

PARISH

MAGAZINE



From the Editorial Team

Our magazine this month features the seminar on Funeral Planning.

The photograph on the front page shows us that new life comes from death, just as the Bible promises us that we will rise again at the last. However, our earthly destination is one day to die, which comes before resurrection.

Planning for this day, including our own funeral, will make life easier for our, we hope, grieving relatives. As with everything in life, preparation pays.

Mark

MARK PUDDY | MAGAZINE EDITORIAL TEAM

Scan the QR to send photos or articles for next magazine via WhatsApp



magazine@wargravechurch.org.uk

March copy date:

Wednesday 17th April 2024

FROM DEATH TO LIFE

Our churchyards and cemetery are not just where our loved ones are interred, but are peaceful places where the wilding zones encourage new life to be fostered. Over the last few years, flowers and insects have flourished. Life is not neat, and all God's creation cannot be constrained in neat lines. We see amongst death, God's creation, and as all the biodiversity proliferates, we give praise to God for all his gifts to us.



St Mary's Churchyard

MY FUNERAL PLANS

One of the best ways we can take stress away from our loved ones when they are having to arrange our funeral, is for us to have written somewhere for them a plan of the things we like – for the hymns, music, bible passages and other readings that are special to us.

To know that their loved one has already chosen what type of funeral they want, and chosen the content means that they don't have to worry about that when they are going through the process of bereavement.

So, on **Saturday 27th April** 9.30am - 12 noon in St Marys Church Centre, we will have a morning of planning our own funerals. We will listen to popular funeral music and hymns, and popular funeral readings from the Bible and elsewhere.

The aim of the morning will be to come away with your funeral service planned and written down for you to keep, ready for when it's needed. If you'd like to come along, please email or call the Parish Office on 0118 940 2300 or sign up at the back of church.

27
APR

St Mary's
Church Centre

9.30AM



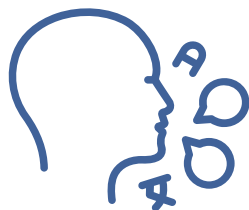
Top: St Peter's, Knowl Hill
Bottom: Wargrave Chalkpit Cemetery

MISSION PARTNERS

The church family of St Mary's and St Peter's have a responsibility to the local community and also to the wider Christian Church. The Great Commission of Jesus, spoken to his followers before His ascension, was to go into all the world and make disciples and this we seek to do by supporting mission outreach in the support of two "home grown" missionaries and four organisations.



INDIVIDUALS ABROAD



'Thomas', whose parents are part of our congregation, lives in Central Asia supporting language development and translation work.

He is currently researching a minority language's structure, teaching English to local colleagues and enjoys meeting up with local friends for interesting spiritual conversations.

Nicky and Len Biaukula, with their children Jed, Clementine and Aria, work with YWAM (Youth With A Mission) in Osaka, Japan.

They run schools to disciple young people from around the world and train them in mission.

They're also involved in community projects such as English conversation classes, community meals, worship and relational evangelism.



For more information about how we support them, contact Sue Witney
sue@wargravechurch.org.uk

LOCAL



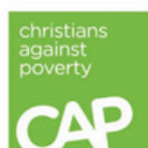
Since 1977, **Yeldall Manor**, in 38 acres at the junction of Blakes Lane and Tag Lane has been a home for men of all faiths and who are recovering from addictions, offering them a Christian rehabilitation programme. We have supported them for over 30 years, and members of our clergy and congregation are frequent visitors.

Their annual Open Day is an afternoon of fun and celebration. This year it's on 29th June. Save the date!

For more information, email Kieran Jolly or visit yeldall.org.uk

kieranjolly@gmail.com

LOCAL



Christians Against Poverty has provided free professional debt help through local churches across the UK since 1996. We support the Henley branch financially and invite you to apply to accompany staff on client visits.

CAP is currently looking for a unique individual to join their team as a CAP Debt Coach, who will be working with people within the Henley, Wargrave and surrounding areas. The role is part-time and flexible.

For more information, contact Sue Witney or visit capuk.org.

07769704647
sue@wargravechurch.org.uk

NATIONAL



Care for the environment is an important strand of mission, and it's A Rocha's area of expertise. They run conservation projects all over the world.



Starting this year, we support **A Rocha UK**, who manage the **Eco Church** programme. We were rated silver in 2021. A plaque commemorates this in our lych gate. The judges work independently of A Rocha.

For more information, email Mike Buckland or visit arocha.org.uk

stewarding@wargravechurch.org.uk

GLOBAL



Following Jesus where the need is greatest

We have supported **Tearfund** for over 30 years as the main component of our global mission giving. Tearfund supports some of the world's poorest people through church-based partners around the world, in agriculture, the provision of clean water and safe toilets, pandemic response programmes, the reduction of plastic waste and education. We donate regularly and have raised funds for them through garden brass band concerts and their Big Quiz Nights.

For more information, email Mike Buckland or visit tearfund.org

stewarding@wargravechurch.org.uk

**ECO TIP:
DOES LIFE SEEM A MESS?**



Could you consume less and buy less stuff?
Read 'God doesn't do waste' by Dave Bookless of A Rocha International



REGULAR GIVING TO THE CHURCH

SCAN QR OR VISIT
PARISHGIVING.ORG.UK

More information: Sean Sutcliffe 0118 940 1105 | sutcliffefamily1@btinternet.com



ST PETER'S PROJECT

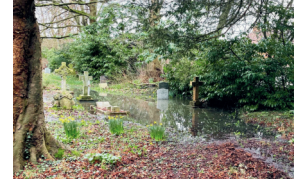
by Lesley Bell

Having received the updated faculty last summer, the project for the installation of the toilets at St Peter's finally got underway on Tuesday 20th February. The first part of the project, therefore, was to remove everything that was kept in the kitchen and which is now surrounding the font. A more permanent home will have to be found, particularly for the spare chairs.

As you can imagine, progress has been very slow due to the adverse weather we have been having. Our builders, Brian Shotton and his team will have the inside completed by Easter.

However, until we have a spell of dry weather, it will not be possible to dig a hole for the septic tank (see image bottom middle).

Hopefully pictures of the completed toilets will appear in the next issue of the magazine.



Sunday 3rd March - Welly wading

BUTTERFLIES MOTHERS' DINNER

by Camilla Cook

The Butterflies' team hosted an Italian themed three course meal this year for our wonderful young mums... and what a happy evening it was! Delicious food and more importantly good company.

I think most of our mums appreciated the opportunity to have an evening out with friends, without babes or toddlers in arms and enjoying food prepared by someone else.



The St Mary's Church Centre always looks lovely in the evening, when the tables are dressed for the occasion and the lights are reflected in the big windows. The tables looked particularly pretty, decorated with primulas, tea lights and colourful napkins.

We kicked off the evening with a 'Who am I?' ice breaker. Not that we needed an ice breaker: everyone was just pleased to have an opportunity to meet up and chat over dinner.

Aside from our regular Butterflies sessions, do look out for our 2024 Wargrave Festival event in June.



RAMBLIN' WITH BOB

Each month there is a walk around the byways of Berkshire organised by Bob Austen with fun friendship and usually some sustenance at a local hostelry. The schedule for the year below.

| | | |
|---|--|---|
|  <p>APR 28 HURLEY LOCK & TEMPLE PARK</p> |  <p>MAY 26 STROUD GREEN & GAYS LANE</p> |  <p>JUN 23 FESTIVAL RAMBLE & PICNIC</p> |
|  <p>JUL 28 STUD GREEN & BLACKBIRD LANE</p> |  <p>AUG 25 MEDMENHAM & DANESFIELD</p> |  <p>SEPT 29 HUNTS WOOD & HITCHAM LANE</p> |
|  |  <p>OCT 27 DEAN PLACE & BLACK BOY WOOD</p> |  <p>ALL WALKS MEET AT 12 NOON AT A SPECIFIC POINT FOLLOWED BY LUNCH AT THE END OF THE RAMBLE</p> |

If you would like to join Bob on the walks in the future, please contact him to be included in our notices.

Email: austenrobert@hotmail.com

Home: 0118 940 3038 or Mobile: 07970 611013

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

by Camilla Cook

In 2024, we have been deeply encouraged by God's faithfulness in fulfilling his promises reading the first 8 chapters of Joshua and His constant reminder: keep looking to him in all circumstances.

What's NEW: After Easter, we will run Pete Greig's second course on prayer, 'Unanswered Prayer'.

When: Tuesday 9th April at 9.30am for 5 weeks

Where: St Mary's Church Centre

What: Watching a video, discussion and prayer.

Who: ANYONE who has struggled over unanswered prayer

Info & Booking: Email Camilla - camillacook@btconnect.com

VICAR'S LETTER

Dear

Parish Family



Catullus was a Roman poet who captures well the bleakness of life, which many still feel today, when we faced by our own mortality: "suns may set and rise again but when once our brief light has set one unbroken night of sleep remains. "Wonderfully the death of the Lord Jesus on the cross and his resurrection physically and historically has changed this and hope in the face of death has come. This is for all who look to Jesus.

Back in the 15th Century Europeans believed that there was no land to the west of Portugal. There was a plaque in the port of Lisbon which said, "Nec plus ultra" - 'Nothing beyond this'. But then as we all learnt at school, 'In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue and he discovered America. The plaque had to be changed:

"Plus ultra" Jesus Christ - 'There is more beyond this'. The historical fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ means that we need to stretch our horizons beyond this life to the life that is to come. Just as the Americas were vast compared to Spain and Portugal, so the life to come is vast compared to the one we have. It is interesting that Charles V changed the motto for the Holy Roman Empire to "Plus ultra".

The theme of this magazine is our graveyards, and the Bible tells us what happens after death. Hebrew 9:27 tells us "man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment". In our lifetime our choice now about the Gospel leads to the irreversible destiny of heaven or hell.

I spoke with a parishioner twelve years ago about Jesus, and after lots of conversations he said to me 'I reserve my decision'. He has now died and I should have told him to choose - not to choose is to choose!

John

John R.M. Cook

Vicar of Wargrave with Knowl Hill

SUNDAY SERVICES

ST MARY'S CHURCH, WARGRAVE

| | | |
|---------------|---|--|
| 8am | Every Sunday | Holy Communion (A said service in traditional language) |
| 9.45am | 7th April 14th April 21st April 28th April | Morning Worship Short Service followed by APCM Morning Worship Holy Communion |

JUNIOR CHURCH

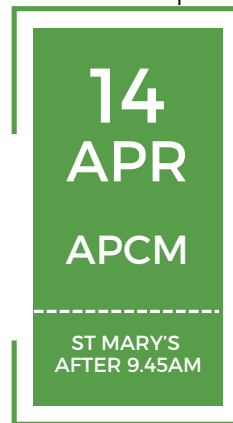
| | | |
|---------------|--------------|---|
| 9.45am | Every Sunday | 0-3 yrs Bell Tower (Crèche) 3-16 yrs Church Centre |
|---------------|--------------|---|

ST PETER'S CHURCH, KNOWL HILL

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 10.30am | 7th April 21st April | Holy Communion Holy Communion |
|----------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|

ST PAUL'S CHURCH, WARREN ROW

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|---------------|------------------------|
| 9.15am | No service due to APCM |
|---------------|------------------------|



April

DIARY EVENTS

Tuesday 2nd - Thursday 4th
3pm - Easter Holiday Film Club (CC)

Wednesday 3rd
11.45am - Monthly Prayer (CC)

Saturday 6th
9am - Ladies' Breakfast (WR)

Sunday 14th
10.15am - APCM (WR)

Thursday 18th
2.30pm - CAMEO: Dingbats (KH)

Friday 19th
6pm - Bring & Share St George's Dinner (CC)

Saturday 20th
9am - Wargrave Festival Ticket Day (Rec Ground)

Saturday 27th
9.30am - My Funeral Wishes (WR)

Sunday 28th
12 noon - Ramble with Bob
WR = Wargrave | KH = Knowl Hill | CC = Church Centre

CHURCH CENTRE BOOKINGS

Looking to hold an event in the Church Centre?
Contact Lucy in the office to discuss your requirements

LIFE EVENTS

If you are interested in holding your wedding, baptising your child or getting baptised yourself, or need to discuss funeral arrangements, please contact Lucy in the Parish Office or alternatively contact our Vicar, John Cook.

PARISH REGISTERS : WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS & FUNERALS

Baptisms at St Mary's, Wargrave

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 4th February | Sophie Hannah Eves |
| 18th February | Beatriz Elize Hobden da Silva |

Funerals at St Mary's, Wargrave

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 9th February | Roy Woodward, 83, Funeral followed by Cremation at Reading |
| 13th February | Sheila Margaret Bowes, 96, Interment of Ashes |
| 18th February | Jean Dunbar, 86, Interment of Ashes |
| 22nd February | Anthony Willima Elliott, 89, Funeral followed by Cremation at Reading |
| 23rd February | John George Fryer, 98, Interment of Ashes |
| 29th February | Jean Dunbar, 86, Thanksgiving service |

Funerals at St Peter's, Knowl Hill

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 16th February | Stephen James William Barrett, 79, Funeral and Burial |
|---------------|---|

THE PARISH OFFICE

St Mary's Church | Wargrave | Berkshire | RG10 8EU
Office - 0118 940 2300 | office@wargravechurch.org.uk
Office Hours: Monday 9.30am - 12 noon
Tuesday - Thursday | 9.30am - 1pm
Vicar - 0118 940 2202 | johnrmcook@btconnect.com
WARGRAVECHURCH.ORG.UK