

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 with Shottesbrooke,
I dare not commit to a weather prediction, but as this magazine finds its way into your hands there may be signs of spring...? And as Alfred Tennyson famously wrote "*In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love...*" [from the poem *Locksley Hall*].

As we see more sunshine in the day the sap rises, the birds become more colourful and strident and we all may feel more of a spring in our step! I guess that may be why Valentine's day sits in this season so comfortably.

Romantic love is God-given and wonderful. There is a whole book in the bible given over to descriptions of the power and glory of the intimate love between a man and woman, and the dangers when it is not expressed within faithful commitment. In fact, committed (covenant) love and the breaking of promises (adultery) are used as graphic descriptions of the relationship of people to God. This develops through to the New Testament with the picture of the church as bride prepared beautifully for the Lord Jesus as the bridegroom, and the celebratory wedding feast of heaven.

Of course while that is the ideal, the reality we all know to some extent is that our failings and the failings of others can spoil our relationships with each other and with God. This may be for a variety of reasons and we all have our own story. You should know you are not on your own, you were

(continued over)

THIS MAGAZINE

Published bi-monthly, six times a year.

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

Given to all families at White Waltham School.

Freely available at church services.

Articles for the next edition should be sent to:

waltham.vicar@btinternet.com

by 11th March 2020

Magazines are usually available on the last Sunday of the month

www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk



White Waltham Church

not made to struggle on on your own. And we all have needed help to let go of the past, to know forgiveness and have a new start without guilt. God's powerful love in His Son Jesus is big enough for you, whoever you are and whatever your situation.

At the end of February, there is a week of events where real people will be interviewed about real problems in their lives which have challenged and threatened to spoil their relationships with others or with God. They will share how, although this side of heaven we will not have all the answers, there is a place for hope. Have a look now at pages 12 and 13 for details and put in your diary any that might interest you.

At the end of that week, on Sunday 1st March, we will have a special service at St Marys White Waltham which will be designed to be particularly easy to come to if you have not come to church before or for a while. And we will look at someone who met Jesus and found how to receive the new start he needed.

Also, our Christianity Explored course has just started on Sunday evenings for a group of us to look at Mark's account of Jesus' life, and bring any questions and doubts and challenges about who Jesus is and what He offers us. Do get in touch if you are keen to join the next one, or come along one Sunday morning to hear more about God's love.

Merry Springtime, and may you know the love and hope of the Father, in His Son Jesus, experienced through His Spirit.

Dave

Revd Dave Atallah

Tel: 01628 822000

Email: 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.

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Come see what lies behind probably the most
famous line of any piece of literature
anywhere: John 3v16

*“For God so loved the world that he gave His
only Son so that anyone who believes in Him
shall not perish but have eternal life”*

**Sunday 1st March, 10.30am
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...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 of rules

In my experience this can impact in a couple of different ways:

You might say “God’s all about rules isn’t He, spoiling our fun and stopping us doing things we want.”

Or you might say “I like the moral code (the rules about life), I just don’t want the ‘religious’ God-and-Jesus bit”

I want to ask:

- Isn't having rules, or a moral code, without any reason or heart to it the worst kind of religiosity or restrictive authoritarianism???
- God's 'rules' are often about how we interact with each other as well as the world. Have you thought about how many of God's 'rules' actually help to keep us safe, from physical harm or emotional or spiritual harm?
- Do you think a loving Father, could stand by, whilst his children hurt themselves and each other, without laying down some rules for life?

The Trinity God of the Christian faith speaks from love.

He made you and loves you and knows what is best for you and so does communicate about how to best live in this world, with each other and depending on Him.

When we feel guilty about rejecting God's good plans for us, spoiling relationships and letting ourselves down, He came into the world as Jesus to reach us, to die to provide forgiveness and a new start.

The God of the bible; Father Son and Spirit, is community, is love. His love overflowed to creation, to you and to me, and He longs for us to stop going our own way and hurting ourselves and instead to draw us into His family of love.

Dave

Rev Dave Atallah

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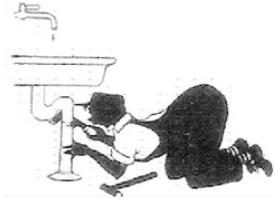
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This NEW event is for the older members of our local community and their friends.

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See opposite for more details of each day's interview.

TUESDAY 25 February 7.30 for 8pm

ANXIETY and DEPRESSION

Successful professional Ed Watson speaks of real hope in the face of anxiety and depression

WEDNESDAY 26 February 7.30 for 8pm

DIFFERENT RELIGIONS

Shubbie Awoyemi tells the story of her search for hope in Islam, Mormonism and Christianity

THURSDAY 27 February 7.30 for 8pm

CITY SUCCESS and INCURABLE CANCER

Former bank CEO Jeremy Marshall talks about real hope in the face of death, as he battles incurable cancer

FRIDAY 28 February 7.30 for 8pm

VIOLENCE and FORGIVENESS

Once one of the most violent men in the criminal justice system,
Shane Taylor reveals the difference made by real hope

SATURDAY 29 February breakfast at 8.30am

ABUSE, ADDICTION and SINGLE PARENTHOOD

Angela McDonald shares the story of real hope in the midst of hard life-experiences

SATURDAY 29 February 7.30 for 8pm

SCIENCE and RELIGION

Professor of Experimental Physics at Cambridge University, Russell Cowburn,
speaks of real hope as a Christian in his work as a scientist

For more information and to read more about our speakers,
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LEADERS & ROLE MODELS

Who do you admire? Who do you think is worth using as a role model to follow? Who would you encourage your children or grandchildren to copy because of their lifestyle?

It's a difficult one to answer, as there might be several people in your response since each one may display a different characteristic in their lives. But there does seem to have been quite a lot already in 2020 about role models. For example, in politics we have had all sorts of styles of leadership, as the country prepared for the December election and now another leadership battle is starting in the Labour Party. There continues to be discussion about role models in sport, as drug taking has recently been linked to athletics and cycling again. Football, with the possibility of encouraging underage betting through sponsorship deals, is another leadership issue. In business some failed top executives seem to have been dismissed with massive payoffs while their workers struggle to keep their jobs. We have even had examples of disappointing leadership in the Royal Family and in the so-called glamorous world of celebrities. Fortunately, we have lots of wonderful examples in all areas of life as well!

But what are you and I like as leaders ~ maybe in our responsibilities at work, organising our families at home, using our 'free' time wisely, setting an example to others? We know we all fail in so many aspects of our lives, so, to be role models and setting the example can be an obvious one to attract criticism.

All this thinking about role models made me think of the Christmas story and its characters:

- Faithful Mary and Joseph heard God's plans for their unusual lives but were both obedient to Him.
- Joyful shepherds were stunned into leadership: 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see!'
- Studious wise men undertook an enormous journey, determined to find their Messiah.
- Sly King Herod pretended to find out about Jesus' birth so he could worship him, he said.

These Bible characters show a variety of leadership and role model styles, both good and bad. And I guess we do as well.

But the key is this. God is the ultimate leader and role model. He made sure that Herod didn't win but that his plans for Jesus and us were fulfilled. God's plans are reflected throughout the Bible in Jesus' birth and death for us. He can be your role model and saviour too.

Bob Crittenden

Children's page

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

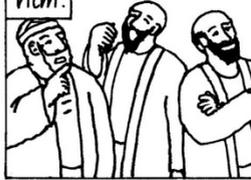
It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 2:11-17, 22-25, 3:1-21

As soon as he was old enough to leave his parents, Samuel went to live at God's temple in Shiloh, with the priest, Eli...

Eli's sons were also priests, but they helped themselves to what people had brought to give to God.



Eli talked to them about it. They ignored him.



But Samuel did all the work he was given well.

One night, after everyone had gone to bed, Samuel heard someone calling him.



He thought it was Eli, so he ran to him.



No, I didn't call you

It happened again.



I didn't call. Go back to bed.

The third time, Eli knew it must be God calling Samuel.



You must say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

God called Samuel again,



and Samuel answered as he had been told.

I told Eli his sons had done bad things, but he has not stopped them. Now, even being sorry will not make up for what has happened.



The next morning, Eli demanded to be told what God had said.



Samuel was afraid, but he told him.

He is God. He will deal with us as is right.



God continued to talk to Samuel. He became known throughout Israel.



Wordsearch

based on this month's true story from the Bible

(see the page opposite)

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

Israel

Shiloh

stopped

night

Eli

leave

demanded

calling

right

ignored

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sorry

third

God

speak

sons

answered

Lord

listening

Samuel

morning

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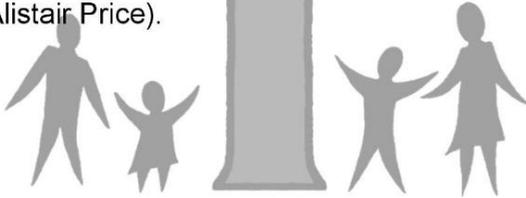


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We meet in The Tree House, which is located in the churchyard at White Waltham Church. Some parking is possible at the bottom of Church Hill, and more spaces are available in the yard of Bury Court Antiques (Alistair Price).



We would love to see you!

For more details
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 White Waltham Church



at

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on

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St Mary's Flower Guild

The Guild's Annual General Meeting will take place in The Tree House on Saturday 8th February at 10am. A short meeting with an opportunity to have a catch up in the New Year over coffee and cakes.

2019 was yet another successful year for our group and my thanks go to all our members who worked hard to ensure that the Church had beautiful displays of flowers for both Sunday services and Church festivals. There have been many compliments from the congregation and visitors to the church, particularly at Christmas. Well done to everyone who took part. I have appreciated your support.

We hope to be holding a number of workshops again this year and always welcome new members, whether you are an enthusiastic beginner or an experienced flower arranger.

Some dates for your diary:

Saturday 21st March at 10am

a workshop with Mothering Sunday and spring in mind

Saturday 11th April from 9.30am

decorating the church for Easter

If you would like to join in any of the Flower Guild activities please contact Liz Atlay (01628 778462) or Julia Hodgson (01628 821058).

We look forward to seeing you.

Liz Atlay, Secretary

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.

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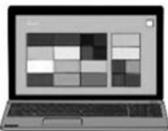
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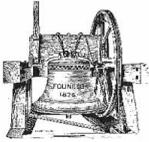
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Tales from the Bells

 *White Waltham Bell Ringing*



We, the ringers, would like to wish you all a Happy 2020 with its new beginnings. Speaking of new beginnings, at the time of writing Tales from The Bells we received two enquiries from people interested in learning about bell ringing so taster sessions were being arranged.

If they decide to start learning to ring, we install into one of the bells a clapper brace. This will prevent the clapper from swinging and, therefore, will not strike the bell. Hence, silence will be maintained while teaching is taking place!

If anyone is interested, it will be a good time to start; you will get to know other learners and you will all be at the same stage of learning. White Waltham is a good set of bells to learn on.

Our two novices are getting along well. Eddy is progressing well through his Learning The Ropes Level 2. Our visiting novice from Warfield, Jamal, passed his Level 1 in November.

We had a visiting group from Basingstoke. Check our Facebook page @White Waltham Bell Ringing to see a couple of clips. One is in the ringing chamber (Grandsire Doubles) and the other is outside where a method was just completed, finishing off with them ringing rounds.

At Christmas, we rang for the Christmas Eve Candlelit Carol Service and also the Christmas Day Service. There were only three of us but we still rang out the bells joyously to celebrate the birth of Christ. There was no New Year ringing at White Waltham due to ringers with other commitments.

There is a small amount of work required in the belfry. We are sorting out a problem with the stay on the number 1 bell. Due to the amount of rain over the past few months this has made the wood swell which has affected the stay. The work to be done will prevent the problem from recurring.

Remember, even though there are two people expressing an interest in learning, I am still able to take on another learner. Do get in touch by emailing white.waltham@sdb.odg.org.uk or by calling 01628 822000.

Lesley Graves
Tower Captain, White Waltham

PS Please like our Facebook page  @whitewalthambellringing

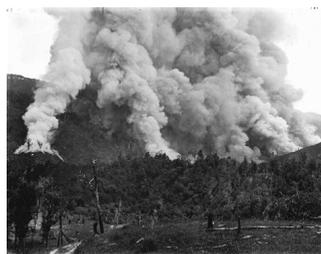
Heaven or

As I sit down to write this for you to read, I have just finished watching the news on TV and I know you are seeing pretty much the same main story as me. A story that has dominated our news for several weeks.

Of course, here in New Zealand we are closer to the action than you in UK, but that makes no difference to the awful nature of the bushfires in so many Australian states.

People have to make a decision as to whether they will stay and defend their homes or leave to find sanctuary wherever this is available. I have to be honest – I am really pleased that I don't have to make that decision.

It does not seem too strong a word to describe these bushfires as a kind of hell. So many firemen from the UK, Canada, USA and New Zealand are standing with the many Aussie fire fighters trying to extinguish these infernos.



I do realise that it is not at all popular to talk about hell. If you ask a child “Do you want to go to heaven?” just about every one of them says “Yes”.

In recent months a very well-known Aussie Rugby player caused a huge stir when he posted that all who commit sin are destined for hell. Of course the press picked up on the fact that Israel Folau mentioned homosexuals in the list of sinners, but he also included several other sins: lying (I do that alas!), stealing and being greedy and let's face it we all are guilty of these from time to time.

The truth is that Israel was quoting from the Bible and he also said that those who repented of their sins and turned to Jesus Christ would not go to hell but would go to heaven.

Like Israel Folau and millions of others round the world, I am a Christian and I believe the Bible to be God's Word: perfect and never shown to be in error.

So just like those in Australia close to the hell of the bush fires, we all have a decision to make. Heaven or . . . Hell. I have made my decision and I know on the basis of the Bible where I shall spend eternity. Have you made yours yet? Please don't put it off. Some Australians decided to stay in the path of the fire and have lost “everything” and some have lost their lives too.

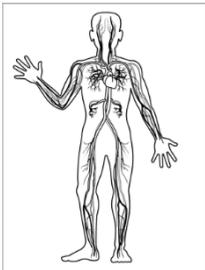
When my life comes to its end, I know where I shall be . . . do you?

Eric Green



White Waltham CE Academy

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and festive break. The break was well earned after a very busy but thoroughly enjoyable Autumn Term! The term was packed with many festive events - Foundation children performed their Nativity play beautifully at Cox Green theatre. Year 2 hosted a Christingle service for parents at school and Years 1 and 6 performed a wonderful Christmas service for parents at St Mary's White Waltham church. The PTA organised the Winter Fayre which was very well attended and helped raise valuable funds for school. The PTA also organised the annual Christmas shopping day for children at school where pupils 'shopped' for gifts for their families and friends. This event has been getting bigger and bigger every year and children successfully picked and wrapped 605 presents along with the help of PTA volunteers before school finished last term! To watch children choose their presents with so much care, along with the wrapping paper for their loved ones or special people in their lives is priceless! The PTA do a sterling job in organising this event!



This term, we are covering some very exciting topics and going on many adventures. Foundation children are learning about all creatures, big and small. They will participate in lots of exciting activities including workshops on reptiles. Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are learning about the human body, organs and digestion. They will also be learning about healthy eating. Year 6 will be particularly learning about the heart and its functions.

As a Church school we celebrate core values like compassion, forgiveness etc in our assembly. Our value for this term is 'Perseverance' and children have been discussing what perseverance is and different ways they can show perseverance. Children have been sharing and reading stories of perseverance in their classes. Model British Citizen awards have been given out at collective worship assemblies by the Head to children who have shown exemplary acts of perseverance.

(continued on page 27)

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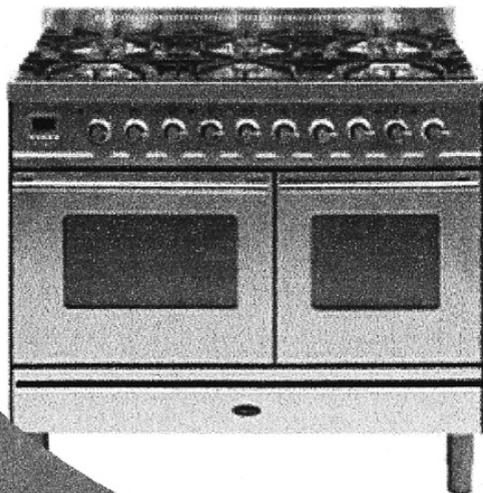
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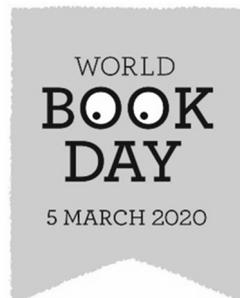


the UK's favourite oven cleaning specialists

We are looking forward to many exciting upcoming events this term. The Eisteddfod Poetry final is in February and it is always a great pleasure to watch children perform with such confidence on stage. It has been an absolute joy to watch our children perform in the past. Such a wide variety of talents and abilities come to light in events like these, where we see more to a child than purely their academic abilities. We also have the Dance Extravaganza in February at the Magnet Leisure Centre, in which all year groups from the three Trust schools will be performing. The children will soon start practising their dances and their moves and will be waiting with eagerness to show them off to their audience of parents, carers, friends and families!

We love the sense of community in our school and actively encourage it. Every Friday the classes have mystery readers where parents, siblings, grandparents, carers and family friends sign up to read a short story or poem to the class and it is always delightful to see children's faces when their mystery reader appears at the door! The PTA is also organising their annual Swimathon in association with Lions International at the Magnet Leisure Centre which is a much loved event by parents and children alike.

We also celebrate World Book Day on 5th March where children get to dress up as their favourite book character and staff also participate with much gusto! The entire school community thoroughly enjoy this day and the costumes and characters are a joy and sight to behold. We see a lot of creativity, ingenuity and improvisation with the costumes! Watching many versions of Alice in Wonderland, Red Riding Hood, Snow White, Harry Potter walking through the school corridors and class rooms as well as the staff room is delightful!



Wishing everyone a great start to 2020 and may this year bring peace and joy to all. We are proud of our community of staff and children and you are most welcome to visit our school and see our staff and children in action! Please visit www.whitewalthamschool.co.uk to find out more about our school or call the school office to arrange a visit.

Sunitha Province,
School Business Manager

Want to advertise in this magazine?

Contact Bob Crittenden

c/o Tel: 01628 822000 Email: 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

With a New Year and a new decade, the council is looking forward to ensuring the best services for our residents and our environment. Our residents require the council to move with the times and provide integrated services to ensure residents are helped wherever and whenever help is needed.

We are all aware our environment needs protecting and nature reserves and common land increased last year – Shurlock Road Nature Reserve and Battlemead Common in the Maidenhead Area. Apart from the LED lights, we also ensured electric charging units are placed in public car parks. Electricity purchased by the council is to come from renewable sources and be generated by technologies such as solar, wind and hydro power. We have also committed to our own renewable energy with solar panels on the Town Hall, solar panels in the new Braywick Leisure Centre and investment in MaidEnergy, a co-operative based in Maidenhead to install panels in the borough.



We have a designated Cabinet Member for Environment who is very active and supportive of increasing our credentials for biodiversity and environment protection as a council, moving into this new decade.

Council News

You may be interested to know an enhanced and comprehensive support system for vulnerable residents in the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead was brought in before Christmas, to ensure these residents can access the services they need to keep safe and well this winter.

(continued on page 31)

Dog lovers wanted

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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**

The Cold Weather Provision is a coordinated, joined-up approach to ensure the Royal Borough, charity organisations and others are working together with the clear purpose of supporting vulnerable people sleeping rough into longer-term solutions.



Cllr McWilliams is the newly appointed lead member for housing and is determined to ensure the council deliver a comprehensive package of cold weather support based on the core principles of compassion, thoroughness and cooperation, including a focus on delivering long term outcomes and actually helping people off the streets.

Anyone sleeping rough in the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead can benefit from the support being delivered through Cold Weather Provision. The provision in place exceeds the council's statutory Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) duties and will include a commitment to ensure all rough sleepers are assessed by our experienced outreach team within 10 days of support being offered by any agency. SWEP is activated when temperatures fall below zero for consecutive days.

This new approach will provide bespoke packages of support to individuals sleeping rough and it is hoped people will fully engage with this big offer of help. The approach and the assessment will ensure the offer is appropriate to the individual rough sleeper. The first 10 days working with the rough sleeper are crucial to ensure the roles of each agency are clearly defined and the expectations are managed.

The council is working with homeless charities and other partner organisations to make sure that all rough sleepers know about the provision and are aware of how to access it. We recognise the good work being carried out by our voluntary sector and faith groups, including the community volunteering approach to supporting rough sleepers off the streets, and the Royal Borough's Cold Weather Provision will ensure we are all working together for the best possible outcomes.

Anyone at risk of sleeping rough on the streets should go to the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead offices in the Town Hall in Maidenhead or York House in Windsor for advice and support, or call the housing duty team on 01628 683 803. Anyone who becomes homeless when the offices are closed should contact the council's Emergency Duty Team on 01344 786543.

If you see a rough sleeper you can also call 0300 500 0914 or visit Streetlink giving the details of the rough sleeper and they will notify the relevant local authority.

(continued over)



Local News

We received concerns about speeding traffic through White Waltham Village and requested a speed survey to be done. This showed most drivers keep within the limits.

We also received concerns about drug abuse in Woodlands Park and have requested that, together, our Community Warden and the PC look into this issue. Please contact Carlos if you have any information to help - carlos.dissegna@rbwm.gov.uk

We would like to wish all our residents in White Waltham Parish a Healthy and Happy 2020.

Our very best wishes

Maureen and Andrew

New life

Every autumn, wherever there are trees, those who live close by find themselves buried in dead and decaying leaves. It always seems to me a sad time. A brilliant display of colour marks the demise of that which was once living – thriving. The trees seem finished – death apparently prevails. It does not seem possible that everything will recover. It thus becomes a time of dismay, disappointment. This is unwarranted, for always, everything will be reborn. What has died gives rise to this rebirth – new life comes into being, feeding on that which has gone.

Jesus' death on the cross ensures new life for us – this is promised. '*He died that we might live*'. St Paul says in his second letter to the Corinthians (Chapter 5 verse 15) '*He died for us all...*' He had to die, thereby giving life to you and me.

Bob Packer



From the Registers

Funeral

Cremation

16 December 2019 Ronald Cottington, aged 85 (*Burnham Lane*)



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



We love having children at our services at White Waltham! 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



Church Services for February & March



Services at Shottesbroke Church
are at 9am on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month

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



**Messy Church is on Sunday 16th February at 10.30am
and Saturday 14th March, at 4pm**
See page 19 for more details

Ash Wednesday, 26th February - Holy Communion at 10.30am

Mothering Sunday - 22nd March at 10.30am

Looking ahead to Holy Week & Easter Services

Good Friday, 10th April at White Waltham Church

10.30am Messy Good Friday *followed by refreshments*
2-3pm Good Friday Reflective Service

Easter Day, Sunday 12th April

9am BCP Holy Communion *at Shottesbrooke Church*
10.30am All Age Service *at White Waltham Church*

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

Finding us online:

www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk

 White Waltham Church

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