

# PARISH

MAGAZINE

## WALK OF WITNESS

### A HISTORY

The Walk of Witness is a powerful public expression of Christian faith, particularly observed on Good Friday. Rooted in the tradition of processions and pilgrimages, it is a symbolic journey that recalls Jesus' path to the cross, often referred to as the Via Dolorosa or "Way of Suffering."

The practice of walking in procession to remember Christ's Passion has deep historical roots. Early Christian pilgrims in Jerusalem retraced Jesus' steps from his trial to his crucifixion, a devotion that led to the establishment of the Stations of the Cross. By the Middle Ages, this practice spread across Europe, with churches and communities enacting processions to reflect on Christ's sacrifice.

In England, the Walk of Witness became a more formalised tradition in the 20th century, particularly through the work of ecumenical groups. The emergence of Churches Together in the 1980s helped to bring different denominations together in shared acts of worship and public witness. Today, the Walk of Witness remains a significant expression of Christian unity, with congregations from various churches joining in silent reflection, prayer, and hymn-singing as they walk through towns and cities.

These processions serve not only as an act of remembrance but also as a visible declaration of faith. In an increasingly secular society, the Walk of Witness stands as a testament to the continuing relevance of the Easter story. For many participants, it is a deeply moving experience, allowing them to engage personally with the suffering and sacrifice of Christ.

Whether through solemn silence or communal song, the Walk of Witness continues to be a powerful demonstration of faith, bringing together believers of all backgrounds to reflect on the meaning of Christ's Passion and Resurrection.

### 2025 ROUTE

No, it's not the 850 bus to Reading or Henley, but the Wargrave Walk of Witness planned for Good Friday, 18th April at 10am.

As The Mount is currently closed, this year the route will be:

Top of Victoria Road/Highfield Park	Approx. Time
Junction of Fidler's Walk and Purfield Drive <i>(Bill Bookless is organising an Easter display)</i>	10am
Elizabeth Court	10.15am
St Mary's Church	10.30am
St Mary's Church Centre for Hot Cross Buns and refreshments	10.50am
	11.05am

Unlike the new Carousel Bus service, we may run a little bit late!

At each stop there will be a reading, prayer and music. Everyone is welcome, with pushchairs, prams, wheelchairs, dogs and cats on leads, parishioners bring your visitors if they are in Wargrave for Easter. It's not necessary to complete the whole route. Join in when you can!



### From the Editorial Team

It has been an eventful month, and I hope that, by the time this issue leaps from the press, things will have settled down.

Firstly, after a rigorous day of interviewing for our new Vicar, we are not yet in a position to make an announcement.

Secondly, we had a flood in the boiler room at St Mary's which shut down our central heating system and silenced the organ. We have held services in the Church Centre and adapted to the challenges.

However much goes wrong, be reassured that we are not judged, at the last, on how we have handled matters such as these, but on whether we have accepted the Good News of Jesus in our hearts.

*Mark*

MARK PUDDY | MAGAZINE EDITORIAL TEAM

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 [magazine@wargravechurch.org.uk](mailto:magazine@wargravechurch.org.uk)

May copy date:

**Wednesday 16th April**



### GIVING TO THE CHURCH



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PARISHGIVING.ORG.UK





## Dear Friends

My wife, Lesley, and I have just spent some time visiting our daughter and her family in Japan, where we thoroughly enjoyed changing nappies, trips to the shops and parks, reading bedtime stories and just being together as a family. I know many in our parish are similarly separated from their children and grandchildren. It is a hard thing.

We went to church one Sunday and spent a very uncomfortable hour hoping our 18 month old twin granddaughters wouldn't make much noise, and when they inevitably did, took them out of the room until they quietened down. I hardly heard the sermon and couldn't engage with the service. What was God showing me? I guess he was showing me what every parent of young children goes through when they come along to one of our Sunday morning services. And I think God was also saying we need to do everything we can to help our young families feel welcomed and comfortable - and never mind the noise!

Now, our thoughts are becoming more and more focussed on Easter, the high point of the Christian year. I hope that you have benefitted from the 'Come and See' Lent devotional from Oxford Diocese or perhaps another of your own choosing, that is helping you deepen your faith and prepare to celebrate Easter.

I know that Easter doesn't have the same draw as Christmas. How can a resurrection from a horrific death compete with a cute baby, angels, shepherds and wise men? But Jesus's resurrection from the dead is the claim on which all Christianity hangs. As hard as it may be to fathom, it is the turning point of all history. I hope that you will be able to join us at St Mary's or St Peter's for our Easter morning services (and other services in Holy Week too), and whether you can or cannot, I wish you and your loved ones a very blessed and Happy Easter, and pray that you will embrace the wonderful good news of new life in Jesus Christ.

With my love and prayers,

*Steve*

Reverend Steve Turville  
Associate Minister, Wargrave with Knowl Hill



# He is Risen! Hope is Alive! Hallelujah!

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER

**Maundy Thursday - 7th April**

Tenebrae Service at St Mary's - 7pm

**Good Friday - 18th April**

Walk of Witness in Wargrave - 10am  
(Starting from top of Victoria Road/Highfield Park)  
followed by *Hot Cross Buns in Church Centre*

An Hour at the Cross at St Mary's - 2pm

**Easter Sunday - 20th April**

Holy Communion (BCP) at St Mary's - 8am

Family Holy Communion at St Mary's - 9.45am  
followed by *Easter Egg Hunt*

Holy Communion at St Peter's - 11.15am

## THE EGG THAT SHARES THE EASTER STORY

by Mike Bukland

We wanted to give everyone the opportunity to purchase the Fairtrade Real Easter Eggs, so NEW for 2025, we are also selling them online (scan QR). They are selling fast, so if they are sold out when you look, please try again later.



Both eggs are palm oil and plastic free and made from either super thick milk chocolate (30% cocoa) or luxury smooth dark chocolate egg (54% cocoa). Each come with the free 24 page Easter story-activity book which has been illustrated by award winning artist Martina Peluso and contains the story of the first Easter along with some fun activities. Over its 24 pages, the story covers the final week of the life of Jesus and includes the events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The book also contains a prize competition worth £200.

These Eggs are not available to purchase from the supermarkets and are discounted through local churches buying in bulk. Demand always exceeds supply nationally, so we advise you to order sooner rather than later. Stocks levels constantly updating.



Also NEW for 2025, there are 10 Olive wood holding crosses key chains hand made by a Palestinian Christian community in Bethlehem. The Crosses and the Eggs will be available every Sunday until Easter at St Mary's or online until stocks last. For more information, please email Mike Buckland our Parish Fairtrade representative - [stewarding@wargravechurch.org.uk](mailto:stewarding@wargravechurch.org.uk)



# EASTER SUNDAY

20th April | 9.45am

## Family Holy Communion & Easter Egg Hunt

Celebrate Easter with us!

Join us on Easter Sunday as we rejoice in the risen Christ with a special family service filled with uplifting music, joyful worship, and the hope of new life.

All are welcome!



MUSIC FROM  
Kirsty Taylor-Stokes, Soprano  
Paul Speed, Trumpet  
St Mary's Music Group

# HOPE IS ALIVE

# NEWS FROM THE PARISH

## BRAHMS': A GERMAN REQUIEM

by Peter Dart

On Saturday 28 June, a special trip is being arranged for music lovers to enjoy an afternoon of tea, sandwiches and cakes at St Mary's Church Centre at 4.30pm before departing for the Anvil, Basingstoke to hear Brahms: 'A German Requiem' with the Royal Choral Society and the Academy of St Martin in the Fields.

Tickets are £10 per person for the Tea & Coach. Email [annette@familydart.com](mailto:annette@familydart.com) to reserve your space. Space is limited so reserve early to avoid disappointment.

Tickets for the Anvil are to be purchased directly from [anvilarts.org.uk](http://anvilarts.org.uk) (tickets from £22pp).



## A GENTLE STROLL TO FITNESS

### 'AMBLES WITH BOB': NEW FOR 2025

by Bob Austen

For many years, Ramblin' with Bob has been a well-loved part of our community, offering the chance to enjoy the great outdoors while sharing conversation and companionship. After facing the challenges of a stroke last year, Bob is now ready to ease back into walking - and so Ambles with Bob is born!

Recognising the importance of taking things at a steady pace, Bob is inviting anyone who would like to join him on a gentle two-mile amble **each Friday morning**. The walks will begin at **10am**, meeting at the kissing gate opposite Purfield Drive. The inaugural walk is set for **Friday 28th March**, and all are welcome to come along and share in the journey. This is not a race, nor a strenuous hike, but a chance to gradually build fitness while enjoying good company and the beauty of the countryside. For now, the distance will remain short, with the hope of extending it as time goes on. In Bob's words, it's a case of softly, softly!

If you'd like to join in, Bob would appreciate knowing in advance, though everyone is welcome to turn up on the day. Whether you're recovering from an illness, easing back into exercise, or simply fancy a friendly stroll, Ambles with Bob is a great opportunity to walk together and support one another along the way.

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Email: [austenrobert@hotmail.com](mailto:austenrobert@hotmail.com)



## INTERREGNUM UPDATE

by Mark Puddy

On a spectacularly beautiful Spring day on 19th March, we spent a very intense day with the candidate. The candidate participated in an Act of Worship with the interview panel, then gave two talks, one on the passage from Isaiah 55: 1-7 which we had chosen, and the other on how they would increase the involvement of children and young families in the parish. Then there was a session, involving questions and answers with the children, at the Junior School, before a tour of the Vicarage and Parish, including St Peter's and St Paul's.

We came back for luncheon, shared with the PCC, prepared by a great team of helpers. The whole interview process was supported by a prayer meeting held at Mike & Angie Buckland's house.

After a formal interview came the hard bit, as the interview panel prayerfully considered what would be best for the Parish and the candidate. This process has not yet been completed, so we are not, at present, in a position to make a definite announcement, and will do so as soon as possible. Please do continue to pray for the candidate, and the interview panel, at this time.

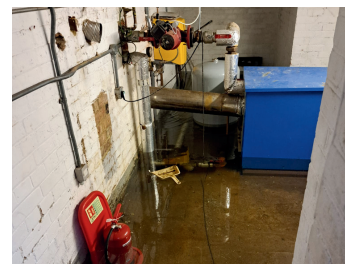
## AFTER THE FLOOD....

by Mark Puddy

Things do not always go according to plan.

The annual service on the boiler this year was certainly not routine. As I opened up the trap door to the boiler room, there was the sound of a lot of water, and peering down, well over a foot of water.

The team from Henley Heating and Plumbing rallied around and sorted out the leak which was coming from a part of the heating system which had been replaced by a different contractor a few days earlier, and pumped out the water. As the bottom of the boiler, and the pump for the compressor for the organ were both in water, this meant we were without heat or music. Everyone rallied around and we were able to run the services in the Church Centre on Sunday 16th March, and everyone attending appreciated the change of venue.



There was a large congregation for the funeral the following day. The church was heated prior to the service by 2 space heaters, which seemed more like jet engines, and the music selected for the funeral was played via an iPad and speaker, which were surprisingly effective at filling such a large space with sound.




# APPLY FOR THE ELECTORAL ROLL

SCAN QR



**ALL TO APPLY**  
CLOSING DATE 30.04.2025




KNOWL HILL VILLAGE ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

# RACE NIGHT

SATURDAY 10TH MAY

KNOWL HILL VILLAGE HALL  
DOORS OPEN 6.30PM. FIRST RACE 7.00PM

PRIZES!  
BOTTLES OF FIZZ  
AND CASH TOTE!

CASH/CARD BAR  
CASH BETS

TICKETS: £18  
INCLUDING FISH  
AND CHIP SUPPER



scan to book

For further details please  
contact Lesley on 07966 178142

Proceeds used to fund KHVA activities



A  
QUIET SPACE  
FOR PRAYER  
WEDNESDAY 9TH APRIL



CAMEO  
EVENTS  
? ? ?  
QUIZ  
THURSDAY 17TH APRIL  
2.30PM | KNOWL HILL VILLAGE HALL

# April

## DIARY EVENTS

Wednesday 2nd

9.30am - Butterflies (CC)

Saturday 5th

9am - St Mary's Spring Clean (WG)

9am - Ladies' Breakfast (CC)

Monday 7th

8pm - PCC Meeting (CC)

Wednesday 9th

9.30am - A Quiet Space for Prayer (HR)

Sunday 13th

Palm Sunday (WG & WR)

Thursday 17th

2.30pm - CAMEO: Quiz (KHVH)

7pm - Maundy Thursday Tenebrae (WG)

Friday 18th

10am - Walk of Witness (Ext)

2pm - Hour at the Cross (WG)

Sunday 20th

Easter Sunday (WG & KH)

10.45am - Easter Egg Hunt (WG)

# Special Dates FOR THE DIARY

Saturday 17th May

9am - Your Funeral, Your Wishes (CC)

Saturday 28th June

4.30pm - Coach Trip to Anvil with High Tea (Ext.)  
*Brahms': A German Requiem*

Saturday 15th November

7pm - Annual Concert (WG)

WG = Wargrave | KH = Knowl Hill | WR = Warren Row  
CC = Church Centre | HR = Hannen Room  
MG = Mill Green | KHVH = Knowl Hill Village Hall  
Ext. = External

## 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.

## CHURCH CENTRE BOOKINGS

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

## SUNDAY SERVICES

### ST MARY'S CHURCH, WARGRAVE

8am	6th April	BCP Holy Communion: Passion Sunday	
	20th April	BCP Holy Communion: Easter Sunday	
9.45am	6th April	Morning Worship: Passion Sunday	
	13th April	Holy Communion: Palm Sunday	
	20th April	Family Holy Communion & Egg Hunt: Easter Sunday	
	27th April	Parish Holy Communion w. Revd. Marina Brain	

Quiet Children's activities available every Sunday (back of church)

### JUNIOR CHURCH

9.45am	1st, 2nd & 4th Sunday	0-3 yrs Crèche
		4-16 yrs Church Centre

### SPECIAL SERVICES

7pm	17th April	Maundy Thursday: Tenebrae
10am	18th April	Good Friday: Walk of Witness (see front page for route)
2pm	18th April	Good Friday: An Hour at the Cross

### ST PETER'S CHURCH, KNOWL HILL

11.15am	6th April	Holy Communion: Passion Sunday
	20th April	Holy Communion: Easter Sunday

### ST PAUL'S CHURCH, WARREN ROW

11.15am	13th April	Holy Communion: Palm Sunday
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## PARISH REGISTERS : WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS & FUNERALS

### Funerals at St Peter's, Knowl Hill

7th February Valerie Mary Charlton, 85, Funeral & Burial

### Funerals at St Mary's, Wargrave

12th February Jonathon Miles Bowers, 62, Service of Thanksgiving

## THE PARISH OFFICE

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