

Parish News

Great Waltham Ford End Howe Street Littley Green North End



December 2024 - January 2025



The Wicked Vicar of Waltham



This is a true story about the Reverend George Somers Clarke who died in Chelmsford Gaol, following a life of distress caused to his family, Great Waltham residents, and clients of the Six Bells Inn. The play put on by Great Waltham Parish Productions (GWPP) on 22nd and 23rd November at GWVH, told about his early life at Trinity College, his ambition to rewrite the Bible (but first in its original Hebrew), his attempt to separate GW Church and Tavern with a ditch, his prosecution by the Church of England, and subsequent incarceration in Chelmsford Gaol. The evening was a great opportunity for the residents of the GW Parish to learn about some of the darker aspects of the village.

Mike Steel – GWPP Publicity.

Christmas Pudding Workshop

Forty happy women, men and children made Christmas puddings on Stir-Up Sunday, 24th November, at the village hall. The event was the 6th workshop run by Great Waltham Community Network - and it must be good, because many of the cooks come time and time again! In the interval, there was a funny Christmas quiz, prizes for the best aprons and the village choir entertained us with carols. At the end of the afternoon, everyone went home with their very own, home-made, Christmas pudding, ready to steam and save till Christmas day.



Late Bonfire and Halloween Quiz



The GW Twinning Association ran a late bonfire and Halloween themed quiz. It played to a full house at Great Waltham Village Hall with 65 people of all ages in 8 teams. If you have ever been to one of Mike Steel's quizzes, you will know that they are not just a series of questions and answers, but also include entertainment, music and cryptic questions. The music round tested the audience's knowledge of intros to fire related pop songs, and the 3 witches sketch entertained the crowd, and pondered how to make a potion that would make Mike attractive to women! The winning team was "Bridge that Gap" who only won by 1 point above "Les Entranges". The Twinning Association will run another quiz in Feb 2025, so watch out for the adverts.

Mike Steel, Quizmaster

The Village Remembers Them





Comfort and Joy

The Christmas Carol 'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen' dates back as far as the 1650's, although the full current version wasn't published until 1855. Around this time, a journalist complained that in London no other Christmas song can be heard except, "...some croaking ballad-singer bawling out God rest ye merry gentlemen." It's the archetypal Dickensian festive melody even name-checked in his 1843 novella A Christmas Carol. In contrast to many of the sombre hymns of this time, it was a popular singalong.

In more recent years, merry is misrepresented as an adjective modifying gentlemen but its original form attached it more to the verb - rest. In fact, the carol's title is taken from a common salutation dating back as far as the 1530's "God rest ye merry". The word 'rest' was understood to mean sustain or continue, so this greeting simply wished the receiver to be kept in good spirits. The carol translates as a beautiful prayer for the hearer, wishing them hope against despair. The lyrics tell something of the Jesus story and how love can conquer hatred.

In an era seemingly fraught with endless bad tidings, might we join the centuries' old seasonal singalong declaring comfort and joy. More than that, may we seek to be the manifestation of these things to those we come across. May we look to be bearers of comfort and joy, to be those who enable friend and stranger to stay in good spirits this Christmas.

Rev'd Dan Pierce

Church of England Services

December 2024

Sunday 1st	11.00am	Gracefields Communion	Gt Waltham
Sunday 8th	11.00am	Communion	Ford End
	4.15pm	Christingle	Gt Waltham
	(4.15 by the War Memorial and 4.45 in church)		
Sunday 15th	9.00am	Communion with Carols, Chignals	
	11.00am	Communion	Gt Waltham
Sunday 22nd	10.00am	Family Service	Ford End
	3.00pm	Nine Lessons & Carols	Gt Waltham
Tuesday 24th Christmas Eve			
	3.00pm	Crib Service	Chignals
	4.00pm	Crib Service	Ford End
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass	Gt Waltham

Wednesday 25th Christmas Day

	10.00am	Christmas Day Service	Ford End
Sunday 29th	11.00am	Joint Communion	St Mary's Gt Leighs

Still Waters every Thursday Evening 6.00pm – 6.30pm held at St Martin's Little Waltham

"An oasis of calm in our otherwise busy lives". Please join us

January 2025

Sunday 5th	11.00am	Gracefields Communion	Gt Waltham
Sunday 12th	11.00am	Communion	Ford End
Sunday 19th	9.30am	Communion	Chignals
	11.00am	Communion	Gt Waltham
Sunday 26th	10.00am	Family Service	Ford End

Still Waters every Thursday Evening 6.00pm – 6.30pm held at St Martin's Little Waltham

"An oasis of calm in our otherwise busy lives". Please join us

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

Please visit our website for further information: -
<https://www.greatwalthamchurch.org.uk>

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Little Waltham United Reformed Church

Minister: Rev. Hans Stein - 07763 169605

December 2024

1st - Rev. Hans Stein at 10.30a.m.
8th - Rev. Hans Stein at 10.30a.m.
15th - Frances Couch at 10.30a.m.
22nd - Julie Warner and Moira Walker at 10.30a.m.
Tuesday 24th - Christmas Eve - Carols by Candlelight 4.00p.m.
25th - Christmas Day - Marina Price 10a.m.
29th - Marina Price (Holy Communion) 10.30a.m.

January, 2025

All services at 10.30a.m.

5th - Rev. Hans Stein
12th - Charles De Lacy
19th - Marina Price
26th - Rev. Hans Stein

Services at Blackchapel, North End

December 2024

Sunday 1st	Communion service at 3pm
Sunday 22 nd	Carol service at 4pm
Wednesday 25 th	Christmas Day service at 10am

January 2025

Sunday 5 th	Family service in Blackchapel at 3pm
Sunday 19 th	Joint service at Felsted Church at 11am

SANTA'S COMING TO TOWN



Santa and his helpers are planning to visit **FORD END** on Sunday 15th December.

On Monday 16th December his reindeers will take him to The Rose and Crown 5.15pm

BROADS GREEN – Walnut tree 6.20pm

GREAT WALTHAM

School/Hatchfields 6.30pm

Wolmers Hey/Hatchfields 6.35pm

RayMead/Hatchfields 6.40pm

Dlckeymoors/Hatchfields 6.45pm

Beehive/Walthambury Stores 6.55pm

Mashbury Road 7.05pm

Cherry Garden Rd/Barrack Lane 7.15pm

Cherry Garden Rd/Blossom Way 7.20pm

HOWE STREET

Parsonage Lane/Lucks Lane 7.35pm

Green Man 7.45pm

All times are approximate but listen and you will hear him coming.

He is coming by invitation of the Mildmay Rotary Club .
Donations to provide festive cheer will be collected by Santas elves.

Book the date in your diary NOW



Walthambury WI

This month has had a crafting theme! Members were invited to craft poppies in any medium to decorate the Legion Hall ready for Remembrance Day. The hall looked splendid with our creations, the centre piece being knitted and crocheted poppies sewn onto netting. Our November meeting was an Embossed Metal workshop run by our very own Norah Fitzwater, a fun and productive evening, enabling us to make several foil Christmas decorations. A theatre trip to see Tina the Musical at the Aldwych is also planned.



Church Star and Banbury Square Christmas Lights

I would like to thank my team who join me every November to put up the star on the GW Church (and take it down in January). This year, we are also improving the Christmas lights on the oak tree in Banbury Square. Thank you to the Parish Council for funding the new tree lights, Garwood's Tree Services for installing the lights for free, <https://garwoodstreeservices.co.uk/>, Willsher and Son for free electrical installation <https://willsherandson.co.uk/>, and Badyngams for use of their electricity. **Mike Steel**



From your County Cllr, Mike Steel:

ECC aren't in charge of the bus franchises, but they supplement services where bus companies don't serve, usually because the number of passengers make it unviable. ECC try to fill these gaps, and Digigo has been very successful as an on-demand service.



Many people use the on-line app, but for those that are not able to do so, they can phone up. The phone lines have now been extended and are available from 9.00am - 5.00pm, Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays)
The new Digigo phone line number is: 0345 603 7633

Visit to GW by our MP Kemi Badenoch



On 22nd Nov, Kemi joined our County Cllr, Mike Steel, landowner Alexander Micklem and farmer Charlie Micklem, to emphasise her opposition to the pylons through the "Waltham Gap". We jointly continue to oppose the proposition of pylons spoiling our countryside, along with Essex County Council. We are pushing for alternatives, but recognise that the most viable would be underground alternating cable (AC) through the Waltham gap. Whilst this might cause much disruption in the short term, it would be better in the long term.

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Until the 19th century, education in England was mostly linked to religious institutions or funded by wealthy donors. The Education Act of 1870 made a commitment to the provision of education to all on a national scale.



The Hundred Parishes has some fine examples of schools that were founded prior to this time and continue to educate young people today. Felsted School was founded in 1564 by Richard Rich, the first Baron Rich. Under Henry VIII, he accumulated immense wealth whilst overseeing the dissolution of the monasteries, and he was later appointed Lord Chancellor of England under King Edward VI.
Ken McDonald, Secretary

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North End Autumn Litter Pick

On a fine Saturday in October, a group of hardy Northenders sallied forth to clear the lanes of the litter that had collected since the Spring. It was decided to exclude Mill Road this time because of the very high volume of traffic along this almost single track road due to the closure of the road linking Felsted to Dunmow, which has been in place for two months! The usual assortment of detritus was collected. Sadly, this included another large cache of nitrous oxide cylinders - but at least we now know where to take them for safe disposal!

Many thanks must go to Colin and Lezley McRae for organising the event and providing the gallant litter pickers with very welcome refreshments.



FORD END GARDENING CLUB

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the passing of our very dear friend and founder, Alan Adcock. Alan ran the club for many years, booked wonderful speakers and organised the plants for our annual plant and coffee morning. We will all miss his banter and knowledge on gardening and the countryside.

At our November meeting, Stephanie Callister-Jarrold talked about the work of Hedgehog Haven Essex, which has rescue centres for hedgehogs in Witham and Frinton. The numbers of hedgehogs in the wild has fallen from 40 million in the 1950's to less than one million. There are 17 different types of hedgehog, they have 6,000 spines and will survive three years in the wild. They are able to climb trellis and ivy and hibernate only when the weather is cold. The eyesight of the hedgehog is poor, their hearing good and their sense of smell excellent. Hedgehogs make more than one nest and breed from April to June, and also September to November. We need to encourage hedgehogs into our gardens, so please no slug pellets or insecticide. They cannot tolerate milk, so just leave a shallow bowl of water for them and dry cat or dog food; but special feed for hedgehogs is readily available. Also, mealworms are not good for hedgehogs or birds as they will affect the bones of both species. Small log piles can be arranged for the hedgehogs and homes can be built or purchased.

We are having a social evening on Wednesday 18 December, during which we will be planning forthcoming meetings and talking about speakers we would like to have and also outings to gardens. Please bring along refreshments, drinks and, if you have anything for the raffle, that would be welcomed.

Our January meeting is on Wednesday 15th and we will be judging the indoor hyacinths that we have planted. Meetings start at 7.30pm and are held in Ford End village hall.

Little Waltham and Great Notley Surgeries Patient Participation Group

As a PPG we have become increasingly concerned about the rate of housing development in the area supported by appropriate levels of healthcare. We have been fortunate enough to have presentations from the ICB and senior planners from which it appears that there are two major problems facing us all. Firstly, Health is not a statutory consultee for planning purposes unlike Highways and Education so has no input into the planning aspects of new developments. Secondly, pressure is being placed on existing surgeries by the requirement to complete a development before any new provision can be put in place. Bearing in mind the current government's determination to proceed with new housing developments, we are engaging with the National Association of Patient Participation Groups to see if collectively we can put pressure on ministers to bring about change in the procedure.

On another note, the surgery's new website is now up and running which we hope everyone is finding more accessible.

We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

LITTLE WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB November 2024

At the November meeting, Matt Oliver gave an excellent presentation on 'Unusual Edibles'. Having gained years of experience in the 'Global Growth' vegetable garden at RHS Hyde Hall, Matt described some interesting, unusual and challenging crops that he had grown. These crops originated from all parts of the world, such as the Mediterranean, China, Japan and South America and each one required specific conditions in which to thrive.

In the face of climate change, it was reassuring to hear that research into growing some crops to give greater yields is underway. If potatoes, rice, maize and other staples are at risk due to changing weather patterns, it's good to know that other crops are being developed to fill the gap.

In December, members will be enjoying a festive meal at a local pub.

There will no meeting in January.

Regular evening meetings begin on Wednesday 5th February 2025, 7.30pm, Little Waltham Memorial Hall. The subject will be 'SOIL, or GEOLOGY with WORMS' by Ian and Ros Mercer. Visitors very welcome.

For more information, please phone M. Williams 01245 360042 or see:

www.littlewalthamgardeningclub.co.uk

Ford End Senior Christmas Tea

Please let me know in good time if you are joining us on **Monday 9th Dec at 3pm** for our Christmas party tea. I can arrange a lift if required. I may have a couple of extra guests to help me and chat to us all.

Our January Tea will be on Tuesday 28th January.



A Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.
Sheila Bearman 07977 077945



GREAT WALTHAM

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

at Great Waltham Church

Saturday 7th Dec 11am – 4pm

CHRISTMAS FAIR & MARKET

View the Christmas trees decorated by local clubs and enjoy the stalls, games and refreshments

Saturday 7th Dec 7.00pm for 7.30pm

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or J Steel 360918, or at the door.

Sunday 8th Dec 1.00 onwards

1-4pm TREES - view the trees again, refreshments.

4.15/4.30 TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Magnificent new lights & Santa at Banbury Square

5pm CHRISTINGLE



Ford End School Governor

Are you interested in playing an important part in the quality of education at Ford End Primary School? Would you like to work with other professionals to ensure the education we provide is of the best quality? We are looking for an individual who is passionate about the education of our children and who, working with other school governors; monitor the quality of education, scrutinise the views of stakeholders, monitor information on pupil progress and attainment and monitor Safeguarding and SEND and progress towards school development priorities.

- Governors are appointed by the Board of Trustees and serve a term of 4 years.
- There are generally 6 meetings a year (during term time in the evenings) and one Saturday training day.

If you would like to know more about the role or the Local Governance Committee, prior to applying, please contact the Trust Governance Professional by email to khardy@lifeeducationtrust.com

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Ford End C of E Primary School

On November 11th, the pupils from Ford End went to Church to commemorate Remembrance Day, along with residents of the village. The pupils in Year 6 delivered readings about the origins of Remembrance Day and why people wear poppies. Mr Bearman gave a most informative talk about what life was like for people in Ford End during the wars. We were very sad to learn how many men had gone to war and never returned home. We heard how evacuees came to the village, and how everyone grew their own fruit and vegetables to support the war effort. Our act of worship included the hymns Jerusalem and Dear Lord and Father of Mankind, which the children sang beautifully. Mrs Bearman said "We thoroughly enjoyed it. There was great input from the children". Roger said that it was a delight seeing all their little faces looking at him and listening. Our Head Prefects laid a wreath on behalf of our school community, which was generously paid for by our PTA. It was a lovely occasion which helped us learn a lot more about the history of Ford End.



Mrs M Taylor and Miss J Bailey

Best Apron Competition

At the Christmas Pudding Workshop, that was held in the Village Hall on the 24th November, there was a competition for the best Christmas Apron.

Here are some of the winners.

Second Best Apron

Best Apron



Best Child's Apron



World Day of Prayer 2025

Friday 7th March 2025

11.00am

St John's Church, Lt Leighs

"I have made you wonderful"

All are welcome

Coffee Morning Blackchapel, North End



Come and join your neighbours for a coffee and chat

Last Wednesday in the month

10.30 - 12.00

Your help is needed

To help in its project to revamp the children's play area at Great Waltham recreation ground, the Parish Council needs your views and insights. Our survey can be accessed using the QR code shown or going to this website: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LRH9ZBW>.



No personal data will be collected. We ask about use of the existing facilities and for your ideas on the future. Please take the time to complete it to help shape the design. If you require a hard copy of the survey please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@greatwalthamparishcouncil.co.uk, or by post at: The Pavilion, Great Waltham Recreation Ground, South Street, Great Waltham, Chelmsford, CM3 1DF.

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 01245 360483
John Lattimore, Chairman 01245 363818

Waltham Wanderers

The next walks are planned for:

Sunday 15th Dec
Sunday 19th Jan.

All are welcome, no fee and enjoy walking about 5 or so miles. If you're interested in joining us, contact Clare Lyne at clare.lyne11@googlemail.com



Great Waltham Parish Council

Clerk, W Adshead-Grant, The Pavilion, Great Waltham Recreation Ground, South Street, Great Waltham, CM2 1DF. Tel: 07880 717329. email: clerk@greatwalthamparishcouncil.co.uk

This is a summary of some of the items discussed at the October monthly meeting of the Parish Council. For more details, see the full and approved minutes of all Council meetings, available on the Parish Website (e-voice.org.uk/greatwalthamparish).

We received a proposal, from the Community Network and others, to advance the previously agreed request to finance and help facilitate the installation of new Christmas lights on the tree at Banbury Square. We agreed to purchase the lights and noted the intention to have a switching-on event on 8th December.

Mike Steel, our City and County Councillor, updated us on the motion that he sponsored at the ECC meeting on 15/10/2024 which included a call for central government to fully fund infrastructure requirements as part of the planning framework. The issue is one we, too, have highlighted in the past when commenting on large scale strategic housing developments in the Chelmsford area.

In relation to the National Grid (NG) pylons project, we agreed to join other member councils of the NW & SW of Chelmsford Parishes Group in contributing to the cost of commissioning a detailed landscape assessment report which will look to provide further analyses of the effects that pylons will have on our parishes if NG maintains its plans to introduce them as part of the project.

We agreed to install a new donated seat at Great Waltham recreation ground and to install additional goalpost sockets at Ford End and Howe Street recreation grounds to help manage wear of the goalmouth areas.

We also updated our Media Relations Policy so that we can speed up the process for making any public statements. This will apply especially to social media, where we can now offer more immediate context and insight, without having to wait to secure a formal meeting resolution before doing so.

Village Green, Church Lane, Ford End

You will be aware, from the minutes of recent Parish Council meetings, that the Parish Council is objecting to an adverse possession claim which has been made to HM Land Registry for ownership of VG150, the village green, located at the southern end of Church Lane, Ford End, adjacent to the location of the old Spread Eagle pub (see Google aerial shot showing the land involved). The Council is the current owner of the land.

To assist in its objection, the Council is looking to obtain further statements from local residents concerning their past and present use of the land for recreational purposes; for example, as part of a route taken when exercising or dog walking, or any recollections of use of the area for leisure activities. This will help the Council to broaden its evidence base to show that for many years the green has been (and remains) an area utilised by local residents.

If you would like to submit a statement or discuss the matter further, please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@greatwalthamparishcouncil.co.uk.



FORD END
CHRISTMAS
FAYRE

SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER
2 - 5:30PM

GIFT STALLS
REFRESHMENTS
FESTIVE RAFFLE
TOMBOLA
SANTAS GROTTO

to book a stall at the Fayre or pre book Santa slots please
email EVENTSFE@yahoo.com
or via facebook @fordenders

all proceeds go to
Ford End Village Hall

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 February issue is January 24th 2025