



## December 2025- January 2026

**We would like to wish a very happy Christmas and New Year to all parishioners, volunteers who deliver the Parish News to your door and advertisers.**

### Remembrance Sunday at Ford End

On Sunday 9th November, with the falling Autumn Leaves around the Ford End War Memorial, the British Legion Pipers and Standard Bearer and villagers arrived to take part in the Ceremony to remember those who lost their lives in wars of the past.

This was followed by a Remembrance Sunday Service in the Church. The altar was draped with a beautiful cloth of hand printed poppies and with a red Cross beneath. Both were made by the children from the Ford End Child Care Group. **We will remember them.**



**And Great Waltham**



### Inside this months Great Waltham Parish News

Local club updates, upcoming Christmas activities including **when Father Christmas visits the Parish page 7**, Chelmsford Local Plan Review in Ford End page 7, parish council news, church notices, local events and more than **two pages of adverts for almost every need.**



Seasons greetings. Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Peace on earth and good will to all seems like a perfect message to be promoting now more than ever. Looking forward to seeing

people at the Christmas tree festival on Saturday 6th 11-4 and at the Christingle on Sunday 7th at 5 in church. Watch out for all the other festivities! While it's not my first Christmas as vicar here it is our first Christmas actually living in Great Waltham and we can't wait. I pray you have a beautiful one with joy, thanksgiving and bundles of cheer for 2026. Bring it on. Every conceivable blessing. Dan.

## GREAT WALTHAM

### CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

at Great Waltham Church

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 11am – 4pm**

#### CHRISTMAS FAIR & MARKET

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

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 7.00pm for 7.30pm**

#### CHRISTMAS CONCERT

##### ESSEX POLICE BAND

##### AND VILLAGE CHOIR

Tickets: Adult - £7, children - £2 from Walthambury Stores (cash only), or J Steel 360918, or at the door

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 2.30pm onwards**

**2.30pm - 4pm TREES** - view the trees again, refreshments.

**4.15pm/4.30 TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY**

Lighting up ceremony & arrival of Santa at Banbury Square

**5pm CHRISTINGLE**

Enchanting event for children and adults alike. Free mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

Organised by Great Waltham Community Network and Parochial Church Council

### Services at Blackchapel, North End December and January 2025/6

December 7th at 3pm

**December 21st at 3pm Carol Service**

**December 25th at 10 am**

January 18th at 3pm

### Coffee Morning Blackchapel, North End



Come and join your neighbours for a coffee and chat

Last Wednesday in the month

10.30 - 12.00



## Church of England Services

### December and January 2025/26

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Communion	Great Waltham
	5.00pm	Christingle	Great Waltham
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Communion	Ford End
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	11.00am	Communion	Great Waltham
	3.00pm	Nine Lessons & Carols	Great Waltham

#### Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>

3.00pm	Crib Service	Chignals
4.00pm	Crib Service	Ford End
11.30pm	Midnight Mass	Great Waltham

#### Christmas Day, Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>

10.00am	Christmas Day Service	Ford End
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> 10.00am	Family Service	Ford End
11.00am	Service of the Word	Chignals

#### January 2026

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Communion	Great Waltham
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Communion	Ford End
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Communion	Great Waltham
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Family Service	Ford End
	11.00am	Communion	Chignals

### Still Waters every Thursday Evening (not Christmas Day) at 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 Creighton Parish Administrator  
Tel: 07957 228467  
admin@littleandgreat.org.uk

### Little Waltham United Reformed Church Services for December and January 2025/26

Contact: Liz Hagon - 01245 360874

All services begin at 10.30am

Sunday 7th - Alan Webb

Sunday 14th - Marina Price

Sunday 21st - John Amos

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve** Carols by Candlelight at 4pm led by Julie Warner and Moira Walker

Sunday 28th - Rev. Geoffrey Griggs - Holy Communion

#### Other Events

Coffee and Cake - 4th December - 10a.m. - 12 noon

No Coffee Morning this month

#### January 2026

Sunday 4th - John Amos

Sunday 11th - Charles de Lacy

Sunday 18th - Marina Price

Sunday 25th - Rev. Geoffrey Griggs - Holy Communion

#### Other Events

No Coffee and Cake - back in February.

Saturday 17th - Coffee Morning - 10 - 11a.m.





### "Speeding in Great Waltham

Are you concerned about vehicles speeding through the village?

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If you are interested please contact Jim Jenkins at [j.jenkins606@yahoo.com](mailto:j.jenkins606@yahoo.com)"

### Walthambury WI



It has been a busy month! Several of us enjoyed a nice sociable lunch at Channels Brasserie. We also took part in an organised Autumnal walk around Pleshey, starting with coffee at a member's home and lunch at the Snug, High Easter. We had fun producing 16+ shoeboxes for children in the Ukrainian Centre in Moldova via Graham Whicker. More poppies were made by our members to decorate the Legion Hall. We enjoyed this amazing display for our meeting, where Anita Sackett spoke about her experiences of Christmas in different countries.



A highlight, was a trip to London to see the excellent, energetic performance of Hamilton and of course lunch beforehand! Our Christmas meeting is on **Tuesday 9th December,**

**6.30pm** at the Legion Hall (Members only and don't forget to bring plate of food).

### Twinning Gameshow Quiz

You can't come to one of Mike's quizzes and expect to just sit at the table and answer questions. Audience participation is encouraged! The Gameshow Quiz included Take Your Pick (Yes/No game), Bullseye (magnetic darts – they have a new floor in the Village Hall (VH)!), and Catchphrase, along with impossible, Name that Tune, Only Connect and Have I Got News for You. The main objective was to have fun, and I think we achieved that! Included was a ploughman's supper and a licenced bar. The Village Hall now has a 4metre wide screen and projector, courtesy of County Cllr Mike Steel's Locality Fund grant and installed ex-gratia by Willsher and Son. And it is magnificent and available to all who hire the VH.



### LITTLE WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB -

#### November meeting 2025

Unfortunately the planned speaker for our November meeting was unable to attend due to illness. However, local alpine enthusiast and gardener Rod Willett kindly stepped into the breach. The topic of his presentation was 'The Garden of Ashtree Cottage Throughout the Year.'

Rod and his wife Sue are lovers of small, beautiful and unusual plants. They have created a number of different habitats within their small shady garden. There is a scree garden and a bog garden together with glorious flower beds and containers that are all home to a great range and number of plants which bring joy and colour to the garden all the year round. Every inch of soil provides a niche for precious gems, amongst which are a great variety of snowdrops, scillas, narcissi, fritillaries, species tulips, hellebores, irises, trilliums, lillies and a host of managed flowering shrubs,

In true gardening fashion, many of the plants have come from cuttings, offsets, gifts and seeds.

This is a unique plant lovers' garden, a delight to enjoy on a dark November evening.

The Club's next meeting will be a Members' Festive Social on **Wednesday 3rd December** after which we take a break until **WEDNESDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2025** when Marion Sidebottom will be helping us to take 'PLANT PHOTOS USING A SMART PHONE OR TABLET'. 7.30pm. Little Waltham Memorial Hall.

For more information, please contact M Williams 01245 360042 or see website



### GREAT WALTHAM FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The November meeting was Crackers! Everyone had a go at making Christmas crackers in readiness for the festive season and plans were made for the Christmas buffet to take place on December 15th.

### North End Autumn Litterpick

On a bright morning in October, the usual band of North End residents gathered on Triangle Green before spreading out in groups to remove the litter that had been dropped along the lanes since the Spring. To our surprise, there was less rubbish than usual – and no abandoned suitcases with dubious contents or nitrous oxide cylinders! However, the unusually mild weather meant that the undergrowth had not died down as much as usual and there may be further small items lurking under the leaves, which will have to be retrieved later. As an example of the strange weather this year, I found this group of snowdrops flowering bravely in October in a shady spot in my garden – which makes a change from the usual group photo. Many thanks to Colin and Lezley McRae for organising the event and providing welcome refreshments.





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**Ford End Senior Tea**



The next tea will be on Monday 10th November at the new Autumn time of 2pm at Woodstock, Church Lane, Ford End. If you are new or thinking of coming do phone so I can decide how many cakes to provide. Hope to see you all and catch up for a good chat. Anyone interested or has not been before or for more information please ring Sheila Bearman on 01245 237335 or 07977 077945

### Congratulations to Betty Croot who is 100



On October 27th Betty Croot celebrated her 100th birthday. Very many friends and family helped her to have a day to remember. It started with a church service she absolutely loved the church it's where she feels at home. For 72 years she been involved with the church and the people !!! Betty has done every job in the church apart from church warden !!!! Mum moved to Cherry Garden Road in 1953 where my eldest sister Jo was born followed by Sue 1956 and then me in 1959. When I was 6 months old we moved to Howe Street Betty volunteered at the hospital in the hospital shop and started the lunch club. Betty had a party on the 26th for family at Pleshey



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## Great Waltham C of E Primary School

At Great Waltham Primary, we are always delighted to celebrate the hard work and achievements of our pupils in writing. This year, we have introduced a new approach to teaching writing across the whole school, focusing on creativity, confidence, and skill development. As a result, we are proud to see significant improvements in our pupils' writing abilities. The picture below shows some of our youngest and oldest pupils proudly sharing their excellent work.



**Santa and his helpers are planning to visit Ford End on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December.**

**On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December he'll visit Little Waltham, Broads Green, Great Waltham and Howe Street**

### LITTLE WALTHAM

Main Street Little Waltham 5.15pm

Brook Hill/Kirkham Estate 5.30pm

Church Hill Car Park 5.40pm

White Hart 5.50pm

**BROADS GREEN – Walnut tree 6.10pm**

### GREAT WALTHAM

School/Hatchfields 6.25pm

Wolmers Hey/Hatchfields 6.30pm

RayMead/Hatchfields 6.35pm

Dickeymoors/Hatchfields 6.40pm

Beehive/Walthamby Stores 6.50pm

Cherry Garden Rd/Barrack Lane 7.00pm

Cherry Garden Rd/Blossom Way 7.10pm

### HOWE STREET

Parsonage Lane/Lucks Lane 7.25pm

Green Man 7.30pm

**All times are approximate but listen for his bell 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**

## FORD END GARDEN CLUB

We were pleased to welcome Bob Cowling to our November meeting to talk about Assington Mill that he and his wife Ann bought in 2004. It is situated on the Essex/Suffolk borders and is part of Mill Farm comprising 86 acres with a brook running through the valley and draining into the river Stour. This was Bob and Ann's retirement project and the farmhouse needed restoration along with farm buildings and the mill house itself which had a metal waterwheel specially installed. After many ups and downs farming the land it was decided to plant a wood and create a private nature reserve. This woodland has been successful in its aim of attracting dormice and will now be taken over by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Longhorn cattle are now grazed on grassland; the vegetable plot is now divided into allotments and the small mill house looking over a wildlife pond is a holiday let. The evening was a wonderful insight into what an idyllic place that Assington Mill and farm have become.

On the 17th December we have Bardfield Chimes entertaining us with their hand bells plus there will be a quiz so it all sounds very entertaining. You are all invited to this festive evening but are suggesting that those attending could bring along something suitable for refreshments including any drinks they would like.

**Our first meeting in 2026 is on 21 January in Ford End village hall and will start at 7.30pm. The speaker will be**

Chris Heafen and his talk is entitled Police to Plot which will be about his vegetable plot. I hope you have all remembered to plant your hyacinth bulbs as there will also be the judging of our hyacinth competition so don't forget to bring yours along.

Wishing all our readers a happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year

## Chelmsford Local Plan Review

Central Govt has demanded that Chelmsford review its Local Plan to show a build rate of 1400 dwellings per year (around 60% higher than the current plan). This is a target set by Govt in order to meet their ambition of an extra 1.5 million homes. Unfortunately, there have also been shortfalls in the current plan – delays in Beaulieu expansion (because Govt withdrew infrastructure funding), and slow down of delivering the large strategic sites (for various reasons). The net result is that City Council is having to look at new sites that can be readily delivered within the next 5 years. This affects Ford End, where City Council is proposing increasing the site south of the school from 20 to 75 dwellings. This increase was not initiated by the developers! The public can register their views at the City Council Local Plan website, until 8th January 2026. In conjunction with the Parish Council, I am seeking infrastructure improvements in Ford End that could include the Average Speed Camera (that we have been pushing for, for years), additional classroom space at the school, a new Village Hall, etc.

Please go to the Local Plan review website and your comments  
<https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-local-plan/local-plan-review/>



City Cllr, Mike Steel





### Gingerbread and Christmas Pudding Workshop – 23rd Nov

In the morning, 20 children had a great time making their gingerbread persons and in the afternoon, 40 adults made their puddings.

The apron competition, the Christmas quiz, the mulled wine, and the Village Choir made it an extra special festive event.

Photos in the February edition or our website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/greatwalthamparish/gw-community-network/>

### Great Waltham Parish Council

The Pavilion, Great Waltham Recreation Ground, South Street, Great Waltham, CM3 1DF.

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This is a summary of some of the items discussed at a busy October meeting of the Parish Council. For full details, please check out the full and approved minutes of all Council meetings on the parish website ([e-voice.org.uk/greatwalthamparish](http://e-voice.org.uk/greatwalthamparish)).

An update from Mike Steel, our city and county councillor, included confirmation of the commencement of Highways' road gritting season; the need to register with the Planning Inspectorate to comment further on National Grid's pylons proposals; the scheduled opening of a new health centre at Beaulieu; and how the City Council's revised Local Plan was to be made public on 29<sup>th</sup> October. The meeting also discussed and made decisions on these topics:

- We adopted a new IT policy and revised the terms of reference for our committees, and agreed the need for further work to consider any recommended revisions to the byelaws which apply to Council owned or administered land.
- We noted the results of commissioning TruCam speed checks on the B1008 at Ford End. To date, over 60 enforcement actions (that is, prosecutions for speeding) had been taken. We also agreed to commission a further automatic traffic count survey in Ford End to provide data to compare with the survey conducted this time last year.
- We noted two recent generous donations to the Great Waltham Recreation Ground play area project. However, because grant bids from elsewhere have not been as fruitful as we hoped, it was agreed to make this a phased project meaning a full implementation of new equipment will take longer.
- We agree to replace the wooden posts and chains around the war memorial at Banbury Square.
- We will support a local initiative at Broad's Green to install a Christmas tree with lights on the green.
- We agreed to move the Council to a gov.uk email domain and website for its staff and councillors.
- An application to install a commemorative bench seat on the green at Broad's Green was noted. We agreed to consult all local residents before deciding whether or not to grant the request. The Council's next monthly meetings will be on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025 and Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026, both at the Pavilion, Great Waltham Recreation Ground, starting at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend our public meetings. Steve Gilbert Chair

### Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

In May 2026, there will be elections across the whole of Essex to elect a Mayor who will sit over all the Unitary Councils created by LGR. Such a Mayor will have real power (like the Mayor of London) as opposed to our current City Council Mayor who is more of a figurehead. Following that, the existing County Council (ECC), 2 Unitaries (Thurrock and Southend) and 12 district local authorities in Essex (including Chelmsford City Council), will be abolished in March 2028 and replaced with several single tier authorities. Proposals have been submitted to the Govt to divide Essex into 3, 4 or 5 unitary councils. The Govt has now started consultation on these until 11th January. Elections for the Unitary Councils will take place in May 2027 and the elected Cllrs will spend the first year overlapping the current councils, whilst they set up the new Unitary councils ready to take over in March 2028.

For more information go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-essex-southend-on-and-thurrock>  
County Cllr, Mike Steel

Thank you for all of the contributions to this edition of the Great Waltham Parish News. Please send your contributions for the next issue, together with any enquiries or advertising requests, by email to: [gwparishnews@gmail.com](mailto:gwparishnews@gmail.com). **The last date for inclusion in the February issue is January 20th 2026**