White Waltham Church's

Parish Magazine

February - March 2024



Details of our Easter Services are on pages 8, 19 & 34. Please do join us. 😊

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The Vicar's Letter

The Vicarage, Waltham Road (corner of Foliejohn Way) Woodlands Park Telephone 01628 822000

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

I write this as the last of our children has just gone back to school, and we have Christmas decorations half taken down. I pray you had a good Christmas though it is probably mid-February by the time you are reading this, and that event has faded...

But Christmas, and then a school assembly I was planning this morning, prompt me to think about **receiving to give**.

In so much of life, as in every other religion and philosophy I have found, we are taught that we need to earn to receive. That we need to achieve and pull ourselves up in order to be found worthy. And there is much to be said for a good work ethic and a just system that rewards good service and does not encourage the lazy in their idleness. But Christianity cuts across that. **Our Father God says we need to freely receive first in order to give**.

The popular idea of 'one mountain, many paths' is shown to be wrong and harmfully so; God does not command us to reach him, but he comes first to us to give of himself, even as we do not deserve it.

(continued over)



In the parable of the unmerciful servant (Matthew 18v21-35) Jesus teaches Peter about how much he should forgive and reminds him that we forgive because **we have first received forgiveness**. Realising how much our Father God has shown us his mercy in Jesus, prompts us to overcome the much smaller slights we face with our forgiveness and mercy.

In the creation story, we are reminded that all good things around us are sent from heaven above, and so when we do good to others with our things or our time, we can do that because we have **first received so much**.

And at Christmas, surrounded by the present exchanging that goes on, we see again a Father God who loved the world (loved you and me) so much that he gave his only Son. What a present, that just needs receiving with faith to give everything we need in life: hope, joy, peace, love.

At church on a Sunday, we have a series in John's gospel looking at the words of Jesus on that first Maundy Thursday, the last night of Jesus' life before his horrific execution, and the words of wisdom and love he spoke to his disciples. And we see again **how much we receive as we follow him** so as to be able to then give to others in so many ways. Do join us to be blessed along with us, with all that God has for you. And do join us in thinking how best to use what we have been given to bless others, this world needs it!

Easter is coming *(see page 8 for more details)* which spells out what our free gift cost God, in the death of His only Son Jesus. Please come to a service, join a course, or just reach out for a conversation. We all have much to receive from our loving Father God.

Dave

Rev 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. Your help and hard work are very much appreciated!

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What a Friend

The greatest thing life has to offer is friendship. We may have all the treasure that life on earth presents. These may not be valued as are gold or silver, but to make a friend of someone is to acquire real treasure, something to be cherished. There is a hymn:-

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear. What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer, O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

J.M. Scrivener (1855)

Bob Packer





Woodlands Park Primary and Nursery School

A place for everyone. Together, we are inspired to grow, learn and achieve.

We're thrilled to report a positive start to the term at Woodlands Parks School. The children have returned from the holidays, feeling refreshed and ready for a fantastic year of learning and growth.

Exciting News:

We are delighted to announce that we have expanded our nursery services to full-time, offering afternoon provision (30 hour offer for working parents and fee paying for others). If you're interested in enrolling your child, or someone looking for a nursery place, there are still places available. Please contact our school office for more information at office@woodlandsparkschool.org.

Dream and Goals:

This term, our PSHE curriculum is centred around "Dream and Goals." We are encouraging children to set New Year's resolutions, aligning with our school values, and explore ways to overcome any barriers they may encounter on their journey.

Educational Excursions:

As an integral part of our curriculum, we have planned several exciting school trips this term. Destinations include Woolley Firs, Houses of Parliament, and Windsor Castle. These experiences play a crucial role in broadening the children's horizons beyond the classroom.

Choir Performance at the O2:

Our school choir has been diligently practising at the choir club and is thrilled at the prospect of performing at the O2, as part of the Young Voices event. It's an incredible opportunity for our talented young singers to showcase their skills, alongside other enthusiastic children. Our Year 5, Otters class, are also receiving flute tuition, with music and the arts taking centre stage this term.



(continued over)

Community Involvement:

We are currently in search of a lunchtime controller to support Early Years from 12 - 1 pm each day. If you or someone you know is interested, whether for school-based experience or a desire to contribute, please get in touch with us.



Additionally, we are reaching out to the skilled trade professionals within our community. We are in the process of transforming our old staff kitchen into a learning space. While we've made progress by removing the kitchen furniture, we require assistance with plastering (specifically on walls with removed tiles) and plumbing (removal of a sink). Any volunteers with these skills are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support, and we eagerly anticipate working closely with our community throughout this term.

Best wishes

Jamíe Míles,

Headteacher

www.woodlandsparkschool.co.uk office@woodlandsparkschool.org 01628 822350



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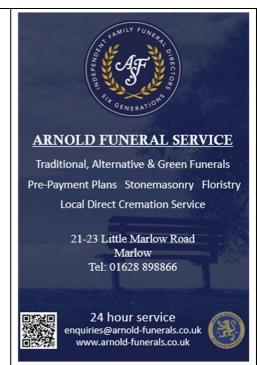
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White Waltham Church invites you to join us for our

Special Easter Services

Maundy Thursday Meal with Communion

In The Tree House at 6pm

An informal meal with holy communion.

Please email waltham.vicar@btinternet.com to join us.







A Promised Death...

A Good Friday service suitable for everyone.

Good Friday Reflective Service – In Church at 2pm An hour at the cross...

•••

Easter Day All Age Service – In Church at 10.30am

A Joyful Discovery...

Join us for this celebration for all ages together.



Everybody is welcome to services at White Waltham Church

Services in church are also available via Zoom for those who are unable to join us in person <u>www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk/zoom</u>

Want to find out more about the God who gave up his Son for you?

After Easter we are running 'The Identity Course', on Thursday evenings starting on Thursday 25th April at The Vicarage. This 7week course gives us the opportunity to explore the character of God and his Son, Jesus Christ, and to find out more about ourselves. You can ask questions, or just listen.



Contact us on 01628 822000 or email waltham.vicar@btinternet.com

www.identitycourse.com



White Waltham CE Academy



It has been a wonderful autumn term for all of the children and teachers at White Waltham CE Academy. We have lots to celebrate from the children's hard work across the term.

We are all extremely proud of how well our EYFS children settled into school life. They have been busy getting to know their new friends, as well as their teachers and other staff around the school.

The children enjoyed looking back at pictures of themselves as babies and discussing all the ways that they have changed since then.



The children were very excited to venture outside of the school grounds for the first time to go on a walk around the village. They practised following a simple map to find some important local buildings and places and then made their own maps back at school.



Year 1 and 2 have been engrossed in their topic of 'Once Upon A Time'. During this topic we read and enjoyed a wide range of traditional tales including: The Three Little Pigs; Goldilocks and the Three Bears; Jack and the Beanstalk and Rapunzel.

After half-term, the children learnt about the historical event of the Great Fire of London. They learnt when and how the fire started and the reasons why it spread so quickly. The children were very enthusiastic about this topic, which was enriched by a visit to the Tower of London for a workshop about the fire.

Year 3 and 4 have been studying the Vikings. They learnt who the Vikings were, where they came from and where they settled. They learnt that the Vikings were invaders and how they lived their lives over 1000 years ago.

The topic was enriched by a visit to Ufton Court for a Viking experience day. Here the children explored Viking artefacts, played



games that the Vikings played and learnt about Viking customs and traditions.



Year 5 and 6's Tudor topic started with an exciting visit to Hooke Court. During this visit the children were able to try cooking Tudor knot biscuits and stews, exploring Tudor crafts and clothing as well as a time-team archeological dig. The children thoroughly enjoyed all of the activities and learnt an incredible amount about life in the Tudor times. The Tudor topic was also enriched by a visit to Hampton Court Palace – the palace of King Henry VIII himself. Here the children investigated Tudor exploration and trade with a geography-based workshop. They were also able to explore the great hall, state apartments and kitchen of the palace.

As always, if you would like to come and visit our school, please contact the school office on 01628 822533 or email <u>office@whitewaltham.org</u>

Laura Denham *Head of School*





Tales from the Bells

If White Waltham Bell Ringing



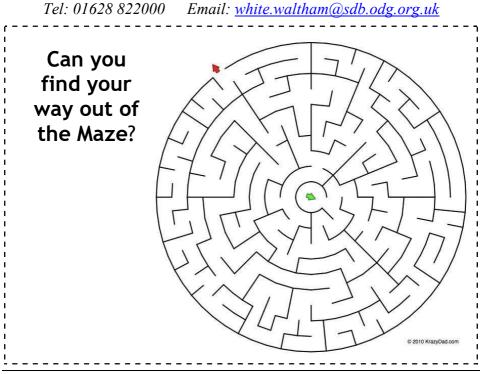
Christmas now seems a distant memory. We rang for the Candlelight Carol Service and also Christmas Day service. Unfortunately, we were unable to get enough to ring in the New Year.

The band is progressing. We are fortunate that we have help from two ringers from other towers. This is enabling our learners to learn how to do call changes and to ring a simple pattern known as 'Plain Hunt'.

We are now taking bookings for tower tours from groups and/or individuals. A tour will consist of a view of the bells, a talk and possibly a demonstration of ringing. If anyone is interested in having a go, they will be able to do so with the help of a Ringing Teacher.

Finally, our friendly band could do with a couple more new recruits. We are offering people who are interested to have one 'taster' session without commitment. Please do get in touch – it would be really good to hear from you.

Lesley Graves, Bell Captain





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St Mary's Flower Guild, White Waltham

2023 was a successful year for the Flower Guild, with several workshops and fundraising get-togethers. We also had our annual garden party in Carolyn Thompson's garden and an outing to a couple of beautiful gardens in White Waltham and Pinkneys Green.

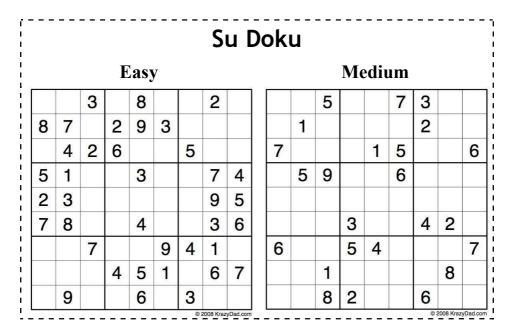
A special thanks to all those who helped to decorate the church at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Your support has been much appreciated during the year.

We will be holding more activities again this year and always welcome new members. You don't have to be an experienced flower arranger to join us. Here are some dates for your diary:

Saturday 10th February at 10am in The Tree House – A coffee morning and short Annual General meeting. An ideal opportunity to catch up in the New Year over coffee and cakes, to reflect on 2023 and to plan our activities for the coming year.

Saturday 9th March at 10am – a workshop for Mothering Sunday Saturday 30th March from 9.30am - decorate the church for Easter

For information on our activities, please contact Carolyn Thompson 07834 545967, Liz Atlay 07881 785131 or Julia Hodgson 07904 999685.



We look forward to seeing you.

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7 Thursday evenings from April to June 8pm at The Vicarage, beginning 25th April.



www.identitycourse.com

Spending just over an hour, using videos and depending on discussions, we will look together at the **Gospel of John** to clear up confusion about who we are, and who God is. Each session also addresses a popular question such as: Are Christianity and science enemies? What about other religions? Why do we suffer?

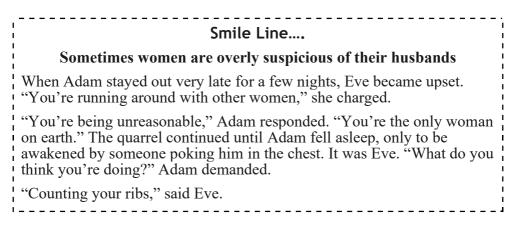
If any of that sounds interesting but the timing is difficult, please be in touch and suggest an alternative.

You don't need to know anything about the Bible. You won't need to pray or sing or read aloud. You can ask any question you want, or just listen.

The first session works as a taster without committing yourself.

Interested? Contact Rev Dave Atallah 01628 822000

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Little Roots Baby & Toddler Group

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. We provide appropriate snacks for little ones.

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!

G Little Roots Toddler Group www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk



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

For further information on the areas covered and eligibility, please write to: Clerk to the Trustees, Carolyn Thompson, Spire View, Waltham Road, White Waltham, SL6 3SG or email: carolynt52@icloud.com for an application form

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Here at White Waltham Church, babies, toddlers, children, young people & families are welcome every Sunday at 10.30am

On regular Sundays, children begin the service in church before going to age-appropriate groups with experienced leaders early in the service. Once in their groups, they learn about God's love for them through a variety of lively and engaging activities including drama, games, quizzes, craft and singing - to name a few! Sometimes they return to church to join their families for the end of the services, but more often they stay in their groups until the service finishes and the rest of the church family joins them for tea, coffee, squash and biscuits after the service.

While the children and young people are in their groups, the adults stay in church. We want you to feel at home with us, and simply sit and listen to what is said. The person leading takes us through the service while we follow what is happening, on screens at the front. Usually, we stand to sing; you can choose to join in different parts of the service or not, as you wish, and you won't be asked to say or do anything on your own.

On occasional Sundays *(see this term's dates below)* the whole of the service is designed to be suitable for everyone – from the youngest of babies upwards. These 'All Age' Services are carefully planned to provide opportunities for active involvement and participation in a range of ways; there really is something for everyone.

If you'd like to find out more please do come along on a Sunday morning or contact us on 01628 822000 or <u>waltham.vicar@btinternet.com</u>

Do join us for our All Age Services

Jesus' power for you – Sunday 11th February *at 10.30am* Good Friday – Friday 29th March *at 10.30am* Easter Day – Sunday 31st March *at 10.30am*

Do come and join us!



Read this short story from the Bible...



...and complete this Wordsearch about it!

h	g	n	Ι	С	h	۵	n	g	e	n	n
S	j	С	a	+	+	e	r	+	i.	0	n
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S	f	b	r	0	+	h	e	r	S	u	Ι
i	u	۵	m	0	0	0	-	e	۵	<	e
n	m	0	+	۵	n	b	С	W	0	X	d
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u	р	n	e	V	e	r	u	n	У	d	0

change burning choice Moses father leave Egypt bush attention mountain Paraoh sheep run Hebrew body Sinai brother killed Midian Aaron princess married people never

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HEROES

What is a hero? He or she is usually someone who is admired for something very brave that they've done. It might be that someone has achieved something great in their lives. It could be someone in the real world that we admire, or whom we enjoy watching in the fantasy world.

There are two people at present who some might call heroes. Luke Littler, the teenage darts player who nearly won the World Darts Championship, aged just 16. His skill and maturity have astounded the public and he has become a role model for youngsters to follow. The other is Nicholas Winton, whose statue is seated on Maidenhead Station. His life, in the just-released film, "One Life", has captured the hearts of many. People learned of his selfless ambition to help Jewish children escape from the Nazis.

I wonder who you might list as your heroes or role models, either alive today or in the pages of history? There are plenty of people who have given themselves to the service of others, through their lives or their deaths.

Looking at the book of Hebrews chapters 11 & 12 in the Bible, there's a long list of 'heroes': God-fearing people, who lived before the time of Jesus. But all of them are described not as heroes, (although some of their exploits might include that) but as living 'by faith'. Their faith in God, before Jesus lived, marked them out as 'role models' or 'heroes'.

But the greatest 'hero' is Jesus himself! Unselfishly, he left his heavenly home to be born in the flesh, not as God, but as a human being; one of us! He lived a totally God-orientated life, serving the needs of all around him, by feeding, healing and raising them back to life again. He even did a servant's job and washed his disciples' feet. Despite having followers, who often seemed sceptical about him, he trusted twelve men (one of whom betrayed him) to be witnesses for him.

More than that though! The first Christmas, Jesus came as Emanuel (God with us) and was named Jesus (God saves). But to save us from what? From the penalty of wrongdoing, for which we deserve to be punished.

At Easter, we remember that Jesus died on that cross to bear the sins of the world; he experienced the separation from God that we should have. But he overcame the penalty of our sin and physical death by rising from death, so that we could have a new life – spiritual life, eternal life with him.

Heroes may sometimes give their lives for the salvation of others, but Jesus sacrificed his life for the whole world, past, present and future! This was so that anyone, indeed *everyone*, could have sins forgiven 'by faith' in him. If you believe this, 2024 could be a new beginning for you, with its new challenges and hopes.

Bob Críttenden



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Est 1879 and still representing the village today!

Happy New Year from all at White Waltham Cricket Club!

White Waltham CC have been busy behind the scenes undertaking some works, completing new ceiling panels and lights across the pavilion during the Christmas break.

Whilst the weather has been awful so far this year, there is light at the end of the tunnel as we prepare to start our indoor nets from Tuesday 13th February. We are always on the lookout for players, so do feel free to reach out via one of the below channels and join us for a session.

All being well, we hope to get outside for a first game in April time. It certainly can't come soon enough now.

Many thanks, Jonny Mahoney *WWCC Chair*

For more information, or if you are interested to join/train with the club, please visit our website or contact us using one of the options below:

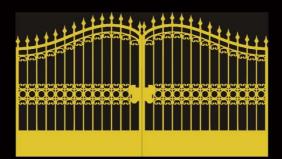
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Friend... or Enemy

Wow, here we are in a brand-new year and so, inevitably, we wonder how it will turn out! Looking back, how did 2023 turn out for you? Here in New Zealand, we had a General Election with all the "fun and games" that go with these events. So now we have a new Government to get used to, with all the changes they have already made and those yet to be revealed.

Now we know that no one can foretell the future and so we must hope and pray that things will turn out for our benefit. But I want to try to set out some of the factors that will affect the future (and the present!) and what, if anything, we can do about it.

Looking first at our world, what do we see? Peace and security or wars and uprisings all over the place. Sadly we know the answer to that one.... We feel helpless to take any actions that could affect these conflicts. And add to these the less obvious conflicts that bubble along under the surface.

What causes all these unpleasant situations where so many people, old and young, die because of the fighting? I want to suggest that when it is boiled down, hatred is the overriding emotion. One side hates the other because of something one side has that the other wants and so they each employ as much power as they can to get what they want.

Sadly, these emotions of hatred are not limited to countries and if we are really honest, we can see similar patterns in our own local communities, our country, and even very sadly, in our own homes.

My heading, I believe, suggests both the reasons for the bad and hope for the good. Let me bring God into the picture because I must. He is the one who, in the Bible, had His friends. It tells us that God spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. Abraham was also called the Friend of God. The Bible tells us that there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. Just as well really if I recall my younger days. Sometimes my brother (now in heaven) and I got on very well, but not all the time.



So, which is it to be? God wants to be that friend of yours, the kind of friend who the Bible says, "loves at all times". The alternative is to be an enemy of God and, at our passing go, not to heaven but to hell. I know what is my choice but what is yours?

And how do you get to be a friend of God? Simply acknowledge your need of Him and

ask Him in prayer to forgive your sins and ask Him into your life. He'll be your friend on earth and in heaven for ever.

Eríc Green eric.green@xtra.co.nz

WORDSEARCH

February is the month of romance. Millions of Valentine cards will be sent in the next week or two, as we celebrate our romantic love for that special person in our lives. But there are other kinds of love to celebrate: and on Candlemas we remember Mary and Joseph taking their baby son to the temple to present Him to God. Jesus' whole life was a loving present to us from God. Through His death for us on the cross, and His resurrection, His love can now transform anyone's life. Romances can die, but God's love for us is always there. But it won't do us much good – unless we accept it!



Can you find all these words in the grid above?

Valentine	rose	romance	love	present	restaurant
hearts	kiss	boyfriend	hug	girlfriend	fiancé
worship	angels	baby	temple	Mary	repentance
	Candlemas		presentatio		

News from your Borough Councillors



Maureen Hunt cllr.hunt@rbwm.gov.uk



George Blundell cllr.blundell@rbwm.gov.uk

We do hope you all enjoyed the festive season and now it's back to work, back to school and back to normal.

We have had quite a bit of rain recently which has affected our pathways, particularly the Waltham Road footpath from Woodlands Park to White Waltham. We have requested this is cleaned, as at the moment it is muddy.

Cost of Living help

As the days grow colder and heating bills rise, we're again boosting promotion of cost-of-living support – and encouraging those struggling financially in the Royal Borough to seek help before problems escalate. We've relaunched 'Here to Help', our promotional campaign bringing together a range of cost-of-living support available from the council, government and local community partners

Visit <u>https://rbwmtogether.rbwm.gov.uk/hub-page/here-to-help</u> to get help eg. Foodbank, council tax, mental health wellbeing, debt etc.

Royal Borough ranks top nationally for quality of life among adults receiving social care

The borough also ranked second nationally for the proportion of adults with learning disabilities in paid employment, and third nationally for residents feeling safe. The proportion of adults with learning disabilities in paid employment in the Royal Borough is ranked second nationally, with Wokingham, who also have services provided by Optalis, being ranked first.

Residents supported by adult social care in the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead have high satisfaction levels with the support they receive; the area is also ranked top nationally for quality of life related to social care. More than 275 borough residents responded to the survey, including residents with learning disabilities, those living in care homes and residents in the community.

(continued)

Padel tennis coming soon to give sports pavilion at Braywick Park new lease of life

Padel tennis is one of the fastest-growing sports in the world and this will add to the excellent sports facilities we have in our Borough. Berkshire Padel will invest significant capital into refurbishing and improving the building and constructing of internal and external padel tennis courts to deliver this new sporting facility.

If you have some time on your hands to spare...

Volunteer drivers needed for Maidenhead Care. The group are looking for volunteer drivers to transport mainly elderly Maidenhead residents to appointments, both in the local area and further afield. Fuel expenses covered. For more information, call 07538 418448 or visit the website: www.maidenheadcare.org.uk

There is quite a bit going on at the Libraries in Maidenhead and Windsor

Dungeons and Dragons Club at Maidenhead Library

Parties of 3-6 Adventurers aged 15 years +. Create your own party or join an existing one. Equipment available to borrow or bring your own. Saturdays 1pm-3:30pm once a month: February 17, March 16, April 13. Register your interest to play by emailing maidenhead.library@rbwm.gov.uk





Scratch Coding at Dedworth Library

Calling all keen coders! Begin your coding journey using Scratch every Sunday 11:30am-12:30pm Suitable for 9 to 11 years.

Event is free but booking is essential. Please contact Dedworth Library on 01753 868733 or email dedworth.library@rbwm.gov.uk

Lego Club at Dedworth Library

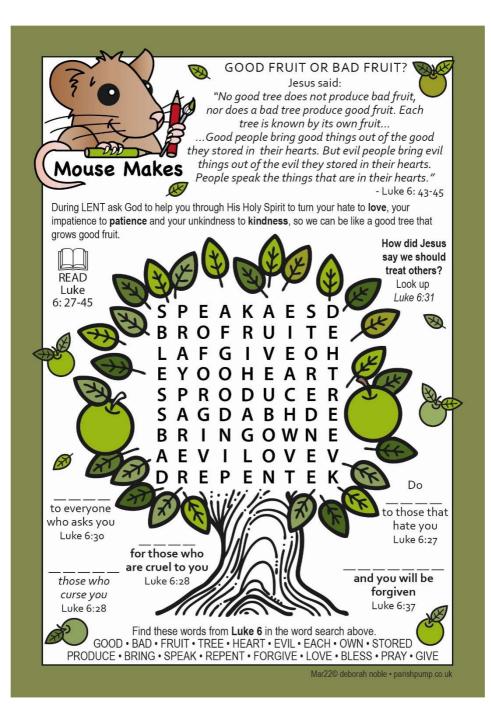
Saturdays 10:45am-12:15pm, 3 & 17 February, 2, 16 & 30 March. Drop in event, no need to book, all under 8s must be accompanied by an adult.

Please remember we are here to help you. If you think we can do please contact us.

Maureen and George

Maureen Hunt and George Blundell













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Shottesbrooke and White Waltham Charities

Clerk - Carolyn Thompson: 07834 545967, carolynt52@icloud.com

Shottesbrooke and White Waltham Welfare Fund

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

How we can help:

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

Restrictions:

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

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

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

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

Funeral Service & Burial					
5 th January	David William Gilmore	aged 87 years			
Burials of Ashes					
20 th November	Christine Angela Stewart Gordon Alistair Stewart	aged 68 years aged 75 years			
20 th November	Georgina Jane Clarke	aged 70 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: <u>http://www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk/zoom</u>

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

Services for All Ages coming up this Easter

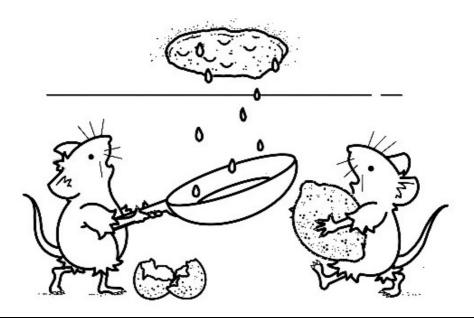
Good Friday All Age Service Friday 29th March *at 10.30am*

Easter Day All Age Service Sunday 31st March *at 10.30am*

Everyone is welcome Some content is available on our Facebook page

Do come and join us – everyone is welcome at White Waltham Church





Finding us online....

Follow White Waltham Church on Facebook...

https://www.facebook.com/whitewalthamchurch

And/or visit our website...

You can also catch up with this magazine online. Visit <u>www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk</u> 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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Thank you.

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