

WINDOW *on* WALTON

Parish & Community News from St Peter's

2023
JAN/FEB
www.stpeterswoth.org



ST. PETER'S
CHURCH
WALTON ON THE HILL



● Parish News ● Community ● Local Events ● Clubs & Groups



St Peter's Church waltononthehill



St Peter's Church WOTH

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Reigate Grammar School



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Editor's Note

by Laura Palmer



Happy New Year to all readers of Window on Walton, whether you're a long time subscriber, reading this in a communal space (nice to have those again), or you've borrowed this from a friend, I hope you enjoy the first edition of 2023.

It's around this time that I usually start to have lofty ideas about New Year resolutions and all the things I should be doing much less, or more, or just better. And much as those things all need addressing (just like they did last year) for now, I'm happy to just enjoy the fact that the days are getting longer and in a few weeks the first daffodils will start to poke their heads above ground in defiance of the cold, as if to remind me that I won't be wearing this many layers forever.

This edition of WoW is a little later to print so as to include details of some of the Christmas goings-on at St Peter's and around the village, which I hope you enjoy reading about. There are so many ways in which you can get involved in our Walton on the Hill community, and lots of contact details within the magazine, so do reach out if there's anything that you think you would like to be involved in.

Once again, my thanks goes out to all those who have contributed to Window on Walton and continue to do so to make it the read that it is.

As always, if there's anything you'd like to see more (or less) of, if you have a story, a photo, an advertisement, an opinion, a pet, poem or puzzle you'd like to share, I'm at colourmehappykitchen@icloud.com and I would love to hear from you.

Have a wonderful start to 2023 and stay safe.

Laura.

PS A big thank you to all those who helped clean and decorate St Peter's for the Christmas period, and of course put up the tree and lights. If anyone is interested in getting involved with the flowers at St Peter's, please contact Penelope Dring via the church office.

Please support this community project by paying £10 per year and guarantee yourself an issue every two months, hand delivered to your door.
Please email admin@stpeterswoth.org for more info. Thank you.

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The deadline for the Mar/Apr Edition is 13th February. Please send all contributions, by email, to:- Laura Palmer at colourmehappykitchen@icloud.com All views expressed are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of St Peter's.



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Treasurer

Chrissie James

We are delighted to welcome Lisa Butler as our new St Peter's Parish Administrator and Chrissie James as our new Treasurer!

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Rector's Letter

by Reverend Harry Latham



It was such a relief not to have Covid over Christmas 2022 (as in 2021) and lovely to be able to take the Christmas Eve Services at St Peter's again.

I very much enjoy the fact that the afternoon of Christmas Eve is fairly 'uncontested' time. In fact, quite a few people are actively wanting to come to Church in that time slot. By comparison, Sunday mornings at 11am are in a very 'contested' slot. Sporting clubs in particular offer opportunities to older children that are frequently irresistible.

But by the end of 2022 I am delighted to say that our 11am services had regained the same sort of numbers we were seeing in 2019. The 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month are particularly good for families and children and the 2nd and 4th Sundays have a revitalised choir.

As we enter a new year, we are very keen to continue to reach out into our village community; our priority continues to be "Seeking God's face" and "Sharing his love" in all we do.

2022 was a year with many hard elements in it. We had the death of our late Queen Elizabeth – most of us had never known another monarch. We had the illegal invasion of Ukraine and ongoing resulting war. We had the subsequent huge rises in the cost of fuel for our cars and for heating our homes. Food prices went up as did the cost of living in general.

We also had some rather strange extremes of weather – a lot of heat and a lot of rain, a cold snap, and some snow. As various people said, we are living in interesting times.



A local sadness, though not an unexpected situation, was the conclusion of the story of the Christchurch United Reformed congregation in the village. This means that the building is to be put up for sale and many of us are very concerned to find a way of keeping it for the village as a much loved and valued Community Hub.

Tom Rhind-Tutt MBE has penned the prayer overleaf, and is working with a number of us from the School, the Forum and St Peter's to try to find a way forward. If you would like to help or know others who might like to, please let us know. This would include being in touch with local trusts or benefactors who could help us raise the purchase price when it is known. Saving the Christchurch building for the village is vital in 2023.

I took many funerals from October to December in 2022; a difficult time of holding together sadness at the loss of loved ones with gratitude for love shared and for lives lived well. For the Christian there is the reassurance that our loved ones are safe in God's keeping and that the end of this life is not our end but the beginning of a new chapter in a brighter light and on a different shore. A face to face seeing of our Lord Jesus, rather than looking through a glass dimly.

I have asked Tom to offer opportunities to learn about and engage in prayer – whatever age you are. Nothing is of more importance than growing in our relationship with Jesus now and helping him to build his church (as very much junior partners). Please take him up on his offer.

My very best wishes & blessings, Harry

OUR Prayer for Growth

**God of mission,
who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give
Vision to our planning, Wisdom to our
actions,
and Power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
in spiritual commitment to you,
and in service to our local community,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

*(LYCIG stands for Leading Your Church into
Growth – which is led by the Rector & PCC)*



A Prayer for the Future of Christchurch

***Father, we thank you for Christchurch
and its members' witness to your love
over many years.***

***We pray that the Community may be
able to acquire this building soon,
that it may become a gathering place
for school, church and community.***

***Guide us into helpful actions and
conversations and inspire many to
support this initiative, so that the
'Community Hub' may become a
reality.***

In Jesus' Name.

Amen.

To find out how you can support the
Community Hub project please contact Rev
Harry Latham or Tim Samuel

THE MOTHERS UNION PRAYER

Loving Lord,

***We thank you for your love so freely given to
us all. We pray for families around the
world.***

***Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we
seek to share your love through the
encouragement, strengthening and support
of marriage and family life.***

***Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united
in prayer and worship, and in love and
service reach out as your hands across the
world.***

In Jesus' name.

Amen

Find out more about Mothers and Uthers, the
MU in Walton, on P16-17

SUNDAYS

8.00am 1662 Prayer Book Communion (45mins) This is a quiet, traditional and spoken service of Communion with a short talk (a wonderful way to start the day).

11.00am Main Morning Service (60mins) This service is our main service of the day.

We welcome you all.



1st Sunday is an ALL-AGE Service
(with craft activity)



2nd Sunday is a FAMILY COMMUNION Service (less traditional)



3rd Sunday is a FAMILY Service



4th Sunday is a PARISH COMMUNION Service (more traditional)



5th Sunday is a UNITED BENEFICE Service
(at either St Peter's, St Mary's or St Andrew's)

From the Registers

Funerals

Nov 10th – Bob Spencer
Dec 8th – Hazel Harding
Dec 14th – Cherry Norman
Dec 15th – Chris Robinson

Healing Communion at St Mary's Headley

A short communion service with the opportunity to receive prayer for healing and anointing with oil. All are welcome.



Wednesday 10-11am

18 Jan & 15 Feb



Prayer & Pastries

St Andrew's Box Hill

A short 20 min reflective space for prayer and quiet followed by tasty pastries, coffee and chat!

Fridays 9.15am

6 Jan-10 Feb & 24 Feb-31 Mar



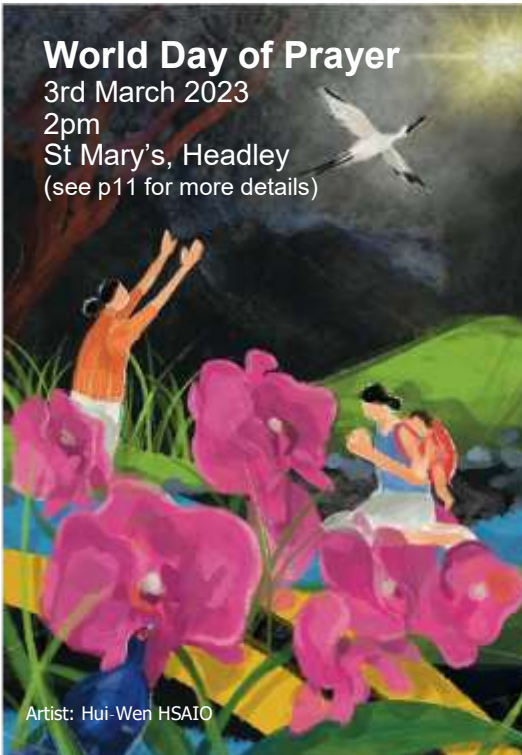
World Day of Prayer

3rd March 2023

2pm

St Mary's, Headley

(see p11 for more details)



Artist: Hui-Wen HSAIO

First Friday Coffee Morning

**in The Octagon
at St Mary's Headley**



A chance to meet, chat and connect over coffee and cake

Fridays 6 Jan & 3 Feb

10.30-12pm



Services Within Our Benefice at Headley & Box Hill

Please see Headley and Box Hill website for up to date services.
www.headleyboxhillchurches.org.uk

Headley

1st Jan	10.30am	United Benefice Service at St Andrew's
8th Jan	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
	9.30am	Family Communion with St Andrew's
15th Jan	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
	10.30am	Parish Communion
22nd Jan	10.30am	Parish Communion
29th Jan	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
	10.30am	United Benefice Communion at St Mary's
5th Feb	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
	10.30am	Parish Communion
12th Feb	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
	9.30am	Family Communion with St Andrew's
19th Feb	10.30am	Parish Communion
26th Feb	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
	10.30am	Family Communion



Box Hill

1st Jan	10.30am	United Benefice Service at St Andrews
8th Jan	9.30am	Family Communion at St Mary's
15th Jan	9.30am	Informal Communion
22nd Jan	10.00am	Morning Prayer
29th Jan	10.30am	United Benefice Communion at St Mary's
5th Feb	9.30am	Contemporary Worship
12th Feb	9.30am	Family Communion at St Mary's
19th Feb	9.30am	Informal Communion
26th Feb	10am	Communion



Local Focus: A Win for Chinthurst!

by Susan Trantor

Chinthurst has been named 2022 Independent School of the Year for Sporting Achievement!

More than 700 schools were nominated for prestigious 2022 Independent School Parent awards this year. In a competitive field, the judging panel said that Chinthurst stood out because of its pioneering approach to gender in sport. The school allows pupils to choose which sport they want to play without being constrained by conventional norms. In football, rugby, netball and hockey, boys and girls train alongside each other and play fixtures together in competitive teams. As a result, they see themselves as equals on the pitch with no preconceived 'limitations' and the encouragement and support they give one another on the games' fields continues off it.

The children enjoy high standards of coaching and playing whatever sport they choose, whatever gender they are, and whatever standard they have reached or natural ability they may have. Everyone has the chance to develop the essential skills of teamwork and resilience, with a focus firmly on fun!

Headteacher Cathy Trundle said, 'We believe our approach to sport will have a significant impact, not only on how the children think now, but on how they continue to think as they grow up and become adults. We hope it will play a part in changing the attitudes, assumptions, constraints and limitations that society places on girls and boys and, by doing so, it will actively promote gender equality. Giving pupils a voice in sport and across other areas of the school is an integral part of our Wellbeing at Heart programme as it builds confidence and self-esteem'.



Benefice Boundary Walk to Centenary Wood *by Susan Adilz*

A big thank you to the twelve people who braved a wet Saturday morning to come on the Parish Boundary Walk (north) in early November.

A Parish Boundary Walk (south) is planned for Saturday 1st July 2023, when hopefully the weather will be better!

Watch out for further details in Window on Walton nearer the time.

christopher@hilltopbenefice.org.





The Arts Society Walton on the Hill meets

Riddell Hall, Deans Lane,
Walton on the Hill, KT20 7UL
Third Thursday each month



Coffee 10.00 – 10.30 am

Lecture 11.00 – 12.00 pm

Experts on Fine & Decorative
Art, Gardens, Fashion,
Jewellery & more



Study Days, Visits, Tours

Membership Secretary Mike

Roshier 01372 813196

www.theartsocietywaltononthehill.org.uk



World Day of Prayer

3 March 2023

**St. Mary's Church
Headley**

Friday 3rd March

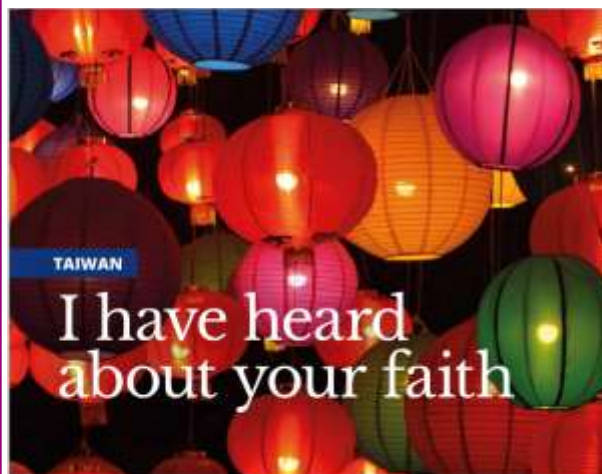
2.00 pm

This year's service has been
prepared by the Christian women
of Taiwan on the theme,

'I have heard about your faith'.

**EVERYONE IS WARMLY
WELCOME** to this local service,
which will followed by **TEA**.

If you would like **TRANSPORT**, please
let Mo know. (Contact: 07799136894 or
email: moatkings@hotmail.co.uk)





Tom Rhind-Tutt MBE, our 95-year-old lay minister shares his memories and thoughts.

Gratitude: Our Invisible Friend

'Please' and 'Thank you' have always been important to me.

The other day I sat down in a restaurant. There was a couple sitting at the next table. When their food came, the lady said to the waitress, *'I don't like this dish!'* The waitress gently explained that it was she had ordered.

The lady abruptly refused the dish. She was offered an alternative platter. Later the waitress returned and placed an attractive plate of food in front of the lady who simply picked up her knife and fork and started to eat!!

I believe that gratitude is an instinctive emotion and my natural response to someone who is generous or kind towards me or the one I love.

I was reading recently that grateful responses to life produce many beneficial results, in all sorts of surprising ways. Research shows that people are happier, live longer and sleep better than those who have a negative approach to life and who fail to acknowledge kindnesses great and small.

After all, '*gratitude*' is the ability to recognise those good things that we did not create. Saying a simple *'thank you'* turns us outwards, well away from the possibility that we either created the good event or that it is ours by right!

I feel that there is a useful distinction between '*gratitude*' and '*thankfulness*'. We tend to be grateful **for** something and thankful **to** someone.

Imagine finding, in the street outside your home, a bunch of flowers dropped by an absent-minded shopper. Now imagine, a similar bunch of flowers given to you by a kind friend who feels that you need cheering up. Which means more to you? Which is really a gift?

Gifts that come directly from the giver, carefully chosen and personally given, mean so much more than things that happen to be there by chance.

The custom in Christian Prayer of '*giving thanks*' is rooted in the belief that all creation is not a chance accident but is a gift to us from God, who is the author of all life, including the universe. All my life I have said 'Grace' before my meals for I believe that in saying 'Grace' I remember that each plate of food is a gift from my loving Heavenly Father and that is right to acknowledge the author of this blessing.

A gift that we receive is never ultimately about the gift – it is about the relationship between us and the one who gives it. We often say that it's the thought that counts! If this is true, then if there is no thought behind the gift we receive, however good it is, it means much less to us.

When there is someone behind the gift, who gives us what we need, or even much more than we need, whether we deserve it or not, that gift now becomes personal and so much more significant.

It becomes a token of love – a sign that, despite everything, there is God who made me, thinks of me and cares for me.

And even beyond that, gives Himself for me on the cross. An even deeper reality than the gift of life itself!

Your Invitation – if you would like to talk about what Tom has described just email 'tom@rhindtutt.com' and he will gladly respond.

DISCOVER THE LOST ART OF PRAYER



Would you like to learn to really Pray?

Harry has asked me to share my understanding and experience of Prayer with others.

So this is your invitation to come to Walton Heath Manor – where I live – so I can share my experiences.

I promise you really interesting and helpful times as together we share experiences and pray.

Even a casual reader of the Gospels soon realises that Prayer was always a priority for Jesus.

When he talked with God he received guidance and strength. Prayer is the source of the strength and courage that Jesus displayed throughout his life, death and resurrection.

The same was true for the first disciples and it is equally true for you and me today.

One of things our Church most needs is faithful Christian people who have the courage to explore and discover how to pray.

Please contact me so I know what day and time would suit you best

Tom

St Peter's Christmas Services Round-up

by Laura Palmer



It was wonderful to see St Peter's so full again at Christmas-time. We kicked off with a fantastic and very well attended Christingle Service as our All Age Service at the

beginning of December, and many thanks go to all involved in providing the essential oranges, candles, ribbons, cocktail sticks, raisins and sweets, signifying the world, Jesus as the light of the world, Jesus's blood and love for us, the four corners of the world (or the four seasons) and Gods creations, respectively.

Next up was Nine Lessons and Carols on the evening of the 11th, where we were treated to some glorious choral arrangements and singing by Esther and the revitalised St Peter's Choir (pictured below), along with the nine traditional bible readings and lots of carols to join in with. As if things couldn't get more Christmassy, snow was well and truly falling and settling as we sang.

The Nativity Service on the morning of the 18th was also a big success, and despite being particularly busy at this time of year, even Father Christmas made an appearance.



Christmas Eve at St Peter's is always a favourite, and after a well attended Crib Service at 3pm (perfect for pre-schoolers and Key Stage 1) it was fabulous to experience the joy of a packed church for the 5pm Carol Service, led by Harry. The new Junior Choir sang beautifully accompanied by Jenny, who literally pulled out all the stops on the organ during the service too!

We are so lucky at St Peter's to have a Midnight Mass Service and this year the choir sang again under the expert direction of

Esther. Christmas Morning saw a lovely 10am Communion Service led by Leah, with again some wonderful organ playing from visiting organist Colin Berry.

As we leave the various Christmas Services at St Peter's to experience our own Christmases in their very different forms, it's impossible to ignore the joy that comes from sharing in Christmas worship together.

Thank you to Karen Rand, Sue Adilz, Leah Bates and Emmeline Moore for the photos featured.

Light-Up Walton

Walton on the Hill's (now traditional) lighting ceremony on 6th December (St. Nicholas' Day) saw a dry yet toe-nippingly cold evening, with quite a few logistical issues. Firstly, resident squirrels had felt that they were entitled to a good munch on the electric wiring for the tall conifer lights! (Problem solved, thanks to John Darter).

As folk gathered at 5pm at the pond to witness the switch on at Mereside by the Reverend Christopher Hancock, his train was being cancelled from London. Luckily George Curry nobly stepped in to perform the countdown!

Mike Fox, was unavoidably absent and so Dick Shelley, in the last minute, led the carolling procession by lantern, from Mere Pond to St. Peter's Churchyard. There, the Open Group and Village Kitchen team served mulled wine, spiced apple juice and mince pies, as carols were played and sung, heralding the 'switch on' of the churchyard Christmas lights, at 5.30 pm.

Meanwhile, Revd. Christopher (maybe helped by his eponymous saint) had leapt into a taxi at Wimbledon and arrived gallantly in time to MC proceedings.

Despite the cold, 'Low Key Affair', led by Christine Atkinson, did a brilliant job of playing seasonal tunes and carols for everyone to join in, and St. Peter's Choir members augmented the community carols.

A collection for Tadworth and Walton Overseas

Aid Trust (TWOAT) was taken. If you didn't have cash with you but would like to donate, details can be found on the TWOAT website.

Thank you to all involved in this positive community event, particularly to David and Val Larnar for brightening up Walton across the pond; the Village Forum for supplying the 'Mereside' Christmas Tree, lights, and garlands throughout the village and those who set up the illuminations at the pond. Thank you to John and Olivia Darter, of Treemasters for organising the churchyard lights; to Open Group for funding the churchyard Christmas Tree, and to all the musicians, choristers, caterers and gazebo erectors, not forgetting the all important switch pressers! And of course to all who came to enjoy it.



John and Olivia Darter

MU meeting reports

November

Epsom and Ewell Foodbank

A well-attended meeting was held on November 8th. We were all eager to learn more about the work of the Epsom and Ewell Foodbank, now in its 10th year. The session was led by the Foodbank's Strategy Lead along with the Foodbank Manager. The Epsom and Ewell centre has five distribution points and we at St Peter's take the donations left in the porch to Merland Rise Church. The session started with a reminder of how food prices have increased by around 17% over the last year, with energy costs also spiralling. Hence donations of money and food are needed more than ever, with 88% of clients regularly skipping meals and the foodbank running out of many staples.

The discussions revealed that the foodbank does much more than giving out food. Skilled work is also carried out by support workers who help people overcome the depression, poor health and lack of hope associated with poverty. Its workers build clients' confidence, help them access benefits and support them in ways that help them move on with their lives. Clients may also receive devices designed to reduce energy costs, such as air fryers.

The session ended with this quote from Rev'd Dr Sam Wells: "God doesn't see our world as a problem to be fixed but a mystery to be entered and comprehended from the inside." The insights MU gained over the evening certainly opened up for us the thoughtful caring work of the Epsom and Ewell Foodbank. MU members brought food and toiletries to the meeting and gave £95.00: funds raised from our various activities together with two anonymous donations. Details of how to donate money and what items are needed currently can be found at <https://epsomewell.foodbank.org.uk/>

December

Fragile Light: An Advent Reflection

The temperature was below zero and the roads were icy, but the turnout for the Advent Reflection led by the Revd David Skitt on December 13th was high. MU members and their friends were taken through readings, reflections and anecdotes on the theme of Advent as a time of joy, while Hannah Lidbury, a talented young pianist, augmented the theme with Advent music. While recognising that conditions are precarious for all of us, we were encouraged to be flaneurs, to watch and listen, to recognise what is joyous and hold fast to it. In this way we can give meaning to life. As MU has never knowingly underfed guests, the evening ended with hot drinks and mince pies. A joyful occasion for all.

DATES OF OUR NEXT MEETINGS:

10th Jan @ 8 pm:

Harry Latham

14th Feb @ 8 pm:

Trish Heywood-Brown, previous MU Worldwide President: "*Transformation—Prayer*"

World Day of Prayer: 3rd March, St Mary's Church, Headley, 2pm

Tues 14th March @ 8pm:

Lent Reflection

As usual everyone is warmly welcome whether a member of MU or not. We would love to see you.

For more details please contact Karen Rand.

CAKES & CONVERSATION

A get together for the senior members of our village community

Please join us in the morning on the last Wednesday of the month for chats, coffee, tea, cakes and sometimes more. Everyone is very welcome.

When: From 10.30 to 12.00 pm. Wednesday Jan 25th

Wednesday Feb 22nd

Wednesday Mar 29th

Where: St Peter's Church, Breech Lane.

Hosted by: Mothers and Uthers – the
Walton on the Hill branch of Mothers'

Union.



Mothers & Uthers
Mothers UNION
Christian care for families

OUR COMMUNITY FOOD BANK NEEDS YOU...

PLEASE give generously – your support is desperately needed! There is a box in the porch at St Peter's: Jean and Norma are happy to deliver supplies to Merland Rise church.



Items of foods that are needed right now are: long-life sponge puddings, coffee, powdered milk, tinned meat (not corned beef, we have lots), tinned fish, tinned soup, tinned tomatoes, long-life fruit juice, custard, tea bags, shampoo & conditioner, male and female deodorant



January 2023 Reflection

The circumstances which unite people together are various; whether supporting the same sports team; espousing the same political ideology, bonding over a shared life event, matters of faith and many more. It is more difficult, however, to work for or sustain unity where differences exist between individuals and groups. But God calls us to live together in unity, and, knowing our struggles, sends the Holy Spirit as our Helper. So at the start of a new year we can make a resolution to pray for and pursue unity, knowing we have the power of the Spirit to help us.

Monthly Prayer:

Almighty Lord, thank you that we are joined together in unity through the love of Christ. Strengthen our bonds of worship and service that together we may share your love with those you bring into our lives. Amen.

A New Year With New Challenges

As we start 2023, I'm sure many of us may hold mixed views on what the new year has in store, both personally and as a community. I'm grateful to live in a gorgeous part of the country and a community where we all genuinely care about our surrounding environment.

Walton Christmas Light Up

This past Christmas we had another fabulous Walton Christmas Light Up. For those of you that are unaware, the Christmas tree on the pond is donated every year by the Walton Village Forum. However, we all owe a vote of thanks to David and Val Larner for hosting it at Mereside, along with the picturesque lighting display which reflects so beautifully in Mere Pond.

Thanks also to St Peter's for hosting music, carols, mulled wine, and mince pies in the churchyard after the switch on which was an absolute delight to attend. I'd like to extend a big thank you to Emmeline Moore, Marilyn Ridgewell, Jean Bye, Caroline Lovatt and Rowan Kay, for making the seventeen Christmas garlands that decorated the village this year, I'm sure you'll all agree they looked lovely and helped to make Walton a little more festive!

Over 65's Christmas Lunch

The Fox and Hounds again hosted its annual Christmas lunch for the over 65s living on their own this year and it was a fabulous success. The Forum donated to the event and all donations were given to the MS Society this year. It's caring gestures like this that set communities apart and I'm personally proud to be part of one that takes time to care for others.

Banstead Commons Conservators (BCC)

As many of you are aware our immediate environment has always been a priority for

the Walton Village Forum and to this end, we met with Lucy Shea who is Clerk to the Banstead Commons Conservators (BCC) on the 28th of November 2022. Lucy shared many interesting insights about what the BCC are responsible for in our local area, and the vital role they play in protecting the commons and surrounding area that none of us were aware of.

The BCC faces many headwinds, especially in the face of our changing climate and decreasing budgets, all of which impact our beautiful surroundings. To this end we have extended an invitation to Lucy to attend our next Walton Village Forum meeting on the 28th of February 2023 and to share about the role of the Banstead Commons Conservators with all of us as we are sure you'll find it as interesting as we did.

Mere Pond

We are currently reviewing the independent report commissioned by the Walton Village Forum regarding Mere Pond. We'll make the findings available at our next meeting in February along with any proposed course of action required, subject to the findings and recommendations.

The Pavilion at Howard Close

During 2023 we can all expect to see further progress with respect to the replacement of the Pavilion at Howard Close, a Walton Village Forum initiative in conjunction with the council that will benefit the local community immensely. As the options and proposed plans become more concrete, we'll look to engage with the community to illicit feedback ahead of any final decisions being made.

WVF Meetings

You may want to make a note of all our Village Forum meetings for 2023 which will all be hosted in the Community Centre in Breech Lane at 8pm.

The dates are as follows.

1. 28th February 2023
2. 27th June 2023
3. 10th October 2023

Any unforeseen changes will be communicated well ahead of time, and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

Join Us!

Finally, we are looking for volunteers to join our committee which does so much good in the village, as we are expecting some changes in the committee due to personal circumstances. The Forum facilitates so much good work in the village and without a functioning committee none of this work would be possible. Please feel free to email me at info@waltonvillageforum.org if you would like to get involved. It's worth adding

that the time commitment isn't significant at all, and I'd be more than happy to explain more as well as make introductions to other committee members to enable you to find out a bit more should you be interested in getting involved.

Looking forward to seeing you in and around the village. Grant.

Follow and support us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter or feel free to reach out on www.waltonvillageforum.org



Photo supplied by Mo Atkins

TWOAT: Tadworth & Walton Overseas Aid Trust *by Mike Fox*

The Trust Deed that created Tadworth & Walton Overseas Aid Trust was formally signed on October 19th 1982. The fortieth anniversary of this event was marked both at our Annual Meeting and during services at St John's and the Church of the Good Shepherd in Tadworth and Christchurch and St Peter's in Walton, prayers for TWOAT supported projects were featured at their morning services during one of the Sundays in October. We offered them details of a number of our projects which were urgently in need of prayers and support at this particular time.

These included the Little Sapphires Mothers' Union Nursery School in Madagascar where parents live in extreme poverty in a rural area of Madagascar and where the school relies almost entirely on TWOAT funding. The best hope for the children is that they will gain an education that will allow them to develop in ways that will eventually help both them and their parents to escape the grinding poverty that currently afflicts them. The families situation is currently being worsened by increasing prices for fuel and food. Thus the prayers were for children to be helped out of poverty by opportunities for education.

Another project chosen for prayers was Berega Hospital in rural Tanzania where TWOAT has helped establish an Epilepsy clinic. This is key to educating remote villagers to understand that Epileptic fits are caused by a treatable disease rather than some sort of demonic possession. The hospital urgently needs to recruit a new clinician to continue this work as the previous incumbent has left after 4 years in the role to develop his career in a city. Thus the prayers were for the use of knowledge to help people live healthier lives

The third project in need of support is Emmanuel School in a refugee camp on the Thai border with Myanmar. The school is mainly for the children of Christian Keren refugees who are subjected to persecution by the Myanmar government. A renewed bombing campaign by

the government against Keren villages during the Summer caused 37 additional children to flee over the border and join the school. TWOAT had been funding school lunches for the 150 children already at the school as they had no money to provide food during the day. The immediate need was to find funds to feed the new children as well. The prayers requested for this project were extended to include all children, such as those in Ukraine, whose lives are being disrupted by conflicts.

The second way we marked the anniversary was during TWOAT's Annual Meeting and Dinner held on Saturday October 8th in St John's Church Hall. We were delighted that the participants included Jean Elcome and John Tedder who were both members of the original committee whose signatures initiated TWOAT. Deb Allinson, the widow of TWOAT's first Chair John, and other early supporters were also present. A magnificent anniversary cake was provided for us by Jean Tattam's daughter and formally cut for us by Jean Elcome.

I am delighted to tell you that following the church services and the dinner new supporters have come forward and generous additional donations have been received so we will be able to fund both the Little Sapphires Nursery School and Emmanuel Refugee School during the next 12 months. To read more about TWOAT activities and projects please visit www.TWOAT.org or phone Mike Fox on 01735 350452 .



A Note from Norma...

When we read the next WOW we will have celebrated Christmas and the New Year! Also the days will be getting longer, what a lovely thought. Bill and I had a lovely day out in November when we visited Weald and Downland Living Museum, Singleton. In the summer, Amy Stone visited Walton (in St Peter's) regarding how the dialect has changed in the last 70 years, so she invited us to a Thank You for hosting it. The weather was beautiful and the scenery driving to the museum was fantastic. We met my old school friends Edward and Cecily in the restaurant overlooking the pond which was full of ducks, absolutely delightful.

We met Amy in one of the barns for a cup of tea and cakes. There were 12 of us altogether from other villages, so we had a short chat. We then walked round the grounds enjoying the sunshine. If you get the chance to go it really is an interesting place. We were very lucky because we were able to look inside where The Repair Shop is filmed. The program is filmed 5 days a week so is only open to the public on odd weekends. Also, if

you want to buy their bread, made in a Victorian oven, you have to get there for about 12'ish otherwise they sell out.

I would just like to say THANK YOU to everyone who supported The Young Children and Adolescents' Centre at The Royal Marsden for the last 2 years. Refreshments at Barrie's film shows helps swell the total. I took £500 Amazon vouchers to the centre and a big bag of sweets. The play specialist were delighted. These vouchers are given to young people while they are having their treatment.

I finish on a very sad note as an old school friend, John Bass, was killed recently on the A217. We had lovely reunions in the summer, he and Jenny supported our fund raising events (including The Village Kitchen) and came to our Anniversary party. He was an absolute character and will be so missed.

Wishing you all a safe and good 2023.
Norma.



GREETINGS CARDS. If you wish to purchase cards that benefit St Peter's, please call me as I keep a supply at home. These are cards suitable for all occasions and are £1 each.
Many thanks for your support, Norma 01737 812639.



I wonder if you did any puzzles over the Christmas season? Crossword puzzles, Sudoku, jigsaw puzzles? I wonder how you approached them? Do you like to 'get it done' so that you get that buzz of 'mastery' and achievement? Or do you like 'little and often'?

Or maybe you hate puzzles and avoid them? I know several people who like to have a big jigsaw puzzle out and come and put in a piece or two when they have a few moments. My favourite puzzle this year was the 'crisp' puzzle – a game of trying many different types of crisp and trying to work out the flavour. The most unusual one I tried was a Christmas pudding crisp!

Sometime I find that the beginning of a new year can make me reflect on the puzzle of life and how to live it well. What should I do? Which way should I turn? How should I handle this? What should I prioritise?

With regards to this puzzle of life there are many different nuggets of wisdom out there that may be helpful at different times. Here are a few:

1. Turn the 'shoulds' to 'coulds': '*I should do more exercise*' can feel like a duty or a burden that if I don't do it makes me a failure or bad person. '*I could do more exercise*' feels like an option that might help me feel more positive and energised. Doing it or not doing has no impact on my worth but it can have a very positive impact on my well-being.

2. Thicken the narrative: Sometimes we can get stuck in quite a static and 'thin' view of ourselves and our lives. Perhaps it is time to focus on a different aspect of yourself and life? Open up a new or different part of the puzzle and see what happens.

3. Turn down your thinking: In the west the puzzle of life can be tiring on the brain because we rely heavily on rational thought. However, we are not just thinking beings. So maybe choosing to turn down your logical

analytical brain and turn up your senses could open up new perspectives. Indulge yourself in noticing and paying attention to the world through your five senses – taste, smell, touch, sight and hearing and receive what this offers you. It might make you feel more curious, playful, reflective, creative. '*The quality of life is in proportion to the capacity for delight*' says *The Artists Way*.

4. Try softer: When the pieces just don't seem to fit together and we come back to it time and time again but just can't seem to make progress we can feel very stuck. This can make us feel stressed and under stress we are inclined to move in to a self-critical state. In her book 'Anchoring' Deb Dana says that when we are struggling, we can instead remind ourselves that struggles and suffering are part of life and then ask ourselves 'how can I bring my supportive and nurturing self to this moment'.

Sometimes puzzles are fairly light and easy and really fun – like the crisp puzzle.

Sometimes puzzles are a hard slog, very frustrating and taxing or a little bit dull.

Perhaps the same can be said of this life we live.





Poem: The Puzzle Master

by Tracy Latham

I hate puzzles – they just take so long!
Progress is too slow – where does each piece
belong?

Here or there? And which way round?

How many times can I turn it around?

Before I put it down,

with a frown

and a sigh.

'Why can't I do it?' is my heart's cry.

'Will I succeed? I do try

So hard!'

I wonder – am I useless and incompetent?

It feels too hard – my heart is full of lament.

I want to give up – throw it all on the floor!

My head hurts so much – it is very sore.

"It's not that hard" the accuser says

"Don't make a fuss or a mess.

Perhaps you're just not good enough?

Not strong enough and all that stuff!"

My heart begins to shrivel and die.

'*It is all my fault.*' An even bigger sigh
fills the room.

But a gentle whisper can be heard.

A little thought has occurred.

Perhaps I'm listening to the wrong voice?

I can hear Him – the gentle one;

Saying '**Have a break and some fun.**

This puzzle is hard, you have done well.

You have made progress- I can tell.

It's OK to walk away for a while

**And trust that I'm looking on with a
smile.**

I am pleased with you and all you do

I don't want you to get all in a stew

**Because this puzzle doesn't belong to
you**

Alone.'



Walton in Bloom

by Jean Bye

I hope you noticed the fresh Christmas
wreaths ourselves and Walton Village Forum
made and distributed around the village. They
did suffer from the extremely cold spell we
had but they gave a nice touch to Christmas
in the village.

If you have any plants and shrubs that appear
to have been 'burnt' or 'scorched' by the
extreme frosts, please don't be eager to cut
back yet. Wait until March (when you know
the weather is getting warmer) and I think
you'll find new buds and foliage will begin to
unfurl, never give up on them !

Do keep a look out for more bulbs that have
been planted near Howard Close, nothing is
more exciting than seeing our efforts come to
fruition.

Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New
Year. Jean and The Walton in Bloom team



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2023 JANUARY/ FEBRUARY



DIARY

St. PETER'S CHURCH

Jan

	Time	Service/Event	Place
Sun 1st	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion (1662) United Benefice Service	St Peter's Church St Andrew's, Box Hill
Sun 8th	8.00am 11am	Holy Communion (1662) Family Communion	St Peter's Church St Peter's Church
Sun 15th	8.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion (1662) Family Service	St Peter's Church St Peter's Church
Sun 22nd	8.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion (1662) Parish Communion	St Peter's Church St Peter's Church
	6pm	Explore & Connect (followed by E&C Youth)	Headley
Sun 29th	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion (1662) United Benefice Service	St Peter's Church St Mary's, Headley

Feb

Sun 5th	8.00am 11am	Holy Communion (1662) All Age Service	St Peter's Church St Peter's Church
Sun 12th	8.00am 11 am	Holy Communion (1662) Family Communion	St Peter's Church St Peter's Church
	6pm	Explore & Connect (followed by E&C Youth)	Headley
Sun 19th	8.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion (1662) Family Service	St Peter's Church St Peter's Church
Sun 26th	8.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion (1662) Parish Communion	St Peter's Church St Peter's Church
	6pm	Explore & Connect (followed by E&C Youth)	Headley

Friends' Annual Wine Tasting Event

by Emmeline Moore

November 18th, 7pm, it was time for the Friends of St Peter's annual wine tasting event, an occasion a large group of us now so look forward to. This was our third year of attending and we are already talking about doing it again next year.

Who are the Friends of St Peter's and why did they host a wine tasting event? St Peter's church has a modest congregation of regular churchgoers, but welcomes large numbers at Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance Sunday. Villagers come to St Peter's for their weddings, baptisms, funerals and to visit loved ones in the churchyard. It is crucial that the church and grounds are safe and well maintained for these occasions. Because of this, the Friends were formed, understanding that not all locals wished to worship but do appreciate the building as a historical interest and so a committee was gathered to raise funds to maintain the historical church building and churchyard only.

The friends believe that many people, whether or not they are churchgoers, greatly admire the

church building and the churchyard, and this year's wine tasting event proved just that. Over 100 people attended the event at the Lord Riddell Hall, this was a Friends of St Peter's wine tasting, personal best.

We were welcomed by Philip Truett and the Vineking, with a Frizzante Branco, a light and easy organic and vegan Prosecco. We found our table, one of the largest, beautifully decorated with fresh flowers, cut from a local garden.

Philip Truett did a fabulous job of hosting and entertaining alongside Frank from the Vineking. As is tradition and one of our many reasons for returning each year, we were referred to as the lovely young ladies table. The only time we actually feel young these days! Fourteen tired mums from the Walton Village Primary School, settling down to a 2021 El Chivo Sauvignon Blanc from Chile and a 2022 Mount Riley Estate Sauvignon Blanc from New Zealand. Both light, dry wines, both equally enjoyed, the night was starting well.



Next up were two Italian white classics, 2021 Tenuta Del Melo Gavi and a 2021 Mirabello Pinot Grigio. The first being a mineral and fruity wine, the second a shade darker in appearance, a dry white which Frank described as, "gentle with floral and citrus aromas".

We then moved onto Autumn drinking. Two very drinkable Beaujolais. At this point a delicious array of cheese and crackers were delivered to our table, the cheese complimented both of these wines and it was instantly obvious why we had waited until now to tuck in. Very little cheese was left on our table! At this point a friend of mine announced, "I want that man at my Christmas table, he's so entertaining". Philip was up again with his lovely witty personality, it was raffle time. So many tempting prizes, donated by local businesses. One of our lovely young ladies, luckily won the Co-op bag of goodies, thank you very much for this kind donation.

The sampling ended with some party reds, a 2021 Bodega Staphyle Iris Merlot from Argentina, personally my favourite. A soft, plummy Merlot,

full of fruit, so practically healthy! Then a 2021 Domaine Garda En Passant Rouge from France, a very heavy wine, the sort you'd like to cosy up next to a fire with and hibernate.

It was such a great joy to see so many smiling local faces. On our way out, I commented on Philip's dashing appearance. He was sporting a claret bow tie which complimented a pair of yellow and tan brogues. On mentioning his fashion statement, we were treated to a few Charleston dance steps, turns out Philip is quite the mover! My only concern is that he will be unable to host next year as Strictly Come Dancing will have stolen him!

Thank you Friends of St Peter's, we had a truly fun evening and were so pleased to hear that it had raised over £1200. Well done all involved.

If you would like to become a friend of St Peter's, then please complete a form from the church porch and return it to Walton Cottage, Deans Lane, Walton on the Hill, KT20 7TS. Thank you.

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THE HISTORY of the VILLAGE of WALTON
ON THE HILL from 1900 as seen through the
pages of LITERATURE

PART 2 continues with books that have been written during the latter part of the 20th and early 21st centuries and contain information on the history of Walton on the Hill and the notable personalities who have lived in the village.

In 1993 '*The News of the World Story 150 years from 1843-1993*' written by Cyril Bainbridge and Roy Stockdill was published. The story covers in detail the legendary leadership of Lord Riddell and Sir Emsley Carr [both local residents of the village] when the circulation of the newspaper prospered and reached 4.5 million by 1941.

The story is a fascinating chronicle of the life and times of the country but sadly 18 years later, on 7 July 2011, it was announced that after 168 years the newspaper would print its final edition on 10 July 2011 following revelations on the ongoing phone hacking scandal, with the loss of 200 jobs. The book is still available on Amazon.

'*Tadworth Court - A Historical Guide*' was published in September 1998 by The Environmental Services Department of Reigate and Banstead Borough Council. The author was John McNally, the Conservation Officer. The booklet covers the history of Tadworth Court from Leonard Wessel in 1694 to Charles Morton, the last private owner who sold the Mansion in 1926.

Three centuries of history and nine owners until the Great Ormond Street Hospital for sick children was opened in 1927. From then until 1983 Tadworth Court was the country branch of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. In 1984, the Department of Health transferred the management control to the newly created Children's Trust, and today the UK's leading Charity for Children with brain

injuries and neuro disability is based.

David Metcalfe's delightful book - '*The Architectural Development of Walton on the Hill*' was published in 2000. This very well researched book is without doubt the most revealing and interesting one that has been written about the village. It captures the development of the village and the notable residents who started to arrive after the railway came to Tadworth in 1900 and the golf course was opened in 1903.

He explains that the search began when he and his family moved to Walton and he knew nothing at all of its history until completely out of the blue he received a feature article and photograph of the house and garden that had appeared in Country Life in 1915. Redholm the house in Deans Lane referred to the owner Mr. [later Lord] Stevenson and the architect Mr. Morley Horder.

What began as an interest in one house developed into a fascination with the entire village. His book looks in detail at Walton's expansion from 1904 through to 1931 and concentrates mainly on the houses of note and in many cases their notable owners. Banstead Library has the book on the history research shelves and available on loan.

In 2000, '*A Pioneering Archaeologist*', the autobiography of Aileen Fox [nee Henderson] was published. Aileen who came to Walton in 1919 lived in The Grange at the junction of Heath Drive and Chequers Lane and went to Chinthurst School in Tadworth. In this fascinating account, Aileen Fox later Lady Fox charts her life, from early childhood in the golden world of the affluent before the First World War, to a young woman's struggle to be allowed university education in the 1920s Britain.

Working on important Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman sites, she gives vivid accounts of fieldwork and academic life in Wales and

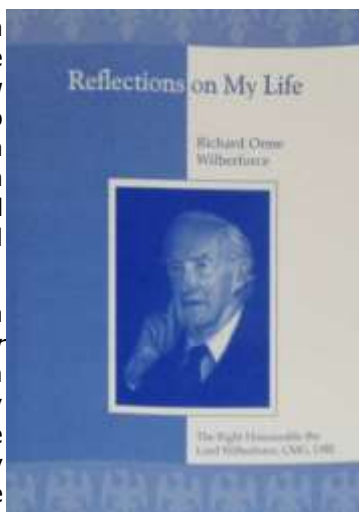
Southern England and especially her work in Exeter. Later, at a time when most people are retiring, Aileen began a new career in New Zealand. She made a valuable contribution to British archaeology by generating an enthusiasm amongst a wider public through her many books and tireless work with local groups. Aileen later returned to England and retired in Exeter.

In 2001, Walton Heath Golf Club published a most important 17 page booklet - '*Caring for Walton Heath*'. This excellent publication covers many topics including the Brief History of Walton Heath, An Ecological Survey, The Walton Heath Initiative and The Club's Policy for the Heath, which includes active management that has brought great benefits to the flora and fauna and an increase in biodiversity.

'*Memories of Wartime Banstead District*' was published in 2002 compiled and edited by Edward James Bond of the Banstead History Research Group. This covers the Second World War and there are memories from all districts of the Banstead Urban area – Banstead, Chipstead, Nork, Kingswood, Tadworth, Walton on the Hill, Woodmansterne and Tattenham Corner.

In the Walton section he recalls that the Canadians used Mere Pond to test the vehicles – jeeps and lorries – water proofing them so that they could go off the landing craft. They waxed them and took the exhaust pipes up high and drove through the pond from one side to the other.

Richard Orme Wilberforce in 2003 was the author of '*Reflections On My Life*'. This is the autobiography of him as a Law Lord, Brigadier and politician. But it also casts a light upon Richard in a very private manner: as a sportsman, musician, father and husband. He lived at one time with his parents in the village at Lavington in Heath Drive. His father Sir Samuel Wilberforce was the great grandson of William Wilberforce, the anti – slavery campaigner. Richard was born in



Jullunder, India in 1907 and rose to become Britain's Senior Law Lord from 1976 - 1982. These memoirs cover his formative years at Winchester and Oxford, his early career at the

Bar, and a fascinating account of the social life in the 1930's.

'*If Love Were All*' - The Story of Frances Stevenson and David Lloyd George was written by John Campbell in 2006. Lloyd George was Prime Minister from 1916 until 1922. In the summer of 1911 David Lloyd George, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, hired a young schoolteacher Frances Stevenson to tutor his daughter in the summer holidays. He was 48, and married with 4 children. She was 22, recently graduated with a degree in classics and highly intelligent as well as very attractive. Lloyd George soon began to employ her as his secretary. At the beginning of 1913 they became lovers. Their secret relationship was to last for thirty years until his wife's death finally allowed Lloyd George to marry her in 1943. From 1913 until 1919, Cliftondown [now Pinfold Manor] in Nursery Road in the village was their country home and escape.

Combining sex, romance, family feuds and high politics - based on letters, diaries and a vast range of material, published and unpublished – '*If Love Were All*' is the first detailed study of this extraordinary relationship, one that was known by everyone in politics but never revealed in the press, and the strain that it put on both parties.



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Rascal Club Indoor Cycling: A Review

by Emmeline Moore

I'm definitely not a gym membership kind of person and I hate exercising indoors. However, walking the dog is just not enough anymore, so my thighs are telling me! I decided to give spinning with the Rascal Club a go. I thought about this long and hard, I just hate turning up to a room full of people not knowing what I'm doing and worst of all, thinking - am I even going to be able to do this!

Eventually I was dragged along by a friend and I did know some other people but it didn't really matter as I was too out of breath to talk to anyone and so was everyone else!

Amy, our instructor, talked me through how to attach the heart monitor onto a strap that then goes around your chest under your clothes. She then gave me a few instructions on how the screen in front of me worked, I was nodding at the correct points and trying very hard to listen but I couldn't remember a thing she'd just said and then we were off, pedalling to a very upbeat 90s tune. I had no idea what I was doing but I was pedalling and I was starting to sweat and Amy was saying good, so I just kept going.

10 minutes into the 45 minute session I suddenly realised the knob on my bike mimicked the gears, so I was off, a low number for sprinting, a higher number for pedalling whilst standing. The only problem was, I couldn't stand without feeling wobbly and my legs were burning. So I just sat down and I spent most of that session sitting whilst everyone around me stood up, following Amy's

instructions. It was ok though, because I was still cycling, I was still doing something energetic and I was still making my heart pump.

4 sessions in and I still can't stand up as much as everyone else, a friend of mine laughs at me but every week I burn about 600 calories in 45 minutes and my thighs are saying keep going, so I am!

Apparently I'll also be able to use the heated outdoor Lido when it opens very soon and I know that I'm not only investing in my thighs, but my money is going into helping build a Community Interest Company for the benefit of everyone locally; whether they want a chat over a board game or to come and sweat it out in the indoor cycling class! All ages, all walks of life, all abilities and disabilities are being encouraged to join.

To find out more about the Rascal Club and all the sessions on offer, please go to

<https://therascalclub.co.uk/>



Little Cherubs

by Karen Rand

Little Cherubs finished a wonderful term with a fun Christmas party, with singing and dancing (accompanied by Harry on guitar), stories and of course lots of scrumptious party food!

If you're a parent, grandparent or carer of a pre-schooler and are free on Tuesday mornings from 10.30 til 12, do come along!



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For more info contact Karen Rand: karenrand@gmail.com

Walton on the Hill Primary School

by Headteacher Tim Samuel



A Mixed 2022 and The Year Ahead...

As I write this I reflect on 2022 with mixed feelings. There has been so much positivity in school with life returning to an almost 'normal' way of working. We can operate far more easily as a school community, with trips and outings, proper assemblies and welcoming back volunteers and guests.

Sport is full speed again and we were delighted to win an inter-school swimming gala just before Christmas. I have really enjoyed being part of school trips to St Peter's Church where Revd Harry Latham has been so welcoming and supportive of the school. A highlight for me is the return of school productions; watching children who may not have been on stage before act, sing, dance and smile is a privilege and something that is very important to our school.

I am, however, upset and disappointed that the village has potentially lost the facilities offered by Christchurch, not only as a place

of worship, but for all the other important uses it had for the village. The wonderful Open Group that has kindly served thousands of meals over the years will no longer be able to provide from the heart of the village. Numerous other groups have had to try to find alternative locations, some having to stop operating altogether due to the closure of the church.

As a school we have been using the building for over 50 years and it will be a great loss to our provision. Since I have been Headteacher I have worked alongside the Elders of the church to support them in keeping the building going and our staff team has been on hand to open up for contractors and hall users. I believe strongly in the value of keeping the building for the community and will continue to work with the WVF, St. Peter's and other local organisations and individuals to try and retain it's use and further develop it to serve the school and wider community for many years to come.

We have started an online survey to gauge local opinion on the future of the building and the whole team would welcome any comment or offers of support from members of the community.

Whatever happens with the Christchurch building it is right that we look forward as a school and I am hopeful that 2023 will allow us to work on several really important aspects of the service we provide to the children and parents of the village and surrounding area.

There is much discussion around the need for schools to refocus on their core purpose of education. Throughout the pandemic we took on a far wider role and in many ways we need to push back on some elements of this to ensure we can wholly focus on the children and their learning.

Looking ahead to 2023 our priorities as a school include:

Wellbeing: To support the physical, emotional and mental wellbeing within the school community. Within this is the recognition of the need to ensure all aspects of race, diversity and inclusion are considered with policy and practice to ensure our school is fully inclusive.

Curriculum: To ensure that all learning continues to be meticulously planned to reflect the best pedagogy and principles of effective learning. Planning will recognise prior learning as well as next steps to ensure a continuum of knowledge development in all subjects. Aligned to this is the understanding that children do not just come to school to learn 'stuff' but also how to be a valuable member of society.

Reading: We have noticed a continual decline in outcomes for reading. Although the children in the school are consistently performing at or above national outcomes, our self-evaluation acknowledges reading as a key area which ultimately underpins all aspects of learning. We will be working on

our library and our whole community to raise the profile of reading and ensuring it is seen as a priority by all.

Sustainability: It is crucial we make every effort to protect the future of our school through careful planning and decision-making at a time when all schools face a wide range of challenges. We recognise our responsibility for environmental, financial and social sustainability and will keep this at the forefront of the strategic work that our governors and staff team will be undertaking.

Attendance: As a school we promote high levels of attendance to ensure children get as much learning time as possible. Early in the pandemic attendance was understandably low but we have not returned to our usual high levels of attendance. Of course illnesses still occur, but we will be working closely with families to try to remove other barriers or issues that are preventing children from getting their full entitlement of learning time in school

I am very proud of our school and the wonderful staff team, supportive parents and, most importantly, amazing children. I look forward to 2023 being a year in which we serve the community as best we can.

I am always more than happy to show people round or talk to anyone about what we do and why we do it! Please do get in touch!

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Swan Sanctuary Helpline		01932 240790
TWOAT	Mike Fox	350452
Dyscover	Rosemary Townsend	819419
R.N.L.I	Margaret Fox	350452
Friends Of St Peter's	Philip Truett	813832
Age Concern		352156
Banstead Live At Home	Tracy Baxter	07968 351211
The Children's Trust		365000
Walton Parochial Church Charity		668254

HALLS AVAILABLE

Community Centre-bookings	Gesina Kula	07801 117621
Riddell Hall	Catherine Shrimpton	813265
Walton Scout & Guide HQ	Julia Boddy	812371
Walton Primary School	Mrs Young	812103

GROUPS

Gage Players Amateur Dramatics	S. Currie	359283
Open Group	Mo Atkins	813834
The Arts Society	Mike Roshier	01372 813196
Tadworth & Walton Residents Association	Gillian Bockmeulen	814989
Walton on the Hill & District Local History Society	Peter Denyer	01372 377337
Walton Village Forum	Grant Webster	819915
Mothers Union-Mothers & Uthers	Karen Rand	213311

SCHOOLS/NURSERIES/GROUPS

Walton on the Hill Primary School	Timothy Samuel	812103
Little Cherubs	Karen Rand	213311
Little Forest School on the Green	Mrs Voss	813960
Unique Beginnings Childcare & Forest School	Danielle Hyett	078885 238072

SCOUTING & GIRLGUIDING

Rainbows	Tracy Honeyman	0208 6438021
Brownies	Avril Farley	356160
Guides	Beverly Heywood-Jones	07961 142906
Group Scout Leader	Avril Farley	356160



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OPEN GROUP

The December meeting was a very happy and festive evening, kindly hosted by Gina and Robin Parr-Davies, in their welcoming home.

It may have been a cold and frosty night but it was a full house in more ways than one! Penny Harrison, one of our 'outpost' members, even braved the conditions and travelled from Romney Marsh to join us. It was great to see her.

Debbie Murray put on her 'Bingo Caller' hat and cheerily led us through a couple of rounds of Bingo, before a tasty supper interval.

We were grateful to Robin for being an attentive wine waiter.

After the break, two more rounds of Bingo, with Christmassy prizes awarded, lots of chat and, of course, the raffle!

It felt more like pre-pandemic 'old times' and we look forward to being together again in 2023.

Thank you, Gina and Robin, Debbie and all who contributed the delicious food.

(And we were relieved to know that Penny had returned safely to the wilds of Kent!).



Robin and Debbie in festive mood!

Dates for your Diary

EPIPHANY SUPPER: Monday, 23rd January.

PANCAKE PARTY: Shrove Tuesday, 21st February.

Details to follow in newsletter. If you would like to be on the mailing list, please email Mo on: WaltonOpenGroup@gmail.com

All good wishes for 2023!

VILLAGE KITCHEN

A new year and a new beginning for the Village Kitchen!

Following the sad closure of the Christchurch premises, **FROM JANUARY**, the Village Kitchen Team is looking forward to welcoming you to the **RIDDELL HALL**, for food and friendship.

Light lunches will be served **12.00 - 1.30pm** on

SATURDAY 14th January

SATURDAY 11th FEBRUARY

LENT begins on Ash Wednesday, 22nd February, so our **SIX SOUP SATURDAYS**, also **12.00 - 1.30pm** are:

25th FEBRUARY, 4th MARCH, 11th MARCH, 18th MARCH, 25th MARCH and 1st APRIL, when soup, bread and cheese will be served.

Everyone is VERY WELCOME!

The regular, second Saturday Village Kitchen will resume on 13th May.

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Local Focus: Charlie Baker (1922 - 2014)

by Mo Atkins

Gerald Charles Baker would have been 100 years old in December 2022. His widow, June has marked this occasion by recalling his life and their happy marriage of sixty six years, in an interview for 'Window on Walton.'

These memories are an insight, not only of the love they shared, but also into local history and the struggles that so many faced in their everyday lives, over the last century.

Charlie was born at number 21, Breech Lane, still home to members of the Baker family, Colin and Evelyn. One of twelve children, Charlie began school at Breech Lane Infants, just across the road from home, leaving formal education at the age of fourteen.

As a schoolboy, Charlie sang in St. Peter's Choir and worked at a local farm. He wanted to be a vet. However, war came and, on his nineteenth birthday, Pearl Harbour was bombed.

Charlie was called up and joined the Navy, with the rank of Stoker, on 'MTBs', (Motor Torpedo Boats) Coastal Forces Division, typified by young men, all volunteers. He found himself serving alongside a grandson of Charles Dickens.

When the end of war was declared, Charlie transferred to HMS Dido, a cruiser, where he served until being demobbed.

June and Charlie's love story had begun, in their teens, just before the start of the Second World War, at the Youth Club at Banstead.

Their romance was short lived. Charlie left for sea and June became employed in a Carshalton factory, making flares for pathfinders. She rode her bicycle there and back, working shifts of 6.00am - 2.00pm or 2.00pm - 10.00pm!

(The Pathfinders were target-marking squadrons in RAF Bomber Command during World War II. They located and marked targets with flares).

Busily engaged in playing her part in the war effort, June was surprised one day, when her friend, Dorothy, announced that there was a

sailor waiting for her, at the factory gate! Yes, there was Charlie! Now based in Ipswich, he had made the journey south to find his beloved June.

However his return journey was not so smooth. Having missed the last train from Sutton station, undaunted, he walked back to June's parents' home in Diceland Road, Banstead, to collect a bicycle ...upon which to ride to London, in hope of catching the 'milk train', the very last of the night, to Ipswich. He made it but not before being stopped en route and questioned by a policeman!

Charlie and June were married at All Saints Church, Banstead, in June, 1948. At first they lived in Breech Lane with Charlie's parents. They later moved to a 'bothy', a one bedroom bungalow, intended for the gardener, at a big house in Hurst Drive.

June recalls how the Council organised accommodation during the war and took over large homes such as 'Heatherside' (now Walton Heath Manor).

After six years of service in the Navy, Charlie returned to 'Civvy Street', becoming the 'Man from the Pru', doing his rounds of Walton and Tadworth and as far as Cobham on his bicycle. No worry about train strikes for Charlie!

After ten years with the 'Prudential' Charlie branched out on his own, remaining happily in the Insurance business for the rest of his working life.

June remembers Charlie playing golf, in the Annual Diocesan Golf Match, with the Vicar of Headley, the Revd. Basil Lloyd-Jones, who had baptised two of the Baker's five children.

Charlie never forgot his wartime experiences at sea. He survived an engine explosion which scuppered his chances of sending a Valentine card to June. He didn't have time off to come home himself, but offered to be the stoker of a motor fishing vessel taking marines ashore for leave.

By coincidence, one sailor was from Langley Vale, and he offered to be Valentine postman.

'Perfect!', thought Charlie, but as he went to collect the mail, the engine blew up and he was thrown to the ground, his eyes covered in shattered glass. Poignantly, many years later he came across the marine who pulled him to safety and was able to thank him.

Charlie and June have been active, lifelong members and supporters of the Coastal Forces Heritage Trust, of which Charlie was onetime Chairman.

Sadly, Charlie died in 2014, and is buried in St. Peter's Churchyard, but his memory lives on. It was a privilege to chat to June and listen to her vivid memories of her beloved Charlie and the life they shared.



Charlie and June on their wedding day

Local Chef: Salted Caramel

by Laura Palmer

I probably should be writing about salad, or eating 30 different plants a week (which, if you didn't know, is the new five-a-day), but this is my new favourite thing to make, sort of therapy and cooking combined, and at the end you have this jar of golden deliciousness that you can add to just about anything when you crave a little bit of indulgence.

I love a spoonful of this in a coffee, warmed and drizzled over sliced banana, (with or without a side of squirty cream), on toast, between chocolate and biscuit to make a millionaire's shortbread, on pancakes, or drizzled over stone fruit before adding a crumble topping. Or straight from the jar.

Ingredients:

150g caster sugar
75g golden syrup
75g butter or vegan butter
75g single cream, soya cream or thick plant mylk
1/2 tsp vanilla powder or 1 tsp vanilla paste
1/2 tsp coarse sea salt

Method:

Make a dry caramel by melting the caster sugar in a wide saucepan or frying pan until golden. Meanwhile in another pan gently melt the remaining ingredients together. As soon as the caster sugar has turned to caramel, add the warmed ingredients to the caramel pan whilst whisking or stirring continuously. (It will bubble volcanically at first but that's ok.) Keep stirring over a gentle heat until any hard lumps have dissolved and you are left with a very runny caramel. Leave to cool then gently warm through to transfer to a clean jar.

Store in the fridge, from where it will be like toffee, bring to room temperature for a soft but solid caramel and warm through to drizzle.



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Providing help and creating hope in Walton on the Hill
Are you struggling to make ends meet?



If you live within the parish of Walton on the Hill then the Walton Parochial Charities could help you.

This fund was created some time ago to provide relief for those 'in need,' the sick or disabled, distressed and the elderly within the Walton on the Hill parish

How can we help?

If you or anyone you know is struggling to make ends meet and could do with some help then please ask them to leave a message in confidence of course at the St Peter's Church office on 01737 668254 and someone will return their call. Alternatively email admin@stpeterswoth.org

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Your Photos around Walton in November and December

Jean Saul sent me these lovely photos of Remembrance Day memorials at Mere Pond. She says: *I thought these might be of interest for the next issue of WoW. Dave and Val made a tremendous effort with the soldier and Val Griffiths always*



(for the last 30 years) places the crosses on the memorial with the names of the local fallen. Luckily the photo of the poppies was taken before they were sadly damaged - the very first time in all the time Valerie and her family have been carrying out this wonderful tribute.



Sue Adilz sent me this fabulous photo of the post box in Heath Drive—whoever the phantom knitter/crocheter is, you definitely brighten up lots of people's walks!



This stunning photograph of St Peter's in the snow came from Mo Atkins—I particularly like how welcoming the blue door of the church looks.

Explore + Connect Film Nights

Come and explore who Jesus was,
as we eat cake and watch
'The Chosen' - the top
crowd-funded TV series of all time!

**on 2nd Sundays -
12 Feb & 12 March**

The
CHOSEN



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6-7.15pm in The Octagon at St Mary's

Tea/coffee & cake as we arrive and a relaxed atmosphere

Explore + Connect Worship Nights

Come and explore different ways
to connect with God

**on 4th Sundays -
22 Jan, 26 Feb & 26 March**



January 22nd:
Contemplative Prayer
(led by Sharon Seal)

other worship we'll explore this term:
Contemporary worship
(with visiting worship band)
and Taize (with guest musicians)

What is Explore + Connect?

A new community group looking to
explore different ways we can connect
with God and each other

Who is it for?

Anyone and everyone!

You might be looking for ways to meet
new people, you might just really like
cake (- it's always served each week!),
perhaps you're open to exploring
ideas around life and faith and you
like asking questions or maybe you'd
rather just sit quietly and listen, you
might be full of doubt or full of faith...
whoever you are, however you feel,
you are so warmly welcome.



Explore + Connect YOUTH



Sundays 22 Jan, 12 & 26 Feb, 12 & 26 Mar

meeting after Explore + Connect
in the Headley Rectory
for pizza, games and hang out!

for young people age 11+

There are designated youth leaders
present at 'Explore + Connect'
in The Octagon at 6pm,
and afterwards in
The Rectory from 7.15pm
for our youth social time.
(Pick up time 8.30pm)



More info and registration forms
from Leah Bates:
leah@hilltopbenefice.org





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