

Parish News

Great Waltham Ford End Howe Street Littley Green North End

February 2022

Memories of Christmas

Our two Churches burst into life in December. The month began with the Essex Police Concert and Christmas Tree Festival organized by the Community Network at Great Waltham followed by the Christmas Fayre held on Saturday 11th December. On Sunday 19th was the Nine Lessons and Carols followed a few days later by Midnight Mass. At Ford End a Crib Service was held outside on Christmas Eve with the Christmas Day Communion the next day. All this was in addition to the usual church services held every Sunday. Thank you to everyone who helped in every way Roger Bearman – Chair GWwithFE PCC 07740880247 More pictures of Christmas trees inside. Photographs below and inside by Barry Teader



Community Network Christmas Tree



Bridge House



The Stores decorated the shop and a Christmas Tree for the church



From the Vicarage

EARWORMS, DREAMS AND PROMISES

Do you ever wake up in the morning with a song in your head that you then can't get rid of for the rest of the day? I do too, and when that happens, I like to ponder on why *that* song in *that* moment? Perhaps our mood or events going on in our lives influence our 'earworm' songs, and subconsciously we are trying to work something out in our lives? My dreams too can shine a light on what may be bothering me, needs attention or is out of kilter in my life.

Less frequently, but more significantly, I might have a bible passage on my mind, one that then stays with me for weeks and then seems to crop up in conversations or books I am reading. Similarly, I have learnt to pay attention whenever this happens, because God is usually speaking to me through these 'earworm' bible verses.

This is the passage that has been cropping up for me since the start of 2022;

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41 verse 10)

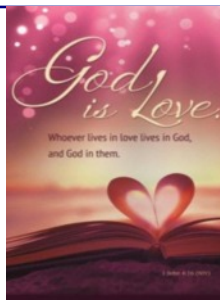
Each generation that has gone before us has welcomed new life, enjoyed abundance, experienced joy yet has also known grief, endured difficulty and at times felt immense sorrow. Being human means we will all experience these things in our lifetime. We enjoy the good times but when more challenging seasons roll in, we can become despondent, or even really fearful of the future or feel overwhelmed.

This short passage invites us, whatever hardships the world may be experiencing, to dare to dream of a brighter future, filled with possibility and hope. The whole world has suffered a common grief in varying degree, with some feeling that grief harder and much more directly and personally than others. The pain is real. We are living through extraordinary times, which will go down in history and be read about by those who follow us into this beautiful, sometimes terrible, world. There has been much sorrow and selfish behaviour, but we need to remember that there has also been much generosity, selflessness and kindness.

I am certainly not naïve about the challenges we face this year, both as individuals, as church, and as community - and yet these words from the the prophet Isaiah are a comfort and just the encouragement we need in such a time as this. So, whatever is going on in your life right now, why not slowly read those words again and allow their promise to sink into your heart. and look forward to how the Lord will bless us - and others through us - in the months and years to come.



Every blessing
Rev'd Sandra



Church of England Services in February 2022

Sunday 6th	11.00am	Communion	Great Waltham
Sunday 13th	9.30am	Communion	Ford End
Sunday 20th	10.00am	Community Worship	Ford End
	11.00am	Communion	Great Waltham
	11.00am	Communion	Chignals
Sunday 27th	9.30am	Communion	Ford End

Morning Prayer

is held every Monday at Ford End Church at 8.30am and every Wednesday at Great Waltham Church 9am.

Community Worship Sunday 20th February at 10am in Ford End Church.

This is informal Family Worship with a local focus for Ford End and Great Waltham families.

We look forward to welcoming you.

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

Services at Blackchapel, North End 2022

Services are now held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays in each month. There is no need to book your place.

All main services will be at 3.00 pm unless otherwise stated

February 6th and 20th

For further information contact Patrick Hamilton on 01371 820095

URC Little Waltham February 2022

Contact Rev Hans Stein 01371 875654/07763169605
Rev Geoffrey Griggs 01245 471990
Services 10.30am

February 6 th	Marina Price
February 13 th	Rev Geoffrey Griggs
February 20 th	Rev Hans Stein
February 27 th	Rev Hans Stein. H.C

Thursday February 3rd Coffee & Cake 10am 12 noon
Saturday 19th Coffee Morning 10 am to 11 am

Here we go again!



On Saturday 15th Jan, residents of North End and Onslow Green woke up to discover that they had no phone lines and no internet! This situation was made much worse by the fact that our mobile phone reception varies from very poor to non-existent! Reporting a fault is no mean feat these days as customers are advised to go online – How? The providers insist that you must be at home when reporting the fault so they can run line checks etc. although most people have no means of accessing the internet, even on a mobile phone, without standing in the garden or walking further down the road until you get a signal! Even the supposed voice phone numbers to report a fault rapidly revert to a text system, thus excluding anyone without the skills to operate it.

The reason for the problems soon became clear; around midnight on Friday, someone had driven so hard and fast down Mill Road from Felsted that they failed to make the sharp bend at Absol Bridge and cannoned into the telegraph pole so hard that it split in half and snapped the phone and fibre cables! (See photo). By morning, there was no sign of the driver and most of the vehicle, but there was a very large dent in the base of the pole whilst the rest of the pole was folded in half, leaving broken cables decorating the

verge. Even the BT engineer who came out said that he had never seen a pole quite like that before – and it is quite a new pole because something very similar happened about five years ago.

With kind permission from the Marriage family, a temporary repair across the field gateway was made on Sunday, resulting in some residents being in the unusual situation of having superfast broadband but no phone. The copper phone cables were reconnected on Monday; but this is all temporary and, at some stage, it will be necessary to close the road, fit a new telegraph pole and make a permanent reconnection.

This is the point at which it all went wrong the last time this happened for although most people were reconnected, they were not connected to the correct numbers! For several weeks whilst BT Openreach tried to sort out the mess, people were taking messages for their neighbours, someone was even taking orders for a local business and relaying them via mobile phones! We are hoping for better luck this time.....

Ford End Senior Tea

Happy New Year to all. It was very sad that we had to cancel our Christmas Party but it helped to keep us all safe. I have decided that we will have a summer party tea instead. So let's look forward to a lovely sunny day together. This month of February I would like to invite anyone who feels comfortable to join us on Monday 14th at 2pm at Woodstock for a cup of tea and cake.

The situation with Covid seems to be improving again but if you are still concerned then please do not feel obliged to come. We will look forward to seeing you another month.

Please let me know if you are coming so I can make enough cake. Sheila 01245 237335



The Church
Christmas
Tree

Church Matters

In both churchyards at Great Waltham and Ford End all the Lime trees have been pollarded and yes, the Great Waltham works did not go so well but at the time of writing the Lime Walk is looking back to its' best. This is thanks to Peter Sheldrake, the Churchwardens and some other kind residents who rolled up their sleeves and helped tidy up the area.

It is great to see the village communities getting back to something that resembles normal again. We are already planning events for this coming year, some with the Churches at the centre and others in conjunction with our village groups. If you are interested in helping with the church events or can assist us with the care and maintenance of the buildings or churchyards please contact the Churchwardens or me. A few people chipping in couple of hours a month makes such a difference

Enjoy our new found freedom, God Bless

Roger Bearman – Chair GWwithFE PCC

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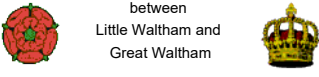
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Good Easter Village Hall
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FORD END GARDEN CLUB



Many members who planted hyacinth bulbs brought them along in bloom for judging by our speaker Donna Wallings from the Longacres Garden Centre in Springfield. Ann Prince's hyacinths were judged to be the best.

Donna spoke about the selection of winter flowering plants and shrubs that she brought along. Some of these were scented and just a few sprigs of the evergreen shrub Sarcococca will scent a room. The outdoor plant section of Longacres is undergoing some improvements at present but these will be finished by Easter.

At our February meeting on the 16th, Donna will be bringing along a very experienced gardener, Mark Mason, to give a talk on all aspects of cultivation. Meetings are held in the village hall at Ford End and start at 7.30.



Little Waltham Gardening Club

2nd MARCH - Annual General Meeting, plus discussion of the Spring Show Schedule

SATURDAY 9th APRIL - SPRING SHOW. This Show is open to non members, with no entry charge. Notifications of entries should be made to me by WEDNESDAY 6th APRIL.

Classes include Spring flowers, vegetables, cookery, craft and flower arranging.

Schedules available from mail@marionandpeter.plus.com

It would be good to have lots of entries to welcome in the Spring!

Maggie Williams 01245 360042

Walthambury Women's Institute



At our meeting last month the first for 2022. Amanda Sutherland told us about her 'Creative Journey' Amanda brought with her many examples of her work including hats, scarves and gloves, all of which were for sale.

After refreshments Ann our President outlined the problems we are facing in recruiting new committee members.

Our next meeting Tuesday 8th February at 7,.30 in the British Legion Hall, our speaker is Dorothy O'Grady, her subject is "Ways with Wrapping".

We look forward to as many members as possible joining us. As always new members and guests are always welcome.



Right: Up Up and Away Playgroup Christmas Tree



Left: the British Legion Christmas

News from Great Waltham C of E VC Primary School

Happy New Year to all the Parish News readers. We look forward to sharing news with you during 2022.



We ended the autumn term with many staff and pupils off school due to Covid 19. Thankfully, we have seen an improvement post-Christmas and attendance is on the rise.

The children are excited to be learning new topics.

KS1 are learning about the Great Fire of London - a history based topic with many super opportunities for children to learn across the curriculum. They have a 'theme day' booked and that will be an undoubted highlight, where they can dress up.

In KS2, children are learning about Extreme Earth - volcanoes, earthquakes etc.

Evie M in Y6 said "I am enjoying learning about the exciting but sadly traumatic things that can happen because of our extreme Earth".

Our lifelong Value for this half-term is Perseverance. In Collective Worship we shared the story of Moses and Exodus. Many of our ASPIRE certificates are given out for Perseverance - we have so many hardworking pupils. Each week, one child from each class who has worked hard is chosen for 'Hot Chocolate Friday' – a warm drink at Friday break time!

In January, we entered an indoor 5 a side football competition for Y3/4 pupils. We took a squad of 7 players and played all the other schools in the competition – so 7 games. We ended up with a proud record of five wins, one draw and only one defeat. That placed us second in the standings and the children were excited to receive their silver medals and certificates. Henry H in Y4 scored 7 goals and was our player of the tournament. Well played all of you.



Year 6 children have entered their final two terms and are busy preparing for their end of primary school assessments in May – SATs. Many of them attend a revision class on Fridays to practice their core skills in English and maths. We wish them all good luck as they continue their journey towards high school.

Ford End Primary School



Spring is in the air and we are half way through the second term of this academic year. The school has increased in numbers and we are delighted to say that we have welcomed 10 new children last term.

We have enjoyed taking part in competitive sports. We have designed a new football kit for our school in our school colours. It is great to see that we can visit other schools again since restrictions have been lifted and we can play competitively against each other. Well-being and keeping fit is also important to us and we will be completing a whole school Cheering Leading Day with all our children and staff this month, to help us stay fit and positive. We are still celebrating our 'Good' judgement in our SIAMS church inspection and it has encouraged us to look into social injustice even further. As this is one of our targets, we continue to speak about the Food Bank in our school and the way we can support the Chelmsford Food Bank monthly.

New Smart Boards were installed in our school in

every classroom recently, by our trust LIFE Education Trust, and we all love the new technology. Come and visit us at any time by calling 01245 237209.

Best wishes, Maire O'Regan Executive Headteacher

The VILLAGE CHOIR



Have you met anyone who is in the Choir? If so you may well have been impressed at their enthusiasm for belonging to it and the great songs we sing.

So far this year the songs we have been singing include Fats Waller's, 'Ain't Misbehavin', 'Thank You for the Music,' 'You Raise Me Up,' 'You'll Never Walk Alone,' 'The Wind Beneath My Wings,' and 'Over The Rainbow,' from "The Wizard of Oz," ~ all great fun to sing.

Under the guidance of Toni Cooper, our talented and fun loving musical director, we meet every Thursday at 7.00 pm in the School. We also aim to perform at least 2 concerts a year, Covid permitting. They are fairly informal, one usually combined with a BBQ at the School in the summer and of course the Christmas Concert in the church where we share the evening with the Essex Police Band and others.

Admission is £7 a session including coffee in the interval, however, for newcomers your first evening is FREE. No auditions. No solos. Tempted to join the fun? Come along and give it a try. You won't regret it! Further enquiries then give Malcolm a call on 01245 on 360149



Parish News ~ Treasurer Wanted Do you have any spare time?

In April, our long-standing Parish News treasurer is retiring and we are looking for a replacement. This voluntary and vital role requires a proactive approach, including liaising with our advertisers, managing the bookings and renewals spreadsheet, and handling the advertising accounts. The Parish News operates on a purely not-for-profit basis, meaning our advertising income is essential to cover our printing costs. Ideally, we would like someone who can also help us attract new advertisers to help secure future income and keep the parish presses running. The role requires around 4 hours a month with support from the editorial team.

Knowledge of Excel and/or Dropbox is an advantage but not essential.

If you are interested, please email gwparishnews@gmail.com for more details.



The Parish Council Christmas Tree



The Great Waltham Village Choir Christmas Tree

Great Waltham Parish Community Care Group

The aim of the group is to provide short term and ongoing help to meet the needs of elderly local residents for whom there is no statutory provision. Predominately this will involve providing transport to doctor or hospital appointments.

If you require the services of the group, please call our co-ordinators who are:

Gill Mitchell 01245 362215
Wendy Proctor Tel. 01245 360483
John Lattimore, Chairman Tel. 01245 363818

Thank you for all of the contributions to this edition of Great Waltham Parish News. Please send your contributions for the next issue, together with any enquiries or advertising requests, by e-mail to: gwparishnews@gmail.com.

The last date for inclusion in the March issue is February 17th.