White Waltham Church's

Parish Magazine June - July 2023



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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,

It's summertime! As I write it is the week after the coronation, we celebrated very jollily at church on the Sunday making orbs, being helped by a youth band and surrounded by royal flower displays... and what a fabulous Sunday afternoon we had in White Waltham too! Now back to earth, there are exams to be taken, gardens to sort, and sunshine (or showers?) to be enjoyed. And lots of meeting up with friends...

As you read this, we will be coming to the end of a series in church about our relationships with each other, about what 'Love' looks like with different people: as humble people who love and welcome all in the name of our loving Father God, as married people, as people within families, and as people within communities.

One important, and often undervalued, relationship is friendship. Maybe if we could do friendship better, we would not fling ourselves into (and out of) sexual relationships so quickly. Maybe if we could do friendship better, we would feel less alone when facing hard times. Maybe if we could do friendship better, we would be a greater blessing to others and see more of God's work in our lives.

(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 July 2023

Magazines are usually available on the last Sunday of the month www.stmarvswhitewaltham.org.uk

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A vicar in Oxford wrote a book called 'True Friendship'. It is well worth a read and short enough to scan through quickly. He brings out what God says about friendship in the bible under a number of titles (all beginning with c!):

Friendship is *crucial* – indeed the good news of the bible could be seen as God acting to reconcile our friendship with him.

Good **friendship is** *close* – and is described in Proverbs as being closer than a brother; and Jesus describes those who trust and follow him as being his family over and above earthly family ties.

Friendship is *constant* – a friend can be trusted to stick by you and the one who abandons you is not a friend.

Friendship is *candid* and *careful* – allowing others in to speak into our lives, and then careful as we do the same. Making ourselves vulnerable and honouring the vulnerability of our friend.

And the **best friendships** are *Christ-centred* – not only holding values and a goal in common, but also united on a deeper level, able to truly challenge and encourage each other 'as iron sharpens iron'.

Of course, Jesus was the most fulfilled human ever to walk the planet, and was single, surrounding himself with friends.

Our prayer as a church is to be able to show that true friendship to each other. Not necessarily letting everyone know our deepest secrets, but able to share our lives with some, to know and be known, on a level which transforms us and enables us to do more of God's good works.

I pray you might visit with us one Sunday morning, receive a loving welcome, and, in time, become a friend to us too. And more than that, receive Jesus' friendship in your life, the ultimate friendship to sustain you forever.

Dave

Revd Dave Atallah

Tel: 01628 822000 <u>waltham.vicar@btinternet.com</u>

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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The summer term has started and we are in the full throws of assessment season! Our Year 6s are sitting their SATs this week and then it will be the turn of our Year 2s, later this month. Whilst assessments are a really important part of school and allow us to find out how children are progressing, the highlight of the term so far has to be celebrating the King's Coronation. On the Friday before the bank holiday weekend, we held a red, white and blue non-uniform day, a rather wet picnic and our own Coronation bake-off. We love a bit of baking here at Woodlands Park! It was a great day and it was lovely seeing the children and staff celebrating a very historic event!



At the start of this term, our School Council were learning about monarchy and politics when they visited the Houses of Parliament. The visit was part of the Parliament Education Centres programme, to help children learn more about politics and how our country is run. The children, from Years 2 – 6 who sit on the school council, toured the chambers and participated in a workshop on how bills are created and passed. As part of the tour, the children were allowed into the House of

Lords, where they learned about the work of the peers and the occasion in the year when the King visits to open parliament. The children visited Westminster Hall, where Queen Elizabeth II lay in state and great leaders like Nelson Mandela have addressed our nation. On the day we visited, it was Prime Minister's Questions and the rooms were very busy with MPS, who were due to be part of the discussions in the House of Commons. It was a fantastic trip!

Children have been busy in lessons, polishing up on their maths skills. Maths is an integral part of the primary curriculum and a skill that children will work on every day. Three of our most talented Year 4 mathematicians were selected to take part in a local Rotary Competition held in Cookham. The children competed against other local schools and the competition was tough. Whilst they didn't win, they came back with their heads held high.

(continued)

Recently, we have had a volunteer group visit us called Goodgym. Goodgym is a group of local people who walk, run and cycle to venues to undertake good deeds. Seventeen volunteers turned up and they quickly got to work in making our tatty swimming pool fence look really smart. Thank you for your help, Goodgym!



All families applying for Reception places for September 2023 have now received their allocations. We still have places if you, or a family you



know, are unhappy with their current allocation for September. Please come and visit us - we are a school that is on the up and we encourage you to come and see what we are all about. Did you know that we have a forest school, chickens and an old London bus as our school library? Why not come and see for yourself! Please contact the

school office on 01628 822350 to enquire or arrange a visit.

Jamie Miles, Headteacher

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



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We will be holding our Annual

Picnic in The Park on Saturday July 15th from 5pm in Grove Park

The event is a great opportunity to have a family friendly picnic together with all your neighbours and friends in the heart of the village - Grove Park.

Food, drink, friends, music and a child friendly location!
Check on our Facebook or Web Page for more details closer to the time (QR codes below)

WWVA Facebook Page



WWVA Website



St Mary's Flower Guild, White Waltham

Thank you to all those who helped decorate the church for the Coronation weekend. All the arrangements and displays (see photos below) were greatly admired and appreciated.







Here are some dates for your diary:

Tuesday 30th May - a visit to Waltham Place Garden - a tour of the garden to include tea and cake - cost £18 - there are still places available so please contact Carolyn.

Sunday 25th June – a Garden Party in Carolyn's garden 2.30pm to 4.30pm with tea and cake, a raffle and a plant and book table. Donations of raffle prizes, plants and books would be welcome.

Saturday 1st July – How to do a pedestal arrangement – a demonstration by Chris Smith. In the Tree House at 10am.

There will be further activities later in the year to include demonstrations, workshops and fund-raising coffee mornings. An Autumn Garden Visit has also been arranged in November (details in due course)

We always welcome new members to our friendly group. You don't have to be an experienced flower arranger to join us.

For information on any of 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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TREES!

How good are you at pruning trees and bushes in your garden? I've always found that having a good eye for shape as well as knowing how to prune is useful. The power equipment available today has made the job much easier, though care has to be taken not to let the power tool slice off the wrong branch or twigs!

In the churchyard we have a number of beautiful trees, especially the marvellous yew tree behind the church, which has been officially dated at over 1600 years old! Have a look next time you come to the church or churchyard. It is old and gnarled but still very prolific and a wonderful tree to photograph. It attracts visitors and is written about in local trail-walking books. It undoubtedly pre-dates our 12th century church.

The twin trunks of the ash tree in the middle of the churchyard, however, seem to have been suffering from die-back for some time now. The tree hasn't deteriorated badly, except that there has been a constant flurry of small branches and twigs that fall, particularly in the high winds that we get. We took professional advice and decided that we would cut out all the dead wood and monitor it to see if that helped it flourish.

Now, I can climb a ladder to paint the house, but I'm not into rope climbing up massive trees! The tree surgeon team showed no fear and soon amassed an enormous pile of dead wood as they very carefully lowered down the branches which they then ground down. In fact, when you look at the ash tree now, it looks very healthy indeed.

I have mentioned previously that we have The Tree House (close to the ash tree) and our Little Roots toddler group that meet on Monday mornings. So, trees are not only well represented in our churchyard with ash, yew, oak and others, but the names The Tree House and Little Roots have been specifically selected to show how as people and as Christians, we grow in life and in our Christian lives.

In John chapter 15 verses 1-8 Jesus says of himself, "I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener." We all need that close relationship with Jesus. He goes on, "He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit." This is where the tree surgeons had to remove all the small and big dead wood. Maybe our lives do not reflect any relationship with Jesus at all. Jesus continues, "While every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful." This is the only way to be healthy in the Christian life. We all need to grow as Christians and we need to have some pruning done in our lives, but that might be hard for us to accept.

So, now you know a bit more about our trees, come to church on Sunday! While you are joining us, take a look at our stunning trees as you drink a cup of coffee!

Bob Crittenden

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!

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



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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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White Waltham Cricket Club



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Playing Updates (sort of...!)

Well, I did hope to provide some form of cricketing update, but as I'm sure everyone is well aware, the weather hasn't been very kind to us so far this spring.

Of a possible 8 pre-season games, we managed 2 and with the highly anticipated start of the league season commencing on Saturday 6th May, it was of course a complete washout. We try again on the 13th May with the 1st team taking on local rivals Taplow CC and the 2nd team heading to Bagshot CC.

We did manage some cricket on Sunday 7th May, losing out to Wraysbury CC in the first regional round of the National Village Knockout. It's a competition we had great success in last year (narrowly missing out on a place in the National knockouts), but unfortunately this year, we exited at the first hurdle.

Our Juniors also hope to get some much-needed game time in soon too!

Other News

The club have just pledged money towards a much-needed refurbishment of the existing net facilities. The dated practice nets (now over 25 years old) are in need of an upgrade and the club has put down significant funds, which will benefit all club members moving forward.

We would be hugely grateful if anyone can spare any money towards this net funding, a link to our Crowdfunder can be found here: https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/wwcc-cricket-nets-fund

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 the below options:

Website: www.whitewaltham.play-cricket.com

Facebook: @WhiteWalthamCC Twitter: @WWCC 1879

Instagram: whitewalthamcricketclub



All Age Service for Coronation Weekend

We had a great time at the All Age Coronation Weekend service at White Waltham. The church looked great, decorated with bunting and flower crowns.

After a warm welcome, we sang songs led by the youth band; we had interesting short talks about recognising kings and even audience challenges which meant chocolate prizes!

At the end, there was fun crafting to make an Orb like King Charles' one, with a helpful Bible verse to remember: that Jesus is a king who came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.



Neil, Nina, Henry, Rory and Arthur

Do join us for our next

All Age Service

Sunday 23rd July at 10.30am

Come along ready to take part if you wish, through interactive craft, drama and story.



Everyone is welcome to join us

We carefully plan our All Age Services to provide opportunities for active involvement and particiption in a range of ways; there is something for everyone!



Read this short story from the Bible...



A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Genesis ch 25:19-33,27:1-42 Jacob had cheated his father and brother, and had run away to stay with his uncle Laban. On the way there.







Work for me for 7 years and you can marry her

But Laban tricked him into marrying her sister Leah



So. Tacob worked 7 more years to marry Rachel



As you aren't paying me wages, can I have, the black sheep?



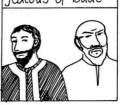
Laban agreed, but that day he moved all the black sheep far away



But God blessed Jacob and his black flock grew



Laban became very icalous of Isaac



Your father doesn't like me any more. We need to go back to my home.



They waited until Laban was away. but he was told.



...and complete this Wordsearch about it!

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sheep Leah years run flock agreed God work sister Rachel black father angels jealous away marry Jacob wages seven brother home Laban cousin moved



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A new King Crowned

Yes, here in New Zealand, we stayed up late into the night to watch the Coronation of King Charles III in Westminster Abbey. We were blessed to be able see what you probably saw; the BBC coverage.

It is true that Charles is our Head of State just as he is for you in UK. You may have heard that throughout the Commonwealth and even in the United Kingdom, there is some opposition to the monarchy, but it is my prayer that this institution will long continue, as it had served UK and the Commonwealth very well down the centuries.

So, we watched as the Archbishop of Canterbury placed the crown on the King's head – all symbolic as by now the crown is back in the Tower of London where, I assume, lots of you have seen it.





But as ever, events like this get me thinking. The Bible (and here I must remind us all that during the coronation, the Archbishop presented His Majesty with a very special Bible saying that "this book, the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is wisdom; this is the royal law; these are the lively oracles of God.") yes, the Bible talks of other crowns too.

But the Bible tells us of a very different crown. Matthew chapter 27, verse 29. 'And when they had plaited a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of



the Jews!' Now there is a real contrast! King Charles in all his finery, in that wonderful Abbey and then Jesus, bruised and bleeding, is mocked with a crown of thorns pressed into his scalp. Yes, the soldiers did this to mock him and soon afterwards they led Him to Calvary's mount, where they crucified Him and so He died between two law breakers who deserved to die – as one of them said. Thus, Jesus died and was buried, and it is possible to visit Jerusalem today to see where all these things took place just as many, including me, have stood in Westminster Abbey.

But that was not the end, as we have recently celebrated over Easter. Jesus rose and is now crowned with glory and honour in heaven. But wait, what's this? The apostle Paul wrote in 2 Timothy chapter 4, verse 8, 'Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.'

It is true. There is a crown for you and me if we are amongst those who are expectantly waiting for Christ's return. Please, O please, be sure that you are!

Eríc

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Tales from the Bells



Mhite Waltham Bell Ringing

Since the last magazine, so much has happened. We've had people join us: a new learner (see the piece at the bottom of this page) and a returning ringer.

The teaching for the new learner has been very intense, in order to have them ringing their own bell in time for the King Charles III Coronation, a historic event. With the commitment from both teacher and learner, the learner was ready in time to ring.

On the day of the coronation, we were a team of seven (due to one visiting ringer) and were able to ring all six bells at White Waltham. We rang rounds and call changes, which included one combination where the bells ring in the order of 531246, which is called Kings, and another combination 135246 and is called Queens, both very apt for the Coronation. On the following day (Sunday), we managed to ring 5 bells for service.

Having the two new ringers has made a considerable difference. We are able to ring more.

As ever, if you are interested to learn to ring, please do get in touch.

Lesley Graves
Bell Captain

And from our new learner...

I have always loved the sound of church bells and had occasionally thought about learning to ring, but it was the 'Ring for the King' campaign that finally spurred me into action! With only eight weeks to the coronation, I was cutting it fine, but I really enjoyed learning and Lesley has been a brilliant teacher – extremely patient and generous with her time. I still have plenty to learn, but I managed to ring on the day and in the process, have found something that I love doing!

To express an interest in learning please contact us on 01628 822000 or email white.waltham@sdb.odg.org.uk

White Waltham Church's Annual Meeting 2023

As a church, we have much to praise our Father God for – and much to ask Him for as we plan to continue to grow and be able to share His love more effectively with others. So it was great to have our annual meeting as part of our Sunday morning service on 23^{rd} April, to acknowledge that this is Jesus' church and offer our worship and thanksgiving.

Before the meeting, an Annual Report was circulated covering the previous year's church family activities, both in the church and wider local communities. Then, during the service, there were several short videos of our church members, describing how they serve the church. This reminded us that as members of our church, we are each very different and bring our God-given talents to serve Him in a great variety of ways.

At the meeting we welcomed our newly elected Churchwarden, John Croft, who will be working alongside Liz Atlay; also, our new treasurer Chris Hodgson (with thanks to Andy Eden who is stepping down from this role) and two further new PCC members. Following an explanation of church finances, the congregation was also given a time for any questions. It proved to be a very interesting and informative meeting, which sat well within our Sunday worship.

After the APCM, we all joined together in The Tree House for a bringand-share lunch. This was a lovely time for fellowship, along with a delicious array of terrific food. It was a fantastic opportunity to chat in a relaxed environment with more time than usual. Everyone just brought along what they wanted to share, and this worked very well, with a large selection of different hot and cold dishes and delicious desserts.

Thanks go to the Pathfinders (our teens group) and their leaders for setting up the room, and to Bridget and Sally for running the kitchen and clearing up. A particularly big thank you to Brian and Joanie from St Mary's Church in Maidenhead, who ran our children's groups so everyone could attend the meeting.

Julía Hodgson



Left behind

I recall many years ago joining a party taking the cross-channel ferry from Dover to Boulogne. In addition, I remember one member of our party being reduced to a state of panic on realizing as the boat pulled out, that he'd left his bag on the quay.

Here he was, making this long-awaited trip when in his excitement he'd left what he needed behind. How could he possibly manage? All my life I'd carried with me the adage 'You can't take it with you' – a reference to life's end, possessions – worldly things to accompany me in the grave.

In Jesus's own words:

'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth where moths and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven where moths and rust do not destroy and thieves do not break in and steal, for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also'.

(Matthew 6:19-21)



Bob Packer

Su Doku

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Burbidge

News from your Borough Councillor



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

What a difference a day makes.... The election on 4th May saw a change in the administration for the council and a new councillor for Hurley & the Walthams replacing Andrew Johnson. I look forward to working with the new councillor George Blundell. This is the largest Ward area in the Borough with 17 villages. I recall my first few weeks 16 years ago, travelling around the Ward, meeting so many residents and feeling honoured and privileged to be one of your representatives on the council. That feeling doesn't go away and my thanks to all who voted for me, allowing me to continue working for you in this beautiful Ward.

The new political make-up of the council is:

- Liberal Democrats 22 seats
- Conservative 7 seats
- The Borough First Independents 7 seats
- Old Windsor Residents, Association 2 seats
- West Windsor Residents' Association 2 seats
- National Flood Prevention Party 1 seat

On 6th May, we had the Coronation of King Charles III. Thousands of people attended special events in Windsor for the local community to celebrate the Coronation of Their Majesties, King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

The Long Walk was the focus of the celebrations, with big screens provided by the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead for residents to watch the Coronation ceremony live from Westminster Abbey in London and be part of this historic moment on Saturday. On Sunday, crowds gathered with picnics for the Coronation Big Lunch.

Separate to this, around 20,000 thousand people from across the UK attended the BBC Coronation Concert in the grounds of Windsor Castle on Sunday night, including hundreds of lucky residents of the borough, who secured tickets through a special local ballot.

Here in our Ward, the villages and streets had their own celebrations. It is with thanks to all those who organised these wonderful parties, as we all joined in to have such a wonderful time. What a great place we live in.

Local Travel Updates

The Aslef union has announced industrial action, which will affect local Great Western Railway (GWR) and South Western Railway (SWR)

services on Wednesday 31 May and Saturday 3 June. There will also be further disruption to services from Thursday 1 June due to action short of a strike. For more information, please visit the GWR or SWR websites.

For details of council works on highways, visit the RBWM website. For full local roadwork details, including work by utility firms, please visit the One Network website.

Remember, you can report potholes, overhanging vegetation etc. directly to the council on the council's website – www.rbwm.gov.uk and enter 'report it form' in the Search box or via:

https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/apply-pay-report/report-it

Cost of Living

Households in the UK are facing increases in the cost of living, due to a combination of rising inflation, energy bill increases, and National Insurance rises. Increases in prices are being further exacerbated by the war in Ukraine. If you are struggling financially, then please seek help early. **Citizens Advice** provides information and advice if you're struggling with living costs; the Government has also produced some living costs information.

Our borough has a thriving Voluntary and Community Sector, which plays a crucial role in supporting local communities. A wide range of voluntary organisations and community groups provide advice, assistance, and practical support to residents.

The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead is working with local charities, groups, and partners to help those who need additional advice, assistance, and support. This is not an alternative to social services; this network exists to provide additional support. If you are struggling, please try and take the time to look at the information. However, you can always go to your nearest library where someone would be happy to help you.

Our libraries are safe spaces for the community. During opening hours, people are welcome to use library facilities, use the public-access computers and speak with a librarian for advice around cost of living support and/or getting online. Another good point of call is our VCS partner Citizens Advice, who can be contacted via freephone on 0808 278 7914. They exist to help solve life's problems by providing free, impartial, confidential and independent advice and information to everyone.

https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/community-and-living/community-support/here-help

Please do remember, I am here to help if you have any concerns with council issues, so please do contact me.

Kind regards

Maureen

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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 (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.

St Mary's Church, White Waltham Flower Guild Garden Party & Afternoon Tea

Sunday 25th June 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.





Teas ~ Cakes ~ Raffle ~ Plants ~ Books

At Spire View, Waltham Road, White Waltham (Proceeds in aid of Flower Guild Funds to support our work in the Church)

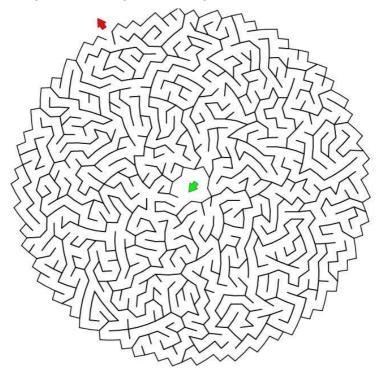
Thank you...

Many thanks to our congregation at White Waltham Church, to the friends of White Waltham Church, and to the Charitable Trusts who have already made donations towards the estimated £20,000 cost of repairing the ceiling of The Chapel Room (the area at the front southeast corner of the church which is separated from the main body of the church by glass doors).

These very timely donations have enabled work to start on this project – further contributions would be most welcome to help see it through to completion. If you would like to help support the upkeep of our magnificent church building, please do get in touch with Bob Crittenden by calling 01628 882000 or contact him via email on waltham.vicar@btinternet.com.



Can you find your way out of the maze?



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

Special Services coming up this summer

All Age Service

Sunday 23rd July *at 10.30am*

Everyone is welcome

Some content is available on our Facebook page

White Waltham Church

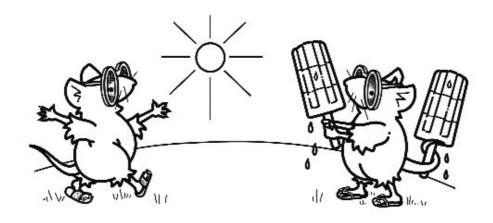
Do come and join us – everyone is welcome at White Waltham Church



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Visit www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk
and you'll find the Parish Magazine under the 'Resources' tab.

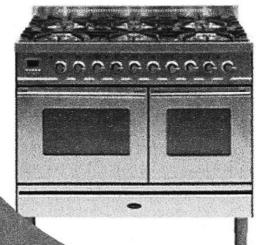
You can get the current issues as well as being able to download earlier versions from the past year.



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