

Community News for White Waltham and Woodlands Park

Welcome to this special Facebook 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 are updates from White Waltham Academy. In amongst those you may find a puzzle to keep you going during lockdown, along with 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.



News from White Waltham Academy

The children at White Waltham school have been absolutely fantastic and demonstrated such resilience at this difficult time; I cannot praise them enough for this. I am also very proud of all the school staff for keeping the school happy and safe, and keeping the children learning. With the current lockdown we find ourselves in, we have had to make changes to our normal routines as expected, but unfortunately these changes prevent us from having as much contact with parents as we would normally do. For example, we were due to hold parents evening as we usually do at this time of year, but given restrictions we were unable to. Instead we created a report to give parents to inform them how their child has settled back into school. I feel we have a strong relationship with our parents and value having the opportunity to build a positive working partnership, so we are looking in to how we can build on communicating in these difficult times. I would just like to thank all of our parents for their patience, understanding and support throughout Covid.



The children have loved online Collective Worship with Dave, as he is hugely popular! We are looking forward to getting him back into school where he can entertain and teach us how we can learn from the bible in our everyday lives. As a school and as a Trust, we have been holding weekly online assemblies. We are trying to find ways to keep our school communities together and sharing our Christian values as we always do. Our Christian value this term is compassion, which is very poignant considering what we are all facing.



Matt Thompson

Headteacher

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, Carolyn Thompson,
Spire View, Waltham Road, White Waltham, SL6 3SG**

or email: carolynt52@icloud.com

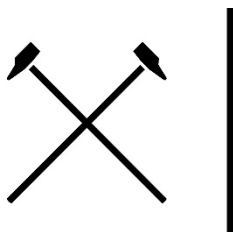
for an application form

Have you done any Christmas baking yet...?

Every Christmas, composer Giacomo Puccini would have a cake baked for each of his friends. One year, having quarrelled with Arturo Toscanini just before Christmas, he tried to cancel the order for the conductor's cake. But it was too late, as the cake had already been dispatched.

The following day, Toscanini received a telegram from Puccini: "Cake sent by mistake."

He replied by return: "Cake eaten by mistake."



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News from White Waltham Parish Council

At the time of writing this article, England is in its second lockdown and due to Covid 19 the parish council has concentrated on delivering essential services such as the maintenance of our play areas and open spaces. However, there was one project that had started before coronavirus became an everyday word which needed to be finished. Woodlands Park was the only ward within the parish of White Waltham that didn't have a war memorial so in 2019 the parish council installed a memorial bench and lone soldier at the Woodlands Park Village Centre where it was hoped that residents who might find it difficult to get to other war memorials would like somewhere to sit, reflect and pay their respects. In December 2019 the parish council, with external funding, commissioned four memorial slabs, representing each of the armed forces, to go around the base of the soldier.



On Remembrance Sunday members of the parish council laid a wreath in remembrance of the fallen and during the following week a number of local residents came to pay their respects and leave a small cross in memory of someone close.

Hopefully, next year we can all come together to pay our respects but, in the meantime, please keep safe.

Paula McLoughlin

Clerk, White Waltham Parish Council



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White Waltham Church invites you to join us for our

Special Christmas Services

Family Carol Service - White Waltham Church

Sunday 20th December & Christmas Eve at 10.30am

Especially suitable for families and school aged children.

Please book to attend one or other of these services.



Carol Services - White Waltham Church

Sunday 20th December at 6.30pm & Christmas Eve at 7pm

Please book to attend one or other of these services.

This service may also take place at 4pm on Christmas Eve if we get full

Carols in the Churchyard - White Waltham Church

Tuesday 22nd December at 4pm

A short outdoor service, socially distanced, for all ages.

Bring torches and dress for the weather (festive dress optional!)



Christmas Day All Age Service - White Waltham Church



Friday 25th December at 10.30am

Celebration for all ages together. *Please book to join us.*

Everybody is Welcome

Please book via www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk – Covid safe measures will be in place. Services will also be available online for those unable to join us in person.

Advent Windows in Woodlands Park

Do join us! Visit www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk for more details in Advent.

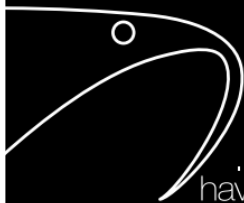
Want to find out what the Christmas Baby got up to?

Christianity Explored gives you the opportunity to explore the life of the person at the heart of the Christian faith – Jesus Christ.

There are eight sessions starting Monday 18 January on Zoom; the first is a taster session. You don't need to know anything about the Bible. You won't be asked to pray, sing or read aloud. You can ask any questions, or just listen. Contact us on 01628 822000 or email waltham.vicar@btinternet.com

www.christianityexplored.org





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– Stanley T.
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The Beauty of Holiness

The inside wall of the chapel where I attended Sunday School 70 years ago bore the words '*O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness*'. As a child, I found this baffling. I now know, however, that the words are quoted in two psalms as well as being echoed in the opening line of a hymn, and later their meaning became clear. William Morris declared 'Have nothing in your home that you do not find useful or consider to be beautiful'. We do indeed surround ourselves with beautiful objects which give us joy – artefacts which are pleasing to look at as well as being functional. But in the context of the scriptures, the words go further.

We must consider the nature of worship. It is a response of gratitude, it is a recognition of God's majesty and the knowledge that we can approach him in prayer. To define beauty is not easy, and we all have a sense of awe regarding that which is holy, which refers to a divine quality, something apart from the rest of an imperfect world and therefore aspiring to beauty. The words therefore represent a call to praise God without reserve.

Bob Packer

Do you have the lockdown blues?

Thinking ahead to Christmas and wishing you could be singing carols and feeling festive?

Well, we have the very thing for you!

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without some carols and so this year we need your help to pre-record some carols which we can all enjoy listening to in our carol services this Christmas.

We will provide the backing track and the words, we just need you to record yourselves singing along on your phone/tablet/laptop and send us your recording. We will edit the recordings together to make a huge Community Christmas Carol Choir! Then, whether you attend a carol service at White Waltham Church this Christmas, or watch us online, you can all hear the beautiful music you helped create!



This great endeavour won't work without YOU!

If you'd like to take part, please email us at carols@stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk

*All carols should be recorded and sent in by
Monday 7 December.*



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Online Services and Children's Sessions at White Waltham Church

Our services and children's sessions can be watched via:

www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk

Just scroll down the home page:

For our Services click on 'This Sunday's Service'
(you can also catch up previous services from this page) –
services are available online at all times during the pandemic.

For our Children's Sessions, *only available during lockdown*,
click on 'Families and Kids' and then choose
'Watch our Sunday Children's Sessions'

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