

Parish News

Great Waltham Ford End Howe Street Littley Green North End

January - February 2017

Help to save your Parish News

The Parish News is independently produced each month by a team of volunteers. We are not part of the church, school or the Parish Council, although we support all of these by communicating their news to everyone who lives here. We work to help bring the community together, and are supported by a fabulous team of distributors who hand out the copies each month, as well as our advertisers, who make sure that the magazine always balances its books and can continue to be printed on a monthly basis.

Sadly, the future of the magazine is now under threat. The current volunteers cannot continue beyond April 2017. In spite of a previous appeal no one has so far come forward to take on the magazine. The situation is desperate and if no volunteers come forward, the magazine will need to cease production after April 2017.

The magazine takes around 20-30 hours per month to put together, as well as page layout and editing, it includes working with the advertisers, managing the finances and liaising with the printers and the distributors, who deliver all 1,000 copies each month for us. Its an enjoyable process to be part of, and you get to know everyone in the village!

We desperately want this successful and well-organised magazine to continue. There is quite a bit of work involved, and previously we have shared the work between a team of people, so that no one is committed to too much time.

If you can spare some time to help with the magazine, regularly or irregularly, please get in contact with Ann or Victoria on the contact details below.

Ann: 01371 820139 or Victoria 01245 364119

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED OR THE MAGAZINE COULD CLOSE.

Great Waltham Christmas Tree Festival

The 9th Christmas Tree Festival, organised by the church and the Community Network, was held on the weekend of 3rd and 4th December. Fourteen local clubs, businesses and preschool decorated trees on the theme of a children's book. The winning tree was by the Village Choir based on a child's book of carols. There were many other delightful and imaginative trees, such as the Legion's Harry Potter tree.

On Saturday there was a jolly and bustling market and fair. In the evening there was a sell-out Christmas Concert featuring the excellent Essex Police Brass Band, the school choir and readers, the Village Choir, Boreham Ladies' Choir and dancer, Hannah Thirkettle, from Sandon School. On Sunday, after the switch-on of the Parish Council lights at Banbury Square, there was an enchanting Christingle and a superb production of Oliver Twist.



The winning tree - children's carols by the Village Choir



Harry Potter tree by the Legion

Village Choir News

The Village Choir were in good voice as they performed as part of the "West End Magic" show in the Village hall on 18 & 19 Nov. The Choir also performed in the "Christmas Concert" on Saturday 3rd December.



From the Vicarage, Hope in the darkness

I stood in my kitchen in the early morning half light while the kettle boiled for my first cup of tea feeling fed up and tired. I have this cold that keeps going and going – this is at least its third week and I still feel dire. I know I'm not going to die, but it just drags on and on. Yesterday I had a minor argument with a parked car, and have written my car off – mind you when your car is as old as mine it doesn't take much – and I know people coping with a lot worse than that, so who am I to moan?

Things I had wanted to do - clearing up, getting things sorted haven't happened so I'm still sat in my messy office rather than the clean clear space I had envisaged in my mind. The New Year is only a few days old and it feels like the same old same old scrunginess.

When I talk to other people, things seem hard at the moment – it does seem to be getting dark so early, people are a bit depressed, struggling with getting going again into the New Year. And the thought that had popped into my head as I stood by the kettle was of the importance of hope in the darkness, hope when things look dire, or just a bit dingy and unrelenting. Hope is a candle that only really shines when it is dark. Hope that things will be ok, maybe not up to my expectations, but all will be well, even when it doesn't look like it. This too will pass. Hope for the future is so important in these dark days, hoping for spring, hoping for new life, hoping for what we cannot see at the moment.

I hear the reading love is patient, love is kind a lot – it is a favourite people choose but I heard something new in this reading the other day. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. It is love that bears these things. It is love that hopes. Love gives us what we need. I don't always feel very loving, but I don't think that's the same. So love hopes all things. Love for ourselves and other people.

I pray that you have hope at this dark time of year wherever you are, whatever you are going through. Sometimes the best we can do is to endure and to hope. It might not be very exciting but it keeps us going.

Hope in the darkness will be the theme of our healing service, a time of quiet, reflection, beautiful songs, lighting a candle, prayers for healing. Do come and join us on Sunday 22 January at 5pm at Great Waltham.

Great Waltham and Ford End Church of England Services

Sunday 15 January	9.30am	Communion	Ford End
	11.00am	Communion	Great Waltham
Sunday 22 January	9.30 am	Family Service	Ford End
	11.00am	Communion	Great Waltham
	5pm	Healing Service	Great Waltham
Sunday 29 January	10.30	Joint Communion	Little Waltham
Sunday 5 February	9.30am	Communion	Ford End
	11.00am	Communion	Great Waltham
Sunday 12 February	8am	Trad. communion	Great Waltham
	9.30am	Communion	Ford End
	11.00am	Family Service	Great Waltham
Saturday 19 February	9.30am	Communion	Ford End
	11.00am	Communion	Great Waltham
Sunday 26 February	9.30 am	Family Service	Ford End
	11.00am	Communion	Great Waltham
	5pm	Evening Space	Great Waltham
Family Services			
Come and follow Jesus!		22 Jan 9.30	Ford End
Love – and a christening		12 Feb 11am	Great Waltham
Amazing stuff up a mountain!		26 Feb 9.30	Ford End

Contact: Alison Bates Parish Administrator
Tel: 07957 228467 admin@littleandgreat.org.uk

Services and Events at Blackchapel, North End

JANUARY

Sun. 15 th	Gathering Service at Felsted Parish Church	11 am
Wed. 18 th	Prayer Meeting	Schoolroom 8.00 pm
Sun. 22nd	Morning Worship (cw) S. Merritt	
Wed. 25 th	Good Book Club	Schoolroom 1.20 pm
Sun 29 th	Worship at Felsted Parish Church	11 am

FEBRUARY

Sun. 5 th	Family Worship	P. Hamilton
Wed. 8 th	Good Book Club	Schoolroom 1.20 pm
Sun. 12 th	Holy Communion (bcp)	Rev S Bazlinton
Wed. 15 th	Prayer Meeting	Schoolroom 8.00 pm
Sun. 19 th	Holy Communion (cw)	Rev. Canon C. Sly
Wed. 22 nd	Good Book Club	Schoolroom 1.20 pm
Sun. 26 th	Morning Worship (cw)	J. Turton

bcp = Book of Common Prayer; cw = Common Worship
Enquiries: contact Mr P Hamilton on 01371 820095

Services & Events at Little Waltham United Reformed Church Jan & Feb 2017

Contact Rev Geoffrey Griggs 01245 471990

Services Each Sunday 10.30am – Sunday School during Morning Worship

Jan 15 th	Mike Shelbourne
Jan 22 nd	Rev Geoffrey Griggs HC
Jan 29 th	Rev Mark Meatcher
Feb 5 th	Charles de Lacy
Feb 12 th	Rev Mark Meatcher All Age - Bring & Share Lunch – Praise
Feb 19 th	Rev Geoffrey Griggs - Guides Thinking Day
Feb 26 th	Rev Geoffrey Griggs HC

Thurs Feb 2nd **Gossip & Guzzle 11am – 1.0pm**

Thurs Jan 12th & Thurs Feb 9th **Pippins Parent & Toddler Group**

Coffee Mornings in Schoolroom Sat 21st Jan & Sat 18th Feb, 10am

News from Up, Up and Away!

Up, Up and Away preschool finished the year off in 'sparkly knickers' fashion with the children's nativity performance, 'Going on a baby hunt'. Over 30 children took part and excelled themselves in learning a new song and singing their hearts out to a packed audience of family members. Our hardworking parent committee raised over £300 with raffle, refreshments, reindeer food, guess the weight of the cake, tattoos and face painting. We were entertained for another year by 'Imagination Station' puppeteer, Sarah Dodsworth, and the children took part in a puppet workshop before the show. Father Christmas also paid a visit to hand out presents to the children. The children and staff also took part in 'Wear your Slippers' week to raise funds for Shelter and raised £40 to help support their good work.

We start the New Year with a new member of staff, Jenni, and look forward to her becoming part of the team. We also welcome some new children and their families to preschool. The Toddler group continues to run on Tuesday afternoons and is open to all parents/carers of under 5's; please do come along 1.15- 2.45, a warm welcome guaranteed.

This term we shall be looking at Colours and Shapes and have lots of activities and resources to explore. We look forward to what the new year brings us.

Happy new Year from all the staff and children at Up, Up and Away Preschool.

Reverend Rose at St. Catherine's

Many of you will be aware that Rev Rose left Great Waltham parish in May and was given a three-month temporary appointment as an associate priest in Halstead, where she worked with the incumbent, Rev Katie de Bourcier, at the churches in Halstead, Gosfield and Greenstead Green. Well, she proved to be



Rev Rose becomes Associate Minister in Halstead. Spot who is 'bombing' the photo!

such an immediate hit with the parishioners that within a month they were asking for her to be allowed to stay. At first, Colchester diocese responded by extending her temporary appointment to six months. During that time, more and more requests were made for her to stay, with lots of support from Rev Katie and the PCC, until in November, the wishes of Rose and so many others were granted.

At a ceremony on the evening of 24th November, Bishop Roger of Colchester installed Rose as Associate Minister in the Halstead

Area Team, with responsibility for St Catherine's, the ancient country church in Gosfield. The church bells rang out to summon the worshippers to what was a glorious, happy, emotional ceremony, with a palpable feeling of love and good humour, helped along by Bishop Roger's infectious wit. The church was filled with well-wishers from the three churches and the local community, a great contingent from Great Waltham parish and Rose's family and friends. The ceremony was rounded off with the lighting of a catherine wheel firework in the church yard and then a wonderful reception in the church, with a splendid spread of refreshments laid on by the local people. When Rose finally left at 10:30pm, quite worn out by joy and emotion, she was heard to say words which completely summed up her dreams throughout the whole of her long journey into the priesthood, "my church".

Walthambury WI

Our meeting in December was another really jolly and fun Christmas party. We had a delicious meal prepared by Katy's Kitchen, a game of 'pass the parcel', which was hilarious, and also learned a version of The Twelve Days of Christmas with actions to all the verses, which again added to the hilarity of the evening.

Our first meeting in 2017 is on 10 January with a talk to be given by Sheila Bearman on 'Look Good Feel Better'. On 14 February we will welcome Robert Lodge who will give a talk on 'The History of Lodge Coaches'. Our members are looking forward to going out for a meal in January/February and also a visit to the theatre in London. Our meetings are held at 8.0pm in the Legion Hall, Great Waltham and visitors are welcome to come along.

Ford End Garden Club

The December meeting was a quiz, mainly on all aspects of gardening, that was prepared by several members of the club. Everyone really had to search the depths of their brains for answers and the cogs could be heard whirring away. It did prove that there is a great deal of gardening knowledge within the group. Fortunately, there were plenty of Christmas delicacies and drink to fortify us.

The 9th January will be the first meeting of 2017 with Peter Morris giving a talk on 'Growing Vegetables'. In February, Bill Butcher will be coming along on to tell the 'Story of the Gardens created by Alan Bloom at Bressingham'.

Meetings are held at the Village Hall, Ford End and start at 7.30pm.

Jean Sanders

Christmas comes to Ford End

Villagers in Ford End got together for a pre-Christmas celebration at the village hall in December, with mulled wine, warm mince pies, and a visit from Santa to switch on the Christmas tree. It was a great opportunity to friends and neighbours to meet up, and the children



Great Waltham Friendship Club

With Christmas music subtly playing in the background, members enjoyed a delicious Christmas meal provided by Katie's Kitchen of Ford End. Violet Ives and Josie Gerrish were thanked for their hard work in fundraising this year which made the meal possible, and perhaps a trip in the new year when things warm up a little.

There will be no meeting in January but please contemplate joining us in February. The Club meets on the third Monday of the month at the Legion Hall at 2:30.

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The PASSION of CHRIST, April 2017

AUDITIONS

Auditions for the Passion Plays will be held in St Mary
and St Lawrence Church, Great Waltham on
Saturday 21st January at 10.30am, and
Sunday 22nd January at 2.30pm.

All will be welcome, from any church or none!
For more information, to register an interest, or if you
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Ford End Dance Lessons start
again on Wednesday 18th January
and on 1st & 15th February. We
had a great last year thanks to
Wendy and Robert's relaxed way
of teaching and look forward to
learning more steps this year. If
anyone would like to join us then
do phone Sheila on 01245 237335

Ford End Ladies Tea

The next teas will be held at 2pm on
Monday, 16 Jan and 20th February,
at Woodstock, Church Lane, Ford
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Carols Ring out at Blackchapel!

On 18th December, Blackchapel held
their annual Christmas Carol Service.
The church looked even more beautiful
than usual, lit by candles and with its
decoration of garlands of holly and ivy.
The Christmas story was told again in
verse and passages from the Bible
chosen by the Good Book Club and a
packed congregation sang carols old and new.
Following the service,
everyone enjoyed a sumptuous tea and neighbourly get-together. Altogether
this was a truly joyous event.



BIG VILLAGE RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of the
Big Village Raffle who were:

N Murphy, Mr Pain, Sue Hartnell,
Marion Rising, Ryan Whiteman, Jan,
Lorraine McClements, Mr Neilson, Jill
Bilecki, Ian Leyde, Angela Arnold,
Judy Whicker, Lauren Radley.

The Community Network and the
Parochial Church Council would like
to thank everyone who donated
prizes.



Watch the birdie - book for the bird box workshop

Spring is just around the corner and to help our feathered friends get a head start, Great Waltham Horticultural Society is holding its annual Children's Bird Box workshop on Saturday, February 11. Suitable for youngsters age six and above, it's a chance for them to show off their decorating skills by painting, drawing and cutting out pictures to stick onto the ready-made boxes in plenty of time for birds to move in and start nesting as the weather finally turns warmer. The workshop starts at 2pm in Great Waltham Village Hall and booking is essential, as numbers are limited. It costs just £5 for the two-hour session and all materials are supplied. Please call Lucy Johnson on 364217 to reserve a place.

In the run-up to Christmas, the Society ran two successful events and took part in the Great Waltham Church Christmas Tree Festival. The Christmas Social Quiz proved a fun evening where copious amounts of mulled wine and mince pies were consumed and entrants showed off their gardening knowledge, including the unique music round. Members of the winning team each received a bottle of wine.

A wreath making workshop with Deb Hart was also held in December and attracted nearly 20 green-fingered participants. At the end of the evening, Deb presented a wreath to long-



standing Society stalwart Gerald Smith (pictured) to brighten up his front door in time for Christmas as. Lastly, the Society

promoted its activities by decorating a tree at church and, as part of the book theme, chose Lucy Leek and Bertie Brussels Sprout as its inspiration. The Christmas tree was covered in gold-painted sprouts, Christmas paper-wrapped leeks, bright red chillies and glittery carrots and corn for a very festive display.



From the County Council, A Break from Drinking in the New Year?

Essex County Council urge people to get their 2017 off to a positive and healthy start by signing up for "Dry January". This is a national initiative run by charity Alcohol Concern, to encourage people to sign up to go alcohol free for 31 days. A survey, conducted by Alcohol Concern, showed that 1 in 4 adults have been drunk in front of a child at Christmas! "Dry January" is a great initiative to help you get your 2017 off to a healthier start, so if you would like to know more visit www.dryjanuary.org.uk. Should you have concerns about this issue, the County Council has also designed an online tool which can tell you if your drinking is risky. An innovative alcohol screening, advice, intervention and referral website is available if you visit <https://dontbottleitup.org.uk/> For tips to help you cut down on your alcohol intake visit: <https://dontbottleitup.org.uk/worried-about-alcohol/tips-for-cutting-down>

Essex Energy Switch

This year's Essex Energy Switch opened on 6th December 2016 and will be running until 14th February 2017, giving residents an easy and hassle free option to find a better deal on their energy costs. This is a County-wide collective aiming to help residents and small businesses save money on their energy bills. After the successful switches of previous years, residents in Essex have saved over £2million through this Scheme. If you wish to find out more and sign up online you can do so at essex.gov.uk/energyswitch

If you have any problems about **County Council** matters please let me know on **01245 421524** email cllr.john.aldridge@essex.gov.uk and see my blog <http://dnn.essex.gov.uk/chairmanblog/Home.aspx>

News from Great Waltham C of E VC Primary School



The weeks leading up to Christmas were an absolute delight; Nativity plays, the Christmas Bazaar, Carol Service, School Christmas lunch to name a few of the fabulous events that brightened our days. Thanks to all the adults and children who worked so hard to make these events so successful. I am sure all the parents who attended our EYFS and KS1 Christmas plays will agree that they were fabulous – memories (and a few photos) that will last a lifetime.

A big thank-you to the Coopers' Company and Coborn School for sending their Year 12 students to deliver a pantomime to our children too; we were entertained by Dick Whittington.

The children all enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch, prepared so well by Mrs Williamson and her team. The staff enjoyed their lunch too after 'moonlighting' as waitresses and waiters for the children.

It was lovely to see such a packed church for our Carol Service. Again, the children contributed so well to make what is always a favourite church visit so special. Thanks to Mrs Tinsley and Revd. Caroline for helping in the preparations. The children acted, sang and spoke brilliantly and the orchestra played superbly too - Well done everybody! The annual hat making competition was lots of fun and very competitive. The hats were interesting to say the least!



The Spring term started in style, with KS2 enjoyed a drama workshop to reinforce their understanding of the Ancient Greek topic they studied in the autumn term. We will share updates with you during 2017.

Public Meeting with BT and Openreach 7.30pm, 21st February at Ford End Village Hall.

BT and Openreach have agreed to meet with the residents of Ford End to talk about the current issues in the village and future options for access to fibre (Superfast) Broadband.

Everyone is welcome.

(meeting arranged by Ford End Broadband Residents Committee)

Update on litter picking



Our small group of volunteers have been at work collecting litter and other rubbish in Great Waltham. Three of us spent a couple of hours clearing the left-hand roadside verge from Warners Farm to just past Dunmow Lane and collected eight sacks of rubbish. We also found a dead badger and arranged for the disposal of a dead deer!

There are two other volunteers working independently; one doing a weekly collection along Dunmow Lane, plus a regular collection at the recreation ground and vicinity, and another keeping the verge from Fanners Green to Humphreys Lane clear. If you would like to join us, or if you have any suggestions of badly littered areas, please contact me 01245 363965 or sarahjdickie4@gmail.com. We will be clearing the verge on the other side of the road in January.

Ford End Village Hall Bookings

Please note that the telephone number for making a booking at Ford End Village Hall has changed. The best number to use is 01245 237030, in the evenings. You can also use the previous number (01245 237555) if you wish but this is my business number, so it's a 'daytime only' number.

Sandra Brown (Bookings Secretary).

Great Waltham Parish Council

Clerk, W Adshead-Grant, Old Fire Station, Great Waltham, Essex CM3 1DF

Tel 01245 362638 clerk@greatwalthamparishcouncil.co.uk

19th December 2016 meeting: Chair of the Parish Council, Mike Steel, presided over the meeting. Representatives of the Parish News stated that there was a possibility that the delivered paper version may cease from April 2017 if further volunteers were not forthcoming. The Parish News will appeal for more volunteers in the Jan/Feb edition to address the 10 to 20 hours per month needed. The PC decided to await the outcome of the appeal.

CCC Cllr Knight stated that the black bin collection will change to fortnightly to save £450,000 pa.

The meeting accepted the proposal of the FG&P committee to set a PC precept of £44,000. Whilst this is an increase, it was noted that the PC had reduced it for 11/12 and 13/14 and held it constant from then, in spite of the reducing Government grant (to zero for 17/18).

It was agreed to seek permission from the allotment landowner for a compost pile for use by the Handyman.

Following the last meeting, it was agreed that Cllr Jackson would open a discussion with the landowner to improve the Brookmead cobbled area.

It was noted that the £100 goodwill offer to the owner of one of the garages adjacent to the GW recreation ground had been rejected. The January meeting of the Parish Council will be held at Ford End Village Hall **Monday 16th January 2016** commencing at 7.45pm. The Public and Press are welcome to attend. The agenda will be published on the Parish website and boards before the meeting.

News from Ford End School

The end of term was, as usual, a bit of a whirlwind of Christmas activities. Yet despite all the special events, we still managed to keep the work going right up to the last day of term. Our new method of teaching maths the Singapore way, certainly seems to have produced good results in terms of the degree of accuracy children achieved in end of term tests.

This year's Christmas plays were *Prickly Hay* performed by class 1 and the *Twelve Days of Christmas* performed by classes 2 & 3. The quality of the performances was stunning. It was touching to see the number of reception children, only in school for three months, who were able to stand on a stage in front of a large audience and speak their lines boldly and with feeling. They have already developed a huge amount of confidence. In the New Year, I am hoping that we will be able to put a recording of the children's singing on our website.



The PTA Christmas Fayre was once again a huge success. We held it on a Friday evening which seems to have been a popular time for people to attend. The Fayre raised over £1300 in two hours - what an enjoyable way to raise funds! I would like to thank all the people who were involved in planning, setting-up, running and clearing away the Fayre. Several worked incredibly hard all day to make it such a success- and that is in addition to all the work involved in getting everything ready before the day. Our PTA is truly wonderful. For the size of school, we have a large number of parents willing to get involved.

During the last fortnight of term, we went off to see *Jack and the Beanstalk*; entertained the elderly people at Leez Priory's friendship club meal; entertained parent -helpers and governors; were given a concert by Felsted School's brass ensemble and another for flute and piano; had our Christmas dinner and ended term with our Christmas service. Quite a cultural time!

So now 2017 is upon us. Who knows what that will bring?

Thank you for all of the contributions to this edition of 'Parish News'. Please send your contributions for the next issue by email to: articles@parish-news.co.uk. Enquiries and advertising requests should be sent by e-mail to: adverts@parish-news.co.uk