



St Mary's Church Wargrave

With Knowl Hill

Our vision is to be a church
at the heart of our community

Parish Magazine

September 2021



St Peter's Church Knowl Hill

With St Paul's Warren Row

News Page 24

75p

Who's Who: Parish Directory

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Vicar | The Revd. John Cook | johnrmcook@btconnect.com | 0118 940 2202 |
| Associate Minister | The Revd. Steve Turville | Stephen.turville@ntlworld.com | 0118 901 6720 |
| Curate | The Revd. Richard Eves | Richard.m.s.eves@gmail.com | 07746 383046 |
| Lay Minister | Andy Ferguson | andyferguson1@btinternet.com | 0118 940 2925 |
| PCC Secretary | Sheila Williams | sheilamarywilliams1952@gmail.com | 0118 940 3587 |
| PCC Treasurer | Jane Wills | paulandjanewills@btinternet.com | 0118 940 2030 |

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Parish Office

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|---|--|----------------------------|---------------|
| Address | St. Mary's Church, Station Road, Wargrave, Berkshire, RG10 8EU | | |
| | The Parish Office is open from 9.30am to 1.30pm on Tuesday & Wednesday | | |
| Administration | Lucy Bowley | lucy@wargravechurch.org.uk | 0118 940 2300 |
| St Mary's Wargrave Churchwardens | Ian Matthews | matthic@talk21.com | 0118 940 2049 |
| | Mark Puddy | markpuddy@btinternet.com | |
| Director of Music | Peter Dart | peter@familydart.com | 0118 940 1068 |
| St Peter's Knowl Hill Churchwarden | Sandra Baker | sbakerdalc@hotmail.co.uk | 01628 822402 |

Cover Photo

In this issue there is a fascinating abridged version of Bishop Olivia's thoughts on climate change and the perilous position we find ourselves globally. The humble bee plays a vital role in the future survival of humanity.

Church Centre Archaeology Report

A full report of the document completed by the archaeologists has now been received and can be found on the church website under 'Church Centre'... click the link to open the full document.

Copy Date for the October Magazine

Please submit contributions for the October Magazine by
Wednesday 15th September.

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 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
Magazine.

Harvest Lunch

Our Harvest lunch at St Mary's will take place on Sunday 12th September and we'd love you to join us. Won't it be wonderful to eat together and enjoy one another's company after many months of distancing?

The lunch will be held in the Church Centre at 12 noon. Tickets are £3 per person and will need to be booked in advance as we have a limit of 60 places. Please bring drinks with you. To ensure that we are as Covid safe as possible we will seat everyone and serve at tables.

Cottage pies will be served, as well as a vegetarian option, followed by crumbles. Would you like to help by providing a food, setting up for lunch, serving or clearing up afterwards? If so, please contact Camilla on:

camillacook@btconnect.com or 07939 031542.

We'd love to see you!

Sunday Services

St Mary's Wargrave

8.00am Holy Communion: a said service in traditional language

9.15am Family Service: a short informal service with children's activities

1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month:

10.30am Holy Communion in modern language with music except 4th July

2nd and 4th Sundays of the month:

10.30am Morning Worship in modern language with music

Currently music inside the church is limited to a small group of singers with the congregation humming or saying words... hopefully this restriction will be removed at the end of July.

St Peter's Knowl Hill

1st Sunday of the month

10.30am Holy Communion

3rd Sunday of the month

10.30am Village Praise

St Paul's Warren Row

2nd Sunday of the Month

9.15am Holy Communion in traditional language

Open Church

St Mary's Church is open Monday to Saturday 9.00am to 5.00pm.

Monthly Prayer Meeting

8pm on Thursday 25 September in the Church Centre. Contact Steve Turville for the link: stephen.turville@ntlworld.com

Butterflies

This group for young children and their carers will be held in the Church Centre at 9.30am on Wednesdays. This terms dates:

September 1, 15, 29; October 6, 20;

November 3, 17; December 1, 15

Welcome Café

Dates for the Welcome Café in September are Tuesdays 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 2.30pm-4.00pm in the Church Centre.

The Season of Creation



In recent years, many churches across all denominations around the world, have given a particular focus to environmental concerns during the month of September. This time of focus has become known as The Season of Creation, or Creationside. So for the Sundays of September our services will be themed around God's creation, and the responsibility God has given us to care for it.

It will include harvest festivals, (12 September at St Mary's and 19 September at St Peter's) as a time to think of our dependence on the natural world, as we give thanks to God for growth, harvest and food. Sunday 19th September at St Mary's will be 'Climate Sunday'.

Climate change is having an impact in many local areas in the UK, but in many developing countries it is catastrophic! As a society, we have a significant challenge ahead of us as we tackle the climate and biodiversity crisis. Seeking the wellbeing of God's Creation is a significant aspect of our calling as Christians as we work with God for the wellbeing of all that God has made, and we will be focussing on this during our services this September.

St Mary's Church Family Group

The Cooks and Perry's invite you to an evening of supper, chat, and quizzing (local knowledge only needed) to be held at the Church Centre, on Friday 24 September at 7.30pm.

Supper is provided but please bring your own drinks.

For catering purposes, please book by Friday 17 September by contacting Chris or Helen Perry on 0118 9403017.

Ramblin' with Bob



The next ramble will meet on Sunday 3 October at 12.30pm at The Horns in Crazies Hill. Enjoy a 4 mile walk through the pleasant undulating grazing land around Pudders Farm and the attractive woodland in Cayton Park. We shall finish with a Sunday lunch at The Horns.

If you would like to join us, please contact Bob Austen to book your place and advise whether you wish to stay for lunch.

austenrobert@hotmail.com
0118 940 3038
07970 611013

Our Curate, Richard, reflects on the meaning of Welcome

Since we moved into the parish just over a month ago, we've been on the receiving end of huge amounts of welcoming. From food and cards through the letterbox, to friendly knocks on the door, to ladders lent and children minded, everyone has gone to huge lengths to make us feel welcome.

Thank you, each and every one of you, for welcoming us.

But all of this has got me wondering about the nature of welcoming. What is it that moves an entire community - in word and in deed - to welcome? Why should an entire community come together to say, in effect, 'Even though you're new here and we know you only a very little, you're one of us, and you're at home among us'?



For many of us, welcoming like this isn't something that comes naturally. When someone new comes into our lives, we can want them to demonstrate that they will fit in, that they've got something valuable to contribute, and that they appropriately respect the community as it is, before we will give them a whole hearted welcome.

By contrast, Christians have always insisted that welcoming newcomers is an obligation for the Lord's people - an obligation which rests on two biblical convictions.

The first conviction is that of the Providence of God is the reality that God who created and sustains all things also orders them according to his own good purposes. Everyone who enters into our sphere of acquaintances - and into our communities more broadly - is there according to the will of God. As Christians we are commanded to love our neighbours, but this is not some mechanistic policy position towards anyone who may happen to cross our paths. Rather, it is the recognition that on any given day, every meeting we have with another human being is deliberately tailored to give us the opportunity to love, and to serve, and to welcome. The writer to the Hebrews encourages his readers not to give up showing hospitality to strangers, "*for by doing so some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.*" No doubt a reference to this happening to Abraham and to Lot as recorded in the book of Genesis, the writer is reminding us that there is always a purpose to our meetings, be they with angels or not!

The second conviction that has funded the Christian commitment to welcoming is the example of how God has treated his people in Christ. "*Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*" In our sin, we don't 'fit in' with God's community, and we have nothing to contribute to it. Neither do we appropriately respect his community as it is. Yet, the nature of our magnificent God is that despite all of this, in Christ he welcomes us.

Thank you so much to all those who have welcomed us so well over the last month. In doing so you have shown us, just a little bit more, the character of our wonderful God.

"...what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, His power and the wonders He has done."

Psalm 78:3-4



Dear friends,

Many of you will be aware of discussions over the last year which have looked to address our strategic priority of **reaching young families and children for Christ**.

As a next stage in these discussions, we are reviewing our current arrangements for Sunday services so we can make our provision better for the whole church family in Wargrave and for those who do not yet attend church.

Due to the restrictions of space in the pandemic, an additional short 30-minute service at 9.15am was set up specifically for families with children. One of the decisions to be made is whether this continues, whether we revert to our previous pattern but with changes, to make it more accessible to all, or whether there are other new patterns to consider.

To this end we are going to hold a number of consultations for each one of us to input into this discussion. These consultations will be held between the 9.15 am and 10.30 am services on Sundays during September. Coffee will be provided at this time. In advance of these meetings would you take time to reflect and pray about the services at St Mary's: thinking about start time, number of services and style, amongst other things.

We would value your thoughtful consideration of the following two questions regarding the current services (8am, 9.15am and 10.30am):

1. What went well (WWW)?
2. Even better if (EBI)?

Under the latter question, please think about what you would want to introduce, what you would change and any elements that you would want to remove.

Whilst we really do want to hear your individual thoughts, please consider the whole provision for God's family here in Wargrave, bearing in mind services which will be relevant and accessible to those who currently do not attend church.

Please do use the chart at the end of this letter to focus your thinking. We'll be asking for a maximum of three points for each area.

There will be forms in church for you to fill in, in advance of September. Do take time to talk and pray through these areas with other members of the church family. Above all, please pray that the Lord's will would be done and that we would see his Kingdom grow here in Wargrave.

Yours in Christ,

John Cook

What Went Well...

1.

2.

3.

Even Better If...

1.

2.

3.

Sunday Afternoons with Ramblin' Bob by Jane Austen



The Happy Ramblers

On Sunday 4 July a group of nine of us met up at the small Victorian Gothic church at Remenham to follow the Thames Path from Remenham to Aston and back through the fields of the Greenlands Estate. Our numbers were unfortunately reduced due to a number of our party unable to get past a boat that blocked Church Lane and so were left high and dry!

As with most of Bob's rambles, the weather was fine and dry despite a gloomy weather forecast, and Bob's assertion that

the sun always shines on the righteous rang true! We walked past a large group of women rowers competing in the Henley Regatta; the river was alive with activity! This is a lovely stretch with great views of lovely houses and the Chiltern hills beyond.

The return leg was across the fields and meadows of the Greenlands Estate with its commanding views of the Thames Valley and acres of unspoilt countryside. We could have walked this path 50 years ago and nothing would have changed; we are so fortunate to be able to enjoy this on our doorstep.

Bob's rambles are a great way of getting out and about in the company of good friends and hopefully the pandemic will not return to deter us in the future! If you would like to join Bob's circulation list, just email austenrobert@hotmail.com

"Yes, we are just praying now!" Our First Family Group Event

Friday 30 July, 5:30pm and the heavens opened. Proper chucking it down with rain. Liz and Sean (Sutcliffe) had kindly offered to host a BBQ at 7:30pm to kick-start the St Mary's Church Family Group events programme once again. And now the weather was against us.

But Liz & Sean are made of tougher stuff and not easily put off by a few storm clouds overhead! I think they received a few concerned enquiries "is it still going ahead"? And back came the certain reply above...a definite "yes" and prayers were being said!

And so the storm cleared up, and yes it did stay dry. How lovely it was to see one another again, to catch up and share our news while sitting outside and admiring the view and enjoying the summer evening.

We were very well fed as you'd expect with Sean busy at the BB folk bringing salads and puddings as well. A chance to sample fresh salad from allotments and even home made meringues (delicious).



Liz and Sean - No rain on their parade

News from the PCC by Sheila Williams

The newly elected PCC met for the first time back in the St Mary's Church Centre on 19th July. It was so good to be able to talk face to face after so many months of Zoom meetings, and it was felt by all that the discussions were able to flow more easily, and more fruitfully.

- **EXCITING NEWS** - from Knowl Hill who have received a partial faculty (approval from the Diocese) for their building plans. Now the serious work of obtaining funding can start and the PCC prayed for the success of Churchwarden Sandra Baker in her endeavours.
- **SAD NEWS** - that Bob Austen and Linda Caradine have, for personal reasons retired from the PCC after many, many years of loyal service to the Parish. Their contributions, enthusiasm and expertise will be missed by their colleagues.
- **STRATEGIC PRIORITY NEWS** – John Cook addressed the PCC on their particular challenge for the year – nurturing families and children within the congregation. Small groups then met to discuss and suggest plans for the timing of services at St Mary's to best serve the particular needs of this section of the congregation whilst continuing to provide for all members of the church family.
- **COVID NEWS** – yes, we are still discussing this – but this time the PCC were discussing how to move on with the relaxation of restrictions being announced. Coming to services you will now find that you don't need to sign in, you can sing, you can have coffee and socialise after the 10.30 service and you can sit closer together in the body of the Church. However, you will still need to wear a mask, and for those who feel less comfortable, distanced seating will still be available in St Mary's in the South Aisle and the chairs at the back of the Church. All attending Church are asked to be sensible and considerate – who can argue with that!
- **NEW** – Richard Eves joined the PCC Meeting for the first time, and was given the surprise role of providing a Closing Prayer. He rose to the occasion well by not only thanking God for being with the group in their deliberations, but also asking for His wisdom and guidance in future conversations as plans are made to build up the Churches in Wargrave and Knowl Hill. All said Amen to this.

September Awareness and Special Events (please Google for more information)

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Oddfellows Friendship Month

World Alzheimer's Month

Organic Awareness Month

3 September - National Doodle Day

6 September - Read a Book Day

7 September - Youth Mental Health Day

10-19 September - Heritage Open Days (there may be local events near you)

17-22 September - Great British Beach Clean Up

20-26 September - Recycle Week

21 September - International Peace Day

29 September - World Heart Day

The Bells are Back! By John Coombes

As I climbed the stairs up to the tower, I thought it is good to be back ringing bells again at Wargrave. The sound of church bells ringing out their melodies is special; many people tell us how pleased they are to hear the bells again after our restart in May this year.

It was in March 2020 that the Wargrave ringers had their last Wednesday evening practice before lockdown. Following the announcement of lockdown, it became a lot quieter for some Wargrave residents.

Some of our ringers managed to take part in “Ringing Room” (a computerised software package that simulates normal ringing in a tower). The software system enables a ringer to take part in a virtual tower with each participant being assigned a bell and able to hear both their own and the other bells as they pressed a key. I found it a difficult skill to acquire but several of our team managed it very successfully. The “Ringing Room” package was used by people across the world to maintain the bell ringing method skills.



The first time we rang for a service, during the last sixteen months, was for a wedding in July 2020 when 4 bells were rung by two family pairs which was the maximum allowed. It was nearly another twelve months before a wedding took place, quickly followed by 3 more weddings. Each with 6 bells being rung. We also rang for Prince Philip's passing in April and have now been ringing regularly for the Sunday 10.30 service.

The bell ringers at Wargrave are a small group currently nominally 11 registered people of which two are no longer able to ring regularly. The ringers are not traditionally known as church going members; the story goes that they went to the pub after Sunday ringing when the service was held. It would be great if you could come and give it a try or help with administration/maintenance. All ages are welcome, and you don't have to guarantee attendance each week.

A few questions for you:

- Do you know where the bells are and how to get to them?
- Have you been up and seen the ringers in action?
- When you listen to the bells can you tell how many ringers there are?
- What methods are they ringing?

Come and visit us in the tower to find out.

Contact John Coombes for further information:
0118 940 2937 / johncoombes@aol.com

Our Grandson is Baptised by Andy Ferguson

Janet and I were delighted that Rachel and James decided to have our grandson, Luca, baptised at St Mary's on 25 July, the day before his 1st birthday.

We think, because of covid, that it's the first baptism to be held in the parish for over a year and it brings to mind the importance of celebrating life events. Now that Luca has been signed with the sign of the cross, something that can never be removed, we pray that it will take root and that he and his sisters, Etta and Nia, will be faithful soldiers and servants of Jesus.

After the baptism it was good to meet with godparents and their families for lunch at Rachel and James's home in Charvil and to do so without many covid restrictions.

If you are a parent and your children have not been baptised, why not consider taking this step on their behalf? If you are grandparents, why not suggest it to your children? A Christian upbringing lasts forever.

I have had confirmations of this in the last month. I was visiting a patient at the Royal Berkshire Hospital and his son, now aged 40, turned up. His comment to me was: "I remember you. It's Andy isn't it? I remember you from TOFSS (Too Old For Sunday School) and still remember some of the things that we learned 25 years ago."

Similarly, I bumped into two parishioners at H'Artisan who were with their grown up granddaughter who was visiting from Chicago and she was reminded: "This is Andy. He and John Ratings christened you when you were a baby."

Life events stay with us for life!



A smiling Luca at his Christening

A New Churchwarden is in Town



In the time since the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in July when I became a churchwarden, I have been finding out what goes on behind the scenes of St Mary's, much like a Blue Peter presenter, and there is much more to it than three services on a Sunday.

I had fondly thought that reducing my commitment at the surgery would free up more time for other things. However, in this new role, as well as regular meetings, "other things" have included going up the bell tower, down into the cellars, into the office, the Church Centre, Hannen Room and the graveyard, all the while speaking to the people- clergy, employees and lay people- who manage each aspect.

I was amazed to hear that there are more than 100 people in the village and beyond who are on some rota or part of a team to ensure that all the tasks in the services and behind the scenes run smoothly, glorifying our Lord.

I see that our church is a collection of beautiful buildings, historic and modern, which need to be cherished for future generations, and it is also a vibrant community of people sharing their enthusiasm and love for our Lord, and for St Mary's.

Coming out of the Covid disruption to our normal pattern of worship gives us all an opportunity to re-evaluate how we can help and share the responsibility to bring our much-loved church into the centre of our local community. We need to talk!

This is already starting with discussions about the future format of Sunday services, when we want to hear what you to have your say on Sunday mornings throughout September. However, we also need to be open to how the Lord moves us to use our personal gifts and time. If you want to discuss things further, please let me know at markpuddy@btinternet.com

Seniors Helping Seniors® A Different Way of Looking at Elderly Care

Getting older isn't always easy, especially when the body or mind begins to fail. People want to stay in their own homes, they value their independence but they may also want a little companionship and help with some of their tasks. People can also lose confidence, especially after a diagnosis or a long time alone, and having the same trusted person by their side to help keep appointments and make plans is liberating.

Seniors Helping Seniors is an in-home service which meets this need perfectly, matching caring seniors who want to provide help with seniors who are looking for help.

"As our senior community grows, it just makes sense to bring seniors together," said Steve Cowley, who co-owns the Windsor and Maidenhead office with his wife, Lynn. "It's so much easier to receive assistance from someone that you feel really does understand what you're going through and can relate to the issues you're dealing with."

Seniors Helping Seniors provides a full-range of home care, companion and home maintenance support services, all of which are 100 percent non-medical. Steve added "There's a need right now for caregivers within our community. It's not necessary to be a professional carer either, we are looking for loving, caring, giving personalities, and experience in caring can simply be caring for friends or loved ones."

"The most rewarding part is knowing that in some way, we've made a difference in somebody's day. We've helped them live independently and stay in their homes. We think that's where people are the healthiest and happiest, surrounded by their own things and their own memories."

If you are interested in finding out more about working with Seniors Helping Seniors contact Steve on 01628 302 132 or visit www.seniorshelpingseniors.co.uk.



Meet Richard Eves by Jayne Trolley

Wargrave has been blessed with the arrival of our new Curate Richard and his family Mel and little Alice. But who is he, and what brought him here?

Richard grew up in Oxted, Surrey in a Christian household. He moved conventionally through his education arriving at University in Bristol, where he read Chemistry. He told me, “Chemistry for me is the centre of science; it has the most explanatory powers – its about making things”, which he clearly enjoyed, as it took him onto study for his master’s degree in drug design.

However, he found this a lonely experience, spending too long in the laboratory, developing exponentially his analytical and methodical thinking, at the expense of his creative, emotional, and energetic nature. Understanding God was always with him, guiding him and he felt the need to take a year out to explore his thoughts. He joined the Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship where, as an intern, he met his wife to be Mel and his life changed.



Richard with his wife Mel at his Ordination

Knowing who he wanted to be with, when she found work in Oxford, meant he knew that was where he wanted to be too. Finding work there in software sales, he developed a more rounded skill set, and became very involved in his local church. It was then he thought, “wouldn’t it be great if I could take all my energy, time and potential and put it into what I love? Serving God”.

A trainee spot as a lay worker came his way through “the kindness of God” and this led onto his decision to become ordained in the Church of England. His 18 months before coming to Wargrave were spent in North London learning to be a servant of the Church leading him here to Wargrave and his first Curacy.

Now with a one-year-old relaxation for he and Mel has become a thing of the past, but his hopes for the future are clear. “In Wargrave I will spend the next four years learning from everyone and trying to serve the Lord better. I wake up each day appreciating the “works of service” I have committed to so I can help others to love God more. We are so lucky to be here, and I look forward to where God takes me.”

Baptism of Joanna Margaret by Rosie Creedon

On Mothering Sunday four years ago my grandson, Isaac, was baptised in St Mary's. He now has a sister, Joanna Margaret, who is 18 months.

Being born shortly before the first pandemic lockdown, we had to wait for her baptism, but this finally took place in August on a Saturday rather than within a Sunday morning service.

The service was taken by Joanna's great grandfather, Bob Whiteley. Bob has conducted many special services for family members over the years including my wedding, Rachel's baptism and many years later, in St Mary's church, the wedding of Rachel and Jason, Isaac's baptism, and now Joanna's baptism.

What a special occasion this was. She was unwell prior to the service, but much praying went on, and thankfully she was well enough on the day. After being signed with the cross and

baptised with the water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, she was entranced as her baptism candle was lit, along with Isaac's baptism candle which was re-lit as a reminder of his baptism as a baby. The words, "You have received the light of Christ, walk in this light all the days of your life. Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father," are a reminder to us all.

The Bible reading was the parable of the kingdom of God likened to a mustard seed (Mark 4 30-34), the smallest seed which grows to be the biggest of all garden plants. Bob spoke on this, and about her name: 'Joanna' means 'God is gracious' and in his gospel, Luke names Joanna as one of the first witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus. 'Margaret,' her great-grandmother's name, means 'Pearl' and in Matthew's gospel we hear of the kingdom of heaven likened to a merchant in search of fine pearls, who on finding one of great price sells all he has to buy it.

Please pray for Rachel and Jason as they bring up Isaac and Joanna in the Christian faith, encouraging them to come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. God has been gracious in giving the gift of these precious children. May they, and each one of us, seek God's kingdom, 'the pearl of great price' and walk in Christ's light all the days of our lives, shining as a light to the glory of God the Father.





Young Christians' Relay Walk to COP26 By Mike Buckland

The Young Christians Climate Network relay walk began at Carbis Bay in Cornwall on 14th June, outside the G7 Summit, and aims to reach to Glasgow on 30th October before COP26, the world leaders' conference on climate change in November. For details, including a map, visit www.yccn.uk/.

The walk is a pilgrimage for God's world in the climate emergency. Specifically, the YCCN is calling on the UK Government to:

1. Reinstate the foreign aid budget to pre-COVID levels.
2. Secure agreement from rich countries to double the commitment of \$100bn a year for climate finance.
3. Develop with other governments and international agencies a regulated climate loss and damage mechanism which saves lives and livelihoods.
4. Push for the debts of the world's poorest countries to be cancelled so they can better confront the climate crisis and other urgent priorities.

The walk is a logistical challenge that would tax experienced project managers. It is stopping at churches and cathedrals on the way. Churches not on the route have been invited to form a 'tributary', meeting the main walk ('river') as it follows rivers and canal towpaths as much as possible. A group from our church met them as it followed the Loddon through our parish.

A flag on a boat's mast top is going every step of the way. A boat made from repurposed materials is displayed at key points, to symbolise the fact that we (the rich and poor) are 'in the same storm but not in the same boat'. I saw it at Reading Minster on 31st July before the walk continued to Twyford. I drove the walkers' bags to Wargrave. Rosie Creedon took them to St Mary's Twyford.



Young Christians' Relay Walk to COP26 (cont'd)

Each section of the walk has a local organiser. Beth Cook, an A Level student at Ranelagh, organised and walked the route from Reading to London – a prodigious achievement even with help. She was accompanied to Twyford by Olivia Bishop of Reading, who had walked from Aldermaston. 14 of us from St Mary's Wargrave joined them on Loddon Drive – a mere six-mile round trip to Twyford and back for us. Angie had made a beautiful banner which says "St Mary's Wargrave Cares". St Mary's Twyford laid on a superb welcome tea, to which some of us contributed.



Angie and I left the walk at Twyford, with Ruby our labrador, to celebrate our wedding anniversary at the Horse and Groom in Hare Hatch. On Sunday 1st August, I drove the walkers' bags to St Agnes Windsor, where a roast dinner awaited them.

Don't miss the interviews with Bishop Olivia and Beth on Radio Berkshire. You'll find it if you scroll down the page at <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/follow-the-yccn-relay>.



Sermon by Bishop Olivia on COP26

Given at a climate justice service at Reading Minster on 31 July 2021, to mark the Young Christian Climate Network during their Relay to COP26.

This is an abridged version.



This is a journey of protest and advocacy - about passing on the baton of responsibility given to us by God for the care of God's creation and passed down the generations.

My generation has mucked this up badly. We must:

- Stand with the young to witness together the damage done, and work for climate justice and a more sustainable way of living
- Stand with those who already bear the cost of climate change, whose lives and livelihoods have been destroyed, while they contributed very little to the root causes
- Be motivated by love - for God, for our brothers and sisters across the world, and for creation.

A stark picture

Numbers present a stark picture of the effect we are having as we head for more than 1.5 degrees of planetary warming. In the last 50 years:

- About 50% of the world's animals have been lost
- Of the mammals left on Earth, only 4% are wild mammals, 36% are humans, and 60% are livestock
- 70% of all birds on the planet are now poultry
- Insects have declined by 75%
- 75% of the crop types we grow rely on insect pollination

Climate finance

COP26 cannot afford to fail, and getting global agreement commitment to finance developing countries, is crucial to meet the costs of mitigation and adaptation; to pay for the lost and damage which they are experiencing as a result of climate change.

Sermon by Bishop Olivia on COP26 (cont'd)

They are trying to develop their economies and raise the standards of living for their populations, but don't have the money to pay for green development, or for the loss and damage caused by our decades of inaction.

Justice

How to put social justice at the heart of the conversation is one of the defining questions of our era – brilliantly highlighted by this Relay. The YCCN asks for four things:

1. Reinstate the foreign aid budget to 0.7% of national income.
2. Get firm agreement from rich countries to double to commitment of \$100bn a year for climate finance.
3. Work with other governments and international organisations to develop a loss and damage mechanism.
4. Push for the debts of the world's poorest countries to be cancelled.

The costs of climate change are not evenly spread. According to the IPCC, climate change will not only affect the different regions of the world different, but also different generations and genders. The poorest population will be most affected. 70% of this population, according to the UN, are women, and a large percentage are young women.

Raise your voice

The Bible paints a picture of a God who is very keen on justice. As people of faith, we have a responsibility to raise our voices for those who cannot and have a responsibility for our own actions and the example we set.

At its heart, we are dealing with spiritual issues. We have disrupted the ecological balance of all that God created on Earth, and we owe it to God and to each other and to all the species we share the planet with to restore the balance.

A senior academic scientist recently said:

"I used to think that the top global environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought that with 30 years of good science we could address these problems, but I was wrong. The top environment problems are selfishness, greed and apathy, and to deal with these we need a spiritual and cultural transformation. And we scientists don't know how to do that."



Reading Minster - Boat & Boots

But we people of faith know how to do that. This is the greatest physical and spiritual challenge humanity has ever faced. And we have the tools and the understanding to go right to the heart of it.

Sermon by Bishop Olivia on COP26 (cont'd)

Time to change

We can make choices which are good not bad for the environment:

- Consume in moderation. How much do I need, as opposed to want?
- Be farsighted - so we see the effects of our actions, or the consequences of our inactions now.
- Don't lose hope. We can do this if we act now. If we act personally, locally, nationally and globally, and if we each play our part.

We can do this visibly and spread the word and, if enough of us do it, there is a real possibility of a critical mass leading to wider behavioural change.

So, I salute and stand in solidarity with the young Christian climate activists and all who join them. We support you, congratulate you, pray for you and thank you for what you are doing.

Amen.

The full sermon can be found at:

www.oxford.anglican.org/young-christian-climate-sermon-bishop-olivia



**Wargrave YCCN tributary gather
at Mill Green**

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Simple Tips on How to Live Lightly on God's Earth

"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it; the world, and all who live in it."

(Psalm 24:1)

6 – MOBILE PHONES, TABLETS, iPADS & COMPUTERS

This is the sixth in our series of tips. We looked at shopping in March, gardening in April, avoiding and managing waste in May, our kitchens and bathrooms in June, and travel in July/August.

This month, Ian Butterick, former Manager of PC Support at Oracle UK, looks at information technology:

- Don't overcharge batteries or run them flat. Keeping your phones and portable devices charged between 20% and 80% prolongs battery life.
- Charge devices during the day when the national grid can make maximum use of solar energy farms.
- Switching your devices off or putting them into airplane mode reduces the charging time because it turns off all radio frequencies.
- Devices look for other devices when bluetooth and data are on. Turn them off when you are not using them, and reduce the screen brightness, especially after dark. These steps save energy and prolong battery life.



Use a dark theme on your computer, phone and tablet screens. This uses less energy than a white background.

Try not to leave equipment you aren't using on standby – including cookers and microwaves. Leaving them on at night and when you are away is a waste of energy and can be a fire hazard.

Use the Ecosia search engine to plant trees. Ecosia are forestry pioneers in Germany. Their YouTube channel is interesting. (Ed: Barbara Ratings knows people who are involved.)

Consider a solar charger or solar powered battery pack for charging your phone. Use a solar powered keyboard for your computer.

Most newspapers, magazines and books are available online or on your tablet. Reading them this way saves paper and is often free at libraries.

Keep products for as long as you can. When you switch, resell or donate any that are usable or valuable. Sell newer devices as 'used' on an e-commerce web site such as eBay.

More tips next month!

The Humbling Process of Moving Overseas by Tim Perry

“who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.”

Philippians 2:6-7, NIV

One of the first tasks cross-cultural workers face when arriving in a new assignment location is adapting to a new culture. In Central Asia I've been doing that over the past few months. The most celebrated aspect of this process is language learning.

This experience can be very humbling. In our home country we have friends. We are known. We are respected by others – whether that be in our workplace, church, social circles or elsewhere. People know who we are and what we are good at. Our identity should be based on who we are in Christ, but it is also shaped by our status in many other areas of life.

Moving to another culture is often likened to becoming a baby again. No-one knows who we are. We can't speak or understand the language of the locals around us – limiting our interaction with them. We have no reputation. We don't know the way around, the cultural rules and norms, and basic tasks that we do instinctively at home become a challenge.

The move from “well-known and respected” to “unknown and anonymous” is humbling. But it is nothing compared with what Jesus went through.

The King of the universe become a baby. The eternal second person of the Trinity took on human flesh. No one around him really knew who he was. He was of no reputation, value – and this was before he endured the shame and humiliation of the cross.

As I restart life here in Central Asia, I have been humbled and reminded of Jesus' example in humility. I shouldn't feel like I have to impress people, have it all together, or flourish from day one. Jesus didn't do these things – and neither should we as his followers.

A final thought: how can I even begin to introduce Jesus to my local friends if I don't make myself nothing? If they look at who I am and my own reputation, how will they see their need for Jesus?



Come and Make a Joyful Noise with the Music Group



A big thank you to the Music Group for their commitment this year as we have continued to lead the singing in the 10.30 service as well as recording for the online services earlier in the pandemic. Now the congregation can sing again in church, it reminds us how wonderful it is, in the words of Psalm 100, to 'make a joyful noise unto the Lord.' Psalm 96 says 'Sing unto the Lord a new song,' so we are going to set about learning some new worship songs and hymns to add to our repertoire.

We are introducing some 1 hour rehearsals on Saturday mornings between 0930 and 1030 in the church, which we hope will give us time to try out new songs as well as rehearse what is needed for the next service. With pressure off the pre-service rehearsal we also are planning to introduce a short time of singing as people arrive before the Sunday 10.30 service to create a welcoming and worshipful atmosphere.

We would love you to get involved - all tuneful voices are welcome, although as always, we especially need tenors and basses. More instrumentalists, particularly a trumpeter and other wind players, as well as drummers are most welcome. Psalm 150 calls on the people of God to praise Him with a multitude of instruments, including clashing cymbals!

We also need extra singers to form an enhanced choir for two special occasions. In November we will start rehearsing for the Carol Service on Sunday December 19th at 6pm. And this year, as the brass band for Remembrance Sunday will only play outside, we would like to have an enhanced choir for the service inside church.

Please consider, as we start the new term in September, coming to join us. It's not all hard work! As well as enjoying making music together, we have some social events such as the Choir Christmas Dinner (next one on Saturday January 15th 2022 in the Church Centre.) And some of us will also be going to the Royal Albert Hall on Monday Dec 13th to hear the Royal Choral Society sing their Christmas Concert - booking is already open.

To find out more, contact the Director of Music, Peter Dart (peter@familydart.com) or the Music Group Manager (rosiecreedon@btinternet.com).

Thank you, from Peter, Rosie and Ian.

St Peter's Update by Sandra Baker

Hurrah - we have finally received the provisional Faculty (permission) for the work at St. Peter's so I am busily applying for grants in all directions. Thanks very much to everyone who responded to our recent letter asking for donations towards the day to day running of St. Peter's. We have so far received £1240 which is a wonderful result.

We recently had a surprise visitor at St. Peter's. Hugo has been very curious about our church according to his owner (this is the second time he has visited). He met Jim Hadden, Vicar John Cook, Valda Hadden, Richard Eves, our new Curate, and me. Like Hugo many of us may be curious but a little nervous of entering the church doors but let me assure you that St. Peter's is a very friendly church with a 45 minute service at 10.30 am on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Hope to see you there one day.



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Parish Registers

Funerals & Cremations

- 5th June Brenda Tarney & Robert Tarney, interment at The New Cemetery
- 22nd July Thomas 'Eric' Crewe aged 92, Burial at The New Cemetery
- 26th July Nicholas John Bushnell aged 78 Cremation Service at Reading followed by Memorial Service in St Mary's

Weddings at St Mary's

- 26th June Joana Figueira and Thomas Smith
- 26th June Jessica Turner and Dominic Rose
- 11th July Amy Jones and Geri Nicosia
- 24th July Alexandra DeJongh and Alessandro Pecorari

Baptisms at St Mary's

- 4th July Fallon Melodie Rose Pipe
- 24th July Luca Thomas Arpino

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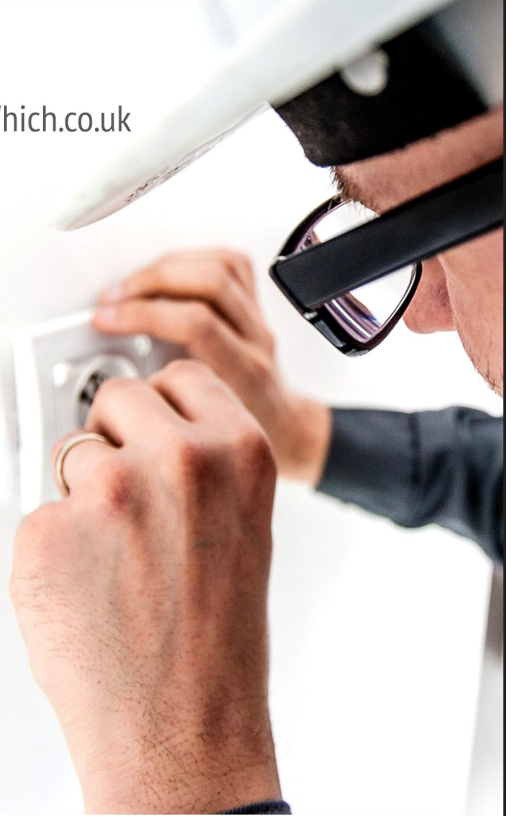
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