

Community News for White Waltham and Woodlands Park

Welcome to this electronic edition of Community News for our local area of White Waltham and Woodlands Park.

In each edition we hope to bring you news from the local area and what's going on at White Waltham Church; this issue there's an update from our Borough Councillors and a letter from our Vicar. You'll also find some advertising for local businesses - please do support them at this challenging time.

If you have an article or advert you would like included, please get in touch. Details are on the final page.

The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends of the Parish of White Waltham with Woodlands Park

A warm hello to you in these shivery times; as I write, flakes of snow appear and disappear like tiny raindrop ghosts!



I hope and pray you find that these issues of Community News are helping you to stay informed and in touch, even in these strange, isolated times, and that it has been great to hear from a range of bodies and individuals through these pages.



Although it already seems a long time ago, I wanted to briefly remember Christmas with you. At church we duplicated services to enable us to safely accommodate people. I wonder if you were one of those who came to the family carols complete with Herod on zoom, or the outdoor carols with glowsticks and actual singing, or one of the carol services, in person or online. I pray you may have had a **good time over Christmas** despite the horrible restrictions that came in, and that you were able to think again about a God who loved us so much that He came in humility and vulnerability as a baby amongst us.

As I said last issue, we are **back online for services now**, but with live zoom we can interact a bit more and the feeling of coming together is very encouraging. If you have never been, now may be a good time to sample a church service from the safety of your own home! Just click on this link or type it into your browser.

<http://www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk/zoom>

We are also using technology to meet in small groups and keep in touch. Imagine lockdown without all of this?!

Meanwhile, Ash Wednesday brings the **start of Lent**, a period when Christians traditionally spend more time thinking on their faith, their walk with God, maybe giving something up in order to take on something good and Godly. If you want help with that and suggestions, either for your family or personally, do be in touch.



This month also brings work on our **heating project**. We are still needing to raise funds for the work, but are excited about being able to offer a *warm* welcome and a *warm welcome*! My hope is for some newly heated in-person services running up to and over Easter; watch this space for further details, and how to book in. If you want to hear more church news, please be in touch and we can add you to our weekly email list.

In one bible study group we are looking at Peter's first letter. He, and his readers, are facing suffering and persecution, and yet rejoice! How?

By looking back to the **love of God they know in Jesus**, and by looking ahead to the certain future they have been promised.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1 v3-5

=> v6 *In all this you **greatly rejoice**, though now for a little while you may have had to **suffer grief** in all kinds of trials.*

I pray you will likewise be able to look beyond the worries, frustrations and restrictions of this current time, and know God's peace, God's hope, and God's joy in your life **now and for ever**. If you want a helping hand, do be in touch!



Dave

Rev Dave Atallah

Tel: 01628 822000 Email: waltham.vicar@btinternet.com

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

From the Registers

Burial of Ashes at White Waltham Churchyard

27th January

Ernest John French

aged 92



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

**Write to: Clerk to the Trustees, Carolyn Thompson,
Spire View, Waltham Road, White Waltham, SL6 3SG**

or email: carolynt52@icloud.com

for an application form

News from your Borough Councillors



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



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

Dear All

The virus pandemic has changed so much we have been accustomed to and changed our way of life. It has been difficult.

Difficult due to the second Lockdown which came in time for Christmas when we couldn't spend time with our loved ones. Difficult as many will be on furlough and in the hopes of a job to return to. Difficult due to working from home which for many is not conducive for good working. Difficult as the isolation of not meeting our friends and family is now starting to have an effect on our mental health. And so difficult for those who have lost a loved one to the virus and couldn't even say goodbye.

But now we have good news. We have the vaccine thanks to our brilliant scientists, thanks to the government who have ploughed so much energy into ensuring it will be available for us all, and thanks to all our NHS workers and volunteers for their endless care. There are, of course, so many who need to be thanked and those not mentioned are in our thoughts.

The vaccine is being given at the Town Hall, Desborough Suite and also, for many in White Waltham, at Wargrave Surgery. Maureen had her vaccine in Wargrave. It was given in the surgery and the queue moved forward very quickly. It really is run with military precision. Of note: the



Queuing for vaccine
outside Wargrave Surgery

fire station adjacent has now been modified and vaccinations are taking place there which will ensure a steady stream of people move through without impacting the surgery. Maureen had no side effects but there can be for some which are similar to the flu vaccine i.e. sore arm, temperature etc. It is so important we all get the vaccine when it's offered – it's our way forward out of this.

It has also been a difficult year for the council due to the virus. Officers and councillors are still working from home and conducting meetings virtually. Strains on the council's finance due to the pandemic have been poured over by officers and Cabinet Members.



The good news is a robust budget has been formulated which the Cabinet has approved to go forward to Full Council for discussion on 23rd February. This can be viewed on YouTube on that date.

What is in the budget is that the black bin collection has been earmarked to take place every two weeks. This is based on the comprehensive knowledge and data that residents are very aware of climate change and helping the environment by placing less in the black bins and more in the blue recycling bins. Well done to all our residents who so conscientiously assist in recycling. A big gain for our environment and climate change.



Please note: larger families and those families with young babes in nappies can apply to the council for a larger black bin if required.

Many will have heard of a proposal for a Bus Gate in Shoppenhangers Road. This proposal will prevent access into the town via Shoppenhangers Road. Both Andrew and Maureen are opposed to this and have strongly objected as this will affect many residents in White Waltham and surrounding villages and also Waltham St Lawrence. Our notification of the consultation was sent via Facebook, Village Association Chairman etc. as we considered this the quickest medium to let you all know.



More good news. Many in Church Hill and the surrounding area will be aware of the flood waters that used to give so many problems, haven't happened this year. The flooding problem has been going on for years and council officers have been out many times in the past.

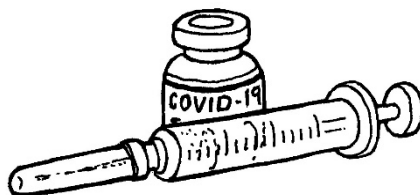
We are sure you will join us in thanking Barty Smith who cleared the ditches on Church Hill. He also undertook to oversee the work for the re-instated pipe under Waltham Road that was damaged when fibre optics went in, ensuring it was done correctly. With his voluntary work, the water is no longer flooding but flowing along the ditches and through the pipe.

We hope the year continues with good news. Our health is what is important for good news as without it there is none. Please make sure you get the vaccine when it is offered as this is the only way forward that we know of, and remember Hands, Face, Space.

We wish you all a safe and healthy year ahead.

Our kind regards

Andrew and Maureen



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Hope

‘Hope for the best, expect the worst, and take what comes’. Where did I get that from?!

It is the practice of many people to ‘give up’ something for Lent. It helps us to recall Jesus’ 40 days in the wilderness and to reflect on his ordeal.



One year it became my practice to cease having sugar in my tea and I never took it up again! There are so many things which we may decide to deny ourselves, but we are mistaken if we choose to give up hope, that being the one thing we must retain as essential to our very existence.

Bob Packer

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or email: carolynt52@icloud.com

for an application form

Wordsearch for February

February opened with Candlemas – the naming of Jesus in the temple. Simeon and Anna praised God to see the promised Messiah, sent by a loving God to save his people. February also celebrates the love between a man and woman: Valentine cards and romance abound. ‘Love’ as in social compassion is also remembered: Fair Trade fortnight, Holocaust Memorial Day, World Leprosy Day, and National Nest Box Week.... Love is truly needed by everyone!

NAMING	CHRIST	CANDLEMAS	SIMEON
ANNA	TEMPLE	LOVE	VALENTINE
ROMANCE	MATTHIAS	FAIRTRADE	FORTNIGHT
COFFEE	BANANAS	CHOCOLATE	JUSTICE
POVERTY	NEST BOX	MARRIAGE	WEDDING
	HOLOCAUST	LEPROSY	



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Everything else remains as it was: our fully trained team continues to be led by our retired health and social care professional with over thirty years’ experience working in our local acute hospitals and the surrounding community.

We carry a wide range of mobility and personal care products; our friendly trained staff are available to assist our customers in making an informed choice when seeking a solution to a



temporary or long-term mobility or personal care need.

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Online Services and Children's Sessions at White Waltham Church

*During the current lockdown, our services take place via Zoom.
Click on this Zoom link if you would like to join us:*

<http://www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk/zoom>

Sermons are recorded and can be listened to via our website:

www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk

Just scroll down the home page and click on
'This Sunday's Service'

(you can also catch up on previous services from this page)

Some other content is available on our Facebook page

 **White Waltham Church**

We hope you can join us!



Community News for White Waltham & Woodlands Park

Published every 3 weeks or so, and available on
White Waltham Church's Facebook page and website:

 **White Waltham Church**
www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk

*If you have news about something going in our local community
that you would like to be included please email:*

waltham.vicar@btinternet.com