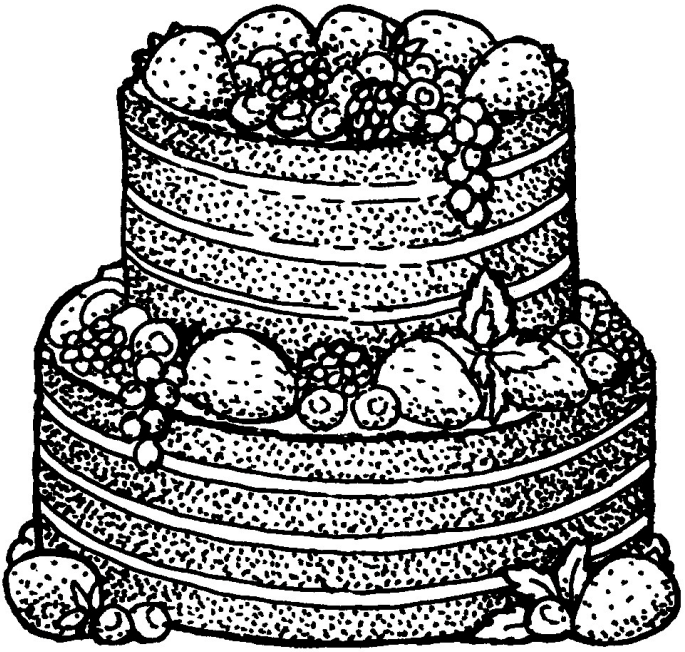
White Waltham Church's

Parish Magazine

August – September 2022



Church Teas are on
Saturdays 6th August & 10th September
We'd love to meet you! *See page 7 for details.*

For info about Harvest Festival, see page 21

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The Vicar's Letter

The Vicarage, Waltham Road
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Woodlands Park
Telephone 01628 822000

Dear Friends of the Parish of White Waltham and Woodlands Park,

Hello, I pray you are doing well. Enjoying a summer of sunshine? Sport? Holidays? It's odd writing maybe a month or so before you read this, what will be going on for you and me?

As I write, it is the day when Boris Johnson is resigning (sort of). As of right now it is not clear if he will resign or announce a time in the future where he will hand over, or what, but any which way, with that and the cost-of-living increases, I guess we may be talking about party politics and the future of the government this summer…

It has made me reflect on what we want from leaders; I have come up with 3 'C's which you might ponder with me:

The first 'C' is **Connection**. We want a leader who knows their people and their situations. We don't want someone who doesn't understand us, and who cannot imagine the pressures we face or the choices we make. One motivation mentioned for voting for Brexit (whatever you may think of the rights and wrongs) was that to be ruled by Brussels felt like being ruled by a faceless bureaucracy miles from where we lived. We long for leaders who know us and who we can know; we long for connection.

(continued over)

THIS MAGAZINE

Published bi-monthly, six times a year.

Delivered free to all homes in White Waltham & Woodlands Park
and given to all families at White Waltham School.
Freely available at church services.
Also available on White Waltham Church's Facebook page and website:

Articles for the next edition should be sent to
waltham.vicar@btinternet.com
by 7th September 2022
Magazines are usually available on the last Sunday of the month
www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk **White Waltham**

The second 'C' is **Consistency**. We want a leader who is dependable and sticks to principles. Actually, often we would probably prefer someone who disagreed with us but at least followed through on it, to someone who says one thing one minute and then something opposite the next. A leader needs to be consistent for us to trust them.

The third 'C' is **Clarity**. We want leadership from our leaders, some sort of plan, a clear vision. They can make a mistake, they can miscalculate, but we need to be able to see where they want to head to and why. A leader with clarity reassures and inspires his followers.

So, does that help us looking ahead to September and beyond? I don't know. But I do know the Lord Jesus. He speaks of a loving intimacy with his people, Christians, when he says he knows his sheep and his sheep know his voice (John 10), a deep **Connection**. He has a faithfulness to his loving promises even, and despite, the unfaithfulness of the very people he seeks to save and bring into his family. The bible, over 1000s of years and many authors, speaks of an astonishing **Consistency** of the Lord God's purpose, despite every challenge us fickle people throw in the way! And as for **Clarity**…. The picture of heavenly perfection – a wholesome peace and love for creation, people, and God – is first sketched in Eden, then prophesied and coloured in, first through the Old Testament and then in the words and ministry of Jesus, and finally shown in glorious technicolour vision in Revelation. Our Father God calls people to come, Jesus knocks at the door, the Holy Spirit prompts; and all the Lord God desires for us is to come to Him for forgiveness, for peace, and for loving leadership in the ways we were made for.

I pray that whoever leads our country, and for all those involved in leadership in so many ways, in workplaces and homes, that we reflect something of the leadership of Jesus, being connected, consistent, clear, and ready to give our lives in loving service for others.

May you know rest and reflection this summer. And I always look forward to welcoming you one Sunday at church, where we hear more of Jesus our loving leader.

Dave

Revd Dave Atallah *Tel: 01628 822000* *waltham.vicar@btinternet.com*

A BIG THANK YOU

to everyone who helps to distribute these magazines to every household, and many of the businesses, in the Parish.

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White Waltham CE Academy

What a fantastic term 6 we have had here at White Waltham C of E Academy! It is wonderful to be back at the school and I am so thrilled to be able to spend time getting to know all the children and families. It hasn't taken me long to feel right back at home here at White Waltham.

We started the term with a visit for year 3 and 4 from PrimeVR, where they experienced what it would be like if they were able to visit a rainforest. A firm favourite amongst the children was a visit from a very cheeky silverback gorilla who tried to give them a kiss! Thomas in year 3 said, "It was really funny, my favourite bit was the Amazonian tarantula." Orla in year 3 said "The tarantula was very cool and very hairy. The jaguar came really close up, it was very spotty."

In June, we were so fortunate to be able to have parents back in the school and able to view the children's hard work this year. The children relished the chance to discuss with their parents all the topics covered this year, from the Pohatans in KS1, the water cycle in lower KS2 and the Titanic in upper KS2. We look forward to many more opportunities next academic year.

Year 6 have had a busy term getting ready for their move to secondary school. They have been fortunate enough to have had two workshops on 'It's Your Move', provided by Christian Connections in Schools. Rev. Dave came in and presented the children with their special booklets. This was followed by a visit from Wayne Dixon, who I'm sure many of you who grew up in Maidenhead will remember. He chatted with the children about what to expect, answered any questions they had and performed one of his infamous raps.

On Friday 24th June, year 6 were in charge of the school. The year 6 children planned engaging lessons for all the classes and took their role as teacher very seriously. They came in early, wore smart clothes and loved a little hot chocolate in their own staffroom at breaktime. Miss Cooke commented that the children in year 2 loved being taught by year 6 and she was really impressed with how organized and prepared the children were.

(continued over)

Early in July, we had a visit from Fantastic Fred. He came to talk to us about our emotional wellbeing and how we can make small changes to help keep us healthy. These were F – food, R – rest, E – exercise and D – devices. The children loved the engaging performance which was put on for them in the school hall. Bea in year 5 commented, "It was very funny but it felt like I was learning in a fun way." "It was hilarious, the part with Dave the dolphin instead of endorphins was really funny," said Oscar in year 5.

We ended the school year with our highly anticipated Sports Day, our first with parents for many years. The children all had a blast, taking part in throwing and jumping activities. We ended the event with our races for all the children. Congratulations to Hurricane house for a narrow win.

I wish all the families a fabulous summer holiday, and I look forward to seeing the children return in September. I would also like to wish all our year 6 leavers the best of luck at their secondary schools.

Mrs Denham

Head of School

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SUCCESS and FAILURE

What do these words mean to you and me?

They might apply to our school days, our business world, our personal relationships, our hobbies or indeed, our sports activities.

Recently, we have had so many highs and lows, successes and failures in a range of sporting events – tennis, cricket, Lionesses' football, cycling, golf, Formula One, athletics and so on. We have witnessed some exciting and sometimes improbable successes; also, of course, some surprising and sometimes devastating failures. These failures have included sports people gaining a tarnished reputation, or being very fortunate to escape with their lives. The success of survival surely transcends all other success in a crisis.

I guess as casual spectators or as real fans, we want our player/s to succeed in a dominant way. Many things must drive elite sports people – fame, media recognition, sporting status, prize money, family security, self well-being and determination to develop the highest skill levels, to name a few. What would your motivations for success be?

In 1992, I was at the Barcelona Olympics. A group of us had the privilege of having Jonathan Edwards, the GB triple jumper, and his wife stay with us after the heats of that event. He was tipped as a potential medallist. In the triple jump heats that evening, Jonathan had failed to qualify for the final with a jump of 15.76m, putting him way outside the top 12 places. He was devastated. We talked as we walked down from Montjuic on our way to the flat. He couldn't fathom why everything that had been so positive in training suddenly failed in those heats, as his technique let him down. Was God giving him a message?

Three years later, at the World Championships in Gothenburg, his sporting life was to change. His success was beyond belief, as he broke the world record twice that evening to record a jump of 18.29m. Over 25 years later, this is still the world record! On some occasions the margins between failure and success may be small; at other times, different criteria apply!

So what does the Bible say about success and failure? In Joshua 1.6-9 we read that God said to Joshua, the leader of Israel who replaced Moses: "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to do everything written in the Book of the Law. Then you will be prosperous and successful." In other words, putting God first and following the way that he wants us to live, that is real success. It is not about medals and trophies but about the type of person we are. Paul, writing to the Galatian Church in Galatians 5:22 tells them that their character should show: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,..… self-control." It's not easy to exhibit these attributes under pressure in a tight sports encounter – or even in life itself!

When he writes to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 9:24-26) Paul reminds them: "Do you not know that in a race (*or sports competition)* all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? They do it to get a crown that will not last but we do it to get a crown that will last for ever."

So, you see God doesn't expect us all to be winners in our sports events. As Christians, we achieve success by putting our trust in Jesus which is an everlasting victory! So, God expects us to be loyal, faithful and obedient to him. That's the hard bit of our training!

I urge you to look up these passages quoted here and come along to church, to find out more about running the race of the Christian life!

Bob Crittenden

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Woodlands Park Primary and Nursery School

As we finish off another busy year at Woodlands Park and contemplate the new academic year, there are many changes that have taken place since our last news item.

We welcome Mr Jamie Miles as our interim head teacher, who will be with us until at least Easter 2023 following the retirement of the current head teacher, Mrs Alison Penny, who has been at Woodlands Park for twenty years, 12 of which as head. The school is also in the process of joining a multi-academy trust: Slough and East Berkshire Multi Academy Trust (SEBMAT). It is an exciting time for the school community.

We also said a fond farewell to Mrs Laura Hopper, co-head teacher and SENDCo who is moving on to work in a school in Bagshot. As well as welcoming Jamie Miles, we also welcome Hayley Taylor who takes over as SENDCo and cover teacher in September.

Last term was a very busy one with many exciting activities taking place. The children in Key Stage Two entertained us with two performances of Pirates of The Curry Bean and our Year Six children said 'goodbye' to Woodlands Park in their very special way.

The children enjoyed school trips in the Summer, including Reading Museum, Woolley Firs and Legoland. We have welcomed visiting artists, creating large pieces of art for our school. The children have also been making the most of the school grounds, pond dipping and using our Forest School area.

The children also took part in the School Sports Partnership Commonwealth Games Baton Relay. Two baton bearers from Waltham St. Lawrence brought the baton to us and handed it over, reading inspirational messages which were popped inside the baton. Our two chosen baton bearers were also chosen to welcome the real baton as it reached Maidenhead in July.

Our Eco Council have been working hard collecting batteries to recycle and the Early Years children have held a Wheelathon to raise money.

As well as nurturing and caring for our own school community, we have also welcomed several refugees to Woodlands Park. We are so pleased, as a community to be able to reach out a friendly hand to these families and make them feel part of our very special school family.

Do you have a child ready to start Nursery? We have recently changed our policy for Nursery and are now taking children from 2 years 9 months either with two year old funding or as a paid place. Our Nursery is filled with children who feel nurtured, confident and ready to learn. We offer caring and knowledgeable adults, a wonderful outside classroom and forest school area and much more. We have spaces available at our lovely Nursery and are taking applications for September 2022. Call or email to enquire or ask about an application pack or a tour.

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Saturday 10th September 2022

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People find a route visiting various churches by walking, cycling, driving and it is often lovely weather and a great day out. Our local churches have such a wealth of wonderful architecture; they are well worth a visit.

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The other half goes to the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust (BHCT). Everyone in BHCT is a volunteer who is keen to see our precious churches preserved; please join us in this quest.

For more information, please visit our website:
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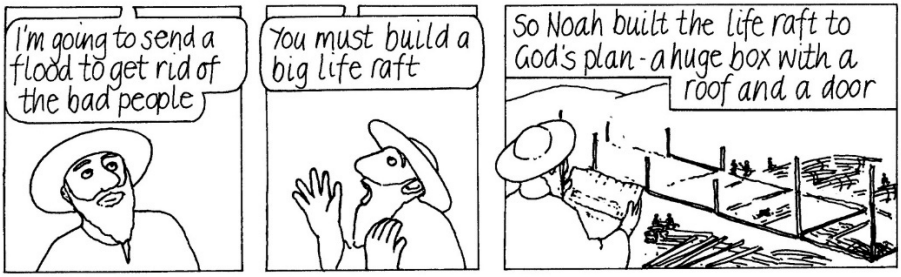
Read this short story from the Bible...

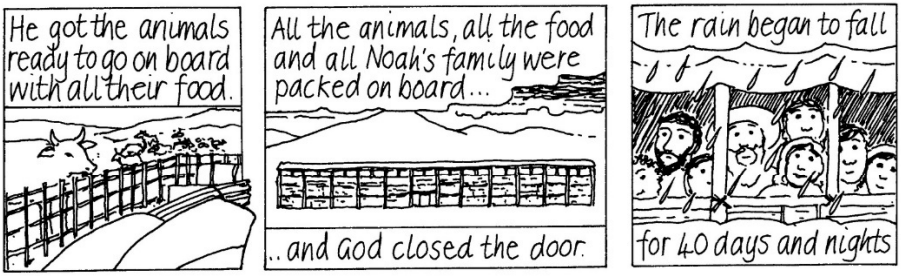
Bible Bite

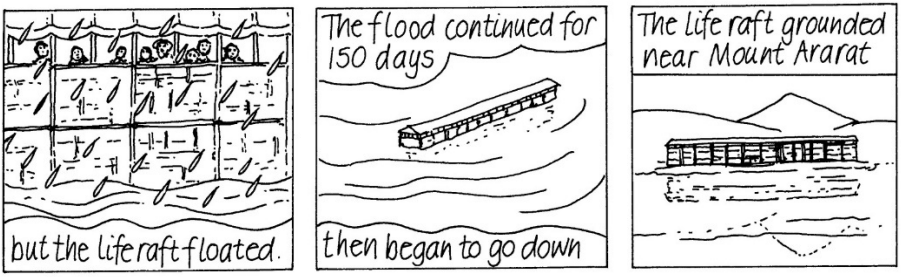
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Genesis chapter 6:9 to 9:17.

Everywhere God looked, people were hurting others, fighting, lying, cheating and stealing. Only Noah was good.







…and complete this Wordsearch about it!

b	p	f	l	o	a	t	e	d	i	s
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Noah
people
animals
family
rain
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second
raft
life
flood
leaf

flood
bad
food
roof
Ararat
trees

floated
hurting
box
door
raven
God

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St Mary's Church
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Church?

Here in New Zealand it is the middle of winter, but today I have not lit the fire and the Heat Pump is off. It is gloriously sunny, warm and a church day. And today, this morning was a very special day – one young lady is having her fifth birthday, so she'll start school late in July. And that called for special refreshments after the service – always welcome! But we have had several babies born to church Mums in the past few weeks and months and all five aged less than a year were right there in church. One or two Caesareans, one very premature but to see the four girls and the solitary boy all there today was also very special.

But even that was not the best. After the service, one of our older children – a young lad aged 8 or 9 went to see our Pastor and said that he wanted to become a Christian. So, after a short conversation in a private room where Pastor asked the lad why he wanted to become a Christian and whether he understood what he was asking, he simply led him by means of the Bible to put his trust in Jesus Christ as his Saviour and then while the rest of us were enjoying savouries, cakes and a cup of tea or coffee, Pastor told us what had happened.

The Bible tells us that "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repents." Have you ever been the reason for the angels' joy in your lifetime? For me, it happened very many years ago when I took this step at the tender age of 6 and I have never regretted it.

Throughout my life in UK, New Zealand, Ireland and Holland, I have visited and become a member of different churches in these countries and have experienced wonderful love and friendship. I have included a picture of my present church but I have to say that what matters about a church is not the name on the outside, not the denomination but whether the Bible is preached as the true word of God and assuring members that they are loved and cared for spiritually.

So why should you even bother about church or becoming a Christian? I do believe that the Bible is the true Word of God, it is infallible and no one has ever – no not ever – proved it to be wrong. The Bible says that Jesus is coming back to this earth soon to call everyone who has accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour to be with Him in heaven for ever.

If that does not matter to you, I would be very sad as I am truly hoping to meet many from the Maidenhead area in heaven soon. Please make sure you are one of them!

Eric eric.green@xtra.co.nz

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Harvest Festival All Age Service

White Waltham Church
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For babies and toddlers with their parents/carers

We meet between 9.00 & 11.15am on Mondays during school term time. Come when you can, go when you must – we have a range of toys out for free play, Bible story time and music, and for the time being please bring a snack - we plan to provide snacks again in due course, once Covid regulations are relaxed further.

We meet in The Tree House, which is located in the churchyard at White Waltham Church. Some parking is possible at the bottom of Church Hill, and more spaces are available in the yard of Bury Court Antiques (Alistair Price).

We would love to see you!

Little Roots Toddler Group
www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk

Little Roots starts again in September, in the meantime keep up to date via the Facebook group.

Want some financial help with your education?

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

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

Write to: Clerk to the Trustees, Carolyn Thompson,
Spire View, Waltham Road, White Waltham, SL6 3SG
or email: carolynt52@icloud.com
for an application form

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Over a Cup of Coffee

I pick up a cup of coffee in my favourite 'watering place'. It is 'Kingdom Coffee' – ethically produced in support of farmers in poorer places. In a contemplative mood, I notice that the cup has printed on it the Bible reference Matthew 13:44, which tells of Jesus's parable of the hidden treasure. A man finds the treasure hidden in a field, and in joy, sells everything he has in order to buy that field. He so desires the treasure that it is worth more to him than everything else he has.

For each one of us, a place in the Kingdom surpasses everything we know or encounter on this earth – all possessions and worldly things. Elsewhere, Jesus tells us to avoid laying up treasures on this earth '*Where moth and rust doth corrupt and thieves break in and steal…but store up for yourselves, treasures in heaven where moth and rust doth not corrupt and thieves do not break in and steal'*.

I continued to enjoy my coffee and reflect on Jesus's words.

Bob Packer

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chris lumley
…let the kiwi have a look at it
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Microsoft CERTIFIED Professional
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07579 026 363
kiwicom1@protonmail.com

Tales from the Bells

White Waltham Bell Ringing

We hope you are having a lovely summer. Even with it being so hot, the bell tower remains cool, due to the thickness of the church walls.

Our learner, David, has progressed really well; so well that he has been assessed for his Learning The Ropes Level 1 and passed! It is hoped that we will be able to arrange for him to experience ringing with a full band accompaniment of ringers, instead of ringing as part of three ringers. We also hope that a new learner will be starting soon, as we have had an expression of interest. A taster session will be given first.

With the Church Teas coming up, why not have some cake and a cuppa then head up the tower for a taster session on a bell – or just come and have a look at the bells – no obligation! If we are not in the church, you'll find us having a church tea. Well, us ringers just can't resist the homemade cakes!! We'll be easy to spot. The teas are on 6 August and 10 September – we currently plan to be around on both dates, though this is subject to change.

If you are interested, please email waltham.vicar@btinternet.com to let us know, giving your name and saying which day you would like to attend. Alternatively, you can call the church office on 01628 822000, leaving your name and contact details.

Lesley Graves

Bell Captain, White Waltham

Email: white.waltham@sdb.odg.org.uk Tel: 01628 822000

Want to advertise in this publication?

Contact Bob Crittenden

Tel. 01628 822000

Email waltham.vicar@btinternet.com

News from your Borough Councillors

Cllr Maureen Hunt
cllr.hunt@rbwm.gov.uk
0118 940 4808

Cllr Andrew Johnson
cllr.johnson@rbwm.gov.uk
07802 305392

As we write, we are in the middle of a heatwave, signifying summer has truly arrived. Let's hope we can enjoy some good weather throughout the summer – with a little rain, of course. As the school summer holidays are approaching, do check the council's website for all children's activities – there's lots on!

There are many residents who are really feeling the pinch with the cost of living. Below are two programmes that may help.

For those with children, The Feed Ur Everyday Lives (FUEL) programme is running in full again this summer. This is particularly important, given cost of living pressures, which as a local council we continue to place as a critical policy priority to support local residents and particularly those struggling or in need. The aim of the FUEL programme is to support children to eat more healthily, be more active over the summer holidays and have a greater knowledge of health and nutrition along with being more engaged with school and other local services. The programme is coordinated by the RBWM Family Hub Service and can support families requiring one-to-one assistance as needed. We encourage anyone eligible and in need to visit the Family Hub website at https://rbwm.afcinfo.org.uk/pages/community-information/information-and-advice/family-hub-service where important information on support services can be found as well as signposting to key points of contact.

The programme seeks to give priority to children aged 5-16 years, including 4 year-olds if in reception, who are eligible for and receiving benefit-related free school meals and their families. The Borough's extended eligibility criteria is seeking to offer spaces to children accessing the Pupil Premium, children in care, Ukrainian refugees, any child being supported by Early Help or Social Care, children with an Education, Health and Care Plan, and younger carers. There is a wide array of activities as part of the programme including sports and games, arts and crafts, dance and drama and much more. Anyone needing additional help or assistance, please do contact cllr.carroll@rbwm.gov.uk.

For all residents who need help with the rising cost of living

A World Café event will be held in **Woodlands Park Community Centre** which is designed to help residents with the right contacts for help with the cost-of-living crisis. The event is in August – please watch out for the date at the Community Centre.

Housing Solution Summer Fair – 7th August in Phipps Close – which looks to be really good fun for all. *See page 18 for more details.*

Swimming in the River Thames

The council are helping to promote water safety at the River Thames, particularly in light of the warm weather. The council, police and fire service are working together to raise awareness and visiting local schools and riversides. If you get into trouble in the water, remember to stay calm, lean back and use your arms and legs to help you float to survive, and control your breathing.

Over the last year, our Community Wardens have worked with landowners and our partners to install additional safety and warning signs at key locations along the river. For more information on water safety visit: https://www.rbfrs.co.uk/your-safety/out-and-about/water-safety/

Climate Partnership

A pioneering new Climate Partnership has been established to involve the community in tackling climate change and help deliver the Royal Borough's Environment and Climate. The partnership will bring together businesses, charities, community groups and individuals to tackle climate change, helping everyone to work together to play their part.

The Partnership will share knowledge and expertise across the borough to help achieve the ambitions of the strategy. These include the borough's net-zero emissions target by 2050 at the latest, alongside action on restoring biodiversity and helping to address health and wellbeing.

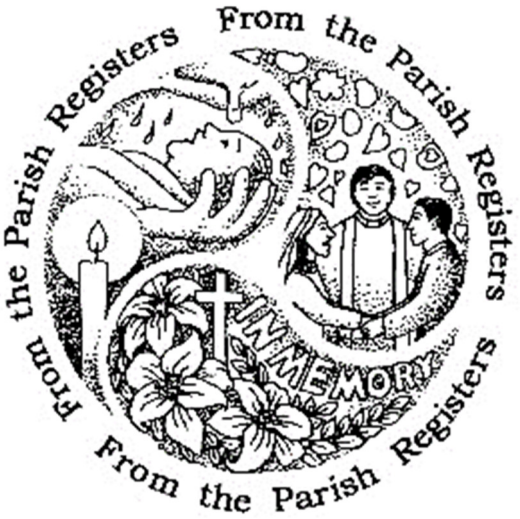
RBWM Youth Council Survey 2022

The Youth Council has recently launched a survey to collect information from **11-25 year-olds** on a range of topics including mental health, libraries, and transport. The data collected will inform the Youth Council's actions to best help young people across the Borough. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeYStmpFzp18_opy1gifeupL1nNEFqp3JqzRxoP8SR-cnOXDw/viewform?usp=sf_link

As always, please let us know if we can help with any council issues you may have.

Our best wishes

Maureen and Andrew



Baptisms

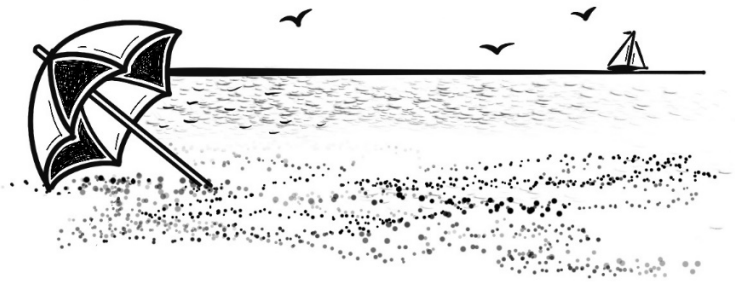
3rd July	Elias Alex Ssenabulya	
3rd July	Luke Nicholas Purchase	

Funerals

13th June	Doreen Hill	aged 91 years

Burial

16th June	Renee Ethel Tillin	aged 95 years



Services at White Waltham Church

Sunday Services at White Waltham Church
are at 10.30am *with activities for children every Sunday*

Services are in person and live via Zoom from the church building:
http://www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk/zoom

To join us in church, there is no longer a need to book.

N.B. you can join us in one click on our website's main page

Our next service for all ages is

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday 9th October
at 10.30am

Some content is available on our Facebook page
White Waltham Church

Do come and join us – visitors are always welcome at White Waltham Church

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We aim to post extracts from this magazine on Facebook during the 2 month period that is covered by each publication.

And/or visit our website…

You can also catch up with this magazine online.
Visit www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk
and you'll find the Parish Magazine under the 'Resources' tab.
You can get the current issues as well as being able to download earlier versions from the past year.

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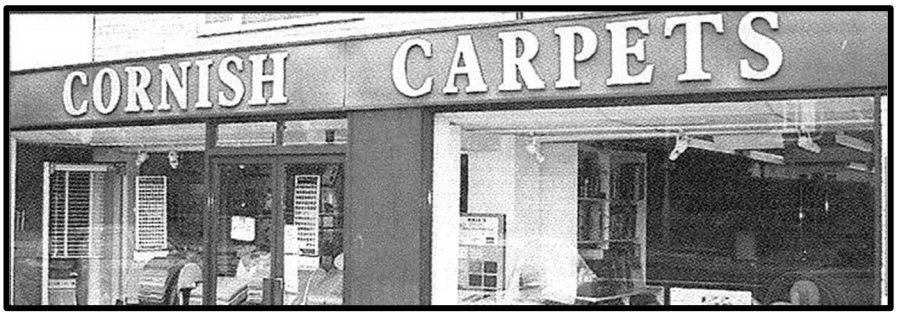

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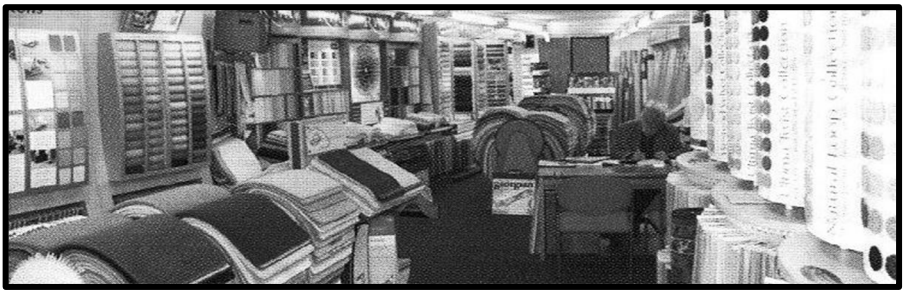

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