records is increasing the work we are requiring from the Office Staff. If you would like to volunteer to assist with some work in the Parish Office, we would love to hear from you.

If you would like to discuss any of these ways in which you could help, please speak to me in person or by phone, or email markpuddy@btinternet.com.

WHAT WE DID ON OUR HOLIDAYS

Chris and I went to Budock Vean for a wee rest to recharge our batteries after our son and his wife took our 2 year old grandson back to America after a two week stay; and the three grandchildren up on the Ridgeway went to Wales for a holiday. After a two week continuous visit of four grandchildren we needed a childfree break.

Whilst at Budock Vean we attended Sunday service at Mawnan Parish Church where I rang the church bells before the service. The church dates from the 13th century and is a quaint little place of worship. We were fortunate as Sunday service used to be held every fourth Sunday but it's now every second Sunday and we had arrived in time for the 21st August service. It was Holy Communion and the church congregation numbered about 30 people - all very friendly and welcoming. Those fluent Cornish speakers amongst you will recognize the wording above the lych gate. "It is good for me to draw nigh unto God"

After the service we went to Trebah Garden and had a wonderful afternoon wandering the paths down through the garden and fish pools to the beach - the only problem being that it was a long walk down which meant an even longer walk back up to the restaurant for afternoon tea.

It was not all fun though. We did have to serve some penance for the sun and exquisite surroundings. We HAD to play golf every day - well golf was included in the price of the hotel room; so someone had to do it!

We went on a couple of trips out, one to St Ives and the other to Porthleven. We visited old friends when in St Ives and bumped into Peter & Suzanna Hanks whilst in Porthleven.

And we cannot forget about the day out to the steam fair - possibly not Chris's most abiding memory but as an engineer I was in seventh heaven.

What a great holiday with super weather, good food, in a wonderful hotel - it's a pity it is so far away.

Now Sean & Jane what about this as an opportunity to increase the Church revenue? One minor difference being that Mawnan Parish Church is down a remote lane which leads to a favourite tourist beach so it is always busy with cars parked by visitors to the beach.



HOLIDAYS



YOUR ADVENTURES



I had the chance to go hiking in Jotenheimen, in Norway this summer - to the mountainous 'Land of the Giants'. Staying in some gorgeous mountain huts along the way. Fourteen of us travelled on foot together from hut to hut for seven days, carrying everything for the week in our backpacks. Mine weighed in at around 10kg, and we soon got used to carrying them. Happily food and bedding are supplied in Norwegian huts, and the drying facilities are excellent, very welcome after a sudden storm.

Olavsbu was the most remote hut we stayed in- where our water supplies had to be collected from a nearby river. Two woodburning stoves kept us going with warm water and there was solar power for lights in the evening. Oh, and some surprisingly un-stinky composting toilets. No flushing involved. Instead there's a bag of bark woodchips by every loo and you throw a handful of this down into the murky darkness below. We had a welcome day-off in the hut here at Olavsbu to enjoy the wild scenery, rest-up and do a little kite flying.

Norwegian hiking trails are well marked by boulders painted with red 'T's, although the terrain was far tougher than some of us expected. Plenty of fast-flowing rivers to cross on wobbly stepping stones and boulder-fields to navigate. We spotted herds of reindeer most days and otherwise usually had the mountains to ourselves. Returning home has prompted a clear out - living out of a rucksack makes me realise I have far too much 'stuff' - when I really only need a little to get by.

Ruth Howse

After several trains, two replacements buses, a few car journeys, an overnight coach (including a 2am ferry), and a budget airline flight, I arrived in Turkey for a conference for language and translation workers across the former Soviet Union.

An Australian in our group had the idea to take a day trip to nearby Samos on our day off, which sounded like a fun adventure in a country (Greece) I'd never been to!

So around 20 of us enjoyed a day exploring ruins, visiting an ancient underground aqueduct and enjoying the views from a place the apostle Paul stopped off at on his third missionary journey (Acts 20:15).

Tim Perry



HOLIDAYS

THREE WEDDINGS, A FUNERAL & A MIRACLE



Roynon Wedding

PATSY ROYNON

After that, everything was perfect – the music, the flowers, the bells, the ‘super-mow’ in the Churchyard after the rain, the ‘Totally Scrumptious’ meal in the Church Centre which had inexplicably morphed into the Ritz! And the weather? Wall-to-wall sunshine after a week of rain seemed like a message.

And how could anyone not believe in Miracles?

WEDDING

All have been incredibly special for us. But perhaps the most extraordinary was the recent wedding of my son Nicholas. Many will remember his frequent inclusion in our Parish prayer list down the years. His adult life has been a 30-year struggle with his severe mental illness, capped during lockdown by an undiagnosed tumour which has irreparably damaged his spine.

Disaster, we all thought. And then the Miracle. Enter Anete, originally from Latvia, so beautiful, so loving and so courageous. At John Cook’s invitation they were married on Saturday 10th September at St Mary’s, Nicholas in his for-ever wheelchair, Anete with her beautifully articulated promises, both of them so serene and yet so radiant. Thank you St Mary’s.

His mother was not the only one perilously close to tears. John led them through their marriage vows so gently, so kindly, even including Gavin in the preliminaries. St Mary’s was just overflowing with joy and love and gratitude.



RIDE + STRIDE

Team Wargrave (Katie, Christine and Ruth) are happy to announce that this year's Striding around Abingdon and Wallingford has raised over £2,000 for the Historic Churches Trust.

Thank you to everyone for your support - which helps to provide grants to local churches in urgent need of repair - as well as directly supporting Wargrave & Knowl Hill.

As always, the team had a thoroughly enjoyable day out, exploring 18 different churches, meeting those who welcomed us in, climbing 106 steps in Abingdon County Hall for a fabulous view of the town and St Nicolas (centre photo), and enjoying a fish & chip supper kindly provided afterwards by Christine.



Ruth Howse

RIDE + STRIDE: THE LABYRINTH

I have often said that Ride + Stride is more than just a fund raiser but an interesting day out. In Abingdon, alongside the churches we visited, we found several treasures; the garden of St Ethelwold's House in East St Helen's Street where we ate lunch, the view from the roof of Abingdon County Hall and the labyrinth in the church of St Michael & All Angels.

Here's an extract from the description of their labyrinth. "Taking a labyrinth walk is a modern revival of an ancient spiritual custom. The labyrinth, a winding one-way path that leads walkers into and back out of a central space, offers a kind of body meditation that parallels the inner journey of prayer and reflection. The word "labyrinth" is not found in the Bible, but themes of following God's path, journeying in faith, and enjoying God's presence are all central to labyrinth experiences and are found throughout scripture.

Contemporary authors link Christian concepts of pilgrimage, resurrection, Jesus as the way, and Christ's call to follow with labyrinth experiences. Biblical themes of love, joy, peace, truth, comfort, guidance, service and wisdom are commonly cited in reference to labyrinth use. They are spiritual tools that facilitate the many varied types of prayer mentioned and illustrated in the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, including, but not limited to, thanksgiving, intercession, praise, meditation, confession, and free-flowing conversation.

Choose the pace of your walk; slow, moderate or fast. If other people are also walking, it's okay to walk round them or let them pass you when you meet someone coming or going on the path. You may want to make eye contact or not acknowledge them at all. Consideration of self and others is the cornerstone of labyrinth etiquette. You may walk off the labyrinth at any time, walk round the perimeter, stay at the centre as long as you wish, sit on the path or at the centre, or even experience the labyrinth by watching others walk it. Crossing the threshold of the labyrinth is a way of saying to God: I want to walk with you, and I invite you to walk with me."

Christine Walker

BACK TO SCHOOL

KNOWL HILL CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY



We were very happy to welcome everyone back to school following the summer holidays.

We have lots of exciting things coming up in our school calendar for this term.

Following the news of Queen Elizabeth II's passing on September 8th, we have held special Collective Worship services to honour her and considered how she displayed our term's vision of generosity throughout her whole life with her endless service to God and her country. We are spending time learning about her incredible life and creating displays in school to mark our respect.

We have three prospective parents open mornings scheduled with the first one on Wednesday 12th October at 11am followed by one on Tuesday 1st November at 11am and the final one on Thursday 17th November at 9.30am. If you would like to book on to one of our school tours, please contact the school office and we would be delighted to show you around our outstanding, happy school.

Our Year 5 and 6 children are off to Hooke Court at the end of the month for a team bonding experience which they are all really excited about. Each year group will be staying for two nights and have some fantastic activities planned! We know that they have an amazing time.

The children are looking forward to Harvest festival on Friday 14th October with all donations going to Maidenhead food share. The service will be held in St Peters Church at 9am and will be followed by our MacMillan coffee morning in the school hall at 9.30am, where we hope to raise some much-needed funds for this wonderful charity. Please do come along and join us for a cup of tea, a piece of cake and a chat with our school council who are hosting the event.

Nichole Bourner
Head of School

ROBERT PIGGOTT INFANT & JUNIOR SCHOOLS

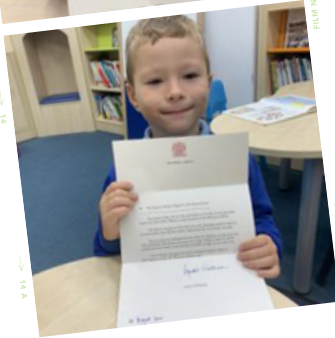


September is such a wonderful time in the school calendar. We watch with pride as our previous Year 6 pupils walk through the village in their new school uniforms and we stand at the gates and welcome our newest and youngest children into our school family. There is a buzz about the schools as friends reunite and new relationships begin to form.



Of course, this September there was also a sense of loss as we came to terms with the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Just days earlier, the Infant School children had received a 'Thank You' letter from the palace in recognition of the Jubilee cards the children sent to the Queen for her Platinum Jubilee. This letter and card are even more special to the children now.



Robert Piggott School vision is rooted in Matthew 12:33, 'A tree is known by it's fruit,' and our children recently had a chance to see the fruits of their labour by visiting the school's allotment in the village.

As you can see from the pictures, the children in Years 1 & 2 were very pleased with the harvest this year!

We are looking forward to a wonderful academic year, with parents back in school for Collective Worship, assemblies and plays and children getting out again to participate in swimming lessons, sports fixtures and concerts.

We are also looking forward to welcoming prospective parents to our tours. If you are interested please see our website for the dates and booking details.

I hope that we will see you at some stage throughout this year. Either as we celebrate Harvest, Christmas and Easter at the church, sing at the Luncheon Club, enjoy Forest School and PE at Mumbery Fields or indeed at the allotments as we plant out next year's crop.

Elaine Hughes
Executive Headteacher



BACK TO SCHOOL

CRAZIES HILL CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Crazies Hill Church of England Primary School is an academy within the Keys Academy Trust. The school works within a 'Hub' with 4 other local Trust schools. The school resides in a semi-rural area to the north of Wokingham with the designated area covering the hamlet of Crazies Hill. The school also provides education to children from wider areas including Reading, Woodley, Warren Row and Twyford. Currently, there are 90 children on role.

Vision and Values

At Crazies Hill CE Primary School our vision is taken from Matthew 7:20

*A tree is known by its fruit,
people by their actions.*

Our 'fruit' are our children and adults who have the resilience to weather life's ups and downs, show respect for themselves, others and their environment and demonstrate the ability to build and maintain good relationships with all in their community.

The three Rs: Relationships, Resilience and Respect help our children to develop a deeper understanding of our Christian vision and values. They are linked to three Christian stories; The Good Samaritan, Daniel in Exile and The Creation Story. Their depth of understanding is such that the children identify these values in their personal approach to their schooling and celebrate them in the achievements of their friends through the gem award system.

Our vision and strong values are interwoven in all that we do and our curriculum offer provides a richness of opportunities to grow our learners and help them to flourish.

Curriculum Enrichment

A Hive of Activity

Crazies Hill CE Primary School is a hive of activity throughout the year. The school is buzzing from 7.50am as the early morning clubs get underway. The children can select Judo, Fencing and Yoga to energise and focus themselves for the day ahead.



Music, Sewing, MFL and Sport clubs add another dimension for many children during the lunchbreak.

The learning continues for many after school hours through our choice of Sport, Dance, Art and Forest School Clubs.

The scent of the campfire is irresistible after school on a Monday and Thursday. On venturing outside, the air is filled with the chorus of happy voices as dens are being played in and the scent of marshmallows being toasted and savoured around the fire pit. The children are in their element as they connect with nature during their Forest School session. Clay pots filled with kindness messages have been created – what a wonderful way to relax and unwind at the end of another busy working day. We are very proud of our extra-curricular enrichment offer.



*Jo Shell
Head of School*



St Mary's Church Wargrave
With Knowl Hill

LIGHT PARTY

SATURDAY 29TH OCTOBER
4-6PM FOR 3-11YR OLDS

Join us for food, games and fun!
@St Mary's Church Centre

Tickets from
camillacook@btconnect.com

WARGRAVECHURCH.ORG.UK

LIGHT PARTY



OCTOBER

Sunday 2nd: 9.45am – Church & Church Centre
Harvest All Age Worship followed by Brunch

Sunday 9th: 9.45am – Church
Confirmation Service

Saturday 29th: 4pm – Church Centre
Light Party

Sunday 30th: 3pm – Church
Annual Bereavement Service

NOVEMBER

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

Saturday 19th: 9.30am – Church Centre
Clearly Christian Thinking Seminar: Identity

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

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

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

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

Saturday 3rd: 3pm – 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

DECEMBER

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 |

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

The Tuesday Youth Group

7pm-9pm Church Centre

Term time activity on Tuesdays for teenagers to meet for supper, games, discussion and fun.

Ladies' Breakfast

9.30am-10.45am Church Centre

Held on the 1st Saturday of each month, this group meet for a light breakfast and exploration of the Christian Faith from a feminine perspective.

Butterflies

9.30am-11am Church Centre

Meeting alternate Wednesdays during term time for Parents, Carers & toddlers for breakfast and a time to chat.

The Welcome Café

2.30pm-4.00pm Hannen Room

Held every Tuesday for Tea, Coffee, Cake & Conversation!

Ramblin' with Bob

A monthly Sunday meander through the local countryside, usually finishing with a pub lunch.

Home Groups

Various Home Groups meet throughout the week, Tuesday - Thursday at various times. Please visit our website for more information.

Monthly Prayer

11.45am Church Centre

Every 1st Wednesday of the month, join us for prayers for the parish.

CHURCH SERVICES

8am Every Sunday Holy Communion in traditional language

9.45am	1st Sunday	All Age Family Worship
	2nd & 4th Sunday*	Holy Communion
	3rd Sunday*	Morning Worship
	5th Sunday	All Age Holy Communion

*There are young people's activities in St Mary's Church Centre on these Sundays

Music Group

Be a part of St Mary's Music Group. Singers and Instrumentalists welcome

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Annette Dart (Assistant Producer)

This Christmas, an enthusiastic group of St Mary's amateur thespians will stage Charles Dickens' much-loved iconic story, A Christmas Carol, in the wonderfully atmospheric setting of St Mary's church.

A Christmas Carol was published in 1843, and in many ways is the essence of Victorian extremes of wealth and poverty, where work houses were considered adequate social aid for the destitute. Dickens was a committed Christian who experienced poverty first-hand after his family went bankrupt and the young Charles had to work in a boot polish factory at the age of twelve. He certainly understood a thing or two about empathy, charity and humility. Characters from his story such as the greedy and cold-hearted Ebenezer Scrooge, the down-trodden Bob Cratchit and tragic Fran paint a vivid picture of harsh Victorian times and attitudes.

We are fortunate to have the help of Joe Haynes as our Director. Joe has been delighting Wargrave audiences with his wonderful Shakespearean productions for many years and will help our all-age cast convey this captivating story of how the mean and selfish Scrooge is transformed from his life of abject misery to unbridled joy.

You might be very familiar with A Christmas Carol, have read the book for yourself or seen it performed, as it frequently is in theatres around the country during the festive season, or perhaps it's a long time ago or you don't know it at all. Whether it's a firm favourite or a distant memory, come along and enjoy the gripping tale of the miserable Scrooge's journey one Christmas Eve to

joyous redemption in the company of the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future.

Unfortunately, Dicken's tale remains as relevant today, almost two hundred years later, where kindness and empathy are in short supply in a turbulent world and a global cost-of-living crisis ahead.

The St Mary's production will bring our community this uplifting and heart-warming story of love, hope and compassion just when we need it and will help us prepare for the even greater story of Christmas and the celebration of the birth of Jesus who offers us all the power of redemption.

This production is an abridged version with a running time of around 50 minutes and complimentary mulled wine or soft drink and 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.

BOOKING INFORMATION

- Performances on Saturday 26th November at St Mary's Church at 4.30pm & 7.30pm
- Tickets available after 17th October by emailing acc@pursuitnha.com
- Centre Aisle tickets £12 Adult / £6 Child
Side Aisle tickets are £8 Adult / £4 Child (up to 16 years old)
- The story is well known for including representations of ghosts which may be a little scary for younger children, so we recommend for age 7 upwards
- Tickets are non-refundable and not available through the church office



St Mary's Church Wargrave
With Knowl Hill

CHARLES DICKENS'
**A
CHRISTMAS
CAROL**



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

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

**Directed by
JOE HAYNES**

**Performed by
MEMBERS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH**

ADVENT WINDOWS 2022

Although it feels too early to start planning for Christmas, it is time to start putting together the list of people doing Advent Windows so that it can be published for the start of December. Over the years we have had many wonderful creative windows and garden displays with both religious and secular themes.

The Advent windows are a lovely opportunity to remind people of the true meaning of Christmas and I very much hope many of St Mary's parishioners will once again volunteer to display a window relating the Christmas story. If you are interested please email me. I am happy to talk through ideas and help you put a suitable window together if you would like some help. Emailing to express interest does not commit you.

Picture of Salome & Guy's lovely 2021 window

Email: patricia_vella@hotmail.com



BELL RINGING

Wargrave has a small team of 8 regular ringers to ring the 8 bells hung in Wargrave Church tower.

The bells were destroyed in the fire of 1914 but successfully rebuilt in 1916 and have been rung ever since. We ring for regular services, weddings, funerals, general practice nights and special events. We have had a lot ringing to do recently following the loss of Queen Elizabeth.

Over the years we have had many ringers who learnt to ring at a young age but recently we have lost some of our younger ringers who have left us for various reasons, and we would be delighted to get some young ringers to take up the challenge. Developing bell ringing skills has been used to gain a Duke of Edinburgh award which has given a great sense of pride to the recipients.

As well as the need for younger ringers, we would welcome anyone who would like to ring and particularly those who have rung in the past. You do not need to ring on each occasion; any help is much appreciated.

In addition to our big bells which I know some of you have seen when visiting the tower, we have a set of hand bells waiting to be rung again.

Our Ringing Master Vinni will be delighted to help train you from beginners to returning ringers.

Come up and see us, the tower entrance is at the west end of the Church. Contact John Coombes for more information or to arrange a special visit.

Email johncoombes@aol.com or telephone 0118 940 2937

WARGRAVECHURCH.ORG.UK

ECO CHURCH: ZERO WASTE SHOPPING



You may have noticed shops appearing in UK high streets that fill your containers with everyday items such as detergents, cereals and pasta, so you don't keep buying plastic. Many are community initiatives. People call them zero waste shops.

Plastic breaks down into microscopic particles in our waterways, seas and the air. The solution is to refuse to buy plastic as much as we can. Recycling helps but is not the answer. On the contrary, it encourages us to buy more plastic. Zero waste stores help us to break that vicious cycle.



There are several near Wargrave. I have been asked to provide a selection:

- Filling Good, 22 High Street, Maidenhead, SL6 1QH
Tue-Sat 10-5, Sun 11-3 fillinggood.co.uk/
- Global Refillables, 35-39 London Road, Reading, RG1 4PS
Tue-Sun 10-6 risc.org.uk/global-refills
- True Food Community Co-Op, 61 Grove Road, Emmer Green, Reading, RG4 8LJ
Tue-Sat 9-6 truefood.coop
- Willow Basket, 9 Friday Street, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 1AH
Thu 11-5, Fri 9-5, Sat 11-5, Sun 11am - 4:30pm on Facebook
- Maya's Refillables, 11 Peach Place, Wokingham, RG40 1LY
Tue-Fri 8:30-5:30, Sat 9-5.
- Wokingham Market Place
11-3 every 2nd Sunday. Locations in Woodley. mayasrefillables.com
- Arborfill Refill Cabin, 22 Chaucer Grove, Arborfield Green, RG2 9UT
shop or book a visit via the web site arborfill.co.uk/
- Others are pop-ups in schools, church halls and sports centres such as Red Kangaroo, 6 Bridgewater Close, West Reading, RG30 1JT
Fri 10-12 & 4-6, Sat-Sun 9-6, Mon 10-12 & 4-6, Tue 9-6, Wed 10-12 & 4-6.



Some have registered at zerowastelocator.reco.shop. I personally find this site to be of limited value as not every shop is on there.

Some such as Maya's Refillables and Arborfill have online shopping and deliver to your door. Arborfill is delivering refills of detergents to St Mary's Wargrave.

This is an enjoyable way to shop that takes better care of God's earth, avoids paying for packaging and lets you buy the amount you want.

If you are out of work, or looking for a career change, and want to make a positive difference in the world, you may like to consider starting such a store yourself. It's a growing sector that needs scaling up.

The rest of us can help by visiting such stores and ordering from them. It's a good way of not conforming to the pattern of this world. As the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu put it: "Do your little bit of good where you are."

For most of us, little steps like this are the best way we have of transforming the world we live in.

Mike Buckland

VICAR'S LETTER



Dear *Friends*

What an extraordinary time we have lived through over the past weeks! One of mixed emotions for many of us.

Many of us will have watched the funeral of our late monarch, Queen Elizabeth II. In the UK 37.5 million watched on screens and it's estimated that at least 4 billion worldwide tuned in, not to mention those watching online.

Since Her Majesty the Queen died, we have witnessed many events which have been executed with dignity, aplomb and impeccable British efficiency. Recent days have seen the outgoing PM going to Balmoral, the new PM meeting the Queen at Balmoral followed the same week by the sad announcement of her death. Then the Accession Council never seen by the public ever before. As a result, a new era for our country was heralded with the proclamation of King Charles III.

However, we should remember all this is nothing compared to the Lord Jesus Christ reigning on a throne, and His rule will never be passed to another. The stability of this reign with this King having unrivalled authority and the glory of holiness and divinity.

As a family, down the years, we have always listened to the Queen giving her Christmas broadcast, and we all stand for the National Anthem. In one she said about Jesus that this King was "the anchor of her life".

Following Jesus did not prevent the Queen from facing the hardships in life..... illness, family troubles, criticism, grief, loss, and death itself. Hers has been a life of sacrifice, and in her own way she knew there was no glory without suffering, and no resurrection without a cross. In Mark 10:42-45 Jesus says, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many."

I am particularly struck by Jesus's phrase "not so with you". We all need to ponder that the greatest give themselves in service, which is what our late Queen has done for God and for others. Not just for family and friends, but for people who have never met her in this nation, as well as around the world.

An old adage spoke of "giving your life"-which Queen Elizabeth II has done. That stands in marked contrast to a new adage which has come to the fore in recent decades which is "living your life"

At the age of 21 she said: "I declare before you that all my whole life, whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong."

Her Majesty followed the example the Lord Jesus, of Jesus Christ the great Lord, monarch of monarchs, who called himself a servant.

There was a book published for Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday, 'The Servant Queen and The King She Serves'. For leaders to be servants is counter cultural: the temptation is often to lean towards pride and self-importance. But if we want to be great, Jesus tells us to be the slave of all.

Few acts of service are enjoyable, but this is what is our calling, if we are followers and believers in Jesus Christ. Might there be some act of service or ministry God is calling you to today? We are not here to claim our rights and find folk to serve us. In small ways or large we are to be of use in His service, which is where we find perfect freedom. Might you give your life in the service of God and others as the Queen did?

John

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

The media has said much about HM the Queen's life of service and, amazingly, about her Christian faith. Let me leave you with the words of Queen Elizabeth II herself:



"I hope that like me you will all be comforted by the example of Jesus of Nazareth who often in circumstances of great adversity managed to live a life, an outgoing and unselfish, and sacrificial life. He made it clear that genuine human happiness and satisfaction lie more in giving than receiving, more in serving than being served. We can surely be grateful for these 2000 years after the birth of Jesus. So many of us are able to draw for inspiration from Him, His life and message, and to find in Him a source of strength and courage."

LADIES' BREAKFAST: Walk beside me and be my friend A look at some famous donkeys in the Bible

On September 3rd, we began our new term of Ladies Breakfast meetings with a game of 'Pin the tail on the donkey, an unusual departure for the group but enjoyed by all participants and won (rather convincingly) by Lesley Turville. A strange opening to our gathering you may think, but donkeys were to be the focus of the day!

We started by examining misconceptions that many hold about donkeys, comparing these with proven characteristics which show that donkeys do indeed often have a reputation that is undeserved; they are remarkable animals.

We then looked at some ancient literature in which donkeys appear, particularly focusing on the number of times and ways donkeys are referred to in the bible, both in the Old and New Testaments.

Concentrating our study on three specific donkeys, (Abraham's, Balaam's and the colt chosen by Jesus to carry him into Jerusalem), we examined the events and, through questioning and discussion, considered their actions and the qualities each displayed including: gentleness, patience, kindness, loyalty, serving others willingly rather than considering their own needs, lowliness and humility.

Being a donkey brings little recognition; they are often overlooked and often considered the lowliest of animals. Our study, however, showed us that the way of the donkey, the way of the bible, is the way we should live our lives in Christ.

Linda Caradine

RAMBLIN' WITH BOB: October Walks

Two circular rambles in October to kick off the new season of walks.

Please be aware it can be muddy after wet weather so do come suitably shod!

Sunday 2nd October at 12.30pm

A walk through some of the finest woodland in this part of Berkshire to the top of Bowsey Hill and then between the fields of Endalls Farm. We shall meet at the old waterworks building on Blakes Lane (limited car parking on Blakes Lane layby or along Tag Lane) and return in time for lunch at the Bull in Wargrave at 3pm.

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

Sunday 30th October at 12.30pm

A walk across fields farmed by the Berkshire College of Agriculture and Top Farm to return via the summit of Ashley Hill. We shall meet at the Dewdrop Inn (off Honey Lane) and return in time for lunch at the pub at 3pm.



If you would like to join us on this walk, please contact Ramblin' Bob by Friday 21st October 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

TUESDAY YOUTH GROUP

Richard Eves

This term at Tuesday Group we are looking at the letter to the Colossians. There are all kinds of things in our life that we want to keep on doing. Maybe it's a diet plan or an exercise regime, or a hobby or passion which we find personally fulfilling. Perhaps it's something more general like keeping on learning, or keeping on making friends, or keeping on having fun. But whatever it is, most of us have things that we're doing now that we want to keep on doing.

In his letter to the Colossians, the apostle Paul has one very clear message - keep on following Jesus.

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.

The Colossians have received Jesus as Lord, and Paul wants them to maintain that connectedness and relationship with Him. He uses two images. The first, the rootedness of a plant, speaks of the living strength that there is in a life lived in Jesus. Last spring I had to dig a bamboo bush out of our lawn, and it was one of the most physically demanding things that I have ever done. The bush had thousands of roots all clinging desperately and tenaciously to the earth, because that was where they needed to be to live - that was where the water they need for life comes from. That is the way, says Paul, that Christians are to cling to Jesus, deeply and tenaciously, knowing that all of our life and growth is entirely dependent upon him.

The second image is of a strong building. If the image of a plant's roots points downwards, this image points up towards the skies. A life in Christ is one that matures and expands and develops. It builds up floor by floor by floor like a city center skyscraper until it towers over the surrounding landscape. And even in its great size, there is solidity and stability, because of its sure foundation - Jesus Christ himself.

It is sometimes hard to be objective about our own lives, and difficult to rightly value which of the things we possess are truly precious. The letter to the Colossians reminds Christians just how precious what they have in Jesus is, and to keep on following him, no matter what.

SUNDAY CLUB: Do you know how British people become Christian nowadays?

Jubi Filho da Silva

Ever thought about this? How do the British become Christian these days? Is it by watching Christian content online? Is it by having a conversation with a practising Christian? Or is it by simply visiting a church or reading the Bible? In fact, is conversion still happening?

These questions interest me because I am a foreigner, happily married to one of your citizens, and also because I work for an evangelist organisation, but these questions were raised by British church leaders who wanted to have a clearer picture of how exactly the British see the church, Christians themselves and Jesus.

So they joined forces – by “they” I mean the Evangelical Alliance, and Alpha, and others – to launch the Talking Jesus survey, a big, national initiative to find out answers to the questions above and more. The results came in 2015 and they were so positive, so encouraging, and so surprising, that many leaders did not believe them!

They ran the same survey again this year, now including Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and the trends continue to impress. Look: regardless of faith, 45% of the population believe in the resurrection of Jesus, word for word as in the Bible or not. How amazing is that? Also, non-Christian people see us, Christians, as friendly (62%), caring (50%), good-humoured (33%) and generous (32%). That’s very kind of them to notice.

Most importantly, how do people come to follow Jesus for themselves? I memorised the results because they were that good: first of the list, people come to faith by growing up in a Christian family (34%); secondly, by just reading the Bible (24%); thirdly, by visiting a church (19%) and attending Sunday school (19%). Could the results be any clearer?

Visit talkingjesus.org for more, but just the above made me think of baptisms, weddings and Christmas, occasions when people visit the church. What if we gave them a reader-friendly gospel? The data shows that practically 1 in 4 will read it and come to faith. More: 1 in 2 will follow Christ because of family and Sunday Club. What if we took Sunday Club even more seriously than we do? Data alone will not inspire but I am humbled by it, and so excited about the terribly important work we do that I repeat the invitation to you.

Will you join us this term? Write to hobden.da.silva@gmail.com and we’ll talk.

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

On Friday 8th September St Peter's was open between 10am - 4pm in order that villagers could sign the condolence book for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. At noon on Friday the church bell was tolled, as with many others across the country. The church was also available for those who just wanted to spend some time in quiet reflection. The church remained open until Sunday 18th.

The previous weekend a group of regulars met to try and make inroads to tidy up the churchyard, which has been sadly neglected over the past couple of years because of Covid. Progress was made although many more hours of hard work are needed to clear all the weeds. We stopped for a well earned cup of coffee and then returned to our labours, after which we all visited the local hostelry for more liquid refreshments.



CAMEO

After the summer break our monthly Cameo group will be meeting in the village hall on the third Thursday of the month for afternoon refreshments and a chat. In October the meeting will be on the 20th and we will have a quiz. For further details please contact Lesley Bell on 07966 178142.

KNOWL HILL WI

Tabletop Sale

- Arts and crafts
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Knowl Hill Village Hall Saturday 15th October. Doors open 7pm

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For further details or to book tickets, please contact Lesley on 07966 178142

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



NEWS FROM KNOWL HILL



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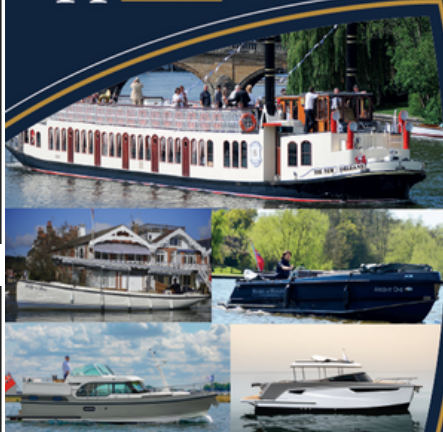
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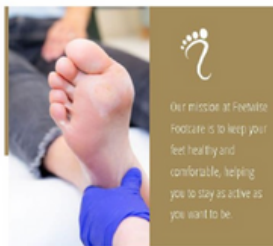
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