



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

SEPTEMBER 2022

ADVENTURES OF SUMMER

Tales of your Summer
holidays

PLATINUM CELEBRATION

We pay tribute to Bob
Whiteley's 70 years

EARTHRISE FILMING

St Mary's hosts a special
service for Al Jazeera with
Bishop Olivia

In other news:
Village Festival Worship & BBQ
What is Confirmation?
Yeldall Open Day



From the Editor

For our September issue we have included some happy articles on the theme 'What we did on our holidays'. For those of a folkie leaning, this was the title of a glorious album by Fairport Convention from 1969, the first to feature Sandy Denny on lead vocals. Such happy days! We shall continue this theme for the October issue and so please send in your holiday adventures - we all need good news in these uncertain times.

A number of us attended the morris dancing and African dancing event at Wargrave Hall as part of the Village Festival.

It was a great afternoon and I thought some might be interested in seeing this rather grainy photo from 1972 of a Chingford Morrismen dancer. The years have taken their toll!

If you would like to include something in the magazine; a poem, a prayer, an article, do please send it in. It can be anonymous if you wish. The more variety we have in the magazine, the better!

Bob

BOB AUSTEN | PARISH MAGAZINE EDITOR



WELCOME

The copy date for submissions for the October Magazine is noon on Wednesday 14th September 2022.

Articles of up to 400 words are most welcome for publication in this Magazine and should be sent to the Editor: bobauستن@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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PARISH REGISTERS : WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS & FUNERALS

Baptisms at St Mary's, Wargrave

3rd July Louis Jonathan George Bruce
7th August Theo Hawkins & Isabella Joy Parsons

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

17th June John Philip Smith, 88, Burial of Ashes, St Mary's Churchyard
28th June Janet Maidment, 88, Burial of Ashes, New Cemetery

1st July Ralph Reginald Rattley, 92, Burial, New Cemetery
3rd July Arthur Thomas Lowry, 82, Burial of Ashes, St Mary's Churchyard
5th July Edmund Richard Worthy, 75, Burial, New Cemetery
12th July James Russell Openshaw, 84, Cremation at Reading
12th July Leona Elicia Goddard, 76, Cremation at Reading
29th July Wilma Elisabeth Goddard, 95, Burial of Ashes, New Cemetery

REGISTERS & SUNDAY SERVICES

SUNDAY SERVICES

September



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: **4th September**

9.45am All Age Family Worship

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

9.45am Holy Communion

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

9.45am Morning Worship in modern language with music

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

9.45am Holy Communion

St Peter's Church, Knowl Hill

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

St Paul's Church, Warren Row

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

Our Groups

WELCOME CAFÉ

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

Next Sessions:

6th, 13th, 20th & 27th September

Discover more about the Welcome Café on page 19.

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: 7th & 21st September



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 3rd September** for a delicious breakfast and stimulating discussion. All welcome.

This month, you are invited to a session on **'Walk beside me and be my friend'**. The Bible features many donkeys and in great variety. There are mentions of the gentle 'beast of burden', humble servants so often overlooked. Then, there are donkeys of a different sort- the 'two-footed' sort!

We will be looking at some bible events in which donkeys appear. They may not have had the starring role in each episode, but their presence was vital. We will consider, through questioning and discussion, their actions and qualities displayed. Which should we admire? Which should we make sure we avoid?

Contact Lesley or Linda for more information.

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

VILLAGE FESTIVAL: CHURCH ACTIVITY



As we reflect on the final two events that the Parish of Wargrave & Knowl Hill were involved in during the Wargrave Village Festival 2022, we must take a moment to 'Thank' all individuals that were instrumental in organising and running all of the events that the Parish undertook.

Well Done & Thank You!



FESTIVAL SERVICE

Sunday 26th July

Mark Puddy

VILLAGE FESTIVAL

At the end of a hot and sunny Wargrave Festival, we gathered in the Marquee on Mill Green for the Festival Service.

The St Mary's Music Group were in good voice, joined by trumpeter, Paul Speed. Richard Eves led the prayers, and everyone joined in the service with gusto. However, what particularly struck home was the talk given by Fiona Castle, the widow of the greatly loved and greatly missed entertainer, Roy Castle. She spoke with a simple openness about her life, how she was in a dark place, having given up her own career to support Roy, and how, by knowing Jesus Christ as her friend and redeemer, she found the strength to overcome her loss of purpose and confidence.

While her story was particularly resonant for women who could identify with similar experiences in their own lives, I found it an inspiration to hear her description of how, within days of Roy's death, she found the strength to appear on Breakfast TV to campaign against the exposure to cigarette smoke in public places, to minimise the dangers of passive smoking, which had been responsible for her husband's death. When we now consider how much safer our clubs, pubs and public transport are, it is amazing what she helped to achieve through the strength of her faith and love of the Lord.

Despite, and sometimes, because of our weaknesses, God can use us to do his work.

BBQ

FAMILY BBQ

Camilla Cook

A beautiful Sunday afternoon attracted a large gathering of folks from the Church and the village to the St Mary's Family Barbecue on the Mill Green. Several hundred guests enjoyed a delicious barbecue and special thanks to Sean, Nigel, Harry and Bob for their culinary skills in preparing the food.

Camilla and her team served up a fabulous selection of salads and desserts to compliment the barbecue and grateful thanks are due to the many volunteers that helped serve and to those that provided the dishes. Finally, a mention to Steve and Lesley who beavered away at the bar!

Another wonderful Church event to help cement our place at the heart of the village.



WHAT WE DID ON OUR HOLIDAYS



HOLIDAYS

YOUR ADVENTURES

We had our son John, his wife Melissa and young family (8, 5 & 3) over from Toronto for nearly a month in July and it wasn't so much what we did on our holidays as what we didn't do.

We had trips to New Forest, Scarborough, Worthing, Littlehampton, Windsor, London to name but a few - rides on donkeys, ferris wheels, pirate boats, river boats, miniature trains, went round nature reserves, wildlife reserves, farms, made pottery eggcups, money boxes (to put the bribes in - I mean pocket money), lots of water at the beaches, Windsor Leisure Centre complete with waves, splashpads & water parks and climbing, jumping and exploring at lots of local parks as well as Frozen in the West End - wow what a show. Fun and games indoors when it was too hot to go outside - hoping by Christmas that we will have got rid of the last of the glitter and glue which found its way around the house !!!!

All in all a brilliant time, exhilarating, exhausting and Bob & I relieved to go back to work beginning of August for a rest - summoning the energy to put the house, pond & garden back together again - cars got valeted fairly early on so one job done. Looking forward to a return visit next summer - well - we'll know what to expect next time and will start to take the vitamins & energy boosters now.

Jane Austen

~

We celebrated our Ruby wedding anniversary on 31st July with a ferry trip to the Isle of Wight organised by our children James, Emily and Lizzie, followed by a week near Chichester in West Sussex.

Mike & Angie Buckland

For the first time in 4 years, we could spend our summer holiday back in the pure mountain air of the French Alps.

Our daughter, Helen, and her boyfriend James, living with us in Wargrave since last July have been so happy to share our company, even joining us on skiing holidays, that they were there to welcome us when we arrived in Vallandry. Excitingly, James had asked Helen a pertinent question at the top of a mountain, and she is now his fiancée!

Alas, they were far too happy to stay with us for long and soon left for a nice hotel by Lake Geneva. They knew our holiday activities would include much tidying, and a trip to the local tip to dump 4 years' worth of mouse-chewed items, old bicycle wheels, and broken skis from our locker. We were so pleased to be in France that, almost at once, we set out on a long hike into Italy meandering through flower-filled meadows, walking over the inappropriately named Petit-St Bernard Pass (the Bernard bit is right!) then spending a night recovering in a hotel in La Thuile, before walking back over the border the following day. We even tramped through snow, which was an achievement to climb that high, and a refreshing relief from the heatwave this summer.

We interrupted our outward journey staying in Beaune in Burgundy, and on our way back in Epernay, in Champagne. Let's drink to the common theme in those locations!

Mark Puddy

YOUR ADVENTURES CONTINUED

Bubl  Bath

Michael Bubl  coming to the UK? The idea of an open-air concert at The Crescent in Bath was too inviting to resist! I bought my tickets and waited...and waited. You see, this was January 2019. Within weeks, concerts were cancelled, gatherings banned. No tour would take place.

Although disappointed, I was sure the tour would transpire the following year- but no. Nothing. 2021? Still no word. In January of this year however, the email landed. The concert was taking place on July 16th 2022. Finally, the day had come!

Concert gates opened at 6pm, so after lunch we had plenty of time for an afternoon of exploring. It was a scorching day with very little shade - not ideal conditions for exploration but we set off to discover Bath's hidden treasures.

The city was bursting with people; Bubl  fans and clusters of young people, celebrating their graduation day, crowded the streets. Bath was heaving and was not quite as I had imagined with my Jane Austin hat on! Having finally weaved our way through the crowds, feeling hot, sticky and tired, we abandoned our expedition and headed back to the hotel for afternoon tea- far more refined!

The sun was still shining and the temperature high as we approached The Crescent. Already the park was teeming with people. Some, living nearby, sat on window ledges, dangling legs, whilst brave teenagers climbed on roofs nearby in order to be part of proceedings.

Michael came on stage at 8 .15pm, and performed until 10pm, singing a mixture of 'crooner' songs, crowd- pleasing covers and his own compositions. His voice was rich and smooth, his performance full of energy; he was witty and caring, even stopping the show when paramedics were called for people struggling with the heat.

As darkness fell, the park was filled with lights from mobile phones, held high and swaying in unison. A wonderful sight to see as the sun disappeared behind The Crescent for the night.

As we meandered back to the hotel I smiled. Was our adventure worth waiting 3 years for? Absolutely.

Sarah Whiteside

~

A memorable day - as Wargravians may have noticed we have been extending our house. So on Friday 29th July: the engineer came to commission our new underfloor heating, then the kitchen fitter arrived with the corner inserts for between the units, and the plumber was installing the new sink and waste pipe, plus the builder chose that day to bring the new radiators meanwhile the very tolerant guy continued laying the new floor. AND we had the grandchildren staying. All went well, helped by a lot of mugs of tea. Only disappointment - our grandson really wanted his sister to step on the wrong bit of floor and be stuck FOREVER, amazingly she avoided this fate.

Sheila Williams

YOUR ADVENTURES CONTINUED

A gas guzzling journey with traffic, road works and diversions but thankfully we were heading north to the Derbyshire Dales and not to one of the southern ports where hours of queues had become the norm.

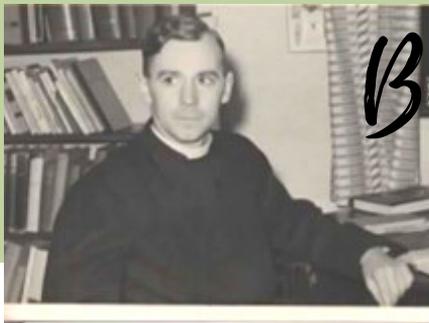
A weeks' stay in a green environment – lovely. And it was green both indoors and out. Outdoors, with light rain most nights, the fields were green and the blackberries swollen, ripe, sweet and ready to eat straight from the bush. Indoors, the barn conversion had many eco-friendly features. Every outside door led into an enclosed porch; sun tubes transferred sunlight from the roof to windowless rooms (it was strange not having to switch lights on and off); waste water from showers, sinks and toilets was fed to a septic tank and from there to a reed bed; and solar water heating panels on the roof captured energy from the sun to produce hot water for underfloor heating and domestic use.

I call it a strange holiday because we were house hunting with and for family and after touring the locality we kept being drawn back to Matlock. It's an interesting small town steeped in history with attractive stone cottages, a train station, many small independent shops, good supermarkets and lovely people. Whether or not my family will decide to move there only time will tell. However, Derbyshire is one of our favourite places having lived there for many years, and Matlock is well worth visiting for a short break since it is close to the Peak District National Park and Matlock Bath, and has many local attractions such as the Crich Tramway, Cromford Canal and Heights of Abraham within easy reach.

Christine Walker

HOLIDAYS

A PLATINUM CELEBRATION



Bob Whiteley



PLATINUM CELEBRATION

Earlier this year we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. In September there will be another Platinum anniversary, when Revd Canon Bob Whiteley celebrates the 70th anniversary of his ordination.

Bob was ordained deacon on Sep 21st 1952 in Manchester Cathedral and went to serve as a curate at St Margaret's, Hollinwood, near Oldham.

A year later he was ordained priest, and married Margaret, a loving and active supporter of his ministry, much missed since her death in 2013.

Bob felt called to the mission field, and in 1956, with Margaret and their baby daughter, Elizabeth, set sail for British Honduras (now Belize), a country they knew nothing about until the missionary society, USPG, sent them there. In Belize, there was a church community but no building, the previous one having been destroyed by a hurricane, so one of the early tasks was to build a new church. Some funding was needed as Belize was a developing country, so, as the church was St Marys, they wrote to all the St Marys churches in England, (presumably including St Marys Wargrave) seeking funding. Everyone got involved, building the church was a hands-on job and, after much hard work, Bob and Margaret had a brand new church and also a brand new second daughter, Rosemary (known to most of you as Rosie).

Bob has many happy tales of his time in Belize, far too many to tell here. You'll have to ask him!



After 6 years it was time to return to the UK. Margaret and the girls came back first, Bob was then caught up in a devastating hurricane, which delayed his return, but in early 1962 the family moved to Illingworth, on the edge of the moors above Halifax, West Yorkshire. The winter weather, with snow and howling gales coming through the drafty windows of a large old vicarage, was something of a contrast with tropical Belize! The church in Illingworth was another St Mary's, and Bob spent about 7 years serving the Yorkshire-folk there. The vicarage had a large garden, so, much to Margaret's consternation, Bob decided keeping goats would be a good way to keep the grass down.

From Illingworth, the family moved to St Michael's, Wakefield. There was no room for the goats, but Bob obviously still fancied himself as a farmer and got an old Land-Rover as the family car! Very bumpy and no heating! But good for loading up with groups of children from the church family and taking them on outings from the town into the countryside, an experience that was new to some of them. The 70s was a time of spiritual renewal in many places, including St Michaels, and it was a rich and fruitful period in his ministry.

A move across town followed as he took up the role of Diocesan Missioner based at Wakefield cathedral, working with parishes throughout the Diocese to support them as they developed their mission in their parishes. The final job move was to All Hallows, Almondbury, on the outskirts of Huddersfield. This is the town both Bob and Margaret came from originally, and the town in which they had first met at the town-centre parish church. Bob had been a chorister there as a boy, and it was in his time there that his vocation to ordained ministry became clear. Margaret had grown up as a Methodist, but as a young woman was drawn to the Church of England and started attending the parish church, met a handsome young ordination trainee, and, as they say, the rest is history.

On retirement, they lived for a few years in another part of Huddersfield, but of course clergy never really retire, they end up helping out wherever help is needed. In the mid-90s Rosie's family moved to Wargrave, and consequently Bob and Margaret met John Ratings, the vicar here at the time, and John facilitated a move for them to live in the Woodclyffe Almshouses. They quickly settled in and became part of St Marys church family, with Bob helping out, especially in the interregnum after John's retirement. Until very recently Bob has also helped out at other local churches and he continues to play an active part in parish life. Over the years it has been a joy for him to officiate at some significant family occasions, weddings and baptisms. 70 years of dedicated service to our Lord, and to the parishioners he has lived amongst, is truly something to celebrate. Bob will preside at the communion service in St Marys on September 25th. We thank God for him, and pray for his continued blessing on him.

Rosie Creedon



WHAT IS CONFIRMATION

...to the end that children being now come to the years of discretion, and having learned what their Godfathers and Godmothers promised for them in Baptism, they may themselves, with their own mouth and consent, openly before the Church, ratify and confirm the same; and also promise, that by the grace of God they will evermore endeavour themselves faithfully to observe such things, as they by their own confession have assented unto. *Book of Common Prayer, The Order of Confirmation, 297*

Everyone loves a dramatic conversion story. Indeed, it's not uncommon to hear those with less dramatic christian histories - a gradual growth in understanding and faith nurtured in a Christian home and family - yearning for a personal testimony that is just a little more exciting. After all, when compared to the experience of someone who as an adult turns from their own ways to serve the living and true God, just how real is the Christian experience of someone who was baptised as a baby and has always in some sense or another thought of themselves as a Christian? Is the adult convert a more 'genuine' believer, with the child of the Christian family being just a 'tag-a-long'?

It is exactly this kind of question that the confirmation service answers. In the Book of Common Prayer, the alternative title for the service is Laying on of Hands upon those who are baptised and come to years of discretion.

The subtitle gives the game away. This is a time for those who were baptised as infants but have now come to years of discretion, that is, have now reached an age where they have the knowledge, understanding and personal responsibility to decide for themselves the direction they would like their life to take. The Christian life in God's design is always a matter of personal faith and commitment to follow the Lord Jesus. When children are born into the church, we take on those responsibilities for them, and hold them in trust, until such a time as the child is able to decide for themselves to put their trust in the Lord and follow Him. There is no such thing as a 'tag-a-long' Christian. And wherever our faith story began, whether in the arms of our parents at the moment we were born, or many years or decades down the road, it is always our own faith, our own hope, our own commitment that the Lord is calling us to.

Richard Eves

CONFIRMATION

**Sunday 9th October
9.45am**

**Contact
John or Richard**

CSW: EVERYONE FREE TO BELIEVE

*"Continue to remember those in captivity as if you were with them,
and those who are ill-treated as if you yourselves were suffering."
Hebrews 13: 3*

The freedom to believe and profess one's religion is denied to millions. This is a global issue that needs global solutions.

The International Ministerial Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief took place at the Palace of Westminster in the first week of July 2022 to address this. Only when those in power get round the table, with input from NGOs and activists, can leaders formulate coordinated responses that drive action.

The media gave it much less publicity than COP26, the 2021 Conference of Parties on Climate Change, but it was just as high level, international and important.



CSW

Government ministers met with NGOs such as CSW, representatives of faith communities from countries such as Burma, Cuba, the Indian subcontinent and Nigeria, and refugees from persecution in Afghanistan, China and Eritrea.

In places such as Burma and Nigeria, attacks on communities by the state or by religious extremists are so severe that the term genocide has been used.

HOW CAN I HELP?

- Inform yourself by watching some of CSW's live-streamed events
- Use their updated prayer guide
- Sign their **#FreeToBelieve** petition at csw.org.uk/ministerial
- Write cards of encouragement to prisoners of faith. Many have families and are hugely encouraged by messages from children. Even if they don't know who or where you are, to receive such a card tells them that people care, are praying for them, and often gives them the strength to carry on. You can find full guidance and addresses in 'Connect & Encourage' at csw.org.uk/connectencourage

Thank you!

Mike Buckland, CSW Church Ambassador

CLEARLY CHRISTIAN THINKING

On the 24th September we will be running the Clearly Christian Thinking Seminar on Justice in the St Mary's Church Centre.

This seminar had originally been scheduled to run in March, and in some ways the world has changed significantly since then. Times seem to be getting harder. The conflict in Ukraine, then new, rumbles on without sign of resolution, while its economic and political consequences come more and more starkly into view. Whether it be constantly rising prices, shortages of goods and services, or increased international hostility, we seem to be moving into a tighter, harder, and more difficult period of history.



In times of scarcity, questions of justice and righteousness can easily be pushed to the margins. There can be a temptation to dismiss justice as a luxury for the good times. Pleasant, but complicating and even dangerous when questions of basic survival are at stake. At the same time, as we see more and more people around us fall into concrete need, the sense of 'someone should do something' can become more and more pressing. Justice becomes simultaneously both more difficult and more urgent.

Necessarily then, in times such as these, it is essential that we know what we think about justice. Very often our first sense of something being unjust is intuitive rather than reasoned. Our gut tells us that how x has treated y just isn't right. However, whether our gut is right or wrong, such instinctive, emotive reactions are an unstable foundation for any coherent and Christian understanding of justice.

Instead, we need to work hard to listen to what the Lord - who is, after all, the Judge of all the earth - tells us about justice. Christians can sometimes be under the impression that we are instructed by God to love our neighbor as ourselves, that is, to treat them justly, but then left on our own to flesh out the specifics. Wonderfully, this is far from the truth. The Lord in his Word lays out for his people a rich and deep explanation of the principles of justice, which Christians down through the centuries have explored and put into practice. Join with us as we explore this vital topic together.

Richard Eves

THAT'S NOT FAIR

**A Clearly Christian Thinking
Seminar on Justice**

**Saturday 24th September
10am - 11.30am**

St Mary's Church Centre

WARGRAVECHURCH.ORG.UK

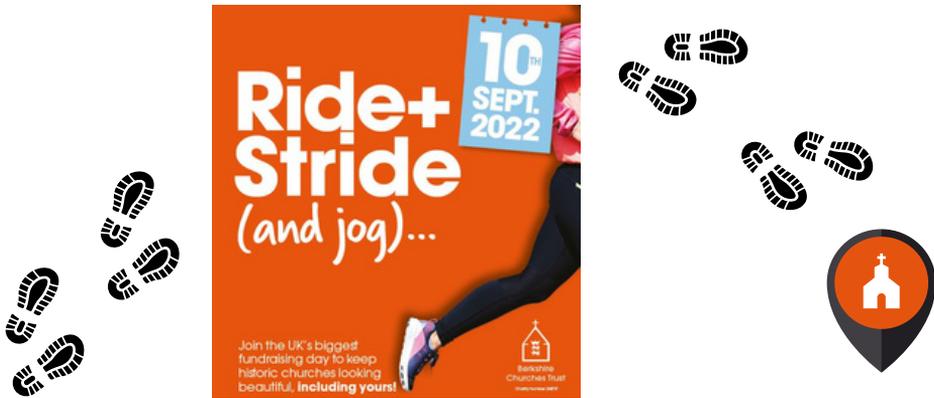
RIDE + STRIDE: Saturday 10th September

Ready, steady, go...well just about.

We have our route maps, church guidance notes, enthusiasm in spades and some amazing sponsorship. Thank you.

The plan is to visit nine churches in Abingdon in the morning and eight in Wallingford in the afternoon, the routes of which can be found on our website: wargravechurch.org.uk/upcoming-events. Those who find our target of walking to seventeen churches too much of a challenge or who have other commitments that day can join us for the morning and drop out at lunchtime.

We are still hoping to raise more sponsorship, so if you have not signed a sponsorship form they are at the back of church or are available from one of 'Team Wargrave', Christine Walker, Ruth Howse, Katie Cosnett and Helen Gradon. Otherwise, you could go to our Just-giving page: justgiving.com/fundraising/teamwargravestmarys



OUTDOOR WALKS

RAMBLIN' WITH BOB: Sunday 2nd October

Our season of walks recommences on Sunday 2nd October at 12.30pm for 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. It can be muddy after wet weather so do come suitably shod! We shall meet at the old waterworks building on Blakes Lane (limited car parking on Blakes Lane layby or along Tags 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 by Friday 23rd September 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

YELDALL OPEN DAY

Having last had supporters on-site for our Celebration in March 2020, just before lockdown, it was great to be able to hold the first 'in-person' Open Day for three years. As ever, staff, residents and faithful volunteers pulled together to provide an afternoon of good food, fun, and fellowship.

We were pleased to be able to celebrate the graduations of three former residents: Dom, Joe and Jim. Dom, who was baptised at the on-line Open Day in 2021, had achieved his clear aims of recovery, and restoring his relationship with his daughter, Freya, who stood with him in front of the microphone. He also shared about his recent engagement to girlfriend, Laura, and his employment with a drug and alcohol service; "I've been able to have a direct influence in people becoming free of addiction to drugs and alcohol, people getting housed, and in restoration of relationships between parents and children. It's a privilege to be able to give back, and I owe it all to Yeldall Manor for giving me the tools I needed." Joe who, along with his mum Jackie, was featured in the last newsletter explained, "Before Yeldall, I was hopelessly addicted to drugs and alcohol, I was merely existing. I was very depressed, lonely, I'd been kicked out of the family home, I'd lost jobs, I had broken down relationships and I hated myself. Whether it was drugs or alcohol, I was

using them to change the way I felt about myself, because I hated who I was. During my time here, I learned that being willing to remain teachable is a must, just focussing on one day at a time is really important, that being honest, with ourselves and others, is vital. And now, I quite like myself. This place has helped me in so many ways, I can't express my gratitude enough."

I owe it all to Yeldall Manor

Jim, who at Yeldall had been reunited with one of his daughters after 40 years, said, "The best and only thing I can tell you, is I met the Spirit here. I was a Christian before I came, or I thought I was, but then whilst I was in isolation for five days [on arrival], the Spirit came to me, and I've never stopped since. It gives my great joy and happiness."

Thanks to all our supporters for helping Yeldall to remain open to men like this, through the pandemic and beyond. The financial and prayerful support of many enables men to be supported to make these radical life changes after what can be decades of addiction and pain.

Sue Hedger

To receive our quarterly newsletter or monthly prayer diary, or for more information about supporting us, please contact suehedger@yeldall.org.uk.

You can also give on-line through justgiving.com/yeldallmanor

(note that the admin fee applied is entirely voluntary and can be reduced to zero).



SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: Saturday 19th November

After employing several names to try and make our Church social life more enticing and inclusive (Young Families Group, Families Group et al), we have decided to go down the simplest of routes and simply label it 'Social Activities'.

From an initial plan to organise activities each month, we have climbed down from that lofty perch and are now looking at running 3 or 4 events a year in Spring, Summer, Autumn and/or Winter. Each activity is organised by a group on a rota basis.

The next social activity will be on **Saturday 19th November** when we join Tearfund's 'The Big Quiz' Night in the Church Centre. Details found on page 22.

If you would like to take part in our social activities and be kept up to date on plans, please contact me, Bob Austen, and I shall include you on the rota.

- Home: 0118 940 3038
- Mobile: 07970 611013
- Email: austenrobert@hotmail.com

WELCOME CAFÉ: Tuesdays at 2.30pm

With many new people moving into the parish, some may be wondering what St Mary's Welcome Café is. It started in 2017 primarily to provide a place for anyone to come and meet others, and to enjoy conversation and afternoon tea. It has been especially helpful for those who live alone but it is not a closed club and not limited to the elderly but open to all.

It runs every Tuesday afternoon in the Hannen Room with between 14-20 people attending. It is hosted by a rota of volunteers who supply and serve the refreshments and there is always a happy buzz in the room. Transport may be arranged if required. The Welcome Café is open Tuesday afternoons from 2.30pm to 4pm and is a great place to make new friends and enjoy being with others.

Next Sessions: 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th September

Join the team?

Do you enjoy serving people and have free time on Tuesday afternoons? Maybe you could join one of our teams of Hosts, which involves providing and serving refreshments (either baked or bought) just once a month, or maybe you could help someone attend by giving them a lift?

For more information, please contact
Revd Steve Turville on 0118 9016720.



EARTHRISE

with Bishop Olivia

ECO CHURCH



Wednesday 20th July saw a first for St Mary's when it was chosen as a location for an episode of Earthrise for global transmission in December on Al Jazeera. The company has been running environmental programmes for 11 years, and the Earthrise series comprises 25 programmes exploring how global institutions are seeking solutions to the climate crisis. Three of the programmes concern how faith communities are leading their congregations to an awareness of how they should think and act in responding to the crisis: one from a mosque in Birmingham, one from a nearby Hindu temple and one from St Mary's led by the Bishop of Reading who serves on the General Synod Committee on the Environment.

The filming took the form of recording a short service with a sermon by Bishop Olivia. Our own Richard Eves led the prayers calling on us all to ask for forgiveness for our dereliction of duty as stewards of our world; and that finally through our fear for the future, we allow the Holy Spirit to transform us to be truly caring, learning how to restore our relationship with the Earth through God's love. Angie Buckland read the very relevant Psalm 8; and the assembled congregation were exhorted to look cheerful and make their responses enthusiastically (the uplifting nature of the service ensured we managed our part successfully).

EARTHRISE



The sermon started with a reflection on how, in the last week pictures from the James Webb telescope had given us all a breathtaking vision of the majesty and enormity of the universe and the contrasting fragility of our own planet, subsequently highlighted by the record-breaking temperatures experienced just the day before. Bishop Olivia shared the horrific statistics of the loss of diversity in the natural world over recent years and the threat posed to humanity's very existence if action is not taken immediately. She quoted the Bible which places the responsibility for the web of life in our hands, and the injustice of the "developed" world which continues to consume and pollute uncaringly to the detriment of the way of life of our poorer brothers and sisters in other parts of the planet.

The Bible paints a picture of a God very concerned about Justice, telling us repeatedly that those who wield power have a special responsibility for others. The Climate Crisis has been predicted and analysed by scientists who can identify the causes and terrifying outcomes, but, the Bishop said, dealing with the situation is a Spiritual Issue. She cited greed, selfishness and apathy as the reasons why the crisis is not being addressed and stated bluntly that while scientists cannot change these cultural failings, people of faith can. Pope Francis has said that our souls need to have an "Eco Conversion" to reject self interest. Difficult words, the Bishop commented, but spoken in love and hope. 60% of transformative actions to halt climate change can be undertaken by individuals - if we act personally as well as locally and nationally, the result of the planetary drama being played out can be changed. Christians should be actively doing this through love of God and His Creation.



Following this sermon, which only lasted 12 minutes, but packed such a punch, we were asked to remain seated. Bishop Olivia then addressed us extempore so that shots could be taken of the congregation listening to her to insert in the recording of the sermon - this extra unrecorded talk was equally "punchy" and we did not have to feign attentiveness. She spoke of the way in which the Church of England was working towards net zero carbon, and the route map being developed to achieve this by 2030. It could be asked if the

Church can afford it, but Bishop Olivia's response is we cannot afford not to take action. Our Diocese is at the forefront in the country in making changes, and amongst other things has just voted £10million to make energy saving improvements to the 800 houses under its control. 153 of its churches have signed up to the EcoChurch movement - and she congratulated our Parish on being one of the few who have not only signed up, but achieved the Silver Award. She encouraged us to keep going, and our Eco Church Champion Mike Buckland gave a filmed interview about the award to add to the programme.

The ideas being shared and promoted through the Earthrise series are exciting and hopeful, and maybe by being singled out as a filming location and hearing Bishop Olivia speak we in our Parish can be revitalised in our efforts to, as she said in her Dismissal

**"Tend the earth, care for God's good creation,
And bring forth the fruits of righteousness"**

Sheila Williams



THE BIG QUIZ NIGHT: Saturday 19th November

BIG QUIZ NIGHT

On Saturday 19th November, hundreds of churches and thousands of people will unite for the Big Quiz Night, which gets much needed funds to some of the poorest people in the world. We are taking part again this year, in St Mary's Church Centre. Please arrive at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. You can come on your own, with friends or in a team. The maximum team size is 6. You will be allocated to a table on arrival. You can eat beforehand, bring a meal or order a takeaway to be delivered to the Centre. Please remember that nuts are not permitted on the premises. Soft drinks and nibbles will be provided.

Please bring a prize. We like to reward teams after each round, not just at the end! There is no entry fee. Tearfund request that you donate what you think the evening was worth, if possible online. We'll explain how to give nearer the time and on the night.

To book your place:

- Email: mikebuckland54@gmail.com
- Phone: 0118 940 4960 or Text: 07976767657

Mike & Angie Buckland, Ian & Li-Yen French, and the Parish Missions Team

ARE YOU IN THE KNOW?

Did you know that there are two weekly communications that the church sends out? On Wednesday, we email (and hand deliver) the Grapevine: a thought for the week from the Clergy team. Then on Thursday, we email our weekly notices letting you know what is happening this coming Sunday and news of what's on and important reminders.

Please visit our website or email Rosalyn to sign up

wargravechurch.org.uk/weeklynotices

rosalyn@wargravechurch.org.uk



JOY TO THE WORLD: ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE

It's September! The autumn term has begun. And that can only mean one thing...it's time to think about Christmas! Well, to start to plan and put a few dates in the diary.

On Sunday, December 18th at 6pm, there will be the annual Carol Service at St Marys. Last year we held the service twice to try to avoid an over-full church with rapidly rising rates of what was then a new Covid variant, and although we had rehearsed with a full choir, at the last minute it was judged to be too risky, so the 2 services went ahead with smaller masked congregations and a quartet of singers. The year before we had to cancel completely due to Covid. So it is 3 years since we were able to have our usual service overflowing with a large choir, congregation and much joy.

With much of life restored to some sense of normality, and most cases of Covid presenting with fairly mild symptoms, this year we hope to go ahead with a full choir and a packed church. So we need singers to make it a really joyful occasion.

Rehearsals will be on Friday evenings at 7pm commencing November 25th. If you enjoy singing, please consider coming along to join with the music group to be part of an enhanced choir. 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, December 18th, after the 9.45am morning service. And after the carol service there will be a party in the Old Vic to which all the singers will be invited. Who could resist!

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

NEWS FROM THE PCC

The PCC met on 11th July 2022, as Sheila Williams, PCC Secretary reports:

Reports were given on:-

- Safeguarding – administration of regular training and updating of clearances
- The appointment of Andrew Imlay and Lesley Turville as Piggott Trustees
- The appointment of Andrew Imlay as a Governor of Crazies Hill School
- Designs for a new Parish logo
- Additions to the Electoral Roll
- Progress on Eco Church initiatives, following up on the Energy Audit
- The reintroduction of the Common Cup – discussion took place and recommendations were made for how services of Holy Communion might be organised as COVID restrictions ease, whilst a degree of infection continues. It was agreed that any changes should be clearly explained by the clergy during services, and displayed on the AV screen to ensure all members of the congregation can understand the options available to them.

A Review took place of the Church led events at the recent Wargrave Village Festival. It was agreed these had all proved very successful, enjoyable and inclusive of all members of the community. It was noted that much of the organisation of these events had been undertaken by the same small group who were "not getting any younger". It was recorded that when planning for the 2024 Festival, ideally, events should be run by separate teams encouraging involvement by members from the wider congregation.

HAVE YOU MET?

Karen Lloyd

**Volunteering as a nurse with Medical Services
at Reading & Glastonbury Festivals**



From when my 3 children were 16 they attended the Reading Festival with their friends camping from Wednesday to Monday every August bank holiday. I wasn't really aware of the inner workings apart from occasionally picking them up to come home for a shower during the festival and seeing the aftermath when they finally came home on Monday: very tired from lack of sleep with hoarse voices, some interesting stories and often 'Festival Flu'.

My memory is a little unclear but I think in 2016 having been yet again unsuccessful applying for tickets to Glastonbury, I researched 'volunteering as a nurse at a festival', found Festival Medical Services (FMS) and applied.

My first event was Reading Festival in August 2016 and was a very revealing experience. The commitment is to work 2 x 8 hour shifts (8am-4pm, 4pm-8pm or midnight-8am). FMS consist of emergency Drs/GPs/psychiatrists, nurses (mostly with experience of trauma or who can prescribe medication), paramedics, first responders, physiotherapists, podiatrists, pharmacists and dentists as well as a support admin/porter crew. We camp next to the festival site with our own showers, toilets and a food tent supplying meals if you wish with 2 meal vouchers per shift and a ticket to attend the festival.

I qualified as a nurse at the end of 1980. My previous nursing experience was as a District Nurse and currently as a Practice Nurse. I am used to working on my own and in a team and have learnt to adapt to what my patient needs.

Reading festival attracts 90,000, mostly a young crowd from 16 years old who camp in 7 different fields in Richfield Ave. Looking after teenagers was a new experience for me. A lot are attending for the first time. With their friends there is a temptation to experiment with excess alcohol and recreational drugs. They like to party hard, stay up late and can find the whole experience overwhelming. We look after our patients in a large tent-like structure divided into bays by curtains, in the centre of the main part of the festival. We have all the necessary facilities for minor up to serious injuries, broken bones (there is an x-ray unit) and resuscitation equipment. There is also a smaller tent over the river via the temporary bridge in White Camp where I have worked several times which is a bit quieter than the main tent.

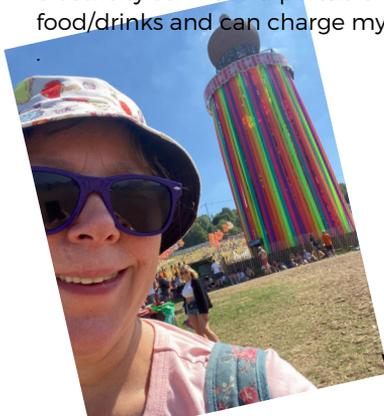
FMS started at Glastonbury in 1979 as a small presence in the Eavis farmhouse and have provided medical cover since then for every year it has taken place. It has grown to a larger charity organisation donating money to good causes (none of the volunteers are paid). They also provide medical care for several other UK festivals.

In order to volunteer at Glastonbury the requirement is usually that you have volunteered at other festivals the previous year.

I have volunteered in 2017, 2019 and this year 2022. Glastonbury is an amazing event with over 200,000 people at Worthy Farm in Pilton. For those who haven't been, it is a very large site with 100 stages, its own stone circle, interesting food vendors, promotion for several charities and many different themed fields with loads to do. There is a wonderful opening ceremony with fireworks. This year I walked 74 miles. The Iona community are present in a lovely grotto off the 'railway line' where I went when in need of a bit of peace and quiet. They welcome anyone almost 24hrs a day

Like Reading Festival, FMS have a large main tent, but also a smaller area in the middle of the festival where I worked this year, as well as a cabin for the area covering a very vibrant nightlife. This year I did 2 night shifts with a lovely team of 3 nurses and 2 GPs plus our receptionists and a porter. The night goes quickly and I enjoy getting to know my colleagues and the festival goes in need of care. You meet some very interesting people.

I enjoy taking part in festival life. It can be a tiring experience with lots of walking and standing. I camp and sleeping in a tent is not my favourite pastime especially this year as my electric blow up bed deflated every few hours! I finally treated myself to a blackout tent which was a great help for the hot weather and sleeping in the day after a night shift. We also have access to electricity so I have a portable fridge for my food/drinks and can charge my phone.



I have had the privilege of seeing some great bands over the years and there is nothing like live music, standing in a crowd singing along, taking in the atmosphere even for the unfamiliar songs I don't know the words to (or in the case of Reading many of the bands!) My favourites have been Foo Fighters, Muse, Chemical Brothers, Stormzy, Ed Sheeran, some of the bands my children like and especially the older acts at Glastonbury in the Sunday afternoon slot. This year Paul McCartney was on stage until 00.20am, having done a 3- hour set bringing on Dave Grohl and Bruce Springsteen who did a wonderful jamming session with him at the end. This year I was at the very front of the crowd by the barrier on Sunday from Diana Ross to the end with Kendrick Lamar, (not really my taste and I couldn't make out a word, though one of the stage security said that wasn't a bad thing as he could!). Kendrick had 10 men and women ballet dancers on stage so it was lovely to see them clearly.

I am not sure if I will be attending Reading this year as I am on the reserve list and my father has health issues. I have my camping things to hand and my bucket hat at the ready in case I do!

HAVE YOU MET?

SUNDAY CLUB: Would you ever pet a wolf?

Jubi Filho da Silva

"Would you ever pet a wolf?"

I asked the children at Sunday Club a couple of weeks ago. To which one of the more daring ones replied, "Yes, I would, actually... wolves are cool", completely and utterly ruining my illustration. I'm glad his parents don't have exotic pets. Then another child, certainly more sensible, pointed to the picture of a friendly lamb, against the picture of a mean looking wolf, and said,

"I'd rather pet the sheep!"

Thank you! Now I was back on track. I meant to introduce the children to the story of Saul's conversion, how God transformed him from murderous persecutor of the Church into a suffering apostle. "And why would you rather pet a sheep, you formidable young mind?" "Because they are very cute and very fluffy."

"Yes, they are! Everyone agrees with that, everyone." I said. "And their nature is docile, inoffensive, completely opposite to the wolf's nature, violent and aggressive, yes?"

I jumped to my next question before anyone would dare disagree:

"And can a wolf be transformed into a sheep?"

One may think this is too strange a question for a 6-year old but one would be mistaken. One would also think that the only reasonable and immediate reply ought to be "No, this is impossible!" but one would be mistaken again. "So, can a wolf become a sheep?"

"Yes", said one of them, looking rather calm. "We can change their DNA in a laboratory."

I prayed in silence for mercy.

Then one of them said right away, "No, this is impossible!"

And I was back on track again! The children were ready to see God do the impossible, convert Saul into Paul. And this is only one of my fun memories of Sunday Club so far. It's been really fun.

But the work takes resilience. We have seen God help us do, not the impossible, not even the difficult, but just the consistent work of following a published resource, creating some props and asking tricky questions. And here is one for you. Would you like to join us? Regardless of how fun it gets, we promise that everyone's DNA will remain the same and no wolves will be petted. We are really just tending some sheep.

Contact Annie for more details: hobden.da.silva@gmail.com

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

VICAR'S LETTER: Zebras & Wildebeest

*Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is part of it.
(1 Corinthians 12:27)*



Dear *Friends*

In 2019, our family had the unexpected privilege of seeing zebras and wildebeest migrating from the Masai Mara to the Serengeti. We witnessed thousands plunging into the river; many crossed safely but others were devoured by hopeful crocodiles. This is the largest migration in the world: more than 2 million wildebeest, zebra and gazelles migrating in a clockwise direction across the ecosystems of the Serengeti (Tanzania) and Masai Mara (Kenya).

Listening to a Kenyan it was fascinating to learn that these two herds travel together, benefitting from the others' strengths. The zebras have good eyesight but a poor sense of smell, and the wildebeest have bad eyesight but a good sense of smell. By travelling together, both are less vulnerable to predators.

Just as God makes animals with different strengths and weaknesses, he makes people in the same way and God made us to be dependent not only on Him, but also on one another. The Apostle Paul elaborated on this idea in 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31.

As believers and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, we endeavour to serve the Lord in all we do: at home or at work, with family and friends. Our churches will only be healthy and effective when we work together, when we value and use each other's gifts, and use our God-given strengths to benefit one another in our local churches and across our parish.

To that end, on Sunday, October 16th we will focus on the many opportunities we have to serve together. To do this well we'll need to pray about how we can be instruments of God's grace, encouraging one another to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, looking to how we can fill the gaps so that the good news of Jesus is clearly proclaimed. Please do join me in praying about how each one of us might do that better.

Yours in Christ.

John

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

KNOWL HILL NEWS

June and July were extremely busy months in Knowl Hill. On Thursday 2nd June we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a village party that was held in the field next to The Royal Oak pub, kindly provided by Charlotte Keeley. It was very well attended with over 200 villagers. The BBQ was kindly provided by the Village Association and 'Tom Jones' entertained us for the evening. A great time was had by all.

Another wonderful occasion was the award ceremony for the annual Knowl Hill Academy Writing Competition which took place on 23rd June in St Peter's Church. Entries were received from years 1-6 and gift tokens were given to the first, second and third places for each year. In honour of the Queen, the topic was the Queen's Jubilee with many wonderful stories received which kept the judges beautifully entertained. The Village Association kindly provided the gift tokens.



The last event for the month of June was on Wednesday 29th with the annual outdoor theatre which took place in the field next to The Grange, by kind permission of James and Lucy Pickavance. The Pantaloons treated us to their interpretation of War of the Worlds which was delightful. Fortunately the weather was kind to us although it did get chilly towards the end of the evening.



CAMEO

In July the Knowl Hill CAMEO group of about 20 enjoyed a riverboat trip from Henley down the river and back with a very interesting commentary about various aspects of the river and properties located on the river.

ELVIS NIGHT: Saturday 15th October

The next event to which everyone is welcome to attend, is our 'Elvis' night which takes place on Saturday 15th October in the village hall.

The price is £15 per head and includes a pizza supper. There will be a raffle and cash bar. Doors open at 7pm and the entertainment will start at about 7.30pm.

If you would like further details, please contact Lesley:
Mobile: 07966 178142 or email elbcarillon@gmail.com



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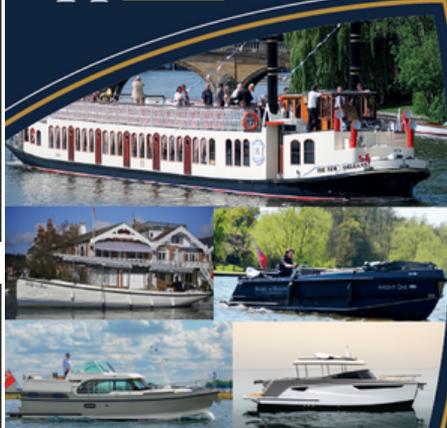
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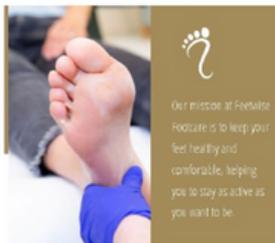
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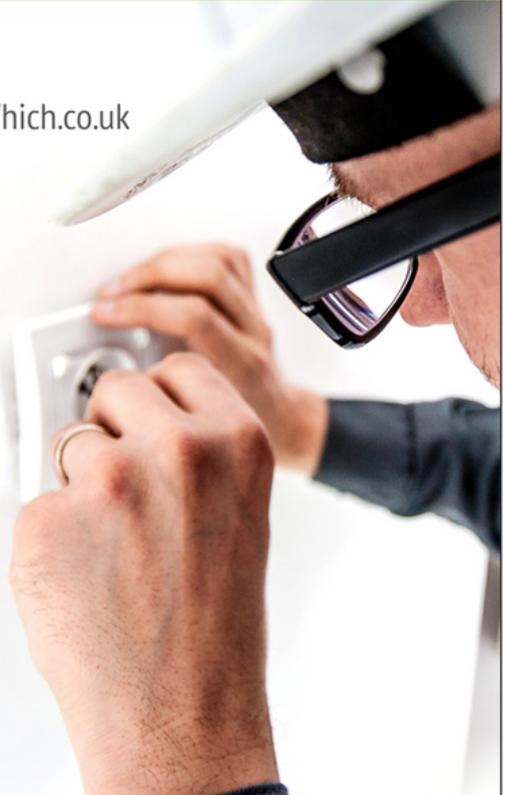
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