

Window on Walton



St.
PETER'S CHURCH
WALTON ON THE HILL

**Oct - Nov
2026**



Parish News • Community • Local Events • Clubs & Groups

www.stpeterswoth.org



stpeterschurchwoth



st-peters-church-walton-on-the-hill

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- Full Page
- Half Page
- Quarter Page

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- £100
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Rector's Letter

Rev'd Harry Latham

We were reflecting in a United Benefice service recently about the moment when Peter articulated his faith in Jesus for the first time. Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am", and Peter answers; "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

It is a high point in the Gospel narrative. Jesus needs them to know WHO he is before he can tell them WHAT he has come to do. Because what he has come to do is quite shocking!

Matthew 16²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. No wonder that²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 'Never, Lord!' he said. 'This shall never happen to you!'

Which of us would not have been like Peter? Of course we do not want Jesus to suffer and die... we want him to stay with us; we want everyone to know about this amazing man... we love being on his team!

But²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a

stumbling-block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.' We know that in the garden of Gethsemane Jesus would have loved there to be another way to accomplish his Mission, but there was no other way.

Peter is not helping Jesus at this point and Peter is not holding in mind the concerns of God and the bigger picture. He gets there eventually.

But just as death on our behalf is unavoidable for Jesus, so we discover that if we follow him then we have to be willing to give our lives to him.

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

Some Christians are killed for their faith, even today, but all are called to lose their life for Jesus... but here is the paradox it is that by losing it that we find it. Because²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

Rector's Letter cont. & Prayers

We are made not just for this world, but for eternity, we are made not just for human relationships but for relationship with God... and to live a two dimensional life when we are made for a three dimensional life, is always to be dissatisfied.

Do join us as we celebrate Harvest Festival and come together for Remembrance Sunday in St Peter's. Think who you could bring along with you. Above all in this season let us reflect on the most important thing; our relationship with God through the person of Jesus Christ his Son.

Very best wishes, Harry

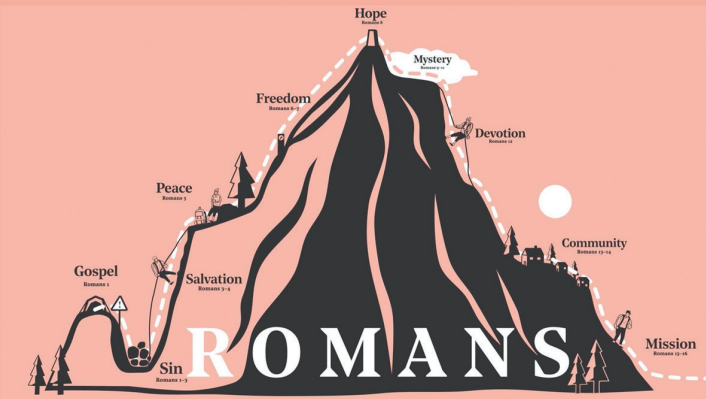
Prayer, by John Birch

There is a winter in all of our lives,
a chill and darkness that makes us yearn
for days that have gone
or put our hope in days yet to be.
Father God, you created seasons for a purpose.
Spring is full of expectation
buds breaking
frosts abating and an awakening
of creation before the first days of summer.
Now the sun gives warmth
and comfort to our lives
reviving aching joints
bringing colour, new life
and crops to fruiting.
Autumn gives nature space to lean back,
relax and enjoy the fruits of its labour
mellow colours in sky and landscape
as the earth prepares to rest.
Then winter, cold and bare as nature takes stock
rests, unwinds, sleeps until the time is right.
An endless cycle
and yet a perfect model.
We need a winter in our lives
a time of rest, a time to stand still
a time to reacquaint ourselves
with the faith in which we live.
It is only then that we can draw strength
from the one in whom we are rooted
take time to grow and rise through the darkness
into the warm glow of your springtime
to blossom and flourish
bring colour and vitality into this world
your garden.

Thank you Father
for the seasons of our lives.

Notices

THE ROMANS COURSE DISCOVER YOUR PLACE IN GOD'S STORY

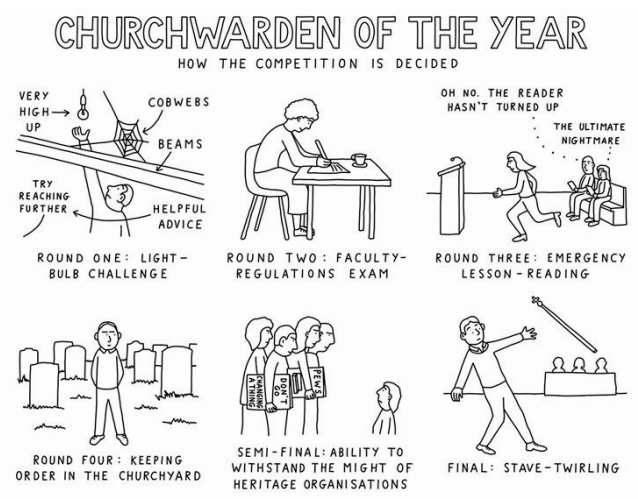


Join us as we explore **St Paul's Letter to the Romans** over 10 weeks, starting 7.30pm Thursday 17th September. More info/sign up: admin@stpeterswoth.org



**Churchwarden
very much
needed**

*Please talk
to Harry*



Open Group & Village Kitchen

by Mo Atkins

Open Group continues to oversee the monthly VILLAGE KITCHEN, which is run by a small but willing team of helpers. The autumn term started well, with a good number enjoying food and fellowship. The next Village Kitchens will take place on:



SATURDAY 10th OCTOBER and SATURDAY 14th NOVEMBER

12 noon - 1.30 pm

RIDDELL HALL

A great place to meet for a tea or coffee, light lunch and to meet with friends or to make new acquaintances. Book Stall and Bring and Buy Stall. Good quality donations welcome.

A poster for a Harvest All Age Service. The background is a photograph of golden wheat stalks against a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the left side of the poster.

Harvest All Age Service
St Peter's Church, Walton-on-the-Hill
11am Sunday 4th October
All Welcome! Coffee from 10.30am

 With food collection
for Epsom & Ewell
Foodbank

 St. PETER'S CHURCH
WALTON ON THE HILL

Notices

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2026

ST PETER'S CHURCH

SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 10.50AM



**You are invited to a Service of
Memorial & Thanksgiving
at St Mary's, Headley**



*to remember the lives of those we have
loved and who are no longer with us*



On Sunday 15th November at 3pm

with tea and cake afterwards

Please bring a
long-stemmed flower



Friends of St Peter's

by Mo Atkins

Teas in the Churchyard

This year, as many of you know, Friends of St Peter's is celebrating its tenth anniversary! To mark this milestone, everyone was invited to a summer 'Teas in the Churchyard'.

By the time you are reading this, rain may have fallen, but on Sunday 9th August, the parched and yellow grass in St Peter's Churchyard, was evidence of weeks of meteorological drought. The weather forecast indicated a possible 30 degrees centigrade. Would folk venture out for a cuppa, we wondered, as the churchyard was transformed busily, into the perfect setting in which to take afternoon tea.

Colourful bunting was strung and, in view of the expected sunshine and heat, gazebos and umbrellas were erected, to give shade to tables and chairs, bedecked with gingham tablecloths and posies; teacups at the ready and an attempting array of homemade cakes on display. The scene was set.

It wasn't long before visitors began arriving. In no time, all tables were occupied and the sound of happy chatter could be heard above the chink of china. It was all go for the tea pourers, washers up and cake servers!



Trustees, Chrissie, Mo, George & Mike at the ready!



Setting up - trustee, Mike holds a corner!



Teas in full swing

Friends of St Peter's

by Mo Atkins

The church's 'people clicker' recorded over a hundred 'guests', appreciating a quintessentially English afternoon; the perfect setting for an Agatha Christie novel. One could almost imagine Miss Marple arriving to solve a murder!

In the event, the only 'weapon' used, was a large cake knife, safely wielded by our Rector, Harry, in the cutting of the beautiful anniversary cake, made and generously donated by Catherine Shrimpton. Decorated with a splendid photograph of St. Peter's, it was much admired, and enjoyed. VERY MANY THANKS, Catherine.

Philip Truett, co-founder of Friends of St Peter's, along with Andrew Brown, gave one of his customary, lively speeches, expressing thanks to all those who have supported Friends, during the past ten years. Philip, explained what a difference Friends' contributions have made to the preservation and maintenance of the church and its graveyard. He emphasised the importance of future giving, encouraging folk to 'please take a leaflet and sign up'!

ENORMOUS THANKS are due to so many people who made this such a happy and successful afternoon. The teamwork was exemplary, everyone working together



Friends of St Peter's

by Mo Atkins

with enthusiasm and good humour. A special thank you to young Amelia and Charlotte, who helped out with obvious pleasure, and spent a whole weekend baking, moving equipment and serving cake!

In the end, the weather was perfect - sunny but not too hot, thanks to the shades. There was a lot of positive human interaction, and what's more, a wonderful £830 was raised from generous donations, both during the afternoon and from after sales of whole cakes, and at 'church coffee' ...the cake makers had surpassed themselves!

The 'icing on the cake' was an anonymous donation of £200, which brought the final total, raised by the event, to an amazing **£1,030!** A brilliant result.

🙏 **THANK YOU ONE AND ALL** 🙏

IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY! FRIDAY, 13th NOVEMBER

The actual launch of Friends took place on Sunday, 27th November 2016, although preparations had obviously been in progress during the year. This year, 27th November is a Friday. The Gage Players will be performing in the Riddell Hall, and Light- Up Walton will be heralding the approach of Advent.....So, FRIENDS will be marking the launch anniversary by



Helpers Bill, Norma, David, Charlotte & Amelia hosting a wine tasting event with a difference, entitled:

'CHEAP DATES or EXPENSIVE TASTES' ... CONTRAST and COMPARE!'

7pm for 7.30pm

RIDDELL HALL

Deans Lane,
Walton on the Hill

Tickets are £20 which includes tastings and a cheese platter. There will be a half time raffle, and a little light entertainment by well known, local actor, ROBIN SEBASTIAN.

If you would like to join us, please contact either: MO ATKINS | 07799136894 | email: moatkins5@gmail.com, or, MIKE BAWDEN | email: mwbawden@hotmail.co.uk

Please support this event by spreading the word, and bringing family and friends for a fun evening!



WINE TASTING

**'CHEAP DATES OR EXPENSIVE TASTES'
... CONTRAST AND COMPARE!**

**FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER, 7PM FOR 7.30PM
RIDDELL HALL, WALTON ON THE HILL**

**TICKETS £20 (INCLUDES WELCOME DRINK, TASTINGS
AND CHEESE & BISCUITS)**

RAFFLE & LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

BY WELL KNOWN LOCAL ACTOR, ROBIN SEBASTIAN.

TICKETS:

**MO ATKINS ON 07799 136894 | EMAIL: MOATKINS5@GMAIL.COM
OR: MIKE BAWDEN | EMAIL: MWBAWDEN@HOTMAIL.CO.UK**

Mothers' Union

by Karen Rand, Lucasta Grayson and Anne Edwards



Prison Update, Lucasta Grayson

I have been involved in a mentoring scheme in Downview Women's Prison for about three years now. I work with a small number of volunteer mentors helping prepare the prisoners for release. We work in the Chaplaincy and our work is funded by a Christian Charity called The Nazareth Way. Over the summer months I have stepped back a bit from this work to focus on looking after my grandchildren, but I aim to be going back to mentoring every week from September onwards.

There has been a lot of publicity recently about overcrowded prisons and the need for early release schemes. Fortunately, Downview is not overcrowded but some of the women are benefiting from the early release schemes as they are serving sentences for minor, non violent crimes. The challenge is to ensure they are prepared for release and have suitable accommodation. Without the right support they can fall foul of the many rules of their probation licence and end up being recalled to prison. These women face enormous challenges on release but against all the odds some manage to successfully adjust to a new life and it is wonderful to be a helping hand on that journey.

It is Prison Week from 9-15 October.

Below is an extract from the website

<https://www.prisonsworld.org/>

A Message of Invitation

The message at the heart of this parable of Jesus and of Prisons Week 2026 is beautifully captured by N.T. Wright:

"Jesus' love reaches us wherever we are but refuses to leave us as we are."

God's desire is that all would respond to his invitation, both good and bad. Both good and bad require God's clothes of righteousness. None is worthy. God seeks us out despite our behaviour and calls us to be changed; to take off the old and to put on the new.

Respond to the Invitation

And so, we invite you to respond to God's invitation, maybe for the first time, maybe with renewed insight. Join us in prayer this Prisons Week, praying for those across the criminal justice system: victims of crime, offenders and those in custody, families of all affected. Those working in probation, prisons, police, courts, and for chaplains. Those administering care and justice in communities

September Walk

by Karen Rand, Lucasta Grayson and Anne Edwards



A few of us braved the elements on 8th September and walked to Headley for a chance to catch up, chat and try out the new café - we all recommend it.

Unfortunately the heavens opened just as we were about to leave but we were lucky enough to be picked up by Chris, Lucasta's husband!



A few hours later it was bright sunshine again!



Dates for the Diary



by Karen Rand, Lucasta Grayson and Anne Edwards

Thursday 6th October, 11am

Pilgrimage of Prayer

All Saints, Banstead

Lifts available



If you're not walking, there's also a chance to catch up with the Madagascar school project:

15th October, 2.30pm

Tadworth MU meeting

Bob and Jill Gunn "TWOAT Madagascar"



Tuesday 3rd November

Pilgrimage of Prayer led by MU chaplain

Revd. Betty Hayes

Service for All Souls and Remembering

Lunch in the Refectory after the service

Lifts available.

Thursday 19th November, 10am

Members' Meeting

All Saints Woodham, GU21 5SH



Thursday 15th October, 12.30pm

150th Fundraising Walk

12.30pm start from St Peter's Church

Please sign up if you can!



Friday 16th October, 10am - 2.30pm

Quiet Day

Dell Centre, St. Giles, Ashted

"Darker Days lead to Lighter Hope"

Led by Sharon Seal, spiritual director

Cost £20. All Welcome.

Tuesday 10th November, 12.30pm

'Bring & Share' lunch at Lucasta's

12.30 pm Please contact Lucasta for more details

Looking ahead

Thursday 10th December

Meeting with Tadworth MU

Festive Tea & Entertainment

Church of the Good Shepherd



Mothers' Union Prayer Diary



October Reflection

At the very beginning of His ministry, Jesus declared that one of the tasks God had sent Him to do was, 'to proclaim liberty to the captives, to let the oppressed go free' (Luke 4.18). He announced that He had been anointed to fulfil Isaiah's prophecy, which He quoted in the synagogue at the beginning of His ministry (Isaiah 61.1). Throughout His life, He continued to reveal in word and action God's love and compassion, God's desire for freedom and justice for all who are oppressed or held captive, whether in physical or spiritual bondage. Jesus' call is also one for us all, especially those of us in Mothers Union, to pray and to work for the liberation of others.

October Monthly Prayer

Lord, in this quiet month of August, help us to be still, to rest from our busyness, reflect on Your goodness, rejoice in Your faithfulness, and replenish our hearts with Your peace. As we remember Mary Sumner, we thank You for her vision and love. May her example inspire us to walk in faith, speak with courage, and serve with joy. Amen

November Reflection

In the so-called 'Western World', we live with the illusion that the possibility of being safe and secure exists. But 'in that day' - when God puts everything right - we will experience real safety and security. Trusting God, whatever our circumstances, we can experience perfect peace today. The double-minded swaying from pride to fear is calmed by the mind focused on God, who alone can be trusted. Shocking as it may seem, this God we trust in is partisan. He takes sides with the oppressed and the poor. Who is on the Lord's side? Are you?

November Monthly Prayer

God our creator and sustainer, whose mission brings life and growth to all who call on your name in faith; help and guide us to seek: your vision in our prayers and planning, your wisdom in our practical action, and your power at work within us as we continue to work towards moral, social and economic justice for all. Through your very precious gift of prayer, enable us to reflect your abundant hope and love to those we seek to serve; that they may discover life in all its fullness, finding a place of refuge and of peace, Amen.

Parish Giving



Thank you for financially supporting St Peter's Church

Please review how much you can give

Please consider planned giving

Please explore the Parish Giving Scheme



<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/walton-on-the-hill-st-peter-tadworth>

- ⇒ Follow the above link (Or look out for email with link)
- ⇒ select the option that says **Regular Giving**
- ⇒ follow the instructions to fill in the form.



Parish Giving



Benefits of the Parish Giving Scheme(PGS)

This secure and simple method of giving serves givers and churches.

The giver benefits from:

- ◇ Retaining control of how much they give, how often and to which church
- ◇ Using a simple method of regular financial support to their church
- ◇ The option to increase giving annually to protect their gift against inflation
- ◇ Anonymity, if preferred
- ◇ Peace of mind that the Direct Debit Guarantee Scheme

The treasurer benefits from:

- ◇ Reduced administration and paperwork
- ◇ Easy access to monthly and annual statements

The church benefits from:

- ◇ Stable and often increased planned giving
- ◇ Efficient and regular reclaim of Gift Aid

The administrative cost of operating the scheme is covered by each member diocese, making the service free to use for churches and givers.

GoCardless Ltd (company registration number 07495895) is authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority under the Payment Services Regulations 2017, registration number 597190, for the provision of payment services.

As a charity whose origins are within the Church, PGS is dedicated to serving givers and churches in a shared ministry of giving. Every pound donated through PGS can be put to Christian service in the local community, free from time-consuming admin.

For the diary.....



**First
Friday
Coffee**

**St Mary's
Octagon
Headley
10.30am**

Prayer & Pastries

9.15am

Fridays, in Term Time

St Andrew's Boxhill

All Welcome



TWOAT

Mike Fox

For those who are less familiar with TWOAT's aims and how donations are put to use, this article provides a high-level overview. The projects we support fall into three broad categories: education and skills training; support for medical treatments and improvements in agricultural and water supplies.

Children and young people

Currently, over 50% of donations are directed to projects related to children and young people. Examples of these are Les Petits Saphirs, a nursery and primary school in Madagascar, and Emmanuel School in a camp for refugees from Myanmar, just over the border in Thailand. Other schools and children we support are located in Sierra Leone, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Zambia, Nepal and Tanzania. We fund skills training at Mtandika Trade School in Tanzania and projects to develop skills and the empowerment of women and girls in Africa, India and West Papua. We also donate funds for young orphans of the ongoing war in Ukraine and for a special orphanage in Lima, Peru established to care for babies abandoned due to a birth defect. We have also funded a school bus and provision of deaf aids to St John's School for the Deaf in The Gambia. Other projects we are supporting include operations to restore



the sight of children in Uganda, where the government's own medical services are lacking.

Clean water and medical provision

We are helping to fund the construction of a new borehole for Berega Hospital in Tanzania where we also fully fund their epilepsy clinic including the lifelong supplies of drugs needed by sufferers from this condition. We also donate to the costs of medical care for impoverished users of Ludhiana Hospital in India.

Agriculture

Our main agricultural activity at present is to help fund the planting of thousands of fruit and other trees in Malawi and to improve agricultural practices by teaching farmers how to create compost from the leaves of suitable trees rather than relying on increasingly costly chemical fertilisers.

TWOAT

Mike Fox & Bob Gunn

Our scale, reach and impact

Our approach is to support typically 20 or more small scale projects at a time, where our relatively small donations can make a real difference. Our support goes directly to people doing work on the ground in Africa, Asia, South America and even occasionally Eastern Europe.

Since the foundation of TWOAT in 1982 we have raised over £750,000 which has been applied entirely to the projects we support, without administrative deductions as our committee and trustees are all volunteers.

Get involved

If you would like to know more about TWOAT please visit our web site www.TWOAT.org or phone Chair Mike Fox on 01737 350452.

Our next activity will be our Annual Meeting and Dinner on October 31st in St John's Hall opposite Tadworth Station with doors open at 7.15pm. We are always pleased to welcome new people but please contact Mike Fox first so we can plan the catering.

In November on the 27th the Christmas Lighting Event in Walton-on-the-Hill will include a collection in aid of TWOAT.

An update on Les Petits Saphirs, Madagascar (Bob Gunn)

Over the summer I've been in contact with Laurette Totomarovario, our Mothers' Union contact in Madagascar through whom we deal with the Les Petits Saphirs (LPS) School in Ambondromifehy.



We have now agreed the budget for the new school year 2026-27, including an increase in the level of TWOAT support.

The school continues to be popular with the children and their parents. It provides pupils with a good education with 12 of the 13 candidates in primary 5 having 'graduated' successfully following exams in June. Nourishing lunches are provided by the school to all pupils, whether or not their parents can afford the lunch fees. Laurette estimates that only 50% of parents are able to contribute.

LPS has two nursery and five primary year groups. They have agreed that 15 children per year group is the ideal

TWOAT

Mike Fox & Bob Gunn

maximum, giving a total school roll of about 105 pupils. This will be a reduction compared to the peak of 130 pupils reached unexpectedly in 2024, after a big increase in children transferring from other schools.

The wars in Ukraine and the Middle East have led to significant increases in the cost of fuel, food and other supplies globally, but this has hit particularly hard in poor African countries such as Madagascar. Also, somewhat unexpectedly, the exchange rate between the Ariary and GBP has worsened since last year.

At their meeting this month the TWOAT Trustees have decided to increase the support to LPS from £8,300 last year to £10,000 for the new school year, making it one of the two largest regular donations TWOAT makes. We have been able to do this thanks largely to your continued generous support, plus the support of another (anonymous) TWOAT supporter. Thank you so much.

LPS would like to build a new classroom to accommodate the increase in pupils now at the school, as two classes have had to be taught in the church since 2024. TWOAT has decided to earmark

£3,000 (half the estimated cost) if LPS can raise the balance from other sources.



Images above from the celebration at the end of the 2025-26 school year.

Thank you again for your continued support. It means a great deal to TWOAT, and even more to the people of Ambondromifehy. This is a project which TWOAT helped to establish from the very outset in 2010, and which depends on TWOAT for 70% of its costs. **We could not do this without your backing. Thank you.**

Sunday Service Format at St Peter's, 11am - 12 noon

8:00am - 8:45am 1662 Prayer Book Communion

This is a quiet, traditional and spoken service of communion with a short talk.

11:00am - 12:00pm Main Service

This service is our main service of the day.

Tea & coffee served from 10:30am



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



2nd Sunday - BENEFICE COMMUNION Service, alternating with Headley. **Note: 10.30am start when at Headley** (traditional)



3rd Sunday - FAMILY Service (quite lively)



4th Sunday - FAMILY COMMUNION Service (less traditional)



5th Sunday - UNITED BENEFICE Service at St Andrew's

check www.stpeterswoth.org for latest info

Services at St Peter's

October - November

October

- 4th** 8am Holy Communion (1662)
11am Harvest Festival
- 11th** 8am Holy Communion (1662)
10.30am Benefice Service at Headley
- 18th** 8am Holy Communion (1662)
11am Family Service
- 21st** Wednesday 10am Healing Communion, Headley Octagon
- 25th** 8am at Headley
11am Family Communion

November

- 1st** 8am Holy Communion (1662)
11am All-Age Service
- 8th** 8am Holy Communion (1662)
10.50am Remembrance Sunday
- 15th** 8am Holy Communion (1662)
11am Family Service
- 18th** Wednesday 10am Healing Communion, Headley Octagon
- 22nd** 8am at Headley (1662)
11am Family Communion
- 29th** 8am Holy Communion (1662)
10.30am Benefice Service at Box Hill

*Join us for tea and coffee,
served from 10.30am every Sunday - All Welcome*

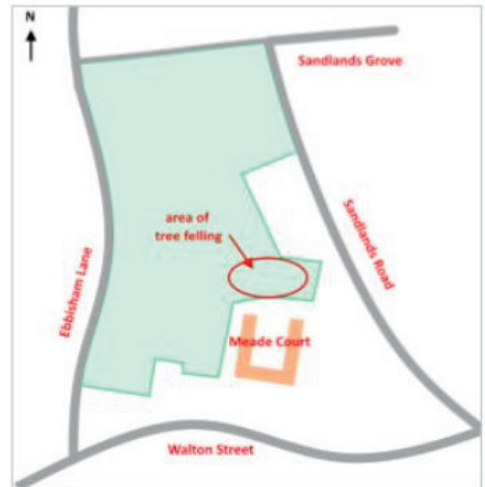
Tree Felling in Walton

Walton Village Forum

Waltonites have been enraged by the recent, surprise felling over the summer of 20 mature deciduous trees in the field behind Meade Court (see map, right).

The field was divided into about 50 individual plots many years ago, but applications for planning permission for 50 houses were rejected on 'green' grounds. In June this year, surveyors arrived on the site and on Saturday 8th August, tree surgeons rapidly (some describe it as a "smash and grab" raid) felled trees and removed them from the field.

Vigilant villagers captured these events on camera along with the identity of the firms involved. The motivation may have been the theft of timber, worth perhaps £4,000 to £8,000, but it's more likely that site has been cleared to make way for housing development. Such development raises the competing issues of the need for new housing, versus the destruction of green belt and the unwelcome growth in the village population without a commensurate increase in local infrastructure and services. Naturally, RBBC (or their successor East Surrey Council) will have to decide, with input from others, but there is a groundswell of opposition locally to housing development. In this vein, as might be expected of villagers, a resistance movement has swung into action with groups gathering evidence to consider whether the felling breached any regulations.



Map showing area of felling



Aerial view



Image of the cleared area and tree stumps

Tree Felling in Walton

Walton Village Forum

Of particular interest are:

- Forestry Commission regulations that prohibit felling more than five cubic metres without good reason or a licence (actual felling was closer to 20 cubic metres).
- Wildlife regulations that prohibit the destruction of habitat, especially for creatures such as bats and badgers.

The authorities have visited the site and been asked to consider if it is a police matter. Fliers are also being distributed to homes in the immediate area, asking people to stay alert and report any developments.

Walton Village Forum is involved and have allocated time for discussion at their meeting at Breech Lane Community Hall on **Tuesday 15th September**.

The TWRA is also engaged and ready to support with objections to any prospective planning application.

This is a good example of the fine spirit of community in Walton, with residents pulling together in an effort to preserve the character of their treasured village.



Note from Norma & Walton in Bloom

Norma Darter & Jean Bye

Note from Norma

Thank goodness it is much cooler, that relentless heat was just too much for me and Bill. The more recent drop in temperature is very welcome.

As I write this article, it's September, and with the weather cooling a little and nights drawing in, my thoughts begin to turn to the Royal Marsden C*****s cards (it feels too soon yet to say the word!). I know my stock is ready to be collected from the hospital. Please call me on 01737 812639 if you would like to buy some.

Walton in Bloom, Jean Bye

How wonderful to have 18 folk including children, help with our pond clearing and litter picking day. It was a lovely sunny morning and with much enthusiasm we completed the task in an hour and a half - and many new friends were made too! Many thanks to Reigate and Banstead Council for supplying rubbish bags, high-vis vests and pickers.

Our hanging baskets have survived the summer heat and given us a super display again. I'm hoping we can continue again in 2027. Donations very much appreciated.

We have been selling 'Christine's cards' for 10 years, with all the proceeds going to St Peter's Church (£2,565 raised in total to date). The cards are in memory of Christine Maudesley, whose paintings have been turned into card designs. She would have been chuffed to know how popular they are.

Food Bank items are still welcomed.

Please leave your donations in St Peter's porch. Alternatively, Riddell Hall have a bin in their porch. Many thanks.



Light Up Walton

by Mo Atkins

Once again, Walton on the Hill will light up, in time for **Advent!**

This year's event will take place on **Friday 27th November**, following the same pattern as last year:

- Starting at **Mere Pond for switch on at 5.00pm**. Everyone is very welcome to join in at any point.
- From the pond, process to **St. Peter's Churchyard for switch on at approximately 5.15pm**.
- **Carols in the church** will follow with community choir and band "Low Key Affair".

Mulled wine and spiced apple juice will be served in the church. Donations will be collected for TWOAT (Tadworth and Walton Overseas Aid Trust).

If you're joining the procession at Mere Pond, please wear high-vis jackets for safety and take great care of children near the pond and on roads.



For further information please contact
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Mere Pond Update

David Larnar

Mere has dried out again, causing concern for villagers. Village ponds have been drying out occasionally for millennia, there's nothing to worry about here, and some species actually prosper in nature's cycles. But Mere has dried out, or nearly dried out, three times since 2022, so this does cause concern.

Mere's shallow depth compared to its area, and with it being 'offline' (not supplied by a stream) make it vulnerable. Comparing ponds in the borough, Mere and Chain have dried out, but Burgh Heath, Marbles, Fenchies, Earlsfield and Reigate Priory still have some water. Thankfully, Mere did not have fish, and ducks have stayed put, sheltering under trees on the north west bank.

What cannot be done:

- Dredging the pond to lower its bottom, because it has an impervious clay layer just below the surface.
- Filling the pond with tap water - because this would be expensive and water is better reserved for humans during droughts.



What can and has been done:

- A consultant hydrologist was hired by WVF in 2022 to investigate all aspects.
- Monitoring water and raising the alarm upon low level, especially if fish are distressed.
- Oxygenating water with a pump as water level falls.
- Posting "keep out of the pond" notices to warn people against entering hazardous silt.
- Clearing drains to ensure water is not wasted when rain occurs.
- Inhibiting the dumping of fish in the pond because it is unsuitable for fish keeping.

Mere Pond Update

David Larnar

Silt removal

Silt removal is the skimming of silt from above the gravel layer that sits just above the impervious layer. A layer of silt is now evident over much of the pond's area. Money has reportedly been reserved to remove it, but no date has been set. The matter is being taken up, with renewed urgency, with the authorities. Green protagonists caution against wholesale silt removal, unless really necessary.

One reason for removal is that it presents a hazard to humans who might foolishly enter the pond, and there have been recent incidents of people getting stuck and having to be pulled out.

Experts recommend that RBBC should arrange for silt to be surveyed for chemistry (it might be good for horticulture or it might be toxic and expensive to remove) and for volume. Then the village should be consulted before making a decision.

RBBC planned to install silt traps, especially where surface water enters the Pond at the junction of Walton Street and Sandlands Road; a great example of 'prevention is better than cure', but their works are behind schedule.

Advice to Villagers

We should recognise that an event of drying out is not entirely bad. The bad feature is the present frequency, fuelled by global warming, and everyone can do their bit to help:

- Keep out of the pond.
- Don't dump fish or terrapins in the water.

Pond Clean Up Day

On a brighter note, many Waltonites attended the clean-up work on Saturday 5th September, with great results as shown in these during and after photos.



The Roses Pilgrimage

Susan Adilz

As many of you are aware, each summer, I go on a long walk. It is pilgrimage, originating as a “Youth Event” in 1975, organised by the RC Diocese of Arundel & Brighton. In its 51st year, it now has an older profile. I joined in 1989, on the recommendation of a friend and have walked all or part of each pilgrimage since. It became “Ecumenical” in 1981 and welcomes folk of all faiths or none. The aim is to make a spiritual journey from one destination to another, usually with a theme or to mark a significant event. The pilgrimage takes place in the last two weeks of August and for me, marks the end of summer and the start of autumn.

This year, we were heading “up North” to cooler climes for our walk. Starting in Middlesbrough with Mass at the RC Cathedral, we walked to Blackburn, to the Anglican Cathedral, celebrating its centenary. Blackburn, Lancashire, today is a multiracial city, with a 50% Muslim population. This was evident as we approached the city and passed a brand-new Mosque. Middlesbrough, Cleveland, where we started, is an industrial city tucked under the North York Moors. Our walk took us up the Tees valley, through the village of Kirklevington to Croft-on-Tees, where Lewis Carroll’s father was Rector.

We slept in the church. It is amazing to sleep in a church. The following day, we headed south across parched farmland to Richmond, high on the hill via Easby Abbey. The weather still dry, we reached Bedale, a beautiful little town with huge church of St Gregory. Refreshed by rain and a morning service of Holy Communion we made our way to Ripon, our Rest Day. Pilgrims enjoyed a tour of Ripon Cathedral and visited the square to see the Wakeman blow his horn, a tradition unbroken since 886. We stayed in the Girl Guide Hall behind the Workhouse, which had hot showers. Nursing a blister, I took the bus to Pateley Bridge, but the pilgrims walked via Fountain’s Abbey and Brimham Rocks. Pateley Bridge was full of Bikers and tourists.

The following day I was in heaven. The sunlight sparkled on the dappled river, trees hushed, I spotted a dipper in the shadows and eventually left Nidderdale to climb to Eller Edge Nook on moors. We stayed in Grassingham of James Herriot fame.

The day to Skipton began with a Requiem Mass in St Margaret Clitherow for a much-loved pilgrim Deacon John Lamb, whose funeral was to be held in Guildford later that day. John had supported me in

The Roses Pilgrimage

Susan Adilz

2005-6, when I was Pilgrimage Co-ordinator, dealing with all things “Catholic” at the A&B Diocese. He and his wife Kate had also catered for a Reunion held at St John’s Stoke, my church in Guildford.

The day was another glorious riverside walk, then up and over Sharp Haw, to Skipton. We had seen the mountain rescue helicopter take off from Burnsall the previous day and learnt that a girl had sadly been drowned in the river. Skipton was our second Rest Day. No showers this time, but an excellent Leisure Centre with swimming pool and sauna. Skipton also had a launderette.

The last three walking days took us into Lancashire, where we turned our pilgrim crosses round, to display the red rose instead of the white rose of York. The walk to Barnoldswick was quiet, the towns increasingly industrial, with old cotton mills and canals. On to Clitheroe, endless stiles, some difficult to climb, lovely churches, a welcome always, but after lunch it rained hard. We arrived soaked, thankfully staying in a large Methodist Hall with plenty of room to dry kit and a hot shower.

On the last day, pilgrim Michael McCabe led the walk to Stonyhurst, his Alma

Mater. He had arranged for a guided tour of its museum and libraries, where a complete portfolio of Shakespeare’s was kept and a cope from the Field of the Cloth of Gold. After Mass and lunch, we headed for Blackburn and visited the Cathedral the following day. It was a beautifully light building with Swedish Glass in the windows and early 20th Century sculptures and Crown of Thorns. In the Jesus Chapel, behind the altar, we held our Arrival Service, remembering in prayer, all the communities through which we had passed. This was followed by a tour, and later a Celebration Lunch at St Luke’s, where we were staying. St Luke’s are doing fabulous work in an area of need in Blackburn. The recovering drug and alcohol group turned up on Saturday evening for their regular meeting in the church. We would have stayed for the Sunday service, but trains were booked, and the hall needed to be cleared, so we missed what the Vicar described as his service of “Holy Chaos”.



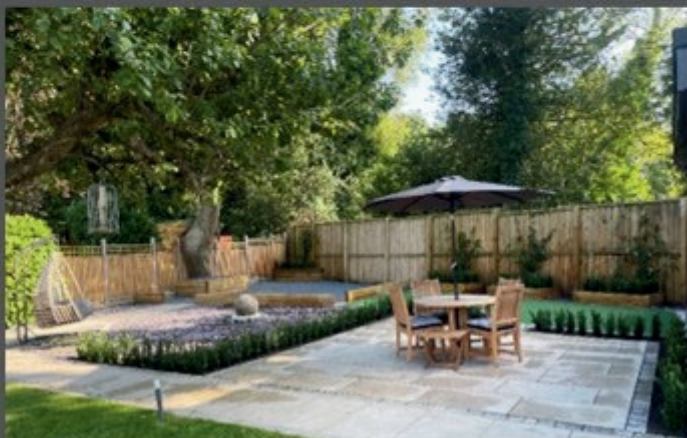
This year’s pilgrim cross, featuring the white rose of York, and the red rose of Lancaster, each side of the sword of the spirit.

Crosses are made by pilgrim Bruce Matheson.

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Harvest, Foraging and Finding Balance This Autumn

by Sam Fountain

There is something wonderfully grounding about autumn in the British countryside. After the brightness and long days of summer, the landscape begins to change. The hedgerows become heavy with berries, apples and sloes, and mushrooms appear beneath the trees.

Gathering what the land provides

The British countryside has always offered blackberries and apples and more for people who know what they are looking for! Collecting, picking and foraging reconnects us with the rhythms of the natural world, and for me, it takes me back to being a child. It's exciting!

Before supermarkets and year-round availability, people naturally ate according to the seasons, making use of what was available locally. Autumn was a time of gathering, preserving and preparing; storing food for the colder months ahead.

If you've never picked wild food, only pick plants and fungi that you can identify with absolute certainty, leave plenty for wildlife and avoid polluted areas and low level berries.



Moving from summer into autumn from a TCM point of view

Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) aligns with the seasons by shifting from summer's expansive energy to autumn's inward, reflective focus. TCM food energetics focus on balancing warming, cooling, and drying ingredients to match the season and an individual's unique constitution. As we head into autumn, TCM often highlights dampness; a pattern of sluggish imbalance rather than actual fluid retention. Traditional dietary approaches may therefore favour warm, cooked foods rather than cold or raw foods. So, as the evenings draw in, comfort yourself, family and friends with warm, nourishing meals. Think of roasted root vegetables, vegetable soups, stews, baked apples, porridge, lentil dishes and warming spices. A bowl of homemade soup after an autumn walk can feel exactly like what the body and soul are asking for.

Harvest, Foraging and Finding Balance This Autumn

by Sam Fountain, The Rascal Club

Nourishing Yin and Yang

TCM also gives us the familiar language of Yin and Yang; complementary qualities rather than opposites that must compete with one another.

Autumn reminds us that health and well-being aren't necessarily about doing more. Sometimes they are about finding balance. We need activity and recovery; strength and flexibility; effort and rest; warmth and refreshment; being outdoors and coming home. This is one reason gentle, purposeful movement can be particularly enjoyable at this time of year.

Our **core strength and stretch classes** bring together strength, mobility and controlled movement. There is something wonderfully autumnal about strengthening the body while also making space to stretch, breathe and release tension. Weights can play a similar role. Building strength is not simply about working harder; it is about nourishing our physical resilience and giving the body something to adapt to. In the language of TCM, we might think of this as supporting the balance between Yin and Yang; combining purposeful activity with recovery and restoration.

Traditional Chinese movement practices such as Tai Chi and Qigong similarly place emphasis on coordinated movement, breathing and gentle physical control.

A season for gratitude

The harvest reminds us that growth has seasons. There are times for sowing, times for growing, times for gathering, and times for resting.

As Christians, we can recognise something familiar in this rhythm. Creation has its seasons, and we are part of that creation. Autumn encourages us to pause and notice what has been given; the food on our tables, the changing countryside, the people around us, and the strength we have been given to carry on.

So this autumn, why not join us for a walk on on Monday evenings (it's free!), or try a "Core Strength and Stretch" class on Wednesday evenings.

As the countryside prepares for winter, let's do the same. Let's gather what's good for us, let go of what we no longer need, and find balance in our lives.

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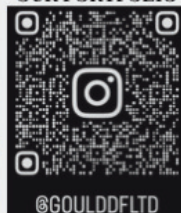


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Update from Rebecca Paul

Member of Parliament for Reigate, Redhill, Banstead and our villages

Since my last update, the Government has published its revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), including new rules that make it easier to approve housing development within walking distance of "well-connected" railway stations. Some of you will recall this was one of the major areas of concern I raised as part of my submission to the Government's consultation.

While building homes near public transport is sensible in principle, I remain deeply concerned that the policy fails to distinguish between major transport hubs and small village stations. As a result, stations such as Tadworth, Kingswood and Chipstead may now be treated as "well-connected", potentially opening the door to significant development in rural and Green Belt locations.

Following consultation, the Government has made some improvements. "Reasonable walking distance" is now defined as around 800 metres, providing greater clarity, and proposed housing densities have been reduced from the original draft.

However, the most serious concerns remain. Under the new rules, housing near qualifying stations can be considered acceptable in the Green Belt without requiring the "very special circumstances" that have traditionally protected such land. This represents a significant

weakening of Green Belt safeguards – understandably a major area of concern for those of us in Walton-on-the-Hill as well as across our area more widely.



Equally troubling is the lack of any firm commitment to provide the infrastructure needed to support new development, including GP services, school places, road improvements, drainage capacity and increased rail services. As your Surrey County Councillor since 2021, I have seen first-hand what a lack of infrastructure means in practice for communities like ours.

I support building the homes our country needs, but they must be in the right places and supported by the right infrastructure. I will continue pressing Ministers on these issues and standing up for our local community.

As always, if you need my help, I can be contacted at rebecca.paul.mp@parliament.uk. I also send out a monthly e-newsletter which may be of interest covering more of my work both in Westminster and locally. To subscribe please visit my website www.rebeccapaul.uk

Very best wishes, Rebecca



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Well-being - refresh

Tracy Latham

As I write it feels like Summer is on its way out and Autumn is at the door, waiting to be welcomed in. This year we are saying goodbye to a very hot and dry summer and the sun beaten, slightly African looking landscapes we have enjoyed in England as a result. I am imagining that some of us found the extended season of heat and sunshine refreshing, whilst others found it quite exhausting.

When I take a moment to think about the word 'refresh' – I quickly get a sense of that restoring of strength and vitality that it refers to, but I also find myself wondering how it is achieved. Looking up the different meanings of the word in the dictionary is a helpful reminder that it can be done through Rest, Renovation, Replenishment, or Renewal. I am sure we all know that a lovely long 'R'est can be very refreshing, and perhaps we long for that, but in certain periods of life that type of rest can feel quite elusive. In these seasons we can try to build in daily or weekly micro-rests and the other 3 Rs of refreshment are very helpful and sometimes very necessary.

Renovation involves freshening something up. Is there any area of your life where you think you could enjoy a small freshening up project? Awareness of our capacity is important with this one

and choosing a project that is aligned with our capacity. Very small projects like organising one draw, refreshing a favourite planter, pruning one bush or sewing on a missing button are still renovations. Maybe try one and notice whether it feels refreshing.

Replenishment involves renewing the supplies. We do need to make sure that we are nourishing and nurturing ourselves as well as other people because it is impossible to keep running on empty. We would never tell our car off for breaking down if we didn't put fuel in it! Is there something you used to do that filled you up or restored your energy in some way? Sadly, when we get depleted we can stop doing the things that give us energy because we feel too tired.

Renewal: one of the things that many of us will be familiar with needing to renew/refresh is the apps on our phones. I am increasingly aware how much the society we live in constantly drip feeds us messages that tell us our self-worth is based on achievement and gaining approval through our performance and that satisfaction comes from the pursuit of pleasure or more. I now see those messages as like a background app that can drain our batteries without us being aware of it. I recognise that I need to consciously update the app in the

Well-being - refresh

Tracy Latham

background of my life sometimes to remind myself that healthy self worth comes from an acceptance and appreciation of our own and others strengths and weaknesses and that praise, presence, and participation are much more reliable sources of satisfaction than the pursuit of

pleasure, perfection or more. I have found that renewing or updating this background app does bring refreshment because it allows me to stop striving or comparing and start savouring, sharing and celebrating the 'good' of my life and other's lives and of this world. Is there an app refresh you might benefit from?



Autumn

Thank you that you are here.
Thank you that I am here,
Standing at your doorway.
Thank you for your kind and longed for invitation;
To immerse myself in your rich abundance of colour,
To indulge slowly in your comforting meals, glowing fires
and abundant crops.
To delight in the smorgasbord of flavours and sensual
experiences you lay out before me
To gather in, feast on and share the harvest.
May I wrap myself up in warmth so I can enjoy
Being out in you.

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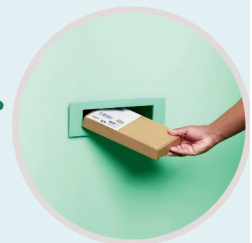
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