

Community News for White Waltham and Woodlands Park

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

In each edition (there will be one or two each month) we hope to bring you news from the local area; this issue there is an update from our local Borough Councillors, in other issues there may be something from a school, the parish council or another local club or organisation. We feel that one of the big challenges of lockdown is the sense of being cut-off, isolated from each other and whatever is going on. So we hope that this 'Community News' may help us all stay informed and in touch. Let us know what you think – contact details are at the bottom of the last page.

Dave (Revd Dave Atallah)

If you have an article or advert you would like included, please get in touch.

News from your Borough Councillors



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Cllr Andrew Johnson
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The last time we wrote was at the beginning of the Coronavirus outbreak and we would like to thank our residents for all the help they have given to our vulnerable residents either personally or through the village groups. We would also like to thank residents for their patience and co-operation as we have had to re-jig council services to reflect the crisis, including waste collection and disposal. As you know, the 'tip' at Stafferton Way has been re-opened following the green light from government and Thames Valley Police. For our residents, the day to visit 'the tip' is Tuesday. At present the bin collections will remain the same.

(continued)

Using 'the tip' on **Tuesday only** for Hurley & Walthams Ward residents

The site will be open from 8am – 8pm, to give residents the chance to dispose of waste that cannot be safely stored at home. Please only make a trip if you are unable to store your additional waste at home. The health of residents and staff is always the highest priority, so everyone visiting the reopened sites will be expected to observe the new social distancing measures that have been put in place.



Place your Advantage Card and driving licence or another proof of address and photo ID on your dashboard for crews to see.

You should only visit the tip once on any Tuesday. In the event that the queues are too large, the site may have to close temporarily to deal with the demand. Only cars are currently permitted at the site; no vans or trailers are allowed.

Things to remember when visiting the Stafferton Way site:

- You should only visit the site if you cannot safely store your waste at home.
- Both sites will be open.
- You will need to observe the social distancing measures in place.
- Staff are unable to help you move waste from your vehicle.
- We will accept garden waste, wood, cardboard, bulky items & black household waste.
- White goods (washing machine, refrigerator, etc.), plasterboard, clothes and paint will not be accepted at this time as disposal routes for these are still currently closed.
- Only cars will be allowed on the site.

In line with Public Health England guidance, residents who are vulnerable, or who are showing symptoms which may indicate coronavirus, should not visit household recycling centres.

Now, following government guidance, we are emerging from 'lockdown'. During 'lockdown' the council were extremely busy, especially in our duties to 'shield' vulnerable residents and look after our children in care, as well as working closely with our NHS colleagues to continue to provide key services across adult social care.



Just a few specific things - we ensured any homeless or rough sleeping people were housed. Food parcels were delivered by volunteers and volunteer groups and will continue to be delivered. Small/Medium Business Grants were paid to companies. Roads continued to be resurfaced and potholes repaired.

The council's organisation is now moving back to full working capacity, but as you can imagine the finances have been seriously impacted - as with most councils.

(continued)

At time of writing, we hear there have been 112 Covid-19 specific deaths in our Borough which is very sad news.

Schools are being re-opened, albeit with limits to the class size and only for certain age groups at present. Our officers have been working with each school making a bespoke plan to follow government guidance for the safe return of children to school.

In the meantime, the Lead Member for Children's Services on the council has contacted the Secretary of State for Education to seek support to urgently share the scientific evidence behind the recent guidance relating to the reopening of schools for the younger years of primary education.

We do recognise and support the need to get children back into school as soon as we are safely able but we understand the view expressed by many in the teaching profession who cannot reconcile the public health guidance relating to Covid-19 with the guidance to plan to open the younger years of primary education with far lower levels of infection control. We have asked the government, as a matter of urgency, to share that evidence so the teachers and parents can be reassured that what we are asking of the sector is safe and proportionate for all involved.

Our best wishes and hopes that you will all be safe

Andrew and Maureen

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Why take your kids to church?

We're all pretty busy these days and there are many other clubs and opportunities for our children, so why bother with church. Isn't it a bit outdated?

Well I could tell you about the fun – the games, the singing, the stories, the craft, seeing friends and having a good time. But I actually think the question we should be asking ourselves is not why take our children to church, but rather - *what do we want most for our children?* Perhaps happiness, love and success are some of the things on your list.

My girls are now 19 and 16 and my one *greatest* desire for them wasn't actually any of these things! Maybe you are a bit shocked and are wondering what kind of mother I really am! Please read on before judging me too harshly 😊.

My experience of life as a Christian is that God offers hope when my soul is weary, strength when I can't go on, peace when I am anxious, comfort when I am sad, a plan for my future, forgiveness for my shame and the joy of a clean slate to start afresh. Most of all love, He knows every part of me and loves me despite it all. In fact, He loves me so much He was prepared to come to earth, live as a human and die to pay the price for my rebellion against Him. I don't know anyone else who has loved me enough to die for me. Surely this is a God worth knowing and worth bringing my children to get to know?

My greatest desire was to give my children that chance, and bringing them to church was part of that. Church is a place to come and find out about God and decide for yourself.

Can I challenge you and your children to give church a try, it's easier than ever as you don't even have to leave your sofa! Join us online during lockdown for our weekly kids sessions and during the week for story time. It can't hurt and it could actually end up being the best choice you ever made.

Katie Croft

Children's Work Coordinator, White Waltham Church

Online Children's Sessions at White Waltham Church

Our children's sessions are pre-recorded and available via our website:

www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk.

On the home page scroll down and click on 'Families and Kids' and then choose 'Watch our Sunday Children's Sessions'.




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NEW LIFE

As some of you know, I regularly run around local roads and countryside so I've noticed a big change in traffic recently as there are far fewer cars commuting or taking children to school. But there are more dog-walkers, joggers, cyclists and families out strolling the area. So exercise is up – great news! And pollution is down – great news too!



As a result of Covid 19, we have all become much more friendly as we travel past each other with loads of good mornings or brief chats, at a safe distance. That positive result is also because we are not stuck in our car bubbles, where we only talk with the occupants. So in the future, we could use our feet or our bikes much more to maintain that restored way of interacting. That's part of what the Government is hoping to encourage us to continue, when life is back to normal.



All of us will have experienced social distancing queues in supermarkets and other places, as part of our new shutdown situation. As I write there has been a limit on who we can meet and where we can arrange to see friends or family.

It made me think about how life was managed in Jesus time when there was virtually no transport, just the odd donkey or maybe cart, or perhaps boat, and everyone expected to travel on foot – sometimes for hundreds of miles! There was probably no social distancing in Jesus time when there were clearly health problems, though lepers had to remain 'outside' the town limits unless the priest checked that they were clean once more. I wonder if other diseases or viruses might have also been around in addition.

There were a number of recorded examples where large crowds came together. On one occasion such an enormous throng gathered outside the house where Jesus was staying, that four friends had to climb onto the roof and break open a hole to let down their sick friend on a bed, for Jesus to heal.

Another of Jesus' miracles involved 5000 men being fed with bread and fish and that did not include the women and children! There were very large crowds cheering Jesus on when he came as King riding on a donkey on Palm Sunday. No social distancing required then!



But maybe the largest crowd of supporters and opponents would have gathered on Good Friday, along the route that Jesus staggered, or at the cross where he was crucified. In spite of all these gatherings we don't read of large-scale illnesses or diseases being around, but mainly individuals with some form of sickness or physical problem.

But of course we are all sick. We're sick spiritually. We have that disease called sin which is the way we fail to keep God's laws. That's what Good Friday is about. Jesus died on our behalf to bear the penalty for our sin which meant he had to die for us. But though he died, he broke the power of sin and death by rising again on that first Easter Day as the Bible explains. He proved that his power over evil and over death was unquestionable and unique.



Now there's a challenge for you to follow up on...!

You could check out John's gospel!

Or contact Rev Dave, who will be very pleased to talk to you.

Alternatively, you are very welcome to watch (or listen to) one of our weekly online services for adults, or our online children's sessions to help you too.

Bob Crittenden

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Children's page

Read this story and do the Wordsearch on the next page

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 17:1-50

The Philistine and Israelite armies faced each other. For 40 days, the gigantic Philistine champion, Goliath, taunted them.

Panel 1: I will fight the best soldier in Israel's army and if I win, you will be our slaves.

Panel 2: David's brothers were in Israel's army. He came to bring them food, and he heard Goliath.

Panel 3: David's brothers were not happy. You just came to watch the fight. Go back to your few sheep.

Panel 4: He is insulting God!

Panel 5: But David didn't stop..

Panel 6: We shouldn't be cowards. I will fight him!

Panel 7: I have killed lions and bears with God's help.

Panel 8: and King Saul heard what he said.

Panel 9: You don't stand a chance.

Panel 10: Then go ahead. You can wear my armour.

Panel 11: I can't move with all this on!

Panel 12: He took his sling and chose 5 stones from the stream bed.

Panel 13: Goliath couldn't believe what he saw.

Panel 14: So David took it off.

Panel 15: Do you think I'm a dog that you have come with a stick?

Panel 16: I have come to fight you in the name of the All-powerful God. The Lord always wins His battles.

Panel 17: David slung his stone and hit him on the head.

Panel 18: The Philistines ran away, chased by Israel's army.

Panel 19: As Goliath came forward..

Panel 20: Goliath fell down dead.

Wordsearch

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

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

soldier	heard	watch
insulting	stone	Israel
army	armour	chased
cowards	brothers	believe
lions	stick	slung
food	David	Philistines
Goliath	chance	slaves
Saul	battles	head

Independent Living

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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.



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All our services, children's sessions and other content are pre-recorded and can be watched via our website:

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)

For our Children's Sessions 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