

PARISH

MAGAZINE



From the Editorial Team

We are planning services and events to help you and your loved ones enjoy Christmas, the time when churches celebrate Christ's coming to Earth in human form. This issue looks forward to those events and reflects on November.

Here in the Parish, we have buildings and homes. Many, however, have lost their church buildings or homes to war, terrorism, floods, or storms. Yet things are not always as they seem in the media. The Church is growing amid the ruins - even in Gaza - aided by agencies such as Tearfund. God builds His temples in people: many of them secret believers.

But everywhere in the world, there are countless people who do not yet know that love. Can you think of one person, perhaps on their own, whom you could invite to your home for Christmas? 'Could you also donate to a food bank or Christmas gifts for residents of Yeldall Manor, a local drug and alcohol recovery centre? Page 4 explains how you can help Yeldall


May we all experience God's love this Christmas and into 2025, whatever seems to be happening in the world.

Mike

MIKE BUCKLAND | MAGAZINE EDITORIAL TEAM

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



 magazine@wargravechurch.org.uk

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Wednesday 15th January 2025

A SEASON OF JOY

CHRISTMAS ON MILL GREEN

by Jayne Trolley

With only a few days to go, we hope to see you down at Mill Green on Saturday 7th December. Here is a glimpse of what's in store and how you can join in the festive cheer.

We kick off at 4pm where we'll embrace the Christmas spirit with delicious treats like mulled wine, mince pies and hot dogs generously provided by our sponsors for a donation. Treat yourself to festive refreshments from our vendors, offering everything from craft beer and fine wine to comforting cups of tea, coffee, and indulgent hot chocolate.

CHRISTMAS ON MILL GREEN

Mill Green will come alive with **festive music**, leading up to the blessing of our magnificent six-meter Christmas tree, donated by local resident Graham Trolley. Join us at 5pm for the magical moment when the Christmas lights come alive! Gather around the tree and sing your favourite carols, accompanied by the uplifting sounds of a **live brass band**.

For children, we have the perfect mix of creativity and sparkle. There will be **biscuit decorating** and **glitter tattoos** which you can do throughout the event. There will also be a **dancing competition**.

We shall also have the **Christmas Raffle** featuring some fantastic prizes. Tickets are just £1 each and will be available for purchase in advance from St Mary's Church Office - Monday to Thursday, 9.30am to 1pm - and Sundays after the 9.45am service. Raffle tickets will also be sold on the day, announced shortly after the carols.

With so much to look forward to, this promises to be an unforgettable start to the Christmas season, with Wargrave at the heart of it. Whether you're here for the festive treats, the joyful music, or the chance to connect with friends and neighbours, there's something for everyone to enjoy. So wrap up warm, bring your loved ones, and join us for an evening filled with community spirit and Christmas magic. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

RAFFLE PRIZES

- WINDOW CLEANING (IN & OUT): RICHARD OF HURST
- GUTTER CLEARING: RICHARD OF HURST
- FOUR-BALL AT HENNERTON GOLF CLUB
- LUNCH FOR TWO ON 22.12.24 AT HENNERTON GOLF CLUB
- CUT AT BARBER CREW, WARGRAVE
- CUT & BLOW DRY AT LA MEDUSA, HENLEY
- CHRISTMAS CAKE



£1 PER TICKET



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SHARE THE JOY

As Christmas approaches, it's easy to get caught up in our own celebrations, but for many, this season can be tough - due to loneliness, loss, financial struggles or estrangement. This year, let's give a little extra. Add to the food bank donations or contribute a Christmas gift for a man at Yeldall Manor (see back page).

Reach out to neighbours, especially the elderly. Offer a homecooked Christmas dinner or invite them to join yours. Small acts of kindness can make Christmas brighter for someone in need.

VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends

As we approach this blessed season of Christmas, I want to take a moment to remind us all of the profound gift we celebrate: the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Christmas is not just a time for festivities and family gatherings—it is a time to reflect on the hope that we have in Him.

In a world that often seems full of uncertainty, the message of Christmas is one of unwavering hope. Jesus, born in a humble manger, came to bring light into the darkness of our lives. The angel's message to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid, for I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people" (Luke 2:10), is just as relevant today as it was over 2,000 years ago. This season, let's embrace that joy - not just in gifts or decorations - but in the truth that God's love for us is unshakable.

Christmas is also a time for us to gather as families and communities. It's a time to share love, build memories, and support one another. In the busyness of life, let's take this opportunity to slow down, reconnect, and be present with those around us.

So, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas, let's remember the hope He brings, the joy of His salvation, and the love that unites us as His people.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas and a new year full of His peace. And if you've not been to St Mary's, St Peter's or St Paul's for a while, we'd love to see you.

With love in Christ,

Steve

Reverend Steve Turville
Associate Minister, Wargrave with Knowl Hill



INTERREGNUM UPDATE

by Mark Puddy, Churchwarden

The PCC held a very constructive meeting on 30th October, where we reviewed the draft of the Parish Profile, curated by a steering committee. There was general agreement that the group had produced a good document, which had been then been well presented by Ros. We agreed a number of changes. This was then brought back to the PCC in what is called a Section 12 Meeting on 11th November, when we approved the Parish Profile and the process for advertising for, and recruiting our new vicar. At present the Parish Profile is around 32 pages long, and the whole thrust is that we want a vicar with vitality, who can make the Lord Jesus relevant to the whole community, and minister to all the faithful in our parish.

The PCC considered how to incorporate the views of the Electoral Roll, as expressed in the LLF Survey, into the Parish Profile. The PCC prayerfully considered how to represent the range of views across the parish, and adopted the following wording which will be incorporated into the Parish Profile.

"The Electoral Roll was surveyed, and of the 109 out of 233 on the Electoral Roll who replied, 58 were in favour of the offering of blessings, 44 were against and 7 were undecided or held no strong opinion. Among regular attendees the split was 46 for and 42 against and 7 undecided.

The PCC has expressed its views on the subject of the offering of blessings for those in same sex partnerships, with 13 in favour, 4 against and 1 undecided. The PCC seek a Vicar who will be supportive of the use of Prayers of Love and Faith in our Parish, although they personally might not feel able to undertake these themselves.

During the interregnum, we do not feel that it would be wise to hold any blessings of same sex partnerships in the Parish, and will await the arrival of our new Vicar."

The whole PCC is mindful that there are those who feel that we have moved too far, or not far enough, in adopting this position, and we all pray for those who feel hurt, and that our united love for the Lord Jesus can keep the unity of witness in this parish.

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

by Rachael Marrison

On Thursday, 17th October 2024, The Keys Academy Trust held its seventh Annual Celebration Service, hosted this year by Crazies Hill C of E Primary School at St Mary's. Revd Steve Turville welcomed attendees to the beautiful autumnal morning event, which included honoured guests such as Wokingham Deputy Mayor Councillor Carol Jewell, Wargrave Parish Council Chairman Councillor Richard Bush, and Councillor Marion Pope.

Staff, pupils, Trustees, Governors, and Central Team members from all twelve schools in the Trust attended, including newcomers St Michael's C of E Primary School, Sandhurst, and Uplands Primary School and Nursery, both of which joined the Trust this year.

The service celebrated the Trust's growth since 2017 and highlighted its core value of Partnership, with pupils contributing poems, prayers, and readings. It was a joyful reminder of the power of collaboration and the bonds within the Keys family of schools.

The Keys Academy Trust extends heartfelt thanks to Crazies Hill C of E Primary for hosting, as well as to the courageous pupils who confidently delivered their lines, making the event a resounding success.



A QUIET SPACE FOR PRAYER

by Angie Buckland



Since September, a small gathering has met regularly for prayer and reflection, focusing on God's guidance for our next vicar and the wider needs of the church and world, believing that He hears and answers prayer.

In November, we introduced prayer stations around St Mary's for various aspects of church ministry, which remain available for all. If there is interest, the fortnightly prayer sessions will continue into the new year.

2nd & 4th Wednesday
9.30am | Hannen Room or St Mary's Church

A quiet space for prayer

PCC UPDATE

by Sheila Williams

On 11th November, the PCC held a Section 12 meeting to approve key documents for recruiting our new Vicar, including the Parish Profile, Role and Person Specifications, and an advert for the Church Times (to be published on 22nd November). The Parish Profile highlights our community's vitality and aspirations, aiming to attract the right leader. The Archdeacon of Berkshire praised the quality of the documents, and the PCC commended Mark Puddy for his diligent leadership. Church life continues during the interregnum, with visiting clergy supporting Steve Turville on the fourth Sunday each month. Updates include plans for Net Zero and Eco targets, a new pathway for Knowl Hill's graveyard, and preparations for Christmas services and events.

WE DO REMEMBER...



KNOWL HILL

by Lesley Bell

On Sunday, 10th November, St Peter's Church held its solemn Service of Remembrance, led by Andy Ferguson. The service began with the hymn O God, Our Help in Ages Past, followed by prayers.

The Act of Remembrance took place at the back of the church. The congregation followed the cross in procession down the aisle from the altar. Bill Haines solemnly read the names of those from the village who made the ultimate sacrifice during both World Wars. Wreaths were laid by Linda Spinks, Sue Mervyn Jones, and Cynthia Pitteway.

Following this, The Last Post was performed, and a poignant two-minute silence was observed. The silence concluded with Reveille, after which Jim Hadden recited the moving words of the Kohima Memorial: "When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today."

The congregation then followed the cross back to their pews, and the service continued with readings by Kay Bruce and Sarah Whiteside. The service concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

In the lead-up to the service, a power outage the previous Sunday had left the church without lighting. Thanks to the determined efforts of Steve Turville, who liaised with SSE, the electricity supply was restored in time. The cause? Ivy choking the telegraph pole and cutting off the power! Thankfully, this was resolved, ensuring the church was ready to honour those we remember.

WARGRAVE

by Mark Puddy

In previous years I have been at the back of the pews and standing with the crowds on Mill Green but for this year's Remembrance Day service I have had promotion! Holding the cross next to Steve Turville at the Lutyens War Memorial with the backdrop of autumnal trees and watching the baton of memory being passed from the older members of the British Legion to the youngsters in their colourful uniforms was very special. Credit to the children during the church service who had successfully negotiated the slalom course of light fittings while carrying their flags aloft. Steve lead us through this most moving memorial, crowned by his talk showing us that the power to love our enemies comes from Jesus.



A NIGHT TO REMEMBER:

by Peter Dart, Director of Music

Annual Concert

On Saturday 16th November, St. Mary's Church hosted its Annual Concert - a spectacular evening of diverse musical talent that drew an enthusiastic crowd.

The night showcased memorable performances, from APOLLO5's soulful harmonies to violinist Elif Cansever's passionate renditions of Kreisler and Tchaikovsky. Pianist Thomas Kelly mesmerized with Chopin's "Minute Waltz" and accompanied much of the evening's music. British soprano Kirsty Taylor-Stokes delivered spine-tingling renditions of Handel and Dvořák classics, while local talents Rosie, Katie, and Charlie Dart added heartfelt and elegant vocal performances. Paul Speed's trumpet, paired with organist Peter Dart, opened the concert with Charpentier's Prelude to the Te Deum.

Community groups added to the magic. The Wargrave Community Choir charmed with selections from The Lord of the Rings and City of Stars, while the Robert Piggott Junior School choir brought youthful energy with "The Call" and "Somewhere Only We Know."

Thanks go to Andy Ferguson's team for ticketing, Rosalyn Lane Heath and Lisa Herbert for posters and programmes, Annette Dart for coordinating the evening, and the volunteers who prepared supper and served wine. Most importantly, heartfelt thanks to the audience whose warmth inspired every performance.

The Annual Concert was a heartwarming celebration of music and community. We can't wait to welcome you back next year! Put in your diary now - Saturday 15th November 2025.



YELDALL: A CHRISTMAS WISH

by Sue Hedger

As Christmas approaches, we want to give our residents the best celebration that we can. Some will be struggling being away from their families. For many, it will be their first Christmas sober/clean. For all, we want to offer them a relaxing and uplifting Christmas break, whilst remembering the real reason behind the festivities.

Once again, we welcome donations of small items for the residents' Christmas stockings:

- Stocking fillers e.g. pens, stationery, pocket games
- Shower gel, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, etc.
- Sweets, chocolate or savoury snacks (small)
- Small items of clothing e.g. socks, scarves, gloves, woolly hats



Each item should be wrapped individually with a note indicating the contents so that we can put the stockings together. These should be brought to us by Monday 16th December. You can also purchase items from our registry list at:

Amazon [amazon.co.uk/registries/gi/guest-view/AH0MZZJ2VH5O](https://www.amazon.co.uk/registries/gi/guest-view/AH0MZZJ2VH5O)

Or make a financial donation [justgiving.com/campaign/christmas-2024](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/christmas-2024)

To learn more about Yeldall and the work we do visit [yeldall.org.uk](https://www.yeldall.org.uk)



Sunday 1st

- Wargrave Village Advent Windows
- 9.45am - Advent Sunday with Kate Woods (WG)
- 11.15am - Advent Sunday Holy Communion (KH)
- 4pm - *Shine Jesus Shine*: Christingle (WG)

Wednesday 4th

- 9.30am - Butterflies Christmas Special (CC)

Thursday 5th

- 7.30pm - *Holly & the Ivy* Festive Wreath Workshop (WG)

Saturday 7th

- 9.am - Ladies' Breakfast Christmas Special (CC)
- from 4pm - Christmas on Mill Green (MG)

Saturday 14th

- 9am - Festive Church Decorating (WG)

Sunday 15th

- 3pm - *Twinkle Twinkle*: Sing-a-long Carols (CC)
- 3pm - *Joy to the World*: Village Carols (KH)

Tuesday 17th

- 2.30pm - *O Little Town*: Senior Carols & Tea (CC)

Sunday 22nd

- 6pm - *Joy to the World* Carols by Candlelight (WG)

Tuesday 24th

- 3pm - *Joy to the World*: Carol Service (WR)
- 4pm - *Away in a Manger*: Crib Service (WG)
- 6pm - *Jingle Bells*: Family Carols (WG)
- 11.15pm - *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* Holy Communion (WG)

Wednesday 25th

- We wish you a Merry Christmas*
- 8am - Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9.15am - Holy Communion (KH)
- 9.45am - Holy Communion (WG)

Sunday 29th

- 9.45am - Parish Holy Communion with The Ven. Stephen Pullin (WG)

5th January

- We three Kings of Orient Are*
- 9.45am - Epiphany: All Age Service (WG)
- 11.15am - Epiphany Holy Communion (KH)

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

ST MARY'S CHURCH, WARGRAVE

8am	1st & 15th December	BCP Holy Communion
9.45am	1st December	Advent Sunday: Guest Speker Kate Woods, Tearfund
	8th December	Advent 2: Holy Communion
	15th December	Advent 3: Morning Worship
	22nd December	Advent 4: Holy Communion
	29th December	Parish Holy Communion with The Ven. Stephen Pullin
	5th January	<i>We Three Kings of Orient Are</i> : Epiphany All Age Worship
	12th January	Holy Communion
	19th January	Morning Worship
	25th January	Holy Communion



JUNIOR CHURCH

9.45am	Every Sunday	0-3 yrs Crèche 4-16 yrs Church Centre
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SPECIAL SERVICES: CHRISTMAS

4pm	24th December	<i>Away in a Manger</i> : Crib Service
11.15pm	24th December	<i>It Came Upon a Midnight Clear</i> : Midnight Communion
8am	25th December	<i>We Wish you a Merry Christmas</i> : BCP Holy Communion
9.45am	25th December	<i>We Wish you a Merry Christmas</i> : Holy Communion

ST PETER'S CHURCH, KNOWL HILL

11.15am	1st December	Advent Sunday: Holy Communion
	5th January	<i>We Three Kings of Orient Are</i> : Holy Communion
	19th January	Holy Communion

SPECIAL SERVICES: CHRISTMAS

9.15am	25th December	<i>We Wish you a Merry Christmas</i> : Holy Communion
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ST PAUL'S CHURCH, WARREN ROW

11.15am	8th December	Advent 2: Holy Communion
	12th January	Holy Communion

PARISH REGISTERS : WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS & FUNERALS

Weddings at St Mary's, Wargrave

5th October Oliver Thomas Dominic Norton and Molly Rachel Harrison

Funerals at St Mary's, Wargrave

2nd October Edward John Avery, 94, Service followed by burial in the New Cemetery
 2nd October Diane Elizabeth Evans, 79, Service followed by burial in the New Cemetery
 6th October Anthony John Jones, 83, Interment of Ashes, the New Cemetery
 14th October James Rance, 91, Interment of Ashes

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.

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

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