

# The Vicar's Letter

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

Dear Friends of the Parish of White Waltham,

As I write (*Editor's note: this piece was written in mid-March*) 'coronavirus' is spreading: what state will our country and healthcare be in by the time you are reading this? It has already revealed some serious challenges to us as individuals as well as community.

## *Selfishness...*

Some businesses are banning flights, and rotating key workers into and out of isolation to reduce risk of infection and keep operational. Others have had flu symptoms and been quarantined until testing clears them. Others I know of, have learnt that they have been somewhere, or been with someone, that poses a risk and have self-isolated for a while. But we all may need to take steps that inconvenience ourselves to help others. Will we do it? In China, the authoritative system means the populace are used to acting for the common good. In the West we are much more individualistic: 'I have my rights!' Will we obey recommendations and act selflessly on behalf of each other? The stockpiling of items which says, 'I need to have this, so you can't have it' doesn't bode well. Will selfishness win the day and increase the problem?

## *Fear of Death...*

The panic that seems to bubble under the surface, can go beyond fear of inconvenience, to fear of the threat of death itself. Whilst not being as fatal as some diseases, coronavirus' ability to spread increases its overall impact and some, including those particularly at risk, fear death from it.

(continued over)

## **THIS MAGAZINE**

Published bi-monthly, six times a year.

Delivered free to all homes in White Waltham and Woodlands Park.

Given to all families at White Waltham School.

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**Articles for the next edition should be sent to:**

**waltham.vicar@btinternet.com**

**by 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

**Magazines are usually available on the last Sunday of the month**

**[www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk](http://www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk)**



**White Waltham Church**

*Isolation...*

The immediate effect of being careful is an increasing isolation, greeting from a distance (the 'Wuhan foot shake' anyone?), avoiding large meetings, and in some cases being quarantined away from human contact. This highlights our inherent need for friendship, for love and interaction.

This is not a cheery way to start a magazine, but there is transformational Good News to bear in mind! As we approach Easter, we are reminded that God acted to overcome these exact problems. Jesus acted *selflessly*, giving himself up to men and to death on a cross to take on himself our selfishness and to deal with the mess we make. If we trust in Jesus and His death and resurrection, we know that even our *death is conquered*, and we can be raised with Jesus forever. The central problem of our human existence, our isolation from each other, and from our Father God, is done away with. The bible story of God's plan reaches its grand purpose in a community perfectly united together and with our loving God.

I hope and pray, that if coronavirus is worrying you, you may turn to your Father God who acted in history to overcome our fears and bring us to Him.

We have videoed Easter services on the website, or join us for a weekly service any Sunday morning (visit [www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk](http://www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk) for details). Alternatively, check things out on a course which gives you the chance to ask questions, bring doubts, air fears, and hear of the work of Trinity God for you. We are just finishing one, do get in touch and we will run something in the new term.

Have a Hope-full Easter, and may you know the love and peace of the Father, through the mission of His Son Jesus, experienced through His Spirit.

*Dave*

Revd Dave Atallah

Tel: 01628 822000

Email: [waltham.vicar@btinternet.com](mailto: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 is very much appreciated!

# POTTERY

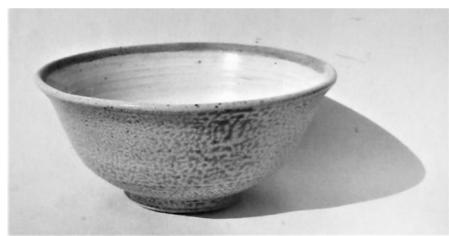
I haven't made pottery for 2 years,  
and will be making no more.

I will be selling the last items I made at  
reduced prices. This will be the last  
opportunity of achieving ownership.

*Bob Packer*

Email

[Robert.packer1942@yahoo.com](mailto:Robert.packer1942@yahoo.com)



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# Festival of Flowers

## Commemoration & Thanksgiving

### VE Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2020

*Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020*

The Flower Guild of St Mary's Church is arranging a special event to commemorate this anniversary and the enormous sacrifice, courage and determination of people from all walks of life during World War 2. We remember those who gave their lives or were injured in the Armed



**This event has had to be  
POSTPONED due to the  
Coronavirus outbreak. We  
hope to hold it later in the  
year so please watch this  
space for more details  
nearer the time.**

If you are interested in taking part or would like further information, please contact Carolyn Thompson on 07834 545967 or email [carolynt52@icloud.com](mailto:carolynt52@icloud.com)



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# St Mary's Flower Guild

## Dates for your diary

Covid-19 permitting, we hope to hold these events:

**Saturday 23rd May** A demonstration and workshop in The Tree House at 9.30am. The theme of the morning is to be confirmed.

**Sunday 21st June** A fund raising afternoon tea party with a raffle will take place in Carolyn Thompson's garden in White Waltham during the afternoon. 2.30 – 4pm. All are welcome. Please ring Carolyn, Julia or Liz nearer the date for more details.

*If you would like to join us in any of the Flower Guild activities, please contact Liz Atlay (01628 778462), Julia Hodgson (01628 821058) or Carolyn Thompson (07834 545967).*



## A Design for Living



A piece of pottery might be said to have attained completion when it begins to perform the function for which it was intended – a vase receives flowers, a casserole, a meal; a cup a drink... the contents are more vital than the vessel itself. Similarly, the planet – the earth on which we find ourselves – is subordinate to its inhabitants. It seems feasible that our creator would prepare a place for us, prior to introducing any life form. We are given an account of the creation in the Bible's Old Testament and we are free to make of it what we will; we might accept or reject what we are told. Other faith patterns may arrive at different conclusions concerning our beginning.

We are surrounded by the beauty of creation and it has to be seen that God, as maker, in addition to providing a matrix, has given guidance that we might exist together amicably, thereby introducing that beauty into our shared lives. In the prophetic words of the Old Testament and in Jesus' teaching, we are offered instruction for enabling this to occur. The writings of Paul and others reiterate the same message. In his letter to the churches in Galatia, Paul emphasises that the fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control. He concludes with the words 'Let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other'.



*Bob Packer*

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# Burbidge

# ...but I don't believe in god...

Some people say to me they don't believe in god, and many people live like that. This page is for you. Because I want to ask:

## **‘What god do you not believe in?’**

Often when someone describes the picture of god which they don't believe in, it is often a god that I don't believe in either!

## **...a god who is a killjoy**

You may imagine God as a dictator opposed to fun or pleasure, or as a grimacing judge with a gavel, readily pointing out faults and stifling any sense of joy we have. We might see God as a cosmic killjoy.

And if we think of a 'sin' as just having that extra piece of cake, or not exercising today, or whatever other minor temptation we may want, I can understand how we build that picture.

But that sad picture of a cold, disagreeable sourpuss is not the God of the Bible. He takes pleasure in things, he delights in us, he created us to experience a range of pleasures through our senses. Think of your responses to seeing a wonderful view, smelling that scent, hearing a laugh or piece of music, or the joy a married couple can have in each other. Pleasure was God's idea; He is anything but a killjoy

## **The Trinity God of the Christian faith is the source of true joy.**

Jesus declared "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full". And we see this in His attractive life and teaching and miracles, for example the excess of high quality wine produced at that wedding in Cana. In fact Jesus was criticised by the establishment for having too much joy and not obeying social conventions. No wonder as Joy is listed as a key fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Our problems come when we turn from the Father God who gives Joy to His children, to other things. This is the heart of 'sin' and spoils our lives. As we get to know Him we realise God doesn't act to squash pleasure, but rather to save us from our pleasure-less-ness. C.S.Lewis wrote: *"It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."*

In fact, through Jesus, God offers to restore us from our broken, bored selves and give us the true joy we were made for, in Him and each other, forever.

*Dave (Rev Dave Atallah)*



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# What holds you back?

However hard the international fire fighters worked in Australia, it seemed that the fires always had the upper hand. But in the end, God sent the solution and so many centres in Australia's eastern states were reeling from extreme flooding events but at least almost all the fires were extinguished.

We keep having a few much smaller fires here in New Zealand and many parts of our country are suffering from a real lack of water. Reservoirs are running dry and many small streams have dried up. Fields are bare and the sheep and cows have little to eat. I believe that God will send us a similar answer and that soon these areas will have ample rain to remedy the situations.

The sad thing is that people receive blessings from God but fail to recognise him, let alone give him thanks.

I know too that many of the readers of this Parish Magazine have heard lots of times about God's free offers. He wants to forgive your sins. He wants you to have eternal life. He wants you to be his child for ever. So just what does hold you back from accepting these amazing gifts from him?

People give amazing excuses or reasons why they will not say "Yes" to God. They say "I'll wait 'til I'm older" or "I don't believe in God" or "I can't be bothered" or "What will my friends say if I become a Christian?" or even "I live a good life; God will certainly take that into account". And so very sadly, it is a decision that they either block out entirely or deliberately refuse to even consider.

So again I ask, What is holding you back?

Do you even know how to become a Christian? Let me try to make it plain:

1. Admit your need (*I am a sinner*)
2. Be willing to turn away from your sin (*repent*)
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross
4. Pray and invite Jesus to come into your heart and life  
(*receive Him as your Saviour and Lord*)



I did this many years ago and I can tell you that I have absolutely no regrets. When my life ends I know where I shall be, and that is with Him for eternity. Don't you want that too?

Here's a prayer you could use:

*"Dear Heavenly Father, I know I am a sinner and need your forgiveness. I believe that Jesus died for my sin. I am willing to turn from sin. I now ask Jesus to come into my heart and life as my personal Saviour. I am willing, by God's grace, to follow and obey Christ as the Lord of my heart and life."*

I'll end with the title: "What is holding you back?" Now I hope nothing holds you back.

*Eric Green*

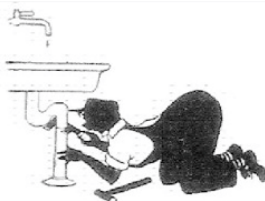
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# POSTPONE or CANCEL

These two words seem to have cropped up quite a bit recently about decision-making, especially for big events. Of course, postpone means to delay or put off something that is meant to happen soon, until a later date. But cancel means to blot out or remove something so that it does not happen at all.

In the devastating flooding in the British Isles, residents would have wished to cancel the stormy downpours altogether, but even postponing them might have given them some more time to enable greater preparations to be made. Sadly, hundreds of people have been affected, some in life-changing ways. Our thoughts are with them. But we can't control or postpone our weather.

Then we have the coronavirus. We would so dearly love to control that problem, or preferably to cancel it completely. As I write, it is spreading threateningly around the world, sadly taking lives as it goes and causing so much disruption. Once again it is a devastating situation that we can only try to prevent getting any worse, both for nations and individuals.

For both catastrophes, there are a few things we *can* do. Most of all we can take advice from those who are experts in medicine, transport, communication, human resources, tourism and sport to name a few. We may end up postponing that family wedding, that birthday party, that holiday, that trip to London or going to that sporting event - to try and avoid mixing with groups or crowds of people where there may be a risk to us or to other more vulnerable people. In some cases, for all sorts of reasons, an event might have to be cancelled.

There was a situation where Jesus would have liked a cancellation or, maybe, a postponement. He was in the Garden of Gethsemane, just before Good Friday and he prayed to God his Father to take away 'this cup' of imminent suffering, which was his fast approaching death on the cross. He prayed the same prayer three times (*see Matthew chapter 26 verses 36-45*) but in his heart he also knew a cancellation of his impending death would have been a failure for him and for the whole of mankind.

In fact, Jesus' death on that first Good Friday and rising again on Easter Day was the biggest cancellation in the whole of history! It was not the cancellation of an event, it was Jesus, as Man-God being willing to die for us and so cancel out all our wrong doings for ever, if we seek his forgiveness and put our trust in him.



*So don't postpone your important decision! This Easter-time, read all about the death and resurrection of Jesus for yourself in one of the gospels and find the full meaning of having all your wrong doings cancelled by trusting Jesus. Happy Easter!*

*Bob Crittenden*

## NEW CHURCHYARD REGULATIONS

The Diocese of Oxford has introduced new churchyard regulations which require us to remove items which have not been properly authorised.

In particular, the following items are not allowed: any lighting, whether electric or otherwise; any glass shades; kerbs, fencing, railings or other demarcation; stone or glass chippings; individual gardens, including the planting of shrubs; plastic flowers and wreaths (other than poppies of remembrance); toys or other objects which are not part of a properly authorised memorial.

We displayed notices asking people to help us to adhere to these new regulations by removing these items. Any items which were not removed from the Cremation Area were carefully stored so they could be collected by arrangement. It is now nearly two years since the notices were first displayed and, with limited storage space, it has been decided that these remaining items can no longer be kept. Please get in touch as soon as possible if there is something you would like to keep.

If you have any questions, or for more information, please contact: Tony Hill, Tel. 01628 822654 Email: [hillhomewood@btinternet.com](mailto:hillhomewood@btinternet.com)

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# Children, Young People & Families are welcome every Sunday at White Waltham Church

We love having children at our services at White Waltham! During this time of lockdown we are making children's activities available on our website. Do visit [www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk](http://www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk) or contact [waltham.vicar@btinternet.com](mailto:waltham.vicar@btinternet.com) for more details.

When we are not in lockdown, we usually start our services all together in the church and after a short time the children leave for their own sessions where they can make friends, have fun and learn together.

Little Seekers is our crèche which is held in the church building so that parents can have a break and concentrate on the service, whilst still being on hand for their little ones as needed.

Our two older groups, Adventurers and Discoverers, meet in The Tree House. We sing, play games, have a Bible story and do craft activities. The children are well looked after by our volunteer team of experienced children's workers.

Several times a year we have 'All Age' services where families stay together in the church, singing, doing activities and learning together. Our Messy Church with Christingles in December and our Good Friday service are examples of these.

All families are welcome. There is no dress code and no need to have been to church before. We would love to meet you and your children!

*Katie Croft*

*Children's Work Coordinator*



# Children's page

## Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

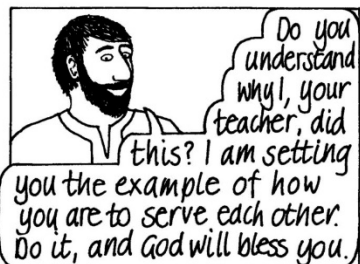
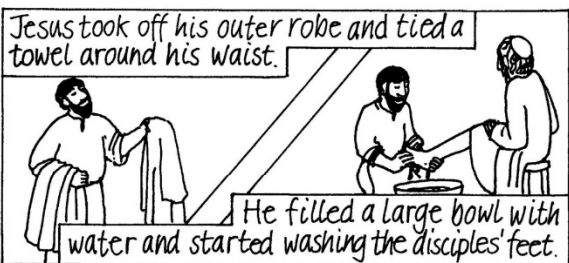
It can be read in the Bible in  
Luke 22:24, John 13:3-17

Jesus and his disciples were celebrating the Passover with the special meal. The disciples were bickering again.



There was a reason why no-one wanted to be the least important - the roads were mud and everyone's feet got very dirty.

It was the job of the least important servant to wash everyone's feet...



# Wordsearch

based on this month's true story from the Bible  
(see the page opposite)

w	p	s	e	r	v	a	n	t	d	c	f
a	a	k	x	p	x	s	e	n	x	j	r
s	s	t	a	e	l	e	a	s	t	e	d
h	s	o	m	t	f	t	s	g	t	a	i
k	o	w	p	e	s	e	n	a	o	f	s
g	v	e	l	r	l	i	l	r	g	f	c
c	e	l	e	b	r	a	t	i	n	g	i
i	r	d	t	e	a	c	h	e	r	j	p
m	n	y	k	t	s	p	e	c	i	a	l
u	b	c	j	e	s	u	s	e	r	v	e
d	i	m	p	o	r	t	a	n	t	p	s
b	o	w	l	r	o	b	e	b	a	t	h

special

mud

example

teacher

Passover

bless

bickering

road

celebrating

feet

servant

serve

Jesus

important

least

bowl

Peter

later

robe

disciples

bath

wash

towel

understand

# St Mary's Church, White Waltham



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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!*

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White Waltham Church



at  
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on

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*Microsoft Windows 10, 8 and earlier versions.*

**Smartphone and iPad/Tablet advice, set-up and integration.**

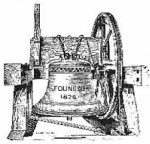


**Katie Sarsfield, Tel: 0118 932 0061/07981 600726**


**Waltham St Lawrence based**

**katie@kimservices.co.uk**





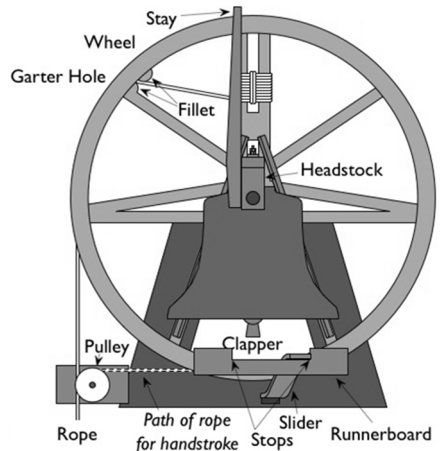
# Tales from the Bells

 *White Waltham Bell Ringing*



We have been fortunate to have visiting learners from two different towers to White Waltham. One Friday we had enough to ring all 6 bells.

Several minor jobs have been done in the bell tower. For example, the 'stay' on the treble was making a noise - this was due to it catching the 'runner board' as it was pulled into the 'up' position. A very small amount was shaved off the side of the stay and the noise has now gone. A loose hook for the 'spider' (not a real spider but one to pull the bell ropes out of the way) was made good, most of the boxes that shorter people use to stand on have been topped with carpet and some other small jobs have been done. Most importantly though, a new bulb was purchased and fitted for the emergency light which had gone out. The emergency light is a very important safety feature in a bell tower: should there be a power cut during evening practices we could be plunged into darkness. This would be a very dangerous situation – those who are less experienced may not know where their rope is and other ringers would not be able to see to step in and help. In these circumstances an emergency light enables us to stop ringing safely.



There are more bells being rung on a Friday than for a Sunday service, where there is only 3 of us. It would be fantastic if we could have all the bells ringing for Sunday services once things return to normal.

We would like to ring out the bells on the 75th anniversary celebrations of VE Day; commemorating the end of the Second World War and remembering those who paid the price by losing their life for our freedom.

As always, if anyone is interested in learning to ring or wants to find out more please do contact us: email [waltham.vicar@btinternet.com](mailto:waltham.vicar@btinternet.com) or call us on 01628 822000.

*Lesley Graves* Tower Captain, White Waltham

PS Please like our Facebook page  @whitewalthambellringing

## Independent Living

**'There is a not so new kid on the block'  
in New Road, Princes Risborough.**

Independent Living has relocated back into the town and the increase in customer numbers confirms that we have made the right move.

We are celebrating our return with a new logo and are currently working on long overdue improvements to our website.

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.



To date our customer age range stands at 6-106 years; our emphasis is on enablement and wellbeing, so if you or your loved ones need advice, guidance or assessment with regard to specific care or mobility needs, we at Independent Living, Princes Risborough are here to help.



Independent Living Consultants

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Independent Living Consultants



## 2020 Season

We are looking forward to the 2020 cricket season with renewed enthusiasm as we enter our second season in the Thames Valley Cricket League. After a successful 2019 season that saw promotion for our 1<sup>st</sup> XI and 5<sup>th</sup> for our 2<sup>nd</sup> XI there is a lot of expectation for the season to come.

We will be entering the National Village KO competition again this season with our first fixture at home on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May vs Wargrave.

*First game of TVL season is 9<sup>th</sup> May*

TVL Division 3a	TVL Division 6b
Aldershot	Aldershot 2
Boyne Hill 2	Falkland 3
Cove 2	Fleet 2
Finchampstead 3	Hurst 2
Royal Ascot	Sonning 2
Sonning	Sulhamstead & Ufton 2
Sulhamstead & Ufton	Theale & Tilehurst 2
Taplow	Wargrave 3
<b>White Waltham</b>	<b>White Waltham 2</b>
Windsor	Yateley

## Senior Pre-season Training

We are currently training indoors on Wednesday nights until Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April when we will be back at WWCC for summer training.

## Juniors

Junior training is currently held at Furze Platt School and will move outside on the last weekend in April. We have great coaching for age groups; 5 through to Colts. For more information please visit our website or contact us using one of the below options.

## Dates for the Diary *(Coronavirus permitting...):*

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Pre Season Quiz
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	WWCC Family Club BBQ
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Beehive Charity game vs WWCC

Website: [www.whitewaltham.play-cricket.com](http://www.whitewaltham.play-cricket.com)

Facebook: @WhiteWalthamCC

Twitter: @WWCC\_1879



ovenu.co.uk

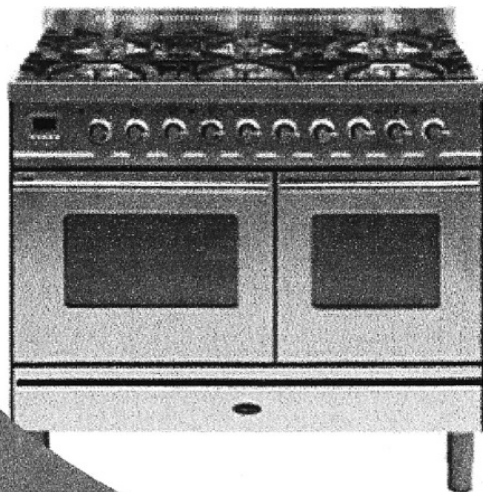


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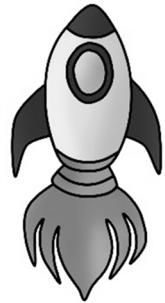
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## White Waltham CE Academy

Spring is in the air at White Waltham and it so lovely to see the daffodils and blossoms in the village. We have been very busy working hard and enjoying various activities and events. It is hard to believe that we will be entering our Summer term after Easter holidays! We have had many events, trips, competitions, etc.

Ashley Hill Multi-Academy Trust held their Annual Dance Extravaganza at the Magnet Leisure Centre on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February. This is the sixth consecutive year that the Trust has organised this ever-popular event. Over 400 children from the three schools in the Trust – Bisham C E Academy, Knowl Hill C E Academy and White Waltham C E Academy performed in the Extravaganza. The theme for the afternoon was ‘Spectacular Science’ based on their curriculum topics of human body, environment, space, the earth etc. Parents, carers, friends and relatives thoroughly enjoyed watching children perform to themes such as ‘Space rocket ride’, ‘Radioactive’, ‘Titanium’, ‘The Scientist’, ‘Fireworks’ and many more. This event was a wonderful way to learn their classroom topics in a creative and novel way through the media of fine arts and dance. For instance, Year 6 children have been learning about the history of heart transplants and their dance celebrated the ‘giants of science’. Many parents and carers commented on the confident performances of the children and the fantastic choice of music and themes for the dances. The children performed beautifully, and everyone left with a smile on their faces.



The annual Eisteddfod poetry competition was held at Cox Green theatre where finalists from all the year groups from the three Trust schools recited their winning poems with great flair and expression. It was a delight to watch children as young as five perform so confidently in front of an audience of family and supportive friends. We also celebrated ‘World Book day’ in March and it was so wonderful to see all the children and staff participate. Children dressed up as their favourite book characters and we had quite a few ‘Harry Potters’, ‘Cinderellas’, princesses and pirates!

*(continued on page 27)*

# Want some financial help with your education?

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

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

Write to: Clerk to the Trustees, Cardyn Thompson,  
Spire View, Waltham Road, White Waltham, SL6 3SG  
or email: [cardynt52@icloud.com](mailto:cardynt52@icloud.com) for an application form



The children have been doing some amazing work on Fridays by organising discos, hot chocolate sales, 'Guinness book of world record' challenges and cookie sales to raise funds for Alexander Devine Hospice. They have raised nearly £400 through these events!

The value for this term is 'Justice' and MBC (Model British Citizen) awards have been given at assemblies by Mr Thompson, our Head of School to very deserving children who have been showing the value of being just towards their siblings, classmates and in the community.



Mr Thompson and Mrs Bain were delighted to be invited to a Year 7 tea party at Wycombe High Girls School by former Year 6 pupils. Mr Thompson and Mrs Bain were very proud of all the White Waltham girls and were thrilled to see how well they had settled into their new school. The icing on the cake was sampling all the delicious treats that were specially baked for them by the girls!

We still have so many exciting events to look forward to this term before Easter holidays, which is just around the corner. Year 6 children will be going to 'Easter Cracked' at St Mary's Church in town to learn the true meaning of Easter. There will also be an Easter service at St Mary's Church at White Waltham for the pupils. Parents and carers will also be visiting the school in April to see their children's project work on display.

As ever, we are proud of our children and staff. Our children are our main asset and it is wonderful to watch them develop, grow and excel in so many different areas. Please visit [www.whitewalthamschool.co.uk](http://www.whitewalthamschool.co.uk) to find out more about our school or call the school office to arrange a visit to see us in action! Wish you all a very Happy Easter!

*Sunitha Province*

School Business Manager

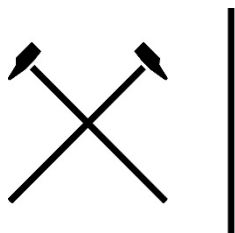
*Editor's Note: This article was written in mid March, before the current Lockdown.*

**Want to advertise in this magazine?**

*Contact Bob Crittenden*

**Tel: 01628 822000**

**Email: [waltham.vicar@btinternet.com](mailto:waltham.vicar@btinternet.com)**



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# Hurley & Walthams Ward

## *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

In this article, we normally write and let you know what is going on in the council. However, the main concern at the moment (*mid-March*) is the Coronavirus. The council is planning ahead and, following the Budget announced recently by the government, will work with the government.

As your local Borough Councillors, our concern is not only with planning ahead for the Borough but also for our residents; particularly, at this time, those who are older, more vulnerable, unwell or unable to get supplies due to the panic buying we are all aware of.

We do ask you to help those vulnerable residents who are your neighbours in whatever way you can and if there are any problems, do please contact us. We are all just waiting to see how this situation progresses, but during these times it's good to look out for each other.

### **Now, News from the Council...**

The winter period has ended and spring is upon us. The Council are starting a new cycle which puts in place the ability to deliver a financially responsible budget for 2020. Many may know that all local authorities are facing a difficult period with a forecasted overspend. With this budget we will deliver a transformative, innovative & financially responsible budget that will future-proof RBWM and ensure we always support our most vulnerable residents whilst planning for the future in light of the climate change.



*(continued over)*

We are a low Council Tax authority and will be in the future, but one which firmly adopts the principle of the user pays, so our tax payers do not have to subsidise non-core council services for those who can afford it. There will be an increase of 3.99% of Council Tax which includes 2% for the adult social care precept, which is an overall increase of 79.5p per week.

We are continuing to invest in supporting our most vulnerable residents and addressing broader policy such as climate resilience, which is now driving our response in areas such as parking.



## **Community Wardens**

You may also be aware the council will be reducing by 6 the number of Community Wardens. In order to mitigate any potential impacts and ensure wardens have the ability to meet ongoing need, a smarter working pattern for wardens is being implemented. This will see the wardens move away from ad-hoc patrols within a Ward towards a more targeted patrol pattern that is much more dependent on risk and informed by local intelligence. Wardens will be engaging with stakeholders including resident groups and elected members.

## **Climate Emergency**

Given the importance of this issue, the council has recruited two new positions with responsibility for developing the strategy. The officers and cross-party members will look to develop:

- A strategy to achieve carbon neutrality
- Cutting subsidies for polluting vehicles & encouraging sustainable alternative transport.
- Increasing recycling rates.
- Making better use of innovative digital technologies.

Change can be difficult but if we are serious about reducing our carbon footprint it is absolutely necessary.

As always, we are here to help you if you have any concerns regarding council matters, so please do get in touch.

Our very best wishes

*Maureen and Andrew*



# WITH EVERY GIFT, WE STOP THIS CLIMATE CRISIS

Our planet is changing, but some people are feeling the effects of this more than others. Due to the climate crisis, droughts are now more frequent and more intense, and one place that has experienced this is Kenya.

In Kitui, eastern Kenya, 8 out of 10 people depend on rain to grow crops. Without water, staple crops like maize and beans wither up and die. People can't grow food, which means they can't earn a living, and go hungry.

Drought forces people to walk further and further to collect water. This daily burden robs them of the chance to farm and grow food for their families. Elderly women and children are especially vulnerable on these dangerous and exhausting journeys.

## Strength and power - Florence's Story

What happens when the search for water does not consume people's lives? We can find out by meeting Florence: a woman who has transformed her life with access to a dam full of water.

A few years ago, Florence's husband died, leaving her a widow. At that time, she had no water to grow crops. She had to walk for hours to collect water. 'Life was miserable,' she told us.

Florence could easily have been defeated. But things changed when Christian Aid's local faith-based partner, Anglican Development Services – Eastern (ADSE), worked with her community to build a dam, just 30 minutes from Florence's house. Using water from the dam, Florence grows tomatoes, onions and chillies on her farm. Her children can eat healthy, nutritious vegetables, and she has enough left to sell. Florence also uses the dam to keep honey bees: the microclimate of plants created by the dam means the bees don't need to search long distances for nectar. She sells the rich, golden honey at the market.



Smiling brightly, she says: 'I have been sustained by the earth dam. My life has changed. I am very happy. You can see it in my face: my face is shining. I have strength and power.'

Florence is a generous woman of faith. She knows others are struggling to cope with the drought, and hopes they will experience the same blessings she has received: 'I am thankful to people who have donated to build this earth dam. I am praying God will increase their giving.'

*(continued over)*

Please donate this Christian Aid Week (10-16 May). Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, providing a vital water source in a desperately dry area of Kenya.

- **£4.40** could teach 10 farmers like Florence how to plant **drought-tolerant** crops that can survive the drought.
- **£10** could buy a tap at a **water point** which will be installed at an earth dam, making it easier for people like Rose to fetch water.
- **£1,560** could pay for all the materials, tools and equipment to **build an earth dam**.

Every pound raised, every prayer said, every action taken: these are expressions of our Christian love and compassion, of our belief that all life is equal and precious in the sight of God.

Together, we stop this climate crisis and give brave, hard-working women like Rose the chance to thrive.

*Join us this Christian Aid Week. Donate at [caweek.org](http://caweek.org)*

*White Waltham Village Association*

## **Annual Family Picnic**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

**At Waltham Place Farm**

**Picnic starts 5.30 p.m.**

**Music, fun and games for all the family**

**£5 for adults, children free**

*In addition, there will be an opportunity for a walk around the farm starting at 4.30p.m. An excellent opportunity to see the ongoing work at Waltham Place which specialises in biodynamic and organic farming.*

*Contact Carolyn Thompson on 07834545967  
or email [carolynt52@icloud.com](mailto:carolynt52@icloud.com) for further information*

# From the Registers

## Thanksgiving

26 January     Halle Autumn Cooper Dorling,  
*daughter of Gemma and Steve Dorling*

## Baptism

8 March     Halle Autumn Cooper Dorling,  
*daughter of Gemma and Steve Dorling*

## Funerals

### Burial at White Waltham Churchyard

29 January     Sylvia Sherwood, aged 87     *(Smithfield Road)*

### Burial at Braywick

14 February     Pauline Denise Buckley, aged 30     *(Heywood Gardens)*

### Cremation

18 February     Valerie Edythe Cottington, aged 84     *(Burnham Lane)*

*St Mary's Church, White Waltham Appeal*

### ***Please help us make our Warm Welcome Warmer!***

We are fundraising to replace our breaking-down heating system and to repair holes in the church roof. This will make the church a more pleasant place to be in and also, importantly, help to look after the fabric of the beautiful building itself, preserving it for all the community!

**If you would like to give by direct bank transfer:**



White Waltham PCC  
Sort Code 40-31-05  
Account no. 41119702



**For more information, or to add 25% to your gift through gift aid,  
contact: [waltham.vicar@btinternet.com](mailto:waltham.vicar@btinternet.com)**



## Church Services for April & May



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



Coronavirus permitting,  
**Messy Church is on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May, at 10.30am**  
**and Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June, at 4pm**  
*See page 19 for more details*

***While we were not able to meet to celebrate Easter this year,  
our Easter services are available online.***

Please visit [www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk](http://www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk) for:

- our All Age Easter Service
- our reflective Service on Good Friday afternoon
- our Easter Day Service

*After Easter we plan to make all our Sunday services available to everyone on our website.*

We are delighted that our children's activities are also now available online for everyone to access.

Visit [www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk](http://www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk)  
or contact us on [waltham.vicar@btinternet.com](mailto:waltham.vicar@btinternet.com) for more details.

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

Finding us online:

[www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk](http://www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk)



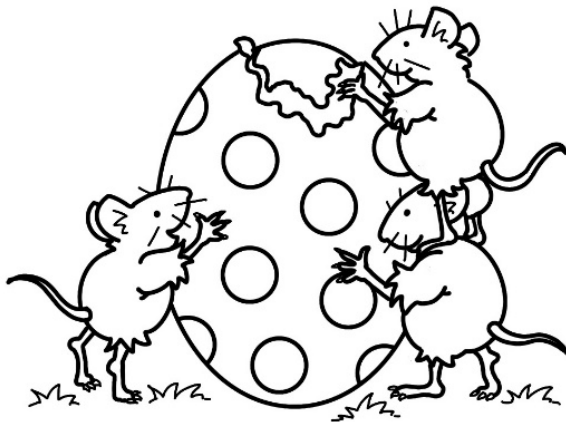
White Waltham Church

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