



St Mary's Church Wargrave

With Knowl Hill

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

Parish Magazine

July & August 2021



St Peter's Church Knowl Hill

With St Paul's Warren Row

News Page 28

75p

Who's Who: Parish Directory

Vicar	The Revd. John Cook	johnrmcook@btconnect.com	0118 940 2202
Curates	The Revd. Steve Turville	Stephen.turville@ntlworld.com	0118 901 6720
	The Revd. Richard Eaves		
Lay Minister	Andy Ferguson	andyferguson1@btinternet.com	0118 940 2925
PCC Secretary	Sheila Williams	sheilamarywilliams1952@gmail.com	0118 940 3587
PCC Treasurer	Jane Wills	paulandjanewills@btinternet.com	0118 940 2030

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Parish Office

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

Parish Registers

Funerals & Cremations

- 5th May Ella Shepherd, aged 89, Internment of Ashes, Knowl Hill
19th May Doris Eileen Costigan, aged 95, Cremation at Reading Crematorium

Cover Photo

During the lockdown many people have had the opportunity to admire the wonderful displays of nature's beauty in our villages.

This month we report on the National Churches Nature Survey. Our photo is of the Yellow Rattle.

Copy Date for the September Magazine

Please submit contributions for the September Magazine by
Friday 20th August.

Articles of up to 400 words are most welcome for publication in this Magazine and should be sent to the Editor: bobausten@wargravechurch.org.uk

The decision to publish material is at the Editor's discretion.

Views expressed in articles included in the Magazine are not necessarily shared by the Editor.

The Parish Magazine cannot accept responsibility for any products or services advertised in this Magazine.

Restarting

As lockdown measures are eased we are increasingly able to meet face to face. In June we saw the restarting of:

The Welcome Café
Coffee after the 10.30am Service
Butterflies
Baptisms
Weddings

and the continuation of the trial pattern of Sunday Services including singing the final hymn outdoor at St Mary's.

We are pleased to advertise forthcoming activities now include Ramblin' with Bob and the St Mary's Family Group.

Sunday Services

St Mary's Wargrave

8.00am Holy Communion: a said service in traditional language
9.15am Family Service: a short informal service with children's activities

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

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

2nd and 4th Sundays of the month:

10.30am Morning Worship in modern language with music

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

St Peter's Knowl Hill

1st Sunday of the month except July

10.30am Holy Communion

3rd Sunday of the month

10.30am Village Praise

St Paul's Warren Row

Services resume at 9.15am on Sunday 8th August with a service of Holy Communion in traditional language.

Online

The 10.30am service from Wargrave is available to watch online from late afternoon: YouTube: St Mary's Wargrave.

Open Church

St Mary's Church is open for prayer on Wednesdays between 10.00am and 4.00pm.

Monthly Prayer Meeting

Via Zoom at 8pm on Thursday 1st July and 5th August. Contact Steve Turville for the link: stephen.turville@ntlworld.com

Butterflies

This group for young children and their carers will be held in the Church Centre at 9.30am on Wednesdays 7th and 21st July then take a holiday in August!

9.15am Family Service - Summer Plans

Our 'new' Family Service has been running now for two months, throughout May and June.

We are loving meeting back in church in an informal setting. Half an hour of teaching, lively songs and interactive readings have all helped us to learn more about Jesus. We kicked off with 5 weeks of parables and finished with a mini-series in Daniel (learning about our faithful, mighty God).

Families have appreciated the opportunity to worship together as well as the opportunity that their children have had to be so involved in the service. Every week a mix of children lead the singing, the prayers and read the Bible passage, as well as helping with the AV.

Although adults are not yet allowed to sing in church, we have a weekly 'churchyard' song at the end of the service which we have all enjoyed enormously.

As we still have to distance at church a decision has been made to continue with this short service through into the autumn. Please pray for wisdom for John, Steve, Richard and the PCC as they prayerfully plan ahead: looking at ways of drawing our church family together when lockdown is no more.

In the meantime, we'd love you to join us, especially if you have young children. And if you don't have a young family please do pray for us: pray that this service would be encouraging for parents and children in their walk with Jesus.

Saturday 3rd July, 9.00am: Ladies Breakfast

Have you ever had a nickname?

Following our successful move back into the church centre we will again be meeting together in July. Jane Shaw will be leading this study based on a bible character who had not only one but two nicknames... We would love to see you there.

Please let either: Lesley Turville lesley.turville@gmail.com or Linda Caradine lindacaradine9@gmail.com know if you are able to attend.

Please bring your own cutlery and crockery and wear a mask until seated.

Sunday 4th July, 10.30am: Annual Church Meeting

On Sunday 4th July we will have a short service at 10.30am in St Mary's Church followed by the Church Annual Meeting when Churchwardens are elected, the past year is reviewed and the PCC is elected.

Please join us if you can.

Friday 30th July, 7.30pm: St Mary's Church Family Group

This will be a BBQ hosted by the Sutcliffes at The Thatched House, 1 High Street. Burgers, sausages and buns provided, anyone requiring veggie or other dietary requirements should bring their own.

Bring something to drink and either a salad or a pudding.

To book your place (and advise what you will bring) please contact Sean and Liz:

sutcliffefamily1@btinternet.com / 0118 940 1105



Ramblin' with Bob - Dates for your Diary

Sunday 4th July: Remenham & Aston

Meet at 12.30pm at St Nicholas Church at Remenham

Sunday 25th July: Pudders Farm & Cayton Park

Meet at 12.30pm outside The Horns at Crazies Hill

Sunday 22nd August: Littlewick Green & Prospect Hill

Meet at 12.30pm outside St John's Church at Littlewick Green

Please contact Ramblin' Bob if you would like to join some or all of these rambles.

email: austenrobert@hotmail.com

Home: 0118 940 3038

Mobile: 07970 611013



Due to Covid-19 restrictions we shall not be able to enjoy a group Sunday pub roast, however if circumstances change then we can add that to the agenda.



Saturday 11th September: Ride & Stride 2021

How about visiting local churches and raising some funds for Wargrave and Knowl Hill churches while you do so?

The national Ride & Stride event happens every year and this time the local organizers, Berkshire Historic Churches Trust, want Berkshire to climb up the league table of successful fundraising counties. Any mode of transport is fine – you could walk, cycle, ride - simply choose a route and find sponsorship from friends and family.

You can go by yourself or in a group, any time between 10am and 6pm and many people make a day of it. We are very fortunate to have so many wonderful and interesting churches to visit, and this year we hope many will be open and offering refreshments – there's nothing like a bit of cake to fuel our endeavours.

Our churches will benefit directly as they will receive half of your sponsorship. The remaining 50% goes to Berkshire Historic Churches Trust which in turn makes generous grants to churches in need.

A few of us from St Mary's missed this event last year because of the pandemic but are already planning to visit churches in Oxford so let Christine Walker know (via the church office) if you want to join the group. Soon participants will be going round with sponsorship forms so please be generous. Thanks.

Caring COG Plans by Steve Turville

With the expectations that all Covid restrictions will be lifted soon, we can at last begin to get back to meeting together properly. Although we have all tried to care for each other via phone and zoom, it is face to face meeting that people have really missed. The Welcome Café has already begun again on **Tuesday afternoons in St Mary's Church Centre from 2.30pm-4pm** for anyone who wants to come down for a chat and a cup of tea or coffee. We will begin home visits and Home Communion too, going back into The Mount and Elizabeth Court as soon as it is absolutely safe to do so.



Two things that began during lockdown were baking cakes for the carers at The Mount, to show our appreciation for their hard work and dedication, and producing the Grapevine weekly devotional which is emailed to everyone on the Parish email list, but more crucially has been hand-delivered to 30+ folk in the parish who aren't able to access church services or other Christian support via the internet. The plan is to continue to bake and deliver cakes to the Mount every Friday, (and if you would like to join the cake baking team, please contact Steve Turville) and also to continue with the Grapevine deliveries, which offers opportunities for further conversations.

Lockdown has highlighted the problem of loneliness in our communities because we have all experienced it to some degree. But as lockdown eases and we go back to the busy-ness of our social lives, the challenge for all of us is to ensure that the lonely and isolated do not return to the 'normal' of being forgotten.

stephen.turville@ntlworld.com / 0118 901 6720

Celebrating COG by Bob Austen



The Church celebrates not only in weekly worship but in fellowship together. The Celebrating COG takes on the task of organising and overseeing a whole programme of fellowship and social events, both for the benefit of the Church family and the wider village community for whom we have a responsibility to spread the Good News.

Covid-19 meant all our plans were put on hold and so there have been no activities for the past year. However, now that we are coming out of lockdown a new programme for 2021 is being formulated and this will include our monthly rambles and Family Group activities as well as special events like Picnic on the Mill Green and Harvest Lunch, both of which are planned for 2021 – Covid-19 rules permitting, of course.

I am looking to form a small team to help in organising events and so please contact me if you are interested in joining. Also if you have an idea for an event/activity, do please get in touch and the Celebrating COG can help in getting it off the ground.

austenrobert@hotmail.com / 0118 940 3038 / 07970 611013

Moving On

After four years serving a curacy in the parish, Hugh, Grace and Isaac move to Cornwall in July. Hugh will be taking up the role of Associate Minister at St Kea church, which is just outside Truro. "We are excited about the new role and look to continue seeking to engage people of all ages with the good news of Jesus. We will be sad to leave Wargrave and will miss our church family at St Mary's, St Peter's and St Paul's. We will pray on for people to be drawn to the love of Jesus, filled to the measure of all the fullness of God, and sent out in the power of the Spirit.



Grace and Hugh would like to say a huge thank you to all in the church family who have extended God's love to us by showing us so much sacrificial kindness, support and care - far too many to name here! Both of us are also very grateful to have been a part of the wider community and will take with us fond memories of village life, involvement in the local schools, events like Holiday Club, the Wargrave Festival, and messing about on the river.

The pandemic has highlighted just how supportive and loving our local community is. We will miss you all very much."

Ladies Breakfast

Saturday 5th June was our first breakfast back in The Centre after the Covid 19 lockdown. What a treat it was.

We had missed meeting in so many ways. In fact we just celebrated being together again. We took the opportunity of sharing some very personal reflections of the past year.

We were very aware of how our faith had helped us to dig deep.

God made us for relationships and that's what we had all missed, both with our families and each other.

House Group News

The Wednesday Evening House Group are currently using telephone conferencing for our weekly Bible Study meetings. From the start of September, we're looking forward to being able to meet up face to face once again. We're happy to have found a suitable "new home" to meet at the Hannen Room.

We plan to gather there each week, apart from the last week of the month, when we'll revert to telephone meetings.

New Curate

On 3rd July our new curate, Richard Eaves, will be ordained deacon at Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford.

We look forward to welcoming Richard, his wife Mel and daughter Alice into our community. They will be moving into their new home in Victoria Road in the middle of July.

Sir Morrel Mackenzie

Ghosts, Medical matters and Royalty

We reassure our children that there are no ghosts in our churchyard but deep down they might feel a bit scared. Could this be because here are links to the past and its people about whom there are many stories to be told. Recently we were reminded of one about Sir Morell Mackenzie whose grave just inside the lych gate was decorated with a laurel wreath following the re-enactment of a touching ceremony that took place one hundred years ago. The note attached says

To the Memory of Sir Morell Mackenzie, the Father of British Laryngology, from the Section of Laryngology and Rhinology of the Royal Society of Medicine, June 5th 2021 – the centenary of the Memorial Meeting held in 1921



Morell Mackenzie was an eminent throat specialist in Victorian times and one of the pioneers of laryngology in the United Kingdom. His reputation as a surgeon was damaged after his famous patient, Emperor Frederick III of Germany, died. Many years later, Dr James Irwin Moore, a former resident of 'The Little House' built by Morell Mackenzie in Wargrave's High Street became an advocate for the restoration of Morell Mackenzie's reputation. In June 1921, after the summer meeting of the Section of Laryngology he invited thirty of the members to lunch at his home. Afterwards they processed to Mackenzie's graveside to the sound of muffled bells and placed a laurel wreath on his grave. The speeches which followed described Mackenzie's qualities of kindness and consideration, his courage in face of lifelong poor health caused by asthma and the enduring value of Mackenzie's scientific and literary attainments.

Note from Dr Mark Puddy:

Because we live in Morell Mackenzie's old house in Wargrave, when John Cook was approached by the Ear Nose and Throat section of the Royal Society of Medicine in order to re-enact the celebration held a hundred years ago at the grave of Morell Mackenzie, he put me in contact with the organiser, Neil Weir. After the celebration in 1921, the party retired to The Little House (which at that time was owned by an ENT surgeon, James Irwin Moore) for luncheon.

Susan and I offered our house for luncheon after the celebration, and we were blessed with lovely weather and so were able to join the party of surgeons for a very good luncheon in our garden, prepared by Sue Weir, the wife of the organiser of the celebration. Two ENT surgeons, Rory Herdman and Tom Heyworth, who worked at the Royal Berks, were able to attend, as was another ENT surgeon, Tony Narula, who lives in the village, so there was a good local presence. It was a special time for all concerned, so we are all looking forwards to the next ceremony in 2121.

May Ramble with Ramblin' Bob by Jane Austen



On Sunday 30th May a group of 17 of us met up in beautiful sunshine at St James Church in Ruscombe for our first ramble of the year across the fields between Ruscombe and Waltham St. Lawrence. This walk roughly followed the perimeter of what was until drained in 1820, Ruscombe Lake. Bob's Covid-19 risk assessment was read out and we set forth fully briefed and boxes ticked!

The rattle of trains going by accompanied the first part of our journey and the huge gantries supporting the electric power cables imposed their ghastliness on what was before a pleasant rural vista. Shortly we entered a narrow hedged path called Postman's Walk – the origins of this name remained a mystery to us all. We passed close by an old house called 'The Plough' which was until the early 1980's a pub of the same name; Bob remembered stopping for a pint or two of Morlands back in the day and the house is beautifully maintained.

Our next point of interest was a concrete road which was the entrance to Waltham St Lawrence Airfield, a WW2 Relief Landing Ground for White Waltham. Apart from the concrete road the only 'evidence' of its military past was the site of a wartime gun emplacement, now shrouded in dense undergrowth. Like so many of these old military sites dotted around the country, Mother Nature has reclaimed her own and only the odd piece of brick or concrete betrays their former use.

Emerging from woodland into a tarmac road we passed Ferryman's Cottage which was once the home of the man who operated a ferry across Ruscombe Lake. What a magical scene it must have been all those years ago! A few hundred yards later we were back at the start and all agreed it had been a lovely walk.

Covid-19 guidelines denied us the pleasure of a group Sunday pub lunch but we hope that Boris will allow us to resume these in the near future!

The Sound of Leather on Willow by Bob Austen

Some of our Church family may know of my involvement with Wargrave Cricket Club as the resident umpire for the colts teams. I have been involved with this activity for many years now and about 10 years ago was given life membership of the Club for services rendered.

Cricket is a wonderful sport for young people, both boys and girls, to enjoy. It is friendly yet competitive and it is truly rewarding to see the improvement in skills season on season. Each team has a training evening and matches are played in early evenings, home and away. I have visited most of the cricket grounds in Berkshire with our colts and girls' teams and thoroughly enjoy the experience.

Wargrave is a great place to watch and play cricket. Friday evenings are particularly enjoyable when dozens of young families congregate on the Recreation Ground for a social and their youngsters can enjoy a taste of playing cricket with their friends. The bar is open and when Covid-19 rules permit, a BBQ.

The cricket season is quite short and I pack a lot of games into my umpiring schedule, sometimes 3 matches a week. Bathed in mosquito repellent and pebbles in my pocket, I consider myself very fortunate to be able to continue an active interest in cricket, long past my playing days!

Howzat!



St Mary's Church Centre



Photo courtesy of Tim Hodges

A place for people to meet and celebrate any occasion! For weddings, baptisms, societies and clubs, activities, charity events, funeral wakes, celebrations of anniversaries and birthdays missed or coming up, the choices are great.

Availability:
Weekdays, weekends and evenings all the year round.

The facility comprises of one large light and airy meeting space which can be divided into two, a kitchen, three toilets, a baby changing facility, vestibule and store room. The seating capacity is 100 in a configuration of 64/36 when separated into two distinct spaces.

The front entrance for visitors is adjacent to the Parish Office with pathway access direct from Mill Green where there is ample parking. It is easily accessible by disabled users.

Standard Charges 2021

Facility	Day time Hourly charge	Half day 4 hours	Full day 8 hours	Evening Hourly charge**
St Mary's Church Centre	£36	£110	£150	£44
St Mary's Church Centre	£24	£65	£85	£28
St Mary's Church Centre	£28	£75	£100	£32

Special rates are available for long term hirers.

* Minimum hire 2 hours

** Includes shared use of kitchen

In consideration of St Mary's neighbours, noise restrictions apply to evening lettings and all functions must finish by 11 pm.

Covid19 Cleaning charge: There will be an additional charge of £6.50 per booking in order for a full Covid19 compliant clean after every booking.

For more information about the facilities, availability, prices and terms of hire, and to arrange a viewing, please contact the Parish Office on 0118 940 2300 on Tuesdays or Wednesdays (9.30 am to 1 pm). Alternatively, send an email to lucy@wargravechurch.org.uk

Note: If hired, the purpose of hire and activities involved must not conflict with the beliefs or practices of the Christian faith.

Let's Sing

Throughout the pandemic we have not been allowed to have congregational singing in church. Do you miss singing? Perhaps you have been following services online and been constrained to singing at home with the family listening in? Perhaps you have been to services in the church building and had to hum or say the words into your mask rather than sing out? Singing is part of our psyche. We sing to celebrate memorable moments and momentous milestones from our earliest days. Remember singing nursery rhymes?



But why is singing so important in our worship? Music is a rich part of church tradition, a powerful tool, and is put in the services for a reason.

- When we sing we act as one, as the church family, we are bound together as the body of Christ as we lift our voices together.
- The Bible commands us to sing to the Lord, psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. (Jesus and his disciples sang a hymn before leaving the Garden of Gethsemane).
- Singing comes from deep within us and helps us express our emotions, our joy and love of the Lord, thanks, sorrow, wonder and helps us communicate with God.
- We participate actively in the service, shown by our singing, bodily attitudes, responses and our gestures.
- Hymns are powerful teaching aids, can deepen our understanding of the faith and can renew within us a longing for God, penitence for our sins, zeal in our Christian discipleship and many other themes.
- There is a saying, credited to St Augustine, although the origins are uncertain, "To sing is to pray twice!

There are so many worship songs so choosing the hymns for the 10.30a service must be a challenging task for our music group leaders.

Hymns carry huge emotional power and contribute significantly to the tone of the service, with the potential to help the congregation feel joyful and inspired. They need to fit in with the season, or the theme of the Bible readings, and must also take into account which hymns are more appropriate in different parts of the service. We need upbeat joyful moments and more reflective moments. We need a mix of hymns, some that sing about what God has done and continues to do, and others that express our heartfelt response to God.

There is diversity in musical taste, so there is a balance struck between traditional hymns and modern worship songs, and also in providing familiarity with the hymns we know and love, whilst also introducing something new from time to time. If the same ones are chosen too often they can lose their impact. There may be some hymns we don't like, but if we remind ourselves that these hymns may speak to others in the congregation, we can sing it as a gift for them as well as an offering to God.

Music is one of God's greatest gifts to us and we are blessed in having Peter Dart as our Director of Music, talented instrumentalists and a choir to encourage us and lead us in the singing. Currently, at the Sunday 9.15 and 10.30am services, the choir is limited to 6, but we have started moving outside for the final hymn when the weather permits, so there is an opportunity for everybody to join in with the singing. And hopefully, before too long, the restrictions on congregational singing will be lifted. Even if we do not have good singing voices - these are the voices God gave us - so, LET'S SING (when we're allowed)!

News from the PCC by Sheila Williams

At the Zoom meeting held on 24th May, the PCC heard that Richard Eves, our new Curate will be moving into Wargrave on 6 July. This meeting was the last for Hugh Barne and he was warmly thanked for all he had done for the Parish over the past years and the PCC prayed for God's help and support in his new role and blessings on his family as they start their new life in Cornwall.

Also on the agenda:

- Plans were made for the APCM on 4th July – please attend this important event
- Safeguarding training was being undertaken and procedures confirmed
- Progress on rolling out the new Parish Giving Scheme was reported
- Approval was given to a statement that the PCC Recognises the World is in a Global Climate Emergency, and plans were made for a Climate Sunday event
- Great progress towards achieving ECO Church Awards was reported
- The operation of the Church during the COVID crisis was discussed
- The success of the 9.15 Family Service at St Mary's was recognised and it was agreed to continue hold this
- Knowl Hill's 3rd Sunday Services are being well attended
- St Peter's eagerly awaits approval of a faculty to undertake essential building works.

Some Thoughts to Fill a Space

- ☺ **You can complain because roses have thorns, or you can rejoice because thorns have roses.**
- ☺ **You are not wise if you give the right answers; you are wise if you ask the right questions.**
- ☺ **Why isn't the word 'phonetic' spelt the way it sounds?**
- ☺ **When you give a talk, you can guarantee no-one is listening until you make a mistake.**
- ☺ **It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart (Mahatma Gandhi)**
- ☺ **Arguments are like fences – they always have two sides.**
- ☺ **Any method of evangelism will work if God is in it.
(Leonard Ravenhill)**

Update from Yeldall Manor

Another successful Stride for Recovery challenge was held for Yeldall Manor in June. About 50 people cycled, walked, ran, paddled canoes, or rode horses to raise money for our Good Samaritan Bursary Fund. A pair of friends walked three-legged from Paignton to Torquay, others are actually cycling from Lands End to John O'Groats (for real), whilst various supporters and ex-residents cycled or walked from their homes to Yeldall or elsewhere.

Yet again, the advantage of a virtual event was that people could take part wherever they were, and we were even joined by Jonatan in Bolivia. So far, we have raised nearly £11,000 to help subsidise the places of men who cannot otherwise afford to join us www.justgiving.com/campaign/stRIDE2021

Please join us at 3pm on 3rd July for our virtual Open Day. Although we are sad not to be able to invite you to enjoy our beautiful grounds in person, you can tune in wherever you are to be a part of this special afternoon.

There will be worship, news, testimony and more and you can join us live on www.facebook.com/Yeldall or www.youtube.com/c/YeldallManor1.

Please consider donating what you would normally spend on games or strawberry tea at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/openday2021. After the Open Day (c 4.15pm), we will get together on Zoom for our strawberry teas (link published on the day).



National Churches Nature Survey by Christine Walker

St Mary's is one of hundreds of churches who signed up to a week-long nature survey called 'Churches Count on Nature' in June. Many church burial grounds are species rich, and we have been doing our best to improve ours by rewilding carefully chosen areas whilst maintaining good access to graves.

The week gave us a chance to look more closely at what lives in our part of God's earth. The idea was to identify the plants, animals, birds, insects, and fungi in our churchyard send the data to a church-based charity called Caring for God's Acre for collation on the National Biodiversity Network.



Forget-Me-Not

The task to identify the multitude of plants was tackled with the help of family and friends, wild flower books, the phone app 'PI@ntNet' and a trawl through several sites on the internet. We named 118 plants - a mix of wild and cultivated plants. The dominant colour of the wild flowers was the white of various daisies and cow parsley but in the 'Let it Grow' area the blue flowers of the green alkanet were taking over. Less welcome, sadly, were the bluebells. While the bluebells have looked very pretty many are not our native bluebells but hybrids between the natives and the cultivated Spanish bluebells. There is concern that hybridisation could dilute the gene pool of the native bluebells and that the more vigorous invasive hybrids could out-compete native bluebells.

The butterflies' count proved challenging because they did not stay still to be identified. There are four common varieties of, basically, white ones. Three individuals were frolicking in the churchyard on the "counting day" and needed prolonged chasing until they finally settled and could be examined. They were identified as two Green Veined White and one Small White. A further butterfly was added to the count – a delightful Speckled Wood which has the helpful habit of enjoying sunbathing on paths so was easy to spot. Not many butterflies over a two hour period on a still sunny day! Hopefully this does not bode ill for the future of these cheerful little creatures.



Speckled Wood Butterfly



Lichens

Another count of lichens proved easier and totally fascinating as well as being good indicators of pollution levels. These slow growing forms of life are quite fussy about the stone on which they live; and the wide variety of gravestone materials provided an equally varied selection of species. Most have long, unpronounceable names – but one rejoicing in the name "the chewing gum lichen" is easily identifiable as it prefers concrete for its home.

To see how we did, or to see what was identified in other burial grounds around the country, visit <https://burialgrounds.nbnatlas.org/> .

Dick and Diane Bush

Dick has lived in Wargrave since he was born, firstly with his parents at Ivy Dene in Victoria Road and then at Highfield Farm where he has been a full time farmer since leaving Agricultural College.

Dick and Diane met first at Maidenhead Young Farmers Club in the late 1960's.



They married in 1971 at St Peters Church Burnham and have lived at their home at Gibstroude Farm ever since.

Dick has been involved with the Community for many years, formerly as a Trustee on the Crazies Hill Mission Hall, but since 1990 most notably as a member and then Chairman of Wargrave Parish Council.

Diane has been a British Legion Poppy Collector for 50 years and a President of Cockpole Green WI a number of times, most recently from 2019 to March this year.

Together they have 3 Children, Joanna who is married to Steve with daughter Amelie. Joanna is a teacher at Crossfields School in Reading currently with Year 1 pupils.

Matthew is married to Alex with 3 daughters, Chantel, Bethan and Isla.

Matthew works in the area of renewable electricity supply, currently working from home in their converted barn in Suffolk.

Charlotte is married to Mark, living in Bristol with two sons Finlay and Barney, she works for the Environment Agency and is involved in house groups with her local Frenchay Church

Diane has been involved with St Marys Church over many years, as a reader for the 8am service, helping with the flowers, is on the cleaning rota and was part of the Children's Sunday School team which was run from the Vestry for many years.

They are both Vice Presidents of the Royal South Bucks Agricultural Show and have won the Cup for the Members Garden Class a number of times and are current holders, despite there being no Show last year due to the pandemic.

They feel lucky to have had the garden and space to relax during these difficult times and whilst freedom is restricted by the current regulations they are happy to share the footpaths around their farm and fields, giving others who are not so lucky the opportunity to walk and exercise.

Dick and Diane are celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary this year, attending the 8 o'clock Sunday Service at the Burnham Church where they were married and gathering with a limited number of family and friends to mark the occasion.

"Come follow me", Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of me." (Mark 1:17)



Dear friends,

I wonder if, like me, you are prone to lose sight of the simple command at the heart of the gospel, 'follow me'? The Christian life is about starting an ongoing, personal friendship with the Lord Jesus Christ which is to increasingly shape all of our life. Eugene Peterson (1932-2018), an American Presbyterian minister, scholar, theologian, author, poet, writer and pastor strikingly described his life as a Christian as "a long obedience in the same direction".

The Latin word 'ob-audire', from which we get our English word 'obedience' contains the word to 'listen'. Obedience can look like losing our autonomy and therefore our identity. Far from it! Obedience to God is the pathway to freedom. The call of the Lord Jesus is striking.

It is a **personal call**. These words were first spoken by Jesus to Simon and his brother Andrew in a remarkable incident which occurred at Capernaum beside the sea of Galilee. They have also been spoken to countless millions since, one by one.

It is a **costly call**. Immediately they turned their backs on everything else and followed Jesus and were never the same again. To follow Jesus requires us to "repent and believe" (Mark 1:15). We need to turn from sin, from following the world, the flesh, and the devil, and submit to the Lord Jesus as our King. His rule should leave no part of life untouched and unchanged.

It is an **urgent call**. Jesus said, "the Kingdom of God is near". It was near then because, he the King, had stepped into history. Stepped into this world to call people in to his kingdom and, by the cross and resurrection, to secure their entry into it. It is near now because he will return and the doors to the kingdom will close. We are challenged to follow him while we have the opportunity.

It is a **life-changing call**. Jesus commissioned Simon and Andrew to be 'fishers of men'. Their priorities were changed from that day on. They were now kingdom people serving the King, with eternity in view.

These same things remain true for every believer as we continue to follow Jesus. We each need to respond afresh to his call each day and to continue in repentance and faith.

With my prayers,

John Cook

Robert Piggott CE Federation by Elaine Hughes

It has been lovely to welcome the children back after their half term holidays; it is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the academic year. Pupils and staff at the Robert Piggott CE Schools are looking forward to the final part of this Summer Term.

Our pupils continue to thrive and grow, they have shown remarkable resilience, continuously demonstrating our school values of - Courage, Friendship and Grace - despite the challenges they have faced. The children have adapted smoothly to the changes asked of them, such as eating in their classroom with children as young as six being asked to carry their food trays all the way back to classrooms without spillages. They have become used to having their assemblies and collective worship on TEAMS and shown great patience when the inevitable IT issues have arisen. Shortly, Phase Two will be participating in a series of online sessions, live streamed, from The Battle of Britain Bunker Museum as part of their World War Two topic.



Fortunately, we were able to get together to hold our Easter Service which is one of the highlights of the school year along with enjoying a special visit from Theresa May. She visited both schools and spoke to the pupils whilst visiting their classes.

The children have been excited to be involved in various charity campaigns, raising money for Daisy's Dream in honour of Captain Tom and a cricket fundraiser.

We are very proud of our pupils, who along with other schools, helped to raise over £4,500 for the Disaster Emergency Committee which sent aid to the Covid relief programme in India.



Looking to the future and improving on last year, we will be rehearsing our Year 6 Olympic themed play 'Going for Gold' which will be recorded on this occasion. Preparation will soon begin for our Year 6 leavers' assembly, which is traditionally held at the St Mary's Church. The Year 2 children will also be filming their farewell video as they transition up to the Junior schools in September. All children will be involved in various transitional activities to prepare them for the next phase in their learning journey.



Many of our outdoor activities have restarted, including Forest Schools, hockey taster days and the planned Year 6 visit to Waterside Centre in Thames Valley Park. We have even been able to get out and about in the village as you can from the pictures. So as the year 6 children receive their leavers' jumpers and design their Year Book we say a fond farewell and celebrate their strength of character, independence and resilience.

Our School Prayer

Bless us in our work and play
Bless us, Jesus, every day

Let us follow all your Grace
With our hands and in our face.

Work with Courage in our hearts,
Brave and strong to make our mark.

Play with Friendship, kind and true,
So Your love shines through us too.



Amen

Big Changes at Crazies Hill CE Primary by Philippa Chan

I feel incredibly lucky to have led Crazies Hill for the past five years and I think my time here has really changed me as a leader.

As soon as I started, I was overwhelmed by the support from the local community. I don't think I have even seen such interest in a school in any of the other five schools I have worked in. This opened my eyes to the benefits of embracing the community around the school more. I have seen how much the children have benefitted from having retired volunteers to hear them read and visit us. The litter pick, the Poppy Appeal and being involved in WI events have made us feel part of a larger team. Going to St Mary's Church for our whole school events is always a very special feature of the school and the team have always been very encouraging.

Our local residents have also been very generous. I cannot begin to explain what a difference the grants from the Piggott Trust and the Henley Educational trust have made to a small school like ours. I have been amazed by the support our fayres, raffles and auctions have received. People who visit us are impressed by our great facilities and this is, in part, from the generosity of the local community.

In a small school we can adapt much more easily to individual needs. I have seen how children thrive when all the adults who work with them consider their personalities and how to get the very best from them. Respectful relationships in small schools are far more important than rigid school systems.

I am most proud of the journey I have taken the school on regarding sport. When I arrived there were very few inter school sporting opportunities so connections were made and our school began to feature regularly on the Wokingham sporting scene.

Outdoor learning is another area that I championed and I have loved leading the Forest School sessions with the children. We are so lucky to have such an idyllic location and I was determined to make sure we utilised it.

Our thematic journeys and cross curricular approach have led to increased engagement in learning and better outcomes. This and the transformation of our Early Years is another element of my legacy. The lovely thing is that all of these changes have been done alongside Jo Shell our new Head of School.

I am sad to say goodbye to the school but I couldn't be happier that Jo Shell has been appointed as Head of School. She has been at the school for sixteen years and is passionate about continuing its journey into the future.



Jo and Philippa

Summer at Crazies Hill

We are disappointed that we have not been able to progress to the next stage of the Government's roadmap because this has had a huge impact on our end of year events. That said, when we reflect on the position a year ago, we only had half of our school in and therefore we feel lucky to be able to offer any special events. Last year there were no school trips, sports days, end of year shows and we had to split our outdoor leavers' assembly into small groups.

Our Key Stage 2 children are currently rehearsing their show *The Wind in the Willows*. We chose this production because it lends itself to being performed outside. This makes it safer for the singing and dancing. We will then film the show so that parents can watch it safely at home.

We are going to hold two sports days. One for Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 and then another for Key Stage 2. Some of our children will get to experience the exciting atmosphere and the element of competition for the first time. Sadly we will not be able to have any spectators, but again we will record the event for parents to view.

We were unable to go on our planned Upper Key stage 2 residential visit, but thanks to Dinton Pastures we have been able to offer a wet day of kayaking and raft building and then another day with archery and bush craft skills.

Our Lower Key Stage 2 children are thrilled to be having swimming lessons at the new Braywick Centre. We have noticed that the overall standards in swimming with this year group is lower due to the swimming pool closures over the last year, so we are pleased to be able to cover this again.

We are planning to invite the parents of our Year 6 leavers to our outdoor leavers' assembly at the end of term and I am so thankful that this will be possible. It is always hard to say goodbye to our families who have been so much part of the school's life over the last few years. We want our leavers to feel very special.

We may not be back to normal, but we are thankful that we can celebrate together. We look to September with hope and positivity.



The Piggott School - A Church of England Academy What a Year!

As the end of the school year draws to a close, we reflect on the extraordinary year we have had and celebrate the contribution and achievements of students and staff at The Piggott School in 2020-2021.

To say that this year has had its challenges would be an understatement and we are extremely proud of how our students have lived by our values every day, both in school and while learning at home; showing courage, dedication and respect to each other and to the wider school community.

Piggott students have surpassed themselves this year, maintaining a positive mindset at a time when there could have been so many reasons not to. Staff and students have been challenged in unimaginable ways but have continued to find the motivation and stamina to keep a positive mindset and to remain dedicated to academic excellence.



Year 13 Leavers Party

We applaud our Year 11 and 13 students who persevered to finish this turbulent year on a high, working diligently to reach their personal best and then celebrating the end of the year in style. Our Year 7 students joined under peculiar circumstances this year but that didn't hold them back from becoming an essential part of the fabric of everyday life at The Piggott School.

Despite the drawbacks, there have been so many wonderful moments worthy of celebration. Students have continued to give back to the community, bringing joy to others by singing Christmas Carols, writing cards to elderly residents, raising money for important causes through cake sales and personal challenges, and taking part in virtual ceremonies and events that gave the wider school community a chance to share in our moments of reflection and joy.

This year we went virtual, producing over 100 videos so that our Piggott community could still partake in special events such as our Remembrance Service, Christmas Concert, the Rock Concert, Open Evenings, Award Ceremonies, Parent Evenings, Induction Days and school leavers' celebrations.

We are so fortunate to have an incredibly supportive parent body; the encouragement and kindness shown by Piggott families gave much needed strength to staff when we needed it most.

We were overwhelmed by the commitment of so many volunteers to ensure our Covid Testing Centre was a success and without them, none of it would have been possible.

Our governors have been tremendously supportive of the school during the past year and are deserving of a special mention. They have offered advice, guidance and support, and have used their collective wisdom to help the school community flourish at all levels. The use of MS Teams for remote meetings has enabled the leadership of the school to better balance work and personal commitments, including the increased number of meetings this year. Governors very kindly organised and donated chocolate related confectionary for the staff, and this was very much appreciated by all.

There is no doubt that the pandemic has affected us all in different ways, but it has also served as an important reminder of what, and who is important. The kindness, courage and love you have all shown epitomises our Christian vision at Piggott to 'Love thy neighbour' and 'Go and do likewise'.

Enjoy your summer break, stay safe and see you in September!



Volunteers from across the local community working in our Covid Testing Centre



Year 11 Final Day



Simple Tips on how to live lightly on God's Earth: Part 5 by Mike Buckland

If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. (Psalm 139:9-10).

5 – TRAVEL

This is the fifth in our series of tips. We looked at shopping in March, gardening in April, avoiding and managing waste in and in May, and our bathrooms in June. This month, as we move into the holiday season, we look at travel.

10 Green Travel Tips

1. Take a spill-proof container. A plastic bottle often travels thousands of miles before you buy it, and may find its way to a river and sea. Carry a reusable container or drink locally sourced water when you're on the go.
2. Pack lighter. Be happy with less. It's part of making living lightly a habit.
3. Unplug your home. Things like fridges need to stay on of course while you are away, and timed lights are good for security, but your TV and computer do not need to stay on, and it's good for routers to power down occasionally. Save energy and money.
4. Take public transportation. Let the train, bus, tram or ferry take the strain. If you can, hire a bike or walk from where you are staying. If you rent a car or take a taxi, choose an electric one if one is available.
5. Take non-stop flights. Every time a plane takes off and lands, it adds to the global warming which causes sea levels to rise, enlarges deserts, creates forest fires and leads to drought. Only fly when you have to.
6. Eat Local. Enjoy locally sourced produce to minimise airmiles, help local producers and learn exciting recipes that will wow your friends.
7. Shop locally. Support the local infrastructure (and practise the lingo!).
8. Stay at a green hotel. Avoid places that waste food or energy, or provide food and bathroom products that are unsustainably sourced.
9. Leave no trace. The places we visit want our money, not our litter!
10. Drink near beer. Local breweries, cider presses and vineyards are fun and need our support more than ever.

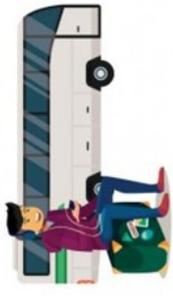
10 TIPS ON ECO-FRIENDLY TRAVEL



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Unplug Your Home



Take Public Transportation



Take Non-Stop Flights



Eat Local



Shop Locally



Choose Eco-Hotels



Leave No Trace



Drink Near Beer

Talking of cars, if we have two, do we really need them both? And how old is our current car? The best thing we can do for the environment is to keep it for as long as possible, whatever fuel it uses. The same goes for anything that is manufactured. Built-in obsolescence is a scandal. Of course, if it's time for a new car, buy an electric one - or one that uses some other form of renewable energy if you are feeling adventurous - no bigger than you need. The Fully Recharged channel on YouTube shows what's available in 2021:

<https://youtu.be/oQqEHd0gQCM>.

More tips next month!



Young Christians' Climate Network relay walk to COP26

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

(Psalm 24:1)

Young Christians across the UK are drawing attention to the Church's response to the climate emergency by walking from Cornwall to Glasgow. They set off from Truro Cathedral as the G7 Summit met in Cornwall in June and expect to arrive in Glasgow in time for the COP26 conference on climate change in November.



The walk will arrive in Twyford on Saturday 31st August after two days' rest in Reading, and continue to Windsor on the following morning. We are invited to:

- Walk from Wargrave to St Marys church, Twyford, to greet them on behalf of our church, and/or accompany them on either day on all or part of the route
- Provide some cake/snacks for the core walkers' long stretch to Windsor
- Attend the 10:30 Family Service at St Mary's Twyford, which the six core walkers will be attending before continuing on their way
- Provide on-call car support on the Saturday or Sunday in case of injuries etc, and transport bags for the core walkers between Reading/Twyford or Twyford/Windsor

It would be wonderful too if one or two of us could make a banner that we can take to Twyford on the Saturday afternoon and add it to the welcome.

Olivia, Bishop of Reading will join the walk to Twyford. Those of us who attended our Lent course this year will recall her reminding us of the call on churches to make every effort to become carbon neutral by 2030, in order to keep the rise in global temperatures to as close as possible to the 1.5° target set by the Paris Agreement of 2019 at COP24. The PCC of Wargrave with Knowl Hill has made a public declaration that recognises the part we have to play. Our web site <https://www.wargravechurch.org.uk/> has a link to it.

If you can help or want to know more, please contact Rosie Creedon or Mike Buckland. There is information about the organisers on the Young Christians Climate Network (YCCN) website <https://www.yccn.uk/>.

Tuna Fish Roll

Ideal for the July National Picnic Month!

Ingredients

Small packet puff pastry (fresh, frozen or chilled)
1 onion, peeled and finely chopped
1 can of tuna, drained
Small packet of frozen mixed vegetables (peas, carrots, green beans, sweet peppers, sweet corn)
1 beaten egg
6oz/175g grated mild cheese (Edam, Double Gloucester)
Seasoning

Method

1. The pastry should be cool from the fridge, but not frozen.
2. Roll it out into an oblong, rolling it thin.
3. Leave the pastry to rest while you prepare the filling.
4. Sauté the onion in a little butter or oil until soft. Allow to cool.
5. Put the mixed vegetables into boiling water, return to the boil, drain and rinse in cold water. Allow to cool.
6. In a bowl thoroughly mix the onion, vegetables, flaked tuna, seasoning, most of the egg and 4oz of cheese.
7. Spread the mixture evenly over the pastry, to within 2 cms of the edge.
8. Damp the edges of the pastry with cold water, roll up, swiss roll style, from the long side and seal the edges well. Lift the roll carefully onto a dampened baking sheet and form into a circle or horseshoe.
9. Using a sharp knife, cut deeply across the roll at 2-3 cm intervals. Brush with egg and bake in the centre of a 220C/425F/gas mark 7 oven for 15 minutes.
10. Remove, sprinkle with the remaining 2oz of cheese and return to a 190C/375F/gas mark 5 oven for 30 minutes, or until golden brown and cooked through.
11. Serve hot, with extra vegetables, or cold with salad.
12. It slices for a buffet or picnic and also freezes well.



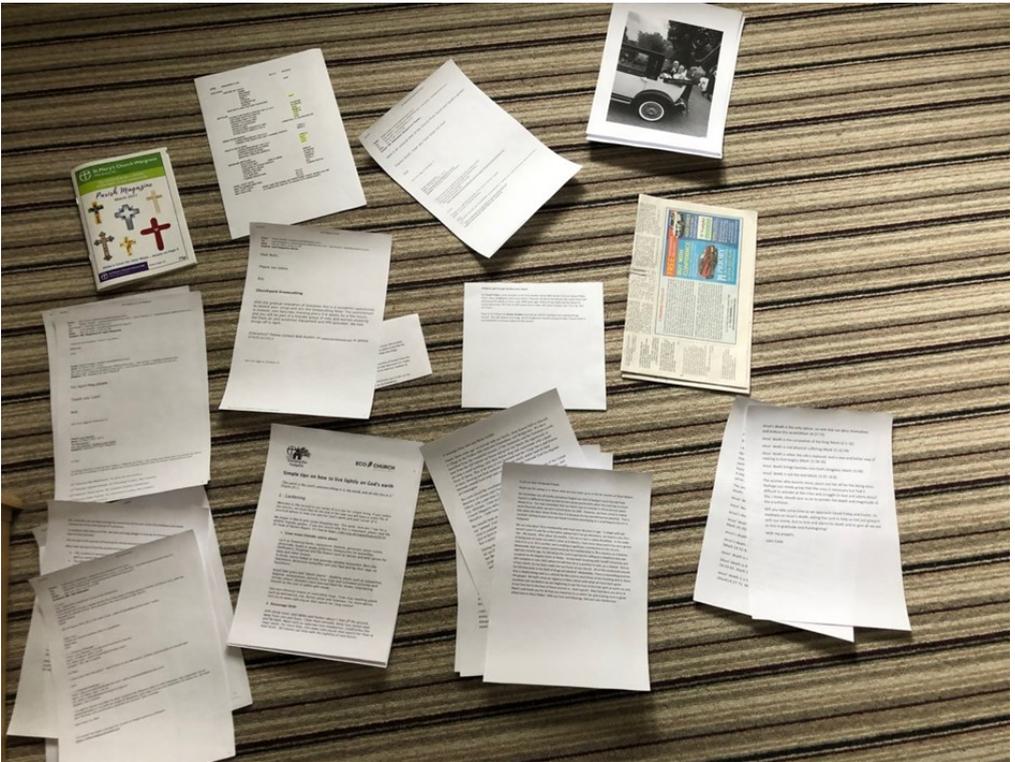
St Peter's Update by Sandra Baker

We are within a hair's breadth of receiving a provisional Faculty which will enable me to continue to seek funding for our renovation project. We haven't received the full Faculty yet because more detailed specifications for mechanical and electrical services, paint and plaster and drainage etc are still being worked on. However this is a major step forward and we are enormously grateful for all the work Nick Rule, our architect, has contributed.

We have recently circulated a letter to all Knowl Hill residents requesting donations towards the day to day running of St. Peter's which has met with a generous and encouraging response. Thank you very much to everyone who has contributed. Thanks are also due to the Knowl Hill Village Association who kindly agreed to help with the delivery.

We are sad to say goodbye to Hugh and his family as they move on to pastures new in Cornwall. Hugh has been enormously supportive and practically helpful to us and his themed services have been very well received. We wish Hugh, Grace and Isaac every success for the future and look forward to meeting Richard and his family.

From the floor of the Magazine Cutting Room...



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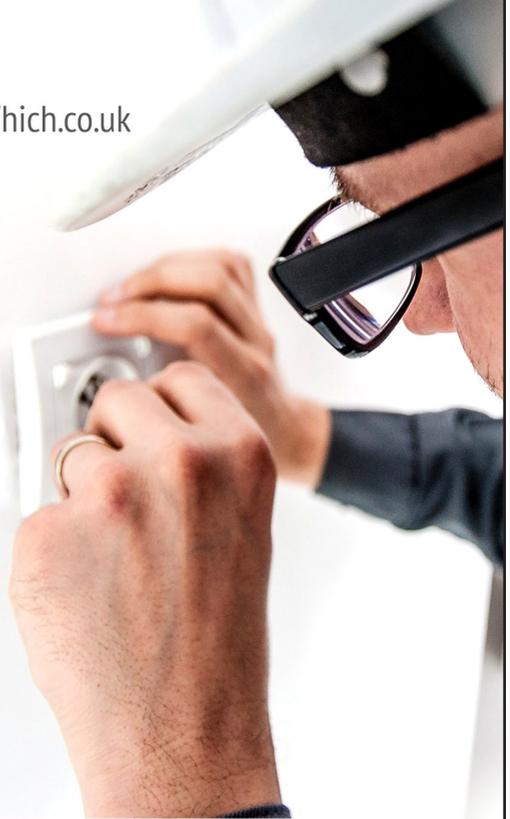
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katie@kimservices.co.uk



A.I. STORE

111 VICTORIA ROAD
WARGRAVE
Tel 0118 940 1611

Opening Hours

Mon-Fri 8.00am - 6.30pm

Saturday 8.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday 9.00am - 8.00pm



*"Fresh" Fruit, Vegetables & Bread
Home Entertainment - Payzone (top-up)
In-Store Bakery - Confectionery
Off Licence - Chilled Drinks - Frozen Foods*

Silvers Beauty

07901641799

Silversbeauty@btinternet.com

www.Silversbeauty.co.uk

Unit 4 Loddon Park Farm, New Bath Road
Twyford, Reading, RG10 9RY

Providing the kindest care and a good life to elderly people

Set within the wider setting of Thamesfield, a private, age-exclusive, independent village in Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire, Thamesfield Care Home is a delightful care home that offers residential and nursing care.

We're pioneering a simple approach to care, where kindness is our ethos.

We welcome new Residents and assure you we will be providing safe visits whilst protecting those who already live with us.

To find out more information on the care that Thamesfield can offer you, or your loved one, please visit our website or contact our Home Manager, Lina Nela.



Offering:

- Safe family visits and video calls
- Enhanced infection control
- PPE and routine coronavirus testing
- Telephone and video assessments
- CQC overall rating of 'Good'
- Carehome.co.uk average rating of 9.6

W hc-one.co.uk

T 0333 999 8748

E careline@hc-one.co.uk

A Wargrave Road, Henley-on-Thames,
Oxfordshire, RG9 2LX



Gardiner's H O M E C A R E 0118 334 7474

We are a local, family business that has provided quality care since 1968.
Our experienced team are ready to help you in whatever way you need.

Such as:

- ✓ Companionship
- ✓ Washing & dressing
- ✓ Overnight stays
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- ✓ Variety of household tasks
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We can support you to maintain your independence in the comfort of your own home.

Our visits vary from one hour to overnight stays. Please call to chat about how we can help you.

www.gardinersnursing.co.uk
10 Church Street, Caversham, Reading. RG4 8DZ



Community Carers Wanted!

£9.25 per hour weekdays £11 per hour weekends,
Paid Travel Time, Full or Part-time.

Come and join our excellent team providing practical help and support to elderly people in their own homes.

- Full training given, so experience not required
- Existing skills and experience valued
- Guaranteed work, local area
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- Flexible hours or shifts available

Find out more contact **Bonny or Wendy** on **01491 578758**
or email bonny@bridgeshomecare.co.uk visit www.bridgeshomecare.co.uk

An independent company with 18 years experience of care in the community



Hot Meal Delivery Service

Our trained staff now deliver fresh hot meals to your area, Wargrave and Twyford. Our specially designed van delivers the delicious hot meal you want just when you want it.

- free delivery 365 days a year by trained caring staff
- supplied when needed, no long term contracts
- wide choice such as hot roast, cottage pie, curry
- also special diets such as gluten free, vegetarian
- plus easy to swallow texture modified meals
- quality accredited for service and food quality.



For further information contact: **01491 578 758**
Email: wendy@bridgeshomecare.co.uk

Bridges Hot Meal Delivery Service, Oxford House, Highlands Lane, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 4PS



Majesticare
Luxury Care Homes

The Mount Care Home

Beautiful on the Outside Caring on the Inside



The Mount has been purpose built behind an impressive house in the heart of the gorgeous village of Upper Wargrave, two miles from Twyford, four miles from Henley on Thames and six miles from Reading.

Our residents also benefit from experienced staff who provide professional personalised care and a whole range of services to enhance their lives. We provide high standards of Nursing Care and also Specialist Dementia Care. There is no better way to get a feel for the luxury and quality care we offer at the Mount than to come for a visit -



Reservations for Nursing and Dementia care are now being taken. Our rooms are affordably priced; we accept Private, Social Services, CHC funded residents and Direct Payments.

www.majesticare.co.uk/carehome/the-mount

