

White Waltham Church's

Parish Magazine

February - March 2025



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Woodlands Park School on 9th February,
see page 19

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The Vicar's Letter

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Telephone 01628 822000

Dear Friends of the Parish of White Waltham and Woodlands Park,
A few weeks into the new year, did you make new year commitments? Are you still committed to them? Do you admire commitment, these challenges that people do or the new skill practised, the body pushed to its limits through hours of exercises.

Maybe 'commitment' isn't a word that's very exciting. It doesn't grab the attention, nor shout of success or happiness. But it's something we need, and something that sometimes seems in short supply.

The voluntary sector reports reduced commitment from volunteers. Similarly, organised religion can find it difficult to get commitment from members. We are too busy, too distracted, sometimes possibly too focussed on the next good thing. However, we need commitment – as individuals, as community and as a society.

As I write, Christmas was less than 2 weeks ago. Christmas marks the shocking, extraordinary commitment of the loving Lord God to His creation. The Lord God did not give up and turn His back on this spoilt, sometimes dark creation marked by war and suffering. Instead, He came Himself, in the person of His Son Jesus Christ, to show us a better way, and to rescue us back to Him. Not because we are particularly lovely, but because He is ultimately loving. Commitment!

(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 12th March 2025

**Magazines are usually available on the last Sunday of the month
www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk  **White Waltham****

It is this committed love which the Christian marriage reflects. The promises made in a church are all, 'I will'. A promise to love, no matter how life goes. Not because your beloved is always lovely, but because you promise to always be loving.

Now, of course, there are a lot of caveats. The relationship can, in a few cases, go wrong and become harmful and need escaping. We seek to support those who are in, or who have, escaped this experience.

But, as we look around, we see the danger and damage of taking relationships lightly, relationships broken that once bound families, and produced children; relationships lived without vows, or with marriage vows forgotten. Our own foray into fostering has shown up the extraordinary ongoing cost of adults acting selfishly, ignorantly and without commitment. And, as with you, I expect, we regularly see the generational damage of marriage breakdown around us.

Commitment. Commitment to friends, to our families, and especially to our spouses, can be hard work and needs working at. We plan to run the marriage course (details on p.12). You are invited as a couple to join on Zoom from the comfort of your own home. You won't be asked to share anything personal – it is a guided opportunity to spend some time discussing areas of your relationship such as money, holidays, romance, disagreements and forgiveness. And to refresh ourselves in our committed love for each other.

In this distracted, busy, self-involved world, let's seek to commit to others, even when it costs us. Let's be ready to receive the commitment of others. Let's learn more of what it is to receive the committed love of our Father God

You are also always very welcome to join us at any service on a Sunday at 10.30. We can help each other discover more of the committed love of our 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,
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Woodlands Park Primary School News: A Busy End to the Autumn Term & Exciting New Beginnings

As we reflect on the busy end of the autumn term, we are grateful for all the wonderful events that brought our school community together. Our Christmas Fayre was a great success, and the children's performances in the Nativity plays were truly heartwarming. The Reindeer Run and Christmas Jumper Day added to the festive spirit, and it was wonderful to see the children and staff embrace the season of giving and joy.



We are also very grateful to the churches who provided goodie bags to some of our families over Christmas. These thoughtful gifts were warmly

received, and those who received them were deeply appreciative.

After the excitement of the term, it was nice to have a rest over the Christmas break and recharge our batteries for the year ahead.

As we welcome the new term, our theme is all about new beginnings and setting resolutions. In line with this, we recently updated our school values to emphasize Trust, Pride, Resilience, and Excellence. These values will guide us as we work towards making this year one of growth and achievement for all our students.

There is much to look forward to this spring, including:

Young Voices at Wembley Arena - A fantastic opportunity for our students to perform at one of the biggest venues in the country!

Indoor Athletics Competitions - Our sports teams are gearing up for some friendly but competitive events.

Talent Show - A chance for students to showcase their many talents in front of their peers.

The children are excited about these events, and we can't wait to see them shine.

(continued over)

Opportunities at Woodlands Park Primary School

At the moment, we have two teaching vacancies for Year 1 and Year 4. If you know anyone who might be interested in joining our dedicated team, please get in touch with us.

Additionally, we have spaces available in our Nursery and other year groups. If you know of any families who are looking for a school place, we would love to invite them to visit. We offer personal tours outside of our scheduled open mornings, so please encourage friends and family to come and see what Woodlands Park Primary has to offer.

We are excited for the months ahead and look forward to all the learning, fun, and growth that the new year will bring.

Jamie Miles

Headteacher

01628 822350

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White Waltham C of E Academy



We have had a wonderful start to 2025 here at White Waltham C of E Academy. The children returned after their Christmas break ready for learning, and we kicked off the term with our immersion days for our new spring term topics.



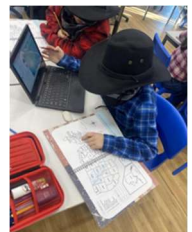
Foundation enjoyed learning about Amelia Earhart. They learnt about how she was a brave pilot who attempted to be the first woman to fly around the world. She never wanted to give up and believed if you wanted to do something you should give it a go! They made their own paper aeroplanes and plotted Amelia's key life events on a timeline.

Year 1 and 2 had a very exciting start to term as they found a dragons egg! They built a safe, warm nest for it to hatch in and wrote the mummy dragon a letter letting her know how they were keeping it safe. They built egg box dragons in DT, learning how hinges work, and went on a hunt looking for invertebrates (there weren't many due to the cold temperatures).



Year 3 and 4 began their topic on the Victorians looking at the effects of the Industrial Revolution and how children were treated during the era. This was then reinforced on our trip to the Milestones Museum in Basingstoke on Thursday. The children learnt about the Tasker family and their ironworks factory. They then attended a Victorian school - there was a lot of giggling at the strict teacher!

Year 5 and 6 are learning all about America this term. They began by looking at the continent of North America and the natural features found within it such as Niagara Falls and the Grand Canyon. They then analysed the difference between the American and English national anthem. This ended with them performing the English national anthem on the recorder.



(continued over)

We are looking forward to the many exciting events planned this term, including trips to Windsor Castle and the Natural History Museum in Tring, the Eisteddfod, the Dance Extravaganza and Stargazing PTA event.

We have places in many of our year groups, so if you would like to come and visit our school, please contact the school office on 01628 822533 or email office@whitewaltham.org.

Laura Denham,
Head of School

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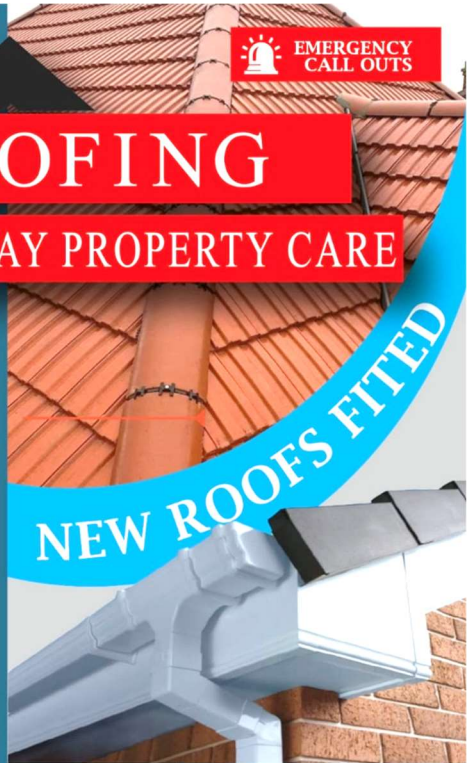
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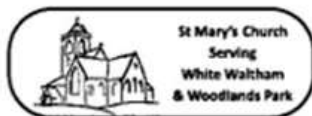
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The Journeymen

He was a member of the U3A overseas group based in Tehran. He and some friends had grown up in the suburbs of Tehran, sharing a common interest in history, geography and exploration. They thirsted for knowledge, looking for hope and a better life, attending meetings. They talked for hours about the “Look up, look around and look in” that the ancient history scholar had described. They had looked around but not inside very much and certainly not up! That night, they climbed a local hill to see the clear, starlit sky and what seemed to be a shooting star. Was this what they needed to get them moving?

They had no idea where they were going or what they needed. But this was to be a special journey, with the shooting star showing them the way. They equipped themselves for their journey, and as the shooting star implied a special event, they decided to take some gifts. Borrowing camels, they travelled mile after mile, joining a pilgrim caravan on the old Silk Road through Iran into Iraq, and on to Syria where they took the southerly road to Jordan, crossing the river to stop at Jerusalem.

That was where the ruler, the Big H, lived. He was charming to such clever journeymen, providing hospitality – but in exchange for information. Who were they looking for? A new King? Really?! “But I’m the king,” said the Big H, not quite so charming as he quizzed them.

They explained what they had read in books hundreds of years old, that a new King was to be born in the small town of Bethlehem. Big H slyly sent them on their way, pretending that he would come to meet this new King, once they told Big H where he could find him. The journeymen continued to Bethlehem and found the new-born King and his parents.

Their long journey over, the group bowed down to worship the new King, presenting their gifts. They now realised why they had undertaken this mind-blowing trip. Their study of the ancient books had led them on this mission to find the child-God. And it had exceeded all expectations!

But there was a twist to come. They had planned to return to the Big H, not realising what he was really like. It was a dream that led them to change their plans, finding a safe way home using a different route.

What a joy on their homecoming to tell the gathered throng in their town about whom they had met. They explained how the name given to the baby meant that everything – their searching and their journey – now became clear. “Jesus, means the one who saves,” they told everyone.

They had a great party that night in the town square while the camels looked on, knowingly. “I told you, before we set off,” said the oldest camel, “that this was the most important journey of our lives. We’ll be talked about for ages!” The youngest camel, replied, “It’s not about us or these journeymen. It’s all about Jesus.”

Bob Crittenden

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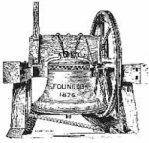
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Tales from the Bells



 *White Waltham Bell Ringing*

It all seems a long time ago to say this. We, the White Waltham Bell Ringers, hope that you have a good Christmas and New Year.

We are now managing to ring all six bells at White Waltham, which has made such a big difference and a joyful sound. This is all down to the commitment our youngest ringer put into learning to ring his bell on his own. He did a lot of practice, then one evening it was the right time to see how he managed on his own, ringing his own bell. His aim was to be ringing for Christmas Morning Service with his dad. And he accomplished this!

As with all learners, there were times when he was not striking in the right place so to give him confidence, two of us rang alongside him so we could stop and help out. But with more practice, he gained more experience. As time progressed through December, our learner improved greatly so the Sunday service before Christmas, we had all 6 bells ringing and during the Candlelight Carol Service and Christmas morning we had 5 ringers. This was made possible by our young learner's progress and commitment – he is now gaining great Bell Control (which comes after learning Bell Handling). All our ringers were very proud of him.

For me as a teacher, I cannot put into words how it feels when someone who was a complete beginner is now able to ring on their own. It has been wonderful to have that teacher-student partnership, and I thank God that He has been working through that partnership. That is a great gift, a very small reflection of the much bigger gift that God gave us in his Son, Jesus Christ, on that first Christmas morning.

As one ringer learns, improves and grows in confidence, so the rest of the band continue to improve. This is helped by a ringer who belongs to another tower but joins us for practice. Their skills mean we are able to learn more and it frees me up to teach other ringers while we are practising.

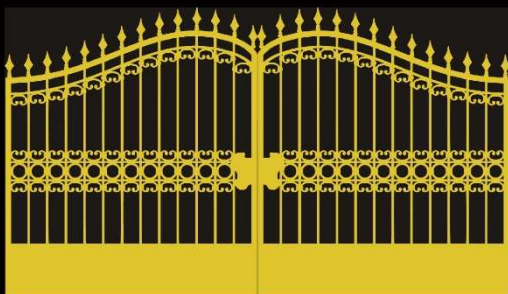
As you can read, it does not matter what age you are. If you or a child in your family would like to learn to ring, do contact us.

Lesley Graves

Bell Captain

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A Personal True Story

A mite late but here's hoping you are all enjoying a very happy New Year. As I sit down to write, 2025 is only three days old!

I am in the middle of a series of events that started when I was very young, born in South London to a loving Dad and Mum. But none of us is perfect and my dad had a problem which rubbed off onto me.

Dad's job was as a civilian working for a Service electrical facility as a chargehand. During this work, Dad had to manage electrical trainees brought to UK from the West Indies. These men obviously had a different skin colour from Dad's and as I grew older, I realised Dad had some negative feelings for people whose colour and/or ethnicity differed from his.

When I was in High School, I did quite well in French and Maths. But as time went by, the Maths got more and more difficult, and I was struggling. One day I was visiting an uncle who lived close by; he had another visitor - an imposing man from what was then The Gold Coast; he had come to London to complete his medical qualifications, and his skin was a dark as anyone's I had ever seen!

A while later, this same man came to visit our home and I was busy trying to do my Maths homework. It was Calculus and I was struggling! As you may have guessed, this man from Africa offered to help and my thoughts at first were, "How on earth would a man like him know anything about advanced mathematics". But I kept that opinion to myself and just as well, for this man became a very firm friend as he helped me come to grips with two problems: calculus and my poor feelings for his skin colour. That day, God spoke to me and ever since, I have no issue with people who are "different" from me! The church I belong to here in New Zealand has a congregation of various skin colours and ethnicities and I love them all equally - praise God!

But my poor old dad? After he retired, he worked for a Christian book society selling Christian literature. Idi Amin was the then leader of Uganda and decided to expel all the people of Indian minority, giving them 90 days to leave the country. Many came to the UK and Dad was asked to make regular visits to one place where they had been given places to stay. You can imagine how my dad must have disliked having to help all these folk he would have thought of as inferior. God spoke again and so, in his early sixties, my dear old dad lost all his negative feelings and, I believe, was a tremendous help to these folk.

Why am I telling you this? I have very recently been back in touch with the wonderful man who God used to enable me to show love and kindness to all people regardless of their colour, language or ethnicity.

Thank God for His love and wisdom. He changed my dad's and my attitude to all people and, more importantly, He sent His Son to die all those years ago for all people, wherever on earth they came from or their appearance. As I write, my friend in UK and I are in touch, sharing great memories and hopefully, we'll be able to have video calls and catch up with what's been happening in our lives.



One thing is certain though and that is that because we both have accepted the Lord Jesus as our Saviour, we shall be together forever in heaven. So where will you be then???

Eric Green eric.green@xtra.co.nz



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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

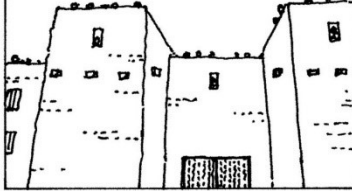
It can be read in the Bible in Joshua chapter 6 verses 1-27

Joshua led the Israelites across the river Jordan. They camped near the town of Jericho and prepared to fight.

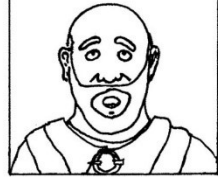
The people in Jericho locked the town gates.



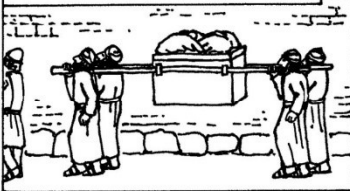
They thought they were safe.



God told Joshua what to do.



On the first day, the priests carried the sacred chest,



they blew trumpets, and walked round Jericho once.



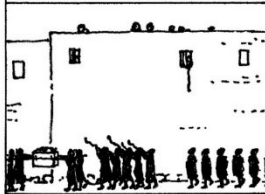
The army followed not saying a word.



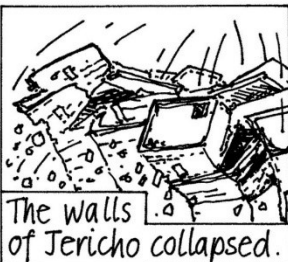
They did this for 6 days.



On the 7th day they walked round 7 times.



The army gave a victory shout!



The walls of Jericho collapsed.

The army rushed into the town and captured it.



Jericho was destroyed.

...and complete this Wordsearch about it!

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locked

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captured

destroyed

Jordan

army

fight

once

gates

victory

Jericho

collapsed

camped

Israelites

chest

Joshua

safe

God

priests

trumpets

shout

town

walked

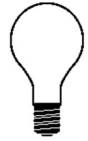
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St Mary's Flower Guild, White Waltham

2024 was a very successful year for the Flower Guild with several workshops and fundraising get-togethers. We welcomed three new demonstrators, one of which has joined our group. We are grateful for her experience and expertise. We also had our usual annual garden party in Carolyn Thompson's garden and an outing to a beautiful garden in Altwood.

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 and your efforts much admired by the congregation.

We will be holding more activities and events 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 8th 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 2024 and to plan our activities for the coming year.

Saturday 29th March at 10am – a workshop in The Tree House for Mothering Sunday.

Saturday 19th April from 9.30am – decorate the church for Easter.

For further information, please contact:

Carolyn Thompson 07834 545967, Liz Atlay 07881 785131
or Julia Hodgson 07904 999685

We look forward to seeing you!

Tony Moore

Accountant/Bookkeeper

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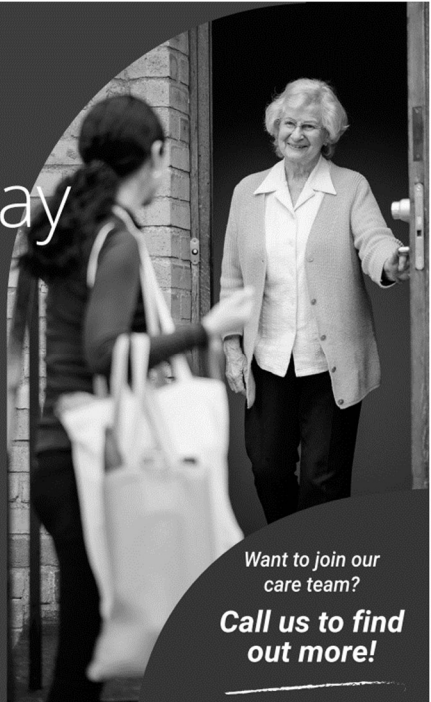
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White Waltham Cricket Club



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Happy New Year from all at White Waltham Cricket Club!

As always, not too much to report this time of year. Work goes on behind the scenes whilst we ready ourselves for the new season. We have successfully ticked off one project; brand new heaters which will certainly help during this ongoing cold snap – let's hope we don't need them in the summer though!

We start to look forward to indoor training starting up soon, from mid-February. If anyone is looking to get back into cricket or try it for the first time, do feel free to reach out to us via one of the channels below. Likewise, our junior sides (from U9 to U15) are always on the lookout for new boys and girls, with their indoor training also getting underway soon.

All being well, we hope to get outside for our first games 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, then please visit our website or contact us using one of these options:

Website: www.whitewaltham.play-cricket.com

Twitter: @WWCC_1879

Facebook: @WhiteWalthamCC

Instagram: whitewalthamcricketclub

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Visited by night

'There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, who came to Jesus by night saying Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God, no one could perform these miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.'

There is a need for some clarification here. Nicodemus's nocturnal visit to Jesus occurred because he did not wish to be seen approaching the controversial figure that Jesus was. The miracles he mentioned were something like a 'calling card'—evidence of Jesus' true identity. It is here that Jesus introduces the term 'born again' which puzzles Nicodemus:

'Surely a man cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb?'

and it is necessary for Jesus to explain that entry into the Kingdom depends on being born of water and of the Spirit.

'You should not be surprised by me saying you must be born again. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe, how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert (Numbers 21:9), so the Son of Man must be lifted up that everyone who believes in him shall have eternal life.'

Bob Packer

(John chapter 3, verses 1-15)

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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News from your Borough Councillors



Maureen Hunt
cllr.hunt@rbwm.gov.uk



George Blundell
cllr.blundell@rbwm.gov.uk

Welcome to a New Year and let's hope it's full of health and happiness for all our residents. We do hope you all enjoyed the festive season and now it's back to work, back to school and back to normal.

The most important news coming – and not what anyone wants – is the rise in council tax which will come in the Budget. This is mainly due to the increase in Adults' services, where the cost of residential care has risen due to a variety of factors. These include more adults, rising costs of utilities and rising costs for employers. Children's services have seen another huge increase with similar issues. And there is also the rising number of homeless people, who need to be housed.

Then we councillors hear of an historical accountancy error of some £25 million which was found at the end of last year. Councillors were amazed to hear this and, of course, this will hopefully be looked into.

If you are struggling, please contact the CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau) - Household Support Fund which will provide one-off payments of £150, to help with the cost of essentials and bills, and free school meal vouchers for those struggling to provide food for their children during the school holidays. You can also contact the council as they can help with council tax support, energy costs, debt support etc:

<https://rbwmtogether.rbwm.gov.uk/hub-page/here-to-help?>

For a bit of fun and to keep healthy...

New season of Street Tag open to all!

All those living or working in the borough are being encouraged by the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead to join the adventure, as the next season of the treasure hunt game, Street Tag, launches on Monday 13 January.



The new community leaderboard is open to teams of residents, families, schools, and young people to find virtual tags hidden across the borough, collect the most tags and win prizes.

Tags can be found in various locations across the borough including parks, footpaths and bridleways, leisure centres, libraries, playgrounds, as well as at historical and cultural sites.

(continued over)

For new players in the borough wanting to sign up to season three, visit the national Street Tag website <https://streettag.co.uk/>. Season three is due to end on Monday 10 March.

Ditches

Throughout the year, we have heard of flooding mainly due to ditches not being cleared. It is the responsibility of the adjacent landowners to clear ditches and we would ask all those with properties alongside a ditch to ensure they are cleared.

Many residents receive the Resident's newsletter and there is always lots to do in this for example:

Windsor Horse Rangers in Fifield are looking for new adult volunteers to help supervise children on their weekend sessions – please email windsor.horse.rangers@gmail.com or call 01628 636255



Ellington Morris are offering introductory Morris sessions **from 8 January**. No experience is needed and the sessions are an opportunity to learn a new hobby and make friends. Both dancers and musicians are welcome at the Scout Hall in Pinkneys Green on **Wednesday evenings from 8.30pm**. Visit their website www.ellington.org.uk or call Chris on 01628 623023

As always, we are here to help you with any council issues you may have, so please do get in touch.

Our best wishes for a Very Happy and Healthy New Year

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.*

From the Registers

Funeral at White Waltham

16th December Kenneth William Wernham

Burial of Ashes

18th December Sylvia Rachel Curtis



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>

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

Services for All Ages

Sunday 9th February
at 10.30am
at Woodlands Park School



Easter Services for All Ages

Good Friday 18th April & Easter Sunday 20th April
both at 10.30am

We invite you to join us for these services.

Some content is available on our Facebook page

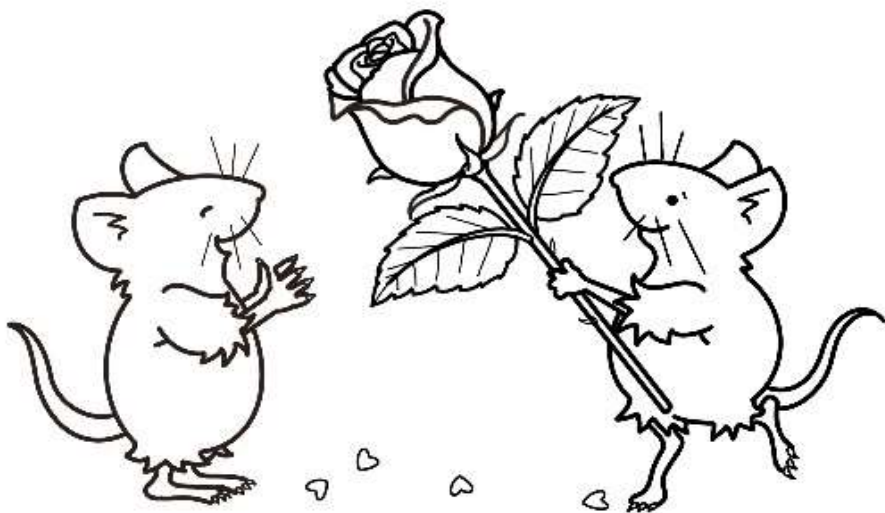
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www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk

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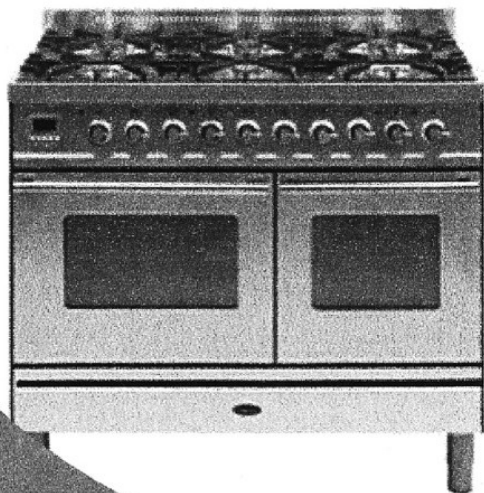
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