

# 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 and news from White Waltham Church about what's on at Easter. You will also find 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

At White Waltham Academy, we are absolutely delighted to have all the children back in school full time. We have remained open throughout lockdown for Keyworker and vulnerable children, so the teachers were extremely busy teaching the children in school and also remotely teaching the children at home. Now back at school we are working hard to bridge the gaps of missed learning but not forgetting the emotional wellbeing of the children after being away from school for such a long time. We are so proud of how hard the children worked at home and school during lockdown and how they have settled back into the school routine so quickly.



We have exciting things coming up in the summer term that the children are looking forward to. We will be learning about Edwardians in conjunction with our summer production of Mary Poppins. We are hoping that restrictions lift and will enable us to perform the production outside in front of our usual family audience. We also hope that sports day can run as usual, as this is such a fun day for children.



I would like to give all the staff at White Waltham Academy a special mention for the fantastic work they have done throughout the year; it has been challenging and ever changing, but they have risen to the challenge every time to ensure our children have the very best.

*Matt Thompson*

Headteacher



## Want to find out more about the God who gave up his Son for you?

After Easter we are running 'The Identity Course', probably on Monday evenings via Zoom. This 7-week course gives us the opportunity to explore the character of God and his Son Jesus Christ, and to find out more about ourselves..

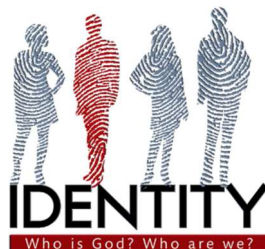
You don't need to know anything about the Bible.

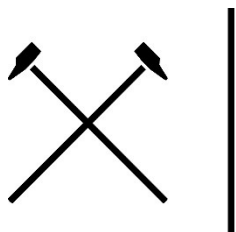
You won't be asked to pray, sing or read aloud.

You can ask any questions, or just listen.

Email [waltham.vicar@btinternet.com](mailto:waltham.vicar@btinternet.com)  
or call us on 01628 822000.

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# Why might I want to try church this month?

**H.O.P.E.** Hope is so important isn't it: We hope that vaccines continue to roll out and prove effective, we hope we never have to homeschool again, we hope to see and hug family and friends, we hope that we can go away on holiday sometime this year...

*Hope*

But visiting church?

**H.** – Heating. You may have heard of our heating project. It is finished! Well, all bar the last few bits of tidying and sorting! So come to church and sit with warm air rising around you!

**O.** – Open. The church is open again, with covid-safe procedures. So you are welcome and safe to book in – why not come along and give it a go. Maybe at the moment you have that bit of extra time to try us out!

**P.** – People. There are people present, and on zoom, who will be pleased to see you. And please let us know if there are ways we can help.

**E.** – Easter. The story of the rejected, executed man, who rose to be proved the Son of God bringing real Hope to us all. Not just an unsure wish that things might get better, but a God-certified assurance of peace, love, and joy for all time in the presence of your Father God who made you and loves you.

On page 6 you will find details of different ways of joining in over Easter, or I (Rev Dave) will be pleased to hear from you. You need hope, I need hope, and Jesus is the place to start looking.

*Dave*

Rev Dave Atallah    Tel: 01628 822000    Email: [waltham.vicar@btinternet.com](mailto:waltham.vicar@btinternet.com)

## Children are always welcome at White Waltham Church!

Children are invited to join our in-person church services and/or our live Zoom services with their parents. Each week we will be telling a true story from the Bible and finding out a bit more about it.

*You and your family are very welcome to join us!*

You can catch up on previous Sunday morning children's activities by visiting our website: [www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk](http://www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk)

Just scroll down the home page, click on 'Families Area' and choose 'Watch our Sunday Children's Sessions'





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White Waltham Church invites you to join us for our

# Special Easter Services

**Maundy Thursday Communion** – White Waltham Church & via Zoom at 8pm

A reflective communion service for Maundy Thursday.  
Please book to attend this service.



**Good Friday for All Ages** – via Zoom at 10.30am

Join us via Zoom to find out what makes Good Friday so good!



**Good Friday Reflective Service** – via Zoom at 2pm



**Easter Day All Age Service** – White Waltham Church & via Zoom at 10.30am

Celebration for all ages together. Please book to attend this service.



**Everybody is welcome to services at White Waltham Church**

*Covid safe measures are in place.*

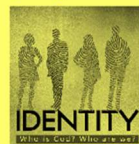
Please book via [www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk/Easter](http://www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk/Easter) to join us in person  
or join us via Zoom [www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk/zoom](http://www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk/zoom)

Come and explore our Easter trail **‘In Search of Easter’** anytime from 29<sup>th</sup> March  
in **Grove Park, White Waltham, or Phipps Close play area, Woodlands Park**

**Want to find out more about the God who gave up his Son for you?**

After Easter we are running ‘The Identity Course’, probably on Monday evenings via Zoom. This 7-week course gives us the opportunity to explore the character of God and his Son, Jesus Christ, and to find out more about ourselves. You can ask questions, or just listen. Contact us on 01628 822000 or email [waltham.vicar@btinternet.com](mailto:waltham.vicar@btinternet.com)

[www.identitycourse.com](http://www.identitycourse.com)



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& Woodlands Park



# The Light of the World

There is an allegorical painting that is almost as familiar as the verse of scripture that inspired it. I refer to William Holman Hunt's 'The Light of the World'. The original version now hangs in Keble College, Oxford, but there are others. Engraved reproductions were hung in numerous nurseries, schools and church buildings and it is probably through these that the painting has come to be so widely known. Hunt believed himself, although unworthy, to have responded to a Divine command. His inspiration has brought a Biblical message to the attention of thousands.

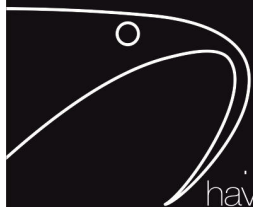
The passage of scripture on which the painting is based can be found in Revelation Chap 3 verse 20, where Jesus is quoted "Here I am, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me".

Painted around 1849, we are shown Jesus preparing to knock on an overgrown and long unopened door. The door in the painting has no handle – it can only be opened from the inside 'representing the obstinately closed mind'.

In 1905 – 1907 the painting made a world tour, viewed, it is estimated by 80% of Australia's population. It was considered to be the most important and influential rendering of Christ at the time.

*Bob Packer*





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Every morning when the third stair creaks, it reminds me of Margaret. She'd always told me all her life to fix it. I'm just glad I never did. Because I realise that's home. Having Home Instead Senior Care help me around the house means I don't have to go anywhere.

*Stanley T.*

– Stanley T.  
Client

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*ON THE TRAIL*  
SERIES

## IN SEARCH OF *Easter*

**What is Easter  
really all about?**

Scan the code and let  
the adventure begin!



 SCAN ME

**Join the trail from 29 March at:**

Grove Park, White Waltham or  
Phipps Close play area, Woodlands Park

**Contact White Waltham Church  
for more info:**

Tel. 01628 822000

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

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

Facebook: [@whitewalthamchurch](https://www.facebook.com/whitewalthamchurch)



**Scripture Union**

Please ensure you follow current government guidance  
around social distancing as you take part in this trail.



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## Just a Couple of Twigs

As I write, it is a Friday in mid-February and we are coming towards the end of a wonderful week of late summer weather – which reminds me that I need to water the vegetable gardens this evening or everything will dry up and die!

Around eighteen years ago, not that long after we left Woodlands Park to resettle in New Zealand. A neighbour and a friend of ours was given a lovely flower arrangement. As happens, these wilt as time goes by but before our friend threw them out, we asked if we could have a couple of twisted willow twigs that had formed part of the arrangement. Although they looked totally dry and dead, we popped them into a glass of water and were surprised and delighted when we saw that on one of the twigs, tiny roots forming.



After a further period of growth, this twig had grown into a small seedling sized tree, ready and able to be planted out. So we selected a site near the bottom of our garden and planted it out and kept it watered as it grew... and grew... and grew.

Now I am at an age where I am no longer able to deal with removing what has become a very tall tree which is interfering with other garden growth nearby including red and black currants which have had very little fruit this year. Mind you, that could be because our cats are not frightening the birds away sufficiently and so the birds have had several good feeds!

We are very blessed as we have a gentleman in our church who has lots of skills and also lots of appropriate tools as well as a small truck which can use to take away the unwanted greenery. He started last weekend and has already felled the willow and a laurel too.

Tomorrow he will be back to take down another couple of trees that are no longer wanted (one is totally dead!) and so we will finally be rid of our unwanted huge tree which has taken over so much of our garden. I am always amazed at God's provision in that even a small twig can grow into an enormous and very beautiful tree.

As I have been thinking about this in the past few days I have seen that it is also possible for something to be introduced into the garden of our lives where it can take root and grow into something either very beautiful and desirable or something unwanted, dangerous and destructive.

Here's a song I learned many years ago and I hope it is something you will use in your prayers – it really does work!

*My heart may be like a garden fair  
Loving words and thoughts and deeds a-blossoming there.  
Or it may be a place of poison weeds  
Growing into ugly words and thoughts and deeds.  
Lord Jesus make my heart a garden fair,  
Come thou thyself and be the Gardener there!*

*Eric Green* (eric.green@xtra.co.nz)

# Services at White Waltham Church

Services are now taking place in person and live via Zoom from the church building. <http://www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk/zoom>

If you would like to join us in church, please book via our website at [this link](#).

Services can also be watched via our website:

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

Scroll down the home page and click on  
'Catch up on the last Service'

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](http://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](mailto:waltham.vicar@btinternet.com)**