



Parish of Wargrave
with Knowl Hill

OUR VISION IS TO BE A CHURCH AT THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY

PARISH

MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2023

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Festivals around the world and
what we can do at home

SEASON OF CREATION

The Walter Lectures and the
challenge we face with climate
change. Plus, how do we
continue to Care for Creation?

ORDINATION

An interview with Lucy Bowley
on her journey to becoming
ordained

In other news:
Have you met? - Joy Potter
Update from Japan
Advent Devotions



St Mary's Church Wargrave
With Knowl Hill

JOIN US

HARVEST SUPPER

SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER
7PM - 9PM

RESERVE YOUR SPACE

Sign up at back of St Mary's
Scan QR code

Email: suewitney8@gmail.com



From the Editor

A welcome to our October magazine and lots of interesting articles to enjoy.

Our features of Harvest and Creation remind us of the need for each of us to play our part in looking after God's wonderful creation. There are so many ways that this can be done and these have been well documented in previous magazines, but for me the most obvious and easy one is when you are out and about on your walks, take a bag with you to pick up litter.

From my travels throughout Northern Europe and Scandinavia when I was selling my flutes and saxophones (ah, happy days!), I was always aghast at the difference between how they treated their countryside and how we treat ours. Coming out of the tunnel and driving home, every verge was covered in litter...and still is. We are the dustbin of Europe.

Small wins I know but until a change of culture is evident, every little bit counts.

Bob

BOB AUSTEN | PARISH MAGAZINE EDITOR



WELCOME

The copy date for submissions for the November magazine is noon on Wednesday 18th October 2023

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 edit and publish material is at the Editor's discretion. Views expressed in articles included in the magazine are not necessarily shared by the Editor. The Parish Magazine cannot accept responsibility for any products or services advertised in this publication.

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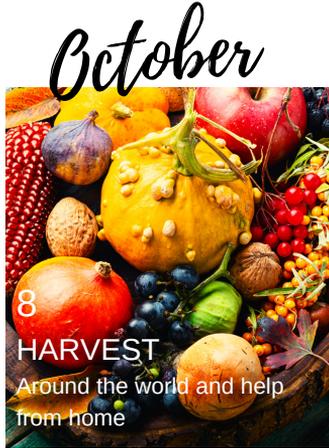
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PARISH REGISTERS : WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS & FUNERALS

Weddings at St Mary's, Wargrave

26th August Ellen Mary Thorne & Jack Andrew Dudley

31st August Catherine Ruth Whittingham & Jonathan Joshua Smith

Baptisms at St Mary's, Wargrave

13th August Marlowe-Rose Patricia Warren

Funerals at St Mary's, Wargrave

4th August Phillip Johnson Smith, 79, Cremation at Reading, Thanksgiving at St Mary's

7th August Maureen Anne Fennemore, 82, Interment of Ashes, Churchyard

14th August Sheila Margaret Bowes, 96, Funeral at St Mary's, Cremation at Reading

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 (see page 3).

SUNDAY SERVICES

October

St Mary's Church, Wargrave

8am Holy Communion: a said service in traditional language every Sunday

9.45am Service reflective below

1st Sunday of the month: **1st October**

9.45am All Age Family Worship

2nd Sunday of the month: **8th October**

9.45am Holy Communion with Baptism
Junior Church & Crèche

3rd Sunday of the month: **15th October**

9.45am Morning Worship in modern language with music with Baptism
Junior Church & Crèche

4th Sunday of the month: **22nd October**

9.45am Holy Communion
Junior Church & Crèche

5th Sunday of the month: **29th October**

9.45am Parish Holy Communion
Junior Church & Crèche

St Peter's Church, Knowl Hill

1st Sunday of the month 10.30am Holy Communion

3rd Sunday of the month 10.30am Village Praise

St Paul's Church, Warren Row

2nd Sunday of the month 9.15am Holy Communion



Parish Activities

October

Sunday 1st	9.45am	Harvest Festival Service: St Mary's
	10.30am	Harvest Festival & Lunch: St Peter's
Thursday 5th	7.45pm	A Better Story: Part V
Saturday 7th	9am	Ladies' Breakfast
	7pm	Harvest Bring & Share Dinner
Thursday 12th	7.45pm	A Better Story: Part VI
Thursday 19th	2.30pm	CAMEO: Mixed Activities
Saturday 21st	7pm	Elvis: Knowl Hill Village Hall
Saturday 28th	10.30am	Knowl Hill Litter Pick
	4pm	Junior Church: Family Games
Sunday 29th	12.30pm	Ramble with Bob

November

Saturday 4th	9am	Ladies' Breakfast
Sunday 5th	9.45am	Fairtrade Christmas Stalls (19th & 26th)
	3pm	Bereavement Service: St Mary's
Saturday 11th	4pm	Junior Church: Family Dinner
Sunday 12th	tbc	Remembrance Sunday: St Mary's
	10.45am	Remembrance Sunday: St Peter's
Thursday 16th	2.30pm	CAMEO: Beetle Drive
Saturday 18th	9.30am	CCT: Angels & Demons
	7pm	Annual Concert
Saturday 25th	7pm	Cheese & Wine Quiz

For December & Christmas Events, see page 22

Our Groups

WELCOME CAFÉ

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



Next Sessions:
3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st
October

OPEN CHURCH

St Mary's Church is open Monday to Saturday 9am to 4pm.

BUTTERFLIES

Butterflies returns to meet on 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month (during term time) in the morning, where you can, enjoy a delicious breakfast, chat and parenting discussion time in the Church Centre.

If you are the parent of a baby or toddler, we'd love to meet you! Details can be found on our Facebook page @butterflieswargrave

Butterflies is held in the Church Centre, 9.30am - 11am.

October: 4th & 18th
November: 1st, 15th & 29th
December: 6th



LADIES' BREAKFAST

Join us on Saturday 7th October in the Church Centre at 9am when we will continue looking at 'Follow Me' where Lindy will talk to us about how her life was changed completely when she heeded the call to Follow Jesus and ended up in the Philippines.



Please let Linda or Lesley know if you are planning to attend.

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

OUR GROUPS

There are a number of groups that meet regularly throughout the year. Not all are every week, so please check with the group leader for more details.

More information found online at wargravechurch.org.uk/groups

Tuesdays	Ladies' Bible Study Ephesians 1:17	9.30am 7pm
Wednesdays	Monthly Prayer (1st) Pints of View	11.45am 7.30pm
Thursdays	Seeking Wisdom Braybrooke Gardens Young Families	2.30pm 7.30pm 8pm
Saturdays	Ladies' Breakfast (1st)	9am

HARVEST FESTIVALS AROUND THE WORLD

Jim Hadden

All around the world ceremonies are held to celebrate and give thanks for a successful harvest. In the UK we have celebrated and given thanks since pagan times. Today we celebrate by singing, praying and decorating the church with fruit and food in the Harvest Festival service. Traditionally the service is held on or near the Sunday of the Harvest Moon, this being the full moon that occurs closest to the autumn equinox. In Scotland, some people also celebrate 'Lammas' where they make bread and take it to the church to eat.

We are familiar with the American and Canadian equivalent to Harvest Festival which is known as Thanksgiving. The dates for Thanksgiving are the fourth Thursday of November for the US and the second Monday in October for the Canadians which are both national holidays. Maybe the UK should have a national holiday in addition to the celebrations on a Sunday? Americans model the holiday on a 1621 harvest feast shared between the Wampanoag people and the English colonists known as the Pilgrims. Although prayers and thanks were probably offered at this harvest gathering, the first recorded religious Thanksgiving Day in Plymouth happened two years later in 1623. On this occasion the colonists gave thanks to God for rain after a two year drought. Canadians trace their earliest Thanksgiving celebration to 1578 when an expedition led by Marin Frobisher gave thanks for its safe passage.

In Israel the Harvest Festival of the Jewish religion is known as Sukkot or Feast of Ingathering or Feast of Tabernacles. The festival lasts for seven days and nights and all meals are taken in a sukkah which is a foliage covered hut that must lie under an open sky. The sukkah represents the temporary homes the Israelites lived in as they left Israel during the Exodus.



In Africa many tribal people celebrate the Yam Festival where they give thanks for a successful yam harvest and then distribute the food to people in their locality. Feasting, dancing and participating in parades are all part of the celebrations. In many of the Caribbean Islands the celebration for the completion of the sugar cane harvest is called Crop Over, which says it all.

In Poland people celebrate by lighting bonfires and throwing flowers into rivers. Rice Festivals are held in many Asian countries to celebrate the rice harvest and the coming of longer days and shorter nights. In Indonesia they make bamboo temples and small rice dolls.

There are far too many variations of the Harvest Festivals to write about here but I hope this has given you a flavour of the different ways of celebrating. The thread that flows through them all is mankind's grateful thanks to God for providing us with bountiful harvests that help to sustain our lives. Long may these celebrations continue all over the world

HARVEST IN THE PARISH

SUNDAY 1st OCTOBER

9.45am Harvest Festival Service: St Mary's
10.30am Harvest Festival Service: St Peter's
12 noon Harvest Bring & Share Lunch: Knowl Hill Village Hall

SUNDAY 7th OCTOBER

7pm Harvest Bring & Share Dinner: St Mary's Church Centre

HARVEST FOOD DONATIONS APPEAL

Each year at Harvest time we encourage everyone to donate tinned, packaged or fresh food to help disadvantaged and vulnerable people in our community. The food items we collect are given to FAITH Foodbank in Reading and Yeldall Manor, an addiction rehabilitation centre in Wargrave. The cost-of-living crisis has affected these local charities with demand increasing rapidly and their stocks are running low.

FAITH would particularly welcome the following tinned and packaged foods (please check all are in date) :

Tinned foods:

Vegetables
Baked beans
Tinned fruit
Tinned potatoes
Soup
Deserts
Tinned fish
Tinned meats
Ready meals, (chilli, curry, chicken in white sauce, meatballs etc)

Packaged foods:

Biscuits & crackers
Tea
Coffee
Long life milk
Cereals

Please bring your donations to the Harvest Services on Sunday October 1st.
Thank you

KNOWL HILL VILLAGE LITTER PICK: 28th October

If you care about how your village looks and can spare just a bit of time, come and join our litter pick on **Saturday 28th October** at **10.30am**.

Litter pickers, bin bags and high viz vests are provided. Please bring gloves. The session only lasts an hour or so and is usually followed by a swift half or two in the pub afterwards. Meet by the Royal Oak.

For more information, please call David on 07976 655446.



OUTSIDE CARE

CHURCHYARD & MILL GREEN LEAF COLLECTION

Bob Austen

Everyone is invited to join in our annual leaf collection morning on Saturday 2nd December. Our good friends at Beechwood Tree Care will be joining us to gather the leaves on the Mill Green, and we shall need a goodly number of volunteers to attend to the Churchyard and the borders of Mill Green. Please bring a leaf rake and wear good footwear as the ground will probably be soft and damp.

Meet at 9am at the Lych Gate. Coffee and bacon butties will be served during the morning, what more could we possibly want? Yes I know, decent weather!

SATURDAY
2nd DECEMBER
9am

CREATION CARE

Steve Turville

Now that the Season of Creation is over, how do we maintain the importance of respecting God's creation throughout the year. Perhaps, we can identify three simple steps that we can take.



Notice

When God had made the heavens and the earth, he created trees, animals and birds, and he brought them to the man (Genesis 2:19). Perhaps our first task is simply to look at what's in front of us, to notice the astonishing diversity of the world that surrounds us - the structure and colour of the leaves; the tiny insects that live out of our sight unless we look. Caring starts with noticing.



Name

Once God had drawn the man's attention to the living things around him, he brought them to him to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name (Genesis 2:19). How many birds, plants or insects can you name? The more we know about the natural world, the better able we are to understand and appreciate it in all its glorious variety.



Care

God knew that the living things he planned to create would need a custodian. This is your world, said God to the man. I want you to work it and take care of it. Both of you. (Genesis 2:15, 18). Once we have noticed and named something, we start to look after it.

The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. While efforts are being made on a national scale to reverse this, we each have a part to play. Let's create wild areas in our gardens. Local wildlife organisations always welcome volunteers - can you get involved with yours? Why not join in with censuses of birds or butterflies? Or help with practical habitat management?

Helping to care for creation in practical ways brings both personal fulfilment and spiritual refreshment. Study after study has shown that our physical and mental health is directly linked to our stewardship of the natural environment. How can we best enjoy the living, breathing, glorious world that God has created for us, and partner with him to sustain it? That is the question God is asking us all, all through the year. How will you answer?

ORDINATION: Lucy follows her calling

Mark Puddy

We are delighted to announce that Lucy in the parish office has been accepted to commence her training for ordination which will start in October. It is wonderful that through God's guidance she has found her vocation.

When and how did you first receive the calling for ordination?

I have had a strong faith all of my life. I was brought up as a catholic and converted across to the Church of England just before I married my first husband. I was part of Leadership in Twyford and dabbled with preaching. After a public and acrimonious divorce, I spent many years quietly at the back of church, allowing God to heal me and those around me. I was first called to be churchwarden in 2017 and things moved forward from there. Taking on a significant leadership position during a vacancy indicated there were some leadership skills lurking in the background. It was a position I cherish and a huge privilege. Serving a community was something I seemed to be good at as well. I was encouraged by our then incumbent and our associate priest to start thinking about vocation, so I gently pushed the door (once I had picked myself up off the floor).

When and how did you start to look into how it would be possible?

Early 2018 I started seeing a Diocesan Vocations Adviser. I spent time with her exploring exactly what I thought my calling was. It may have been to lay ministry or ordination. I read several books. My second husband, John, and I weren't married at the time so that was the first thing we need to sort out which we did in April 2019. Then in spring 2020, literally the week before lockdown I moved to seeing a Diocesan Director of Ordinands (DDO). My DDO was extremely supportive and encouraging.



He gave me books to read and pieces of work to do. Some really took me out of my comfort zone. 'Create a piece of artwork that shows your journey'. Well 'create' and 'art' do not come into my vocabulary - but I found this to be a game changer. The piece of 'art' I did ended up as a picture of origami figures. I believe we all come with damage and creases but if we allow God to fold us and shape us, we can become something quite beautiful.

“ Peter was amazing for Jesus and maybe I can be too? ”

What was hardest about the process of getting accepted for ordination?

I suppose the hardest thing has been the waiting. Due to both John and I having been married before we had to go through a process called a C4 faculty. This is extremely gruelling when your previous relationships are looked into and then your current marriage analysed. I totally understand why this process needs to happen. We met with Bishop Steven who was kind and encouraging. Once we had seen him and he supported our application the forms go to Canterbury and York for the Archbishops to approve. This took nearly a year - not because of our situation but because of the huge backlog from Covid!

How did you receive support and encouragement through the process?

I hadn't told many people I was exploring a vocation to the priesthood. Honestly, I was expecting the door to close. John has been incredible as has our associate priest, Helen Charlton. A small group from St Mary's, Twyford have prayed and been encouraging. Two friends of mine have been on the same journey so we have also been good supports to each other.

Are there any Bible passages which have spoken to you particularly strongly through this time?

There are so many verses that I could call on in each stage of the journey so far. Jeremiah 29: 11-12, plans to prosper and not to harm, is quite an obvious one. I have found huge encouragement though from the apostle Peter. He mucked up, sometimes in a spectacular way, and yet Jesus loved him and used him, despite it and because of it. Peter was amazing for Jesus and maybe I can be too?

“ *Insistent that I go and be a student* ”

You are going to be training at Cuddleston; how are you going to work this with your family life, commitments at St Mary's, Twyford, and work in the Parish Office in Wargrave?

I am looking at how to reduce my workload at St Mary's, Twyford. I think this will be difficult as I am still churchwarden and we are in vacancy so the load is quite heavy. I am not down to preach this term. John is confident he will manage things while I am away overnight. The complex needs of our daughters mean it will be a lot for him to manage but he is insistent that I go and 'be a student'.

The Parish Office in Wargrave will be a welcome relief to studying, and it will continue to be a place where I love to be.

How do you feel about the studying and essay writing you will have to do?

I am absolutely terrified. I closed the books quite literally at O-Levels, some 40 years ago. School was horrible academically – so I would appreciate a lot of prayer for that and prayers for some easy essay titles!

While studying in great detail will be an opportunity to enrich the basis of your faith, are you worried that some of what you learn might provide difficult challenges to some aspects of your faith?

Yes I am, and that's a challenging question in itself. I am passionate about inclusion, across the whole spectrum, and I know many, many people do not share that view. That alongside being a woman in ordained ministry I don't doubt that there will be some interesting conversations to be had!

When you are next interviewed for the Magazine, what do you think you will say are the best and most difficult aspects of the training?

Maybe that I have met some pretty wonderful people who I am sharing thoughts and ideas with at college. I expect the academic study will be the hardest. I do know that I will be challenged over the coming months, but I also know that God has got this and he's got me!

We wish Lucy all the best and remember her in our prayers as she takes on ordination.

THE WALTER LECTURES

Mike Buckland

A few of us from St Mary's Wargrave joined around 100 people at the first of the five Walter Lectures hosted by All Saints Church, Wokingham for this year's Season of Creation.

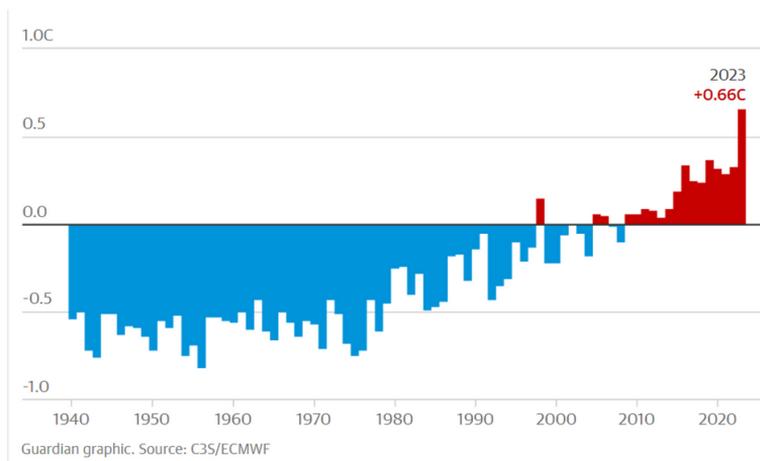
The meteorologist Professor Sir Brian Hoskins of Imperial College London and Reading University, spoke on The Challenge of Climate Change. As a member of the UK Committee on Climate Change, he was one of the architects of the UK Climate Change Act of 2008.

Sir Brian explained how human misuse of the Earth, and especially the release of gases by burning fossil fuels, has warmed the earth's atmosphere, seas and land to a degree that puts all life on earth, human and non-human, at risk. Thousands of people have already lost their lives, mass migration is just starting, and about 50% of all species are at risk of extinction. Scientists, he said, have offered solutions for years, but the will of governments and business leaders to implement them has all too often been lacking.



CREATIONTIDE

**Global Temperatures for Jun-August 1940-2023
Relative to 1911-2000**



Science cannot however fix the problem of the human condition. In the second talk entitled Responding in Faith to the Climate and Ecological Crises, on 21st September, Hannah Mann, Environment Officer of the Oxford Diocese, explained how the Christian perspective offers real hope and demands positive responses from us.

The copy date of this edition of the magazine preceded her talk, but both speakers have kindly given us permission to share their slides. If you would like a copy, please email mikebuckland54@gmail.com. Mike is one of our Deanery Environment Officers.

The Walter Climate Change Lectures

A new series of lectures by guest speakers offer conclusive evidence for climate change and the likely impact it will have on all aspects of our lives. All lectures at **7pm, All Saints Church Wokingham RG40 1YA**



14th September
The Challenge of Climate Change
Prof Sir Brian Hoskins



21st September
Responding with Faith to the Climate and Ecological Crises
Hannah Mann



12th October
Wokingham Borough Council: Climate Emergency Action Plan
WBC Officer



31st October
Energy Efficiency and Climate Action: transforming homes and businesses for a sustainable future
Simanand Gandhi-Jeyaraj



23rd November
Our changing climate: past, present & future
Prof Chris Merchant

Booking: scan QR code or email
thewalterlectures@spauls.org.uk

Pic: Earth Rise Image, NASA/Goddard/Arizona State University

CREATIONTIDE

HAVE YOU MET?

Joy Potter

Joy is a regular member of St Mary's Music Group and is also in the Celebrating team, contributing ideas and helping with the organisation our social events.

Joy was born in Glasgow in 1954. Although not from a church-going family, as a teenager she joined the 'New Life' Christian group for teenagers and was also fortunate enough to attend a Billy Graham event. Sometime later, Joy and her friend Colin, both decided to make God a main focus in their lives and they remained good friends.

At the age of sixteen, Joy moved to work in Germany. When she returned, Colin, who had obviously missed her, contacted her immediately and their romance flourished. In 1977, they married and cemented their growth in Christian life together. The birth of two boys followed, Gordon first and then Duncan.

Joy was devastated by the break-up of her almost 25 year-old marriage in 2001. She immersed herself in her work as an occupational therapist. By 2007, she had set up her own successful Independent Practice and became an Expert Witness within her profession.

Whilst renting a house in Wargrave, although attending the URC in Twyford, Joy's neighbour, Jane Clark, mentioned a singing event being held at St Mary's Church. With her love of singing, Joy was keen to attend and, enjoying the experience so much, in 2006 she became a member of St Mary's.

Although not looking for another long-term relationship, Joy met Ray towards the end of 2002. Some years later, they fell in love, and eloped to marry on the Isle of Scilly in 2008. They later enjoyed a Marriage Blessing at Twyford URC with their family.



For the next 10 years they enjoyed an amazing and happy marriage.

In 2018, however, Ray became concerned about his health, forgetting names and stopping mid-sentence, having lost his thought process. Ray's doctor diagnosed the condition as a mild cognitive impairment.

Despite this diagnosis, Joy and Ray were determined to carry on with their lives, and enjoyed a wonderful holiday in South Africa. Joy, however, was shocked at some of Ray's behaviour and realised something was very wrong.

Gradually, Ray's behaviour deteriorated dramatically. Following a frightening incident, Joy helped Ray transition into residential care. Despite his new diagnosis of Alzheimers, however, the pair are still able to enjoy brief moments of special times together.

Joy is trying to adapt to her new life, although this is not easy. Perhaps surprisingly, her experiences have helped her personal faith grow stronger. Joy is extremely grateful for the support she receives from her family, friends and those within the St Mary's community.

Sarah Whiteside

AN UPDATE FROM JAPAN

Nicky, Len and Jed serving with Youth With A Mission (YWAM) in Takatsuki, JAPAN

By the time you read this, God willing, our little family will have gone from 3 to 5 as our twin girls are due to arrive on September 20th. The Japanese health system is looking after Nicky very well, though we have just had Japan's hottest summer since records began, with temperatures at mid 30s or higher for most of the summer - with no air conditioning!



The Discipleship Training School (DTS) students have now gone home, having returned from their 2 month mission trip to Vietnam and Northern Japan where they worked with local churches to share the good news of Jesus in schools, on the streets and among the homeless. This was the first DTS at our base in many years and we are very thankful to God for how well it went. Planning is under way for the next one in the Spring.

We have also had the great joy of baptising two local men - one whom Len befriended at rugby training. Part of our base's ministry is to invite local people to Wednesday evening meals and Friday evening worship. This helps us to share the gospel as we build good relationships, and our base regularly hosts 20 local Japanese at these evenings. Nicky and I have Bible studies in our home too, though we will have to rethink that when the twins arrive!

We have been in Japan for 16 months now and are feeling very much at home. We give thanks for the support that so many of you provide - we couldn't be doing this without you. We send you our love and remember you always in our prayers. Please pray for us, that God will continue to work through us to bring the gospel to this little (but busy) bit of Japan, that Nicky heals well from the birth, the babies thrive and Jed embraces the role of big brother. Sayonara!



RIDE+STRIDE 2023

Ruth Howse

Five intrepid and determined Striders headed for Windsor on the hottest day of the year. "Let's take the train" this writer suggested... "it'll be fun" she said, "and we'll get a great view of the castle". Instead, there was a hurried phone call from Christine at 8.58am, "I'm at the station and there are no trains running".

Mmmmm...

So we switched over to cars and Chris kindly offered to drive us instead.

Arriving at Windsor upbeat, the three Wargravian walkers met our Knowl Hill team mates Lesley and Kay who were joining us for the first time this year.

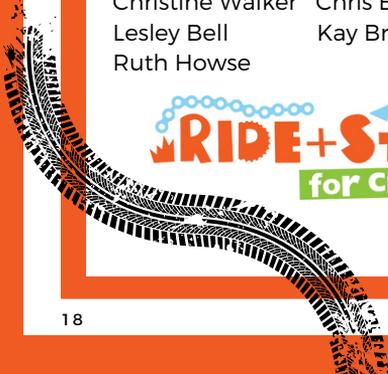
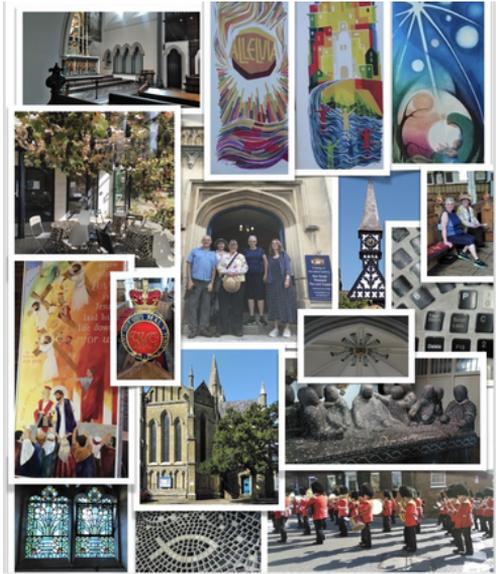
Christine had a carefully planned route for us to follow, starting in the centre of Windsor - then pausing to watch the changing guards' band marching past in their black bear-skin hats.

There were fewer open churches this year which was something of a disappointment. But we soldiered on - and by happy co-incidence someone arrived to open up All Saints in Dedworth just as we were sitting in the shade outside. We were made most welcome and given a guided tour. This church is very active in the week and has an older congregation followed by a large youthful one on Sundays. On weekdays there is a pleasant café with a beautiful grape vine and fig tree shading a small courtyard outside.

Christine very kindly treated us to ice creams before we headed home due to the intense heat mid-afternoon. Evensong at St George's chapel will have to wait for another time...

The team would like to thank everyone who has so very kindly sponsored us this year.

2023 Riders+Striders were :
 Christine Walker Chris Beatty
 Lesley Bell Kay Bruce
 Ruth Howse



LADIES' BREAKFAST: Follow Me

Lesley Turville

After a short summer break, seventeen of us met again in the church centre for our September Ladies' Breakfast looking at the theme 'Follow Me'. As usual we started with a mouthwatering breakfast and a chance to catch up with each other.

The session started with a discussion around what it means to follow someone now-a-days and what it means to be an 'influencer'. The focus then shifted to what it meant to follow (be yoked) to a rabbi in biblical times. We learnt that only the best of the best of the best scholars were given the opportunity to become disciples to a rabbi, to know what the rabbi knows and do what the rabbi does. We then contrasted this to the disciples Jesus called to follow him. As Paul says, 'Not many were wise by human standards, not many were influential, not many were of noble birth' 1 Corinthians 1 :26-29. A close study of two passages relating to Peter; his first calling in Luke 5: 1-12 and his reinstating as told in John 21 where he is asked a second time to follow Jesus, were used to illustrate and explore Jesus's call to follow him. We finished with looking at the words to the hymn, 'Will you come and follow me' and explored how we personally had been lead to follow Jesus in our lives and how we have been changed.

Join us on **Saturday 7th October** at 9am when Lindy will talk to us about how her life was changed completely when she heeded the call to Follow Jesus and ended up in the Philippines.

ANNUAL PARISH BEREAVEMENT SERVICE

**SUNDAY 5th NOVEMBER
3pm - 4pm**

**We remember, by name,
those who have died in the parish in the
past year, and others we are asked to
remember**

**Is there a name you
would like included?**

**Please provide names by Sunday 23rd October
office@wargravechurch.org.uk | 0118 940 2300**

JUNIOR CHURCH: We are hiring!

Jubi Filho da Silva



Yes! We are hiring someone to lead **JUNIOR CHURCH** starting January 2024. Would you like to know why?

Well, look at our Church Centre. What do you see?
A beautiful extension sitting alongside a very old building?
Yes, and also a fairly large and flexible space where children can sit in different groups and even run.

Now look at our Junior Church leaders. What do you see?
Marvellous human beings, including, this very article writer? Yes, and they are also willing and able to teach the children from the front, working alongside a group of caring volunteers.

Now look at our pianist. What do you see?
My mother-in-law? Yes, and she is also able to teach from the front as well as play the piano, as well as sing and paint and write and cook... The list goes on and on while I collect points to be redeemed at the next Sunday roast, perhaps?

Seriously, look at everything God gave us. Look at the families committed to our church. We get to know their children only because the parents are coming back. Look at Butterflies, our Mum's (and Dad's) Toddler group. More than thirty mothers attend it, people who don't necessarily come to church on Sundays.

Just look at our Parish! Four entire communities hosting not one, but five, church schools all of which, are open to working more closely with us. The last census also indicates there are over 800 people under the age of 18 years living in our Parish.

Do you see? We have practically everything for a Youth & Children's minister to thrive here, and enormous potential for the ministry to grow. And if God gave us all this, why don't we pray that he would also give us a leader – someone who can go into the schools during the week, run holiday clubs, and train our team in a way even devoted volunteers never could?

That's why we are hiring. Please pray that God would send us just the right person to continue and grow his good work among us. If you would like to pray with us, we have a weekly prayer meeting every Wednesday morning at 7am via Zoom. Just contact Annie via **hobden.da.silva@gmail.com**. Also, if this article made you think about someone, please contact the Parish Office for more information or visit our website - **wargravechurch.org.uk/vacancies**.



FUN, FAITH & FRIENDSHIP



JUNIOR
CHURCH

AT ST MARY'S

FAMILY GAMES

Saturday 28th
October

Church Centre
3.30pm - 4.30pm

RSVP
annie@wargravechurch.org.uk

Next Event: Family Dinner 11th November

WARGRAVECHURCH.ORG.UK

December in the Parish

Friday 1st	All Day	Advent Windows (until 24th Dec)
Saturday 2nd	9am	Mill Green Leaf Clearing
	9am	Christmas Ladies' Breakfast
	2pm	Annual Christmas Raffle: Knowl Hill VH
Sunday 3rd	4pm	Christingle Making
	9.45am	Advent Sunday - Christingle: St Mary's followed by Christmas Brunch
Thursday 7th	10.30am	Holy Communion: St Peter's
	7pm	Christmas Wreath Making
Saturday 9th	4pm	Nativity Service on Mill Green
	5pm	Christmas Tree Lighting: Mill Green
Sunday 10th	9.15am	Holy Communion: St Paul's
	9.45am	Advent 2: Holy Communion: St Mary's
	3pm	Sing-a-Long Carols for under 5s
Thursday 14th	12 noon	CAMEO: Christmas Lunch
Saturday 16th	9am	St Mary's Christmas Decorating

Christmas Week

Sunday 17th	9.45am	Advent 3: Morning Worship: St Mary's
	3pm	Carol Service: St Peter's
	6pm	Carol Service: St Mary's
Tuesday 19th	2pm	Senior Carols & Afternoon Tea
Sunday 24th	9.45am	Advent 4: Holy Communion: St Mary's
	3pm	Carol Service: St Paul's
	4pm	Crib Service: St Mary's
	6pm	Family Carols: St Mary's
	11.15pm	Midnight Communion: St Mary's
Monday 25th	8am	Holy Communion: St Mary's
	9.15am	Village Praise: St Peter's
	9.45am	Parish Holy Communion: St Mary's

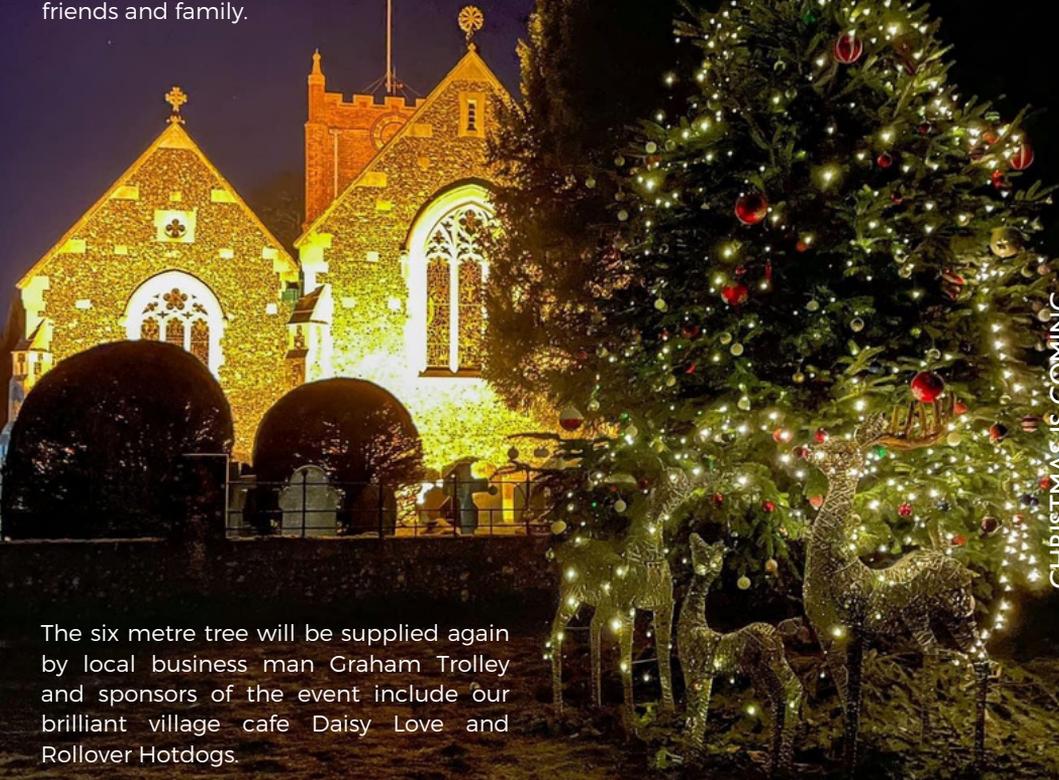
Details about each event to be shared in next month's Parish Magazine

CHRISTMAS IS COMING: Tree on the Green

Jayne Trolley

For some, it might be just too early to start thinking about Christmas. However plans are afoot for Wargrave once again to have a beautifully lit and decorated Christmas tree on Mill Green by St Mary's Church.

As last year, there will be a lighting event led by the Church - so please put **Saturday 9th December** from 4.30pm in your diary and tell as many of your friends and family.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING

The six metre tree will be supplied again by local business man Graham Trolley and sponsors of the event include our brilliant village café Daisy Love and Rollover Hotdogs.

There will be mulled wine and mince pies, hotdogs and hot chocolate served in return for a donation. Christmas music will get the fun started followed by a blessing of the tree before it is officially lit. Christmas carols will also be sung around the tree.

More information will follow in next month's magazine, but it's important that as many people know about this delightful Christmas occasion as possible so spread the word!

**Let's get our village together and welcome
Christmas to Wargrave!**

VICAR'S LETTER

Dear *Friends*



Both at St Peter's Church, Knowl Hill (at 10.30 am) and St Mary's Church, Wargrave (at 9.45 am) we will have a Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 1st October.

Many of us are somewhat removed from farming and harvesting, but it is still right that we should give thanks for the crops which have been safely harvested. If we are Christians, we believe that God made the world and everything in it. We also thank God for the variety of food and everything that helps food to grow.

I recently read Psalm 65 (do read it!) which is a song of thanksgiving; remarkable for its blending of the personal and the global, the intimate and the awesome. It addresses God directly in the second person with a great sense of affection, rather than making statements about him in the third person.

The Psalm speaks of a personal God of grace (who grants pardon), a God of greatness (for He is a God who stills the roaring seas and the turmoil of the nation's creating peace), and a generous God who provides plenty.

You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with corn, for so you ordained it. You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops. (Psalm 65: 9-10)

God cares about the land and provides water. Water is so vital. 27 litres of water are required for each cup of tea we enjoy; 255 litres of water are needed for one glass of milk; 74 litres for a pint of beer. The list is endless:

1kg pasta	1849 litres	1 calf	15,415 litres (water to raise)
1 loaf of bread	1300 litres	1kg chocolate	17196 litres
25g butter	1388 litres	250g bar of chocolate	4299 litres

You crown the year with bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance. The grasslands of the desert overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness. The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with corn; they shout for joy and sing. (Psalm 65: 11-13)

The harvest God gives is rich. Overall, around the world we are provided with more than enough food for everyone. Across the world we have 50% more food given to us than we eat. The problem of hunger is the failure and difficulty to distribute it around the world, as well as our wastefulness and greed.

Yes, harvest thanksgiving but also a reminder to share with those in need.

Yours in Christ,

John

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

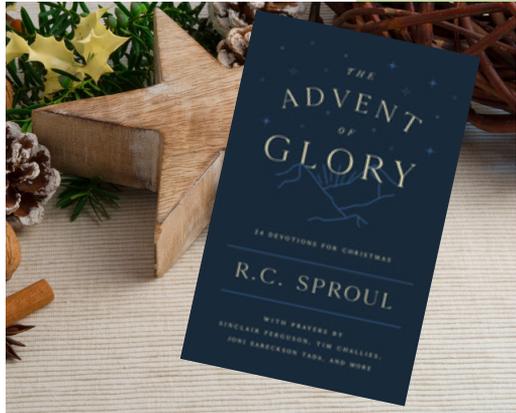
ADVENT OF GLORY

Sarah Whiteside

Why not take a wonderful walk through the **'Season of Advent'** with The Good Book Company? 'Benefit from the enduring insight and wisdom of R.C. Sproul with these Advent devotions that will help you savour the wonder of Christmas'.

On reading this piece, you may well be thinking that it's far too early to be considering the Advent Season - and you may well be right!

However, for those of us who enjoy our daily devotions in December to focus specifically on studies to develop our understanding of events during Advent, time to consider placing an order for the new selection for 2023 will soon be upon us.



The devotions in **'The Advent of Glory'**, published by the Good Book Company, have been written by Dr. R.C. Sproul, a theologian, pastor and Bible teacher. Following his death in 2017, they were edited with the help of his wife. Each devotion takes one key word from the Christmas story and uses that word to reflect on the advent of Christ. In addition, and a new feature in this series, each devotion concludes with a question to reflect upon, making each day an individual experience. This reflection is then followed by 'A prayer for the day', which is linked to the devotion and ensures that the study is enhanced by true personal involvement.

Sproul's writing style is unthreatening and warm and he uses personal anecdotes and examples to explain more difficult aspects of the verses. In addition, although many chapters focus on verses from Luke and Matthew, he often refers to the Old Testament, linking prophecies from the past with the events during advent, which I found enlightening.

Having received and assessed a preview copy, I am more than happy to recommend 'The Advent of Glory' and hope that many of us might purchase the book for 2023. As last year, I will be organising a bulk order which provides a good discount for us all; individual copies are priced at £7.64, whilst we have negotiated a discounted price of £6 per copy.

It would obviously be useful to me to know as soon as possible, how many of you would be interested in purchasing a copy this year. Please contact me either by email (sarahwhiteside@btinternet.com) or phone (**07764936866**) if you would like me to add your name to our order. Or, just see me in church. I'll also put a sign-up sheet on the table at the back of the church should you find this the easiest way to register your interest.

ADVENT OF GLORY

POETRY PIECES

POETRY UP CLOSE



WILLIAM WORDSWORTH (1770-1850)

William Wordsworth, born in Cumberland in the Lake District, was a central figure of the Romantic Period in literature, a form popular from the late 18th century to the mid-nineteenth century. This form focused on human emotions and the feeling of awe experienced when observing the natural world, providing a fresh view of the relationship between nature and the human mind.

Wordsworth is probably best known for his famous poem 'I wandered lonely as a cloud', which was published, along with the poem below, in his collection of 1807.

Wordsworth's poetry is admired for the lyrical rhythms and the use of language when comparing nature to everyday life, evoking an emotional response from the reader.

Despite writing into old age, it is Wordsworth's work produced between 1798-1812 that truly established his reputation as a great poet.

'**The Solitary Reaper**' is unusual as it is not based on Wordsworth's personal experience, but that of a friend, who shared the event. The poem concerns a young Scottish girl, reaping stalks of grain, alone. She sings in a language not understood, and yet the poet admires the melancholic beauty of her song and questions whether to stop or go on his way. The poet compares her singing to bird-song and ponders the reasons for her sadness. He decides to walk on, knowing that the sound of her voice will stay with him when out of earshot and ultimately '*Long after*'.

The Solitary Reaper (1805 - published 1807)

Behold her, single in the field,
Yon solitary Highland Lass!
Reaping and singing by herself;
Stop here, or gently pass!
Alone she cuts and binds the grain,
And sings a melancholy strain;
O listen! for the Vale profound
Is overflowing with the sound.

No Nightingale did ever chaunt
More welcome notes to weary bands
Of travellers in some shady haunt,
Among Arabian sands:
A voice so thrilling ne'er was heard
In spring-time from the Cuckoo-bird,
Breaking the silence of the seas
Among the farthest Hebrides.

Will no one tell me what she sings?
Perhaps the plaintive numbers flow
For old, unhappy, far-off things,
And battles long ago:
Or is it some more humble lay,
Familiar matter of to-day?
Some natural sorrow, loss, or pain,
That has been, and may be again?

Whate'er the theme, the Maiden sang
As if her song could have no ending;
I saw her singing at her work,
And o'er the sickle bending;
I listened, motionless and still;
And, as I mounted up the hill,
The music in my heart I bore,
Long after it was heard no more.

POETRY PIECES



Do you have a favourite poem you would like to share? Do you have any poems that you have written yourself? If you would like to be involved in

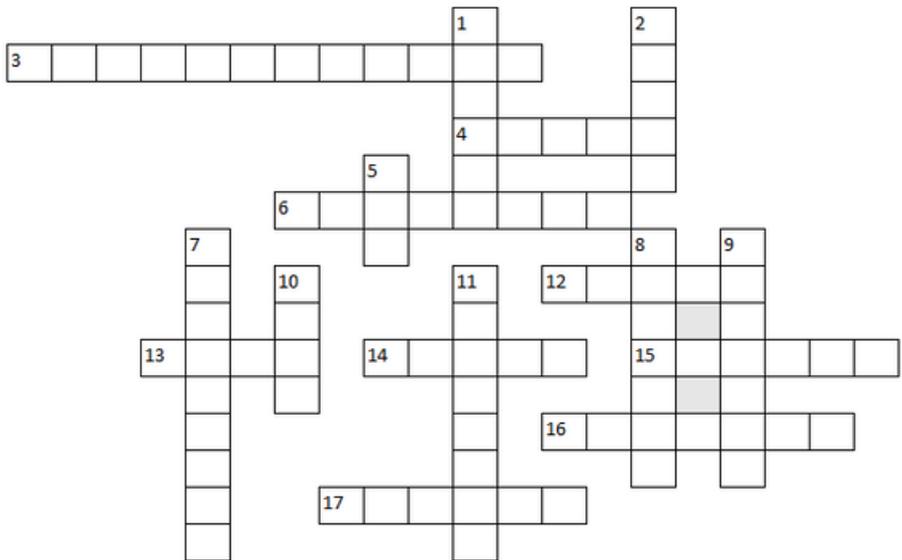
Poetry Pieces in the future, please send your contributions to :

sarahwhiteside@btinternet.com

DELIGHTFUL DILEMMAS

With our thoughts focused on the celebration of Harvest, this month's Delightful Dilemma is a crossword which takes HARVEST HYMNS as its theme.

The clues are all titles of Harvest hymns, some well-known, others less well-known. They have been chosen either because they are specifically about Harvest and the fruits of the earth, or because they have a general theme of thankfulness. You will notice that the titles all have one word missing. The missing word is your answer. Good luck!



BRAIN TEASERS

Across

- 3. fluffly
- 4. is thy faithfulness
- 6. For the fruits of the
- 12. For the beauty of the
- 13. God who the earth
- 14. Now we all our God
- 15. To Thee, O Lord, our we raise
- 16. Bountiful
- 17. We the fields and scatter

Down

- 1. All things and beautiful
- 2. Let us bring our to God
- 5. O God of Heaven and earth and
- 7. All of our God and King
- 8. Praise God for the harvest of and field
- 9. Bringing in the
- 10. To O Lord, our hearts we raise
- 11. Come, you people come

The solution can be found on page 32.

ANNUAL CONCERT: 18th November

Peter Dart

We have got a fabulous line up of musicians with singing from the VOCES8 Scholars (including How lovely are Thy dwellings from the Brahms Requiem). We have Richard Pearce playing the famous Bach toccata. We have Liz Drew (clarinet) and Laura Anstee (cello) playing a lovely Beethoven trio with piano. We have our Community Choir. We have Paul Speed on trumpet, and Rosie Dart will sing, also! There will be classical music and some rock and pop! It promises to be a very enjoyable evening. Some key details:

TIMINGS: Saturday 18th November at 7pm - 9.30pm (suggest arrive at 6.45pm)

TICKET PRICES: Reserved seating only. Gold - £20 (SOLD OUT), Silver - £10

TICKET BOOKING: Available after the 9.45am Sunday service at St Mary's or by emailing our ticket office: tickets@pursuitnha.com

DRINKS: We made a decision not to charge for wine - but it would still be appreciated if you could make a donation.

PARKING: There could be some parking congestion, so if possible please come by foot or park on Station Road.

Any questions, offers of help etc... please email Peter (peter@familydart.com)



OCTOBER RAMBLE: Sunday 29th October

Bob Austen

For our October ramble we return to a favourite local walk that crosses the open landscape of rich agricultural land between Knowl Hill and Waltham St Lawrence and passes near Weycock Hill, the site of a Roman temple.



We shall meet at the Royal Oak car park at Knowl Hill Common RG10 9YE at 12.30pm and return ready for a Sunday lunch at 3pm.

If you would like to join us on this walk, please contact Ramblin' Bob by Monday 16th October latest to book your place and advise whether you wish to stay for lunch.

Email: austenrobert@hotmail.com

Phone: 0118 940 3038 or Mobile: 07970 611013



EXCITING NEWS FOR ST PETER'S

Lesley Bell

Most of you will have been aware that there has been an aspiration to improve the facilities at St Peter's. To meet this aim, there have been many fund raising events over the years and we are deeply grateful to those who have supported us. Thank you all.

We can now announce that all that loyal support has not been in vain. On Friday 1st September, St Peter's was granted the Faculty (approval) from the Oxford Diocese for the installation of toilets and the refurbishment of the kitchen.

The toilets will be situated where the current kitchen is, the latter being re-located to the opposite side of the aisle.

Budgets will now be finalised and prior to any works actually taking pace, soil tests have to be conducted which will take place on the west side of the church (A4 side) and where the new digester will be situated, so you will soon see signs of activity.

The works will probably take about three months in all, so a potential target completion could be by Christmas!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Nick Rule, our architectural adviser, who has been instrumental in bringing this project to fruition, to Sandra Baker (In Memoriam) without whose commitment and dedication this would never have been possible and finally to John Cook, who has supported us, particularly liaising with the Diocese.

Now the hard work begins!



St Peter's Church, Knowl Hill presents:

Elvis Night!

KNOWL HILL VILLAGE HALL SATURDAY 21ST OCTOBER.

DOORS OPEN 7.30PM. FIRST SET STARTS AT 8PM

A NIGHT OF MUSIC AND DANCING WITH CLASSIC SONGS FROM THE LEGENDS PERFORMED BY GARY ROMAN...

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Tickets £17.50 including fish and chips

Cash bar and raffle

For further details or to book tickets, please contact Lesley on 07966 178142



SHOTTESBROOK & WHITE WALTHAM WELFARE FUND

Carolyn Thompson

This fund was established by the Charities Commission in 1912 to help those living in the 'area of benefit' (the Civil Parishes of Shottesbrooke & White Waltham and the Ward of South Hurley).

How we can help:

The Charity income may be used to help generally, or help individual people living in the 'area of benefit' who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress. It can do this by making grants of money or by providing or paying for items, services or facilities.

Restrictions:

The trustees cannot to help pay for rates, taxes or other public funds. However, it may use its funds to add to help that is already being provided out of public funds.

Each application for funding will be considered separately. Applications that are successful on one occasion may not be successful in future.

If you believe you would qualify for funding, please get in contact with the clerk by email (**carolynt52@icloud.com**) or telephone (**07834 545967**) and you will be contacted by your local Trustee.

A letter of support will be required from: A Social Worker, A Vicar/Priest, A Head Teacher; or another official body.

A LITTLE BIT OF HELP

FINANCIAL HELP WITH EDUCATION

Duell and Hawes Advancement in Life Trust
(Charity Commission Reg 307973)

Have you left school?

**Are you thinking of full-time training or education
(apprenticeship/College, university etc...)
or are you already there?**

If you are under 25 and live in the civil parishes of Shottesbrooke or White Waltham, or the south ward of Hurley, then the Duell and Hawes Educational Trust may be able to help you with a grant.

(This includes areas within Knowl Hill, Warren Row, Littlewick Green, Woodlands Park and Paley Street.)

For further information on the areas covered and eligibility, please write to:

Clerk to the Trustees, Carolyn Thompson, Spire View,
Waltham Road, White Waltham, SL6 3SG

Or email for application form: carolynt52@icloud.com

CRAZIES HILL CE PRIMARY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITY

Crazies Hill Church of England Primary School are looking for an exceptional person to take up the exciting position of Office Manager within The Keys Academy Trust.



Starting ASAP, this is a permanent, term time only role covering areas such as:

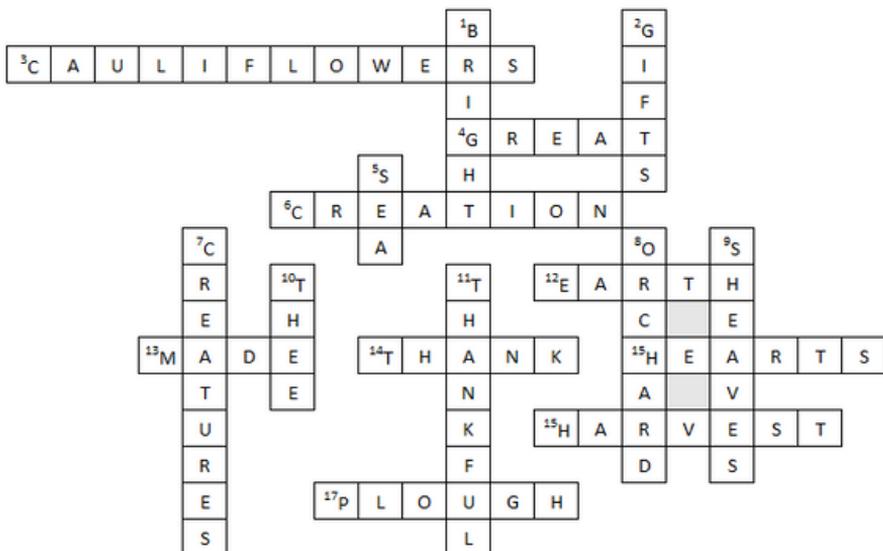
- Reception: Visitor, Parent or Child enquiries
- Secretarial & Administrative support
- Admissions & Tours
- Database Management
- Record & Register keeping

A job description and application form are available at crazieshill.co.uk (Our School > Staff). Applications must be submitted by email with a letter of application to operations@crazieshill.wokingham.sch.uk - no CVs please. Applications will be considered upon receipt and interviews arranged to suit the candidate.

The Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Applicants must be willing to undergo checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service enhanced criminal records check.

OPPORTUNITIES

DELIGHTFUL DILEMMAS: Harvest Hymns Answers





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Email elizabeth.court1@btconnect.com or visit www.wargrave-retirement-housing.org.uk

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Email: wendy@bridgeshomecare.co.uk

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BOND CARE

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Wargrave, Wokingham

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As a close-knit community, everyone at The Mount is treated with kindness, compassion and respect, ensuring residents maintain their privacy and dignity without compromising their independence. We view all staff and residents as one big family, which we promote in every aspect of what we do.

Home manager: Alexandru Toasca
The Mount Care Home, School Hill, Wargrave, Reading, RG10 8DY

☎ 0118 940 2046

✉ TheMountManager@bondcare.co.uk

www.bondcare.co.uk



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Guy Laschinger DipPFS
Principal
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Email: guy.laschinger@sjpp.co.uk



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WEALTH MANAGEMENT

The Partner Practice is an Appointed Representative of and represents only St. James's Place Wealth Management plc (which is authorized and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority) for the purpose of advising solely on the group's wealth management products and services, more details of which are set out on the group's website www.sjpp.co.uk/products. The St. James's Place Partnership and the titles 'Partner' and 'Partner Practice' are marketing terms used to describe St. James's Place representatives.

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