Parish Magazine April - May 2025



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The Vicar's Letter

The Vicarage, Waltham Road (corner of Foliejohn Way) Woodlands Park Telephone 01628 822000

Dear Friends of the Parish of White Waltham and Woodlands Park,

Hello and how are you? You "winning at life"? We all have those days or seasons where things seem to go against us, and need to enjoy those little wins: the parking space that is right there; the timings which just work; the job that didn't take as long; the conversation which went better than we hoped....

Within April and May, for which this magazine is produced, we celebrate two big victories: 80th anniversary of VE Day 8th May, and Easter.

Victory in Europe Day is the day celebrating the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces on Tuesday, 8 May 1945.

Upon the defeat of Germany, celebrations erupted throughout the Western world, especially in the United Kingdom, in North America and in USSR. More than one million people celebrated in the streets throughout the UK to mark the end of the European part of the war. Churchill addressed crowds saying: "God bless you all. This is your victory. In our long history, we have never seen a greater day than this. Everyone, man or woman, has done their best."

Let's note three things which made this event so powerful.

Sacrifice: so many had sacrificed so much, even to giving up their lives for the sake of others. This rightly moves us deeply. Jesus says "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15v13). (continued over)

THIS MAGAZINE

Published bi-monthly, six times a year.

Delivered free to all homes in White Waltham & Woodlands Park and given to all families at White Waltham School. Freely available at church services. Also available on White Waltham Church's Facebook page and website.

Articles for the next edition should be sent to waltham.vicar@btinternet.com

by 7th May 2025

Magazines are usually available on the last Sunday of the month www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk White Waltham

Peace: war had deeply affected life at home as well as where the battles were fought. Families were separated, communications uncertain, truth and lies mingled, a lack of peace at every level.

Defeat of enemy: there had been so much fear, destruction, spreading evil, so the defeat brought an immense outpouring of relief as well as joy. This was tempered by the fact that Japan was still fighting, but still felt like a wonderful release.

Now, I imagine you can see where I am going with this, but it is worth pausing to reflect again.

At Easter, Jesus gave himself as an amazing **Sacrifice** for any who would trust and follow him. He paid the price for our rejection of God and took condemnation in our place that we might know a new start as friends with God.

This sacrifice brought **Peace**. Peace with God and as we become united in Jesus, letting go of comparisons and competition, we know peace with each other. God only knows what will be happening in the international news as you read this, so it is obvious that this peace is the only sense of peace that can last forever.

And, of course, the **Enemy Defeated** was death itself. By dealing with the problem of our human hearts, this was a once for all victory: nothing more to be done. Jesus' death had done it; his resurrection had proved the triumph! A wonderful release from any fear for our significance now and security forever. God loves you so much that he sent his Son to die in your place, so that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

You are also always very welcome to join us at any service on a Sunday at 10.30. Particularly think about coming to something this Easter *details on page 10* and reflecting on this Life-changing victory. Children are also especially invited to our holiday club *see page 19*

I pray you will experience the fruit of Jesus' victory, won for you.

Dave

Rev Dave Atallah Tel: 07874 399411 waltham.vicar@btinternet.com

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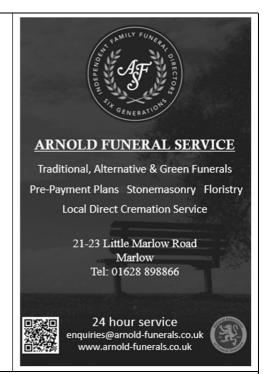
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Woodlands Park Primary and Nursery School

A place for everyone. Together, we are inspired to grow, learn and achieve.

This term has been filled with exciting events and enriching experiences for our students.

We celebrated World Book Week with a variety of activities, including visits from published authors Josh Lacey and Amanda Boulding. The children took part in a fancy dress day, a book swap, and contributed to a wishing tree to help shape our new library.

Another highlight was Science Week, where students engaged in online workshops and hands-on experiments, deepening their curiosity and understanding of the world around them.

Our school choir had an unforgettable experience performing at the Wembley Arena Young Voices Event, joining 5,000 other school children in a spectacular celebration of music.

We are also looking forward to welcoming Commonwealth Games and Invictus Games winner, Nerys Pearce, through the Great Athletes Programme. Her visit will no doubt inspire our students with her incredible journey and achievements.

In addition, we have enjoyed a number of educational trips, including visits to Woolley Firs and the Imperial War Museum, as well as a series of class assemblies, where children have proudly shared their learning.

On a personal note, I would like to share that I will be stepping down as Headteacher at the end of the spring term. I have enjoyed serving the Woodlands Park community, and I would like to thank everyone for their support over the years. My successor, Emily Dawkins, will introduce herself and share updates in the next edition.

Jamíe Míles *Headteacher*

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White Waltham C of E Academy



On our return in February, all the children enjoyed a crime scene themed STEM

(science, technology, engineering and maths) day. Each class discovered a crime scene in school – Foundation had a missing Gingerbread Man, Years 1&2 found Cinderella's broken glass slipper, Years 3&4 found baby bear's broken chair and Years 5&6 found The Jolly Postman's missing bicycle wheel. Each class conducted experiments, including taking fingerprints, baking Gingerbread, extracting strawberry DNA and chromatography. They then used the information learnt in a database to conclude who the culprit was. It was a great day, which the children were all inspired by.



Year 1 and 2 went on a brilliant (but cold!) trip to Windsor Castle. They were able to take part in an exciting workshop where we learnt about the different parts of the castle, the meaning of the Royal standard flag and drew our favourite part. They all behaved beautifully and were a credit to the school.





All children performed brilliantly in the finals of our Eisteddfod competition. This year we introduced musical entries, with Rayan, our year 6 pupil, scooping the top prize for his rendition of Primavera by Einaudi on the piano. It was such a difficult competition to judge, as the standard across the Ashley Hill Multi Academy Trust was phenomenal and they should all be very proud of themselves.

On Wednesday 12th February, year 5 and 6 enjoyed a trip to Tring to visit the Natural History Museum there. We had a fanatastc workshop on evolution and adaptation, where we looked at 4 animals and discussed what made them suitable for the environments in which they lived. We then had the opportunity to go around the museum, looking at the incredible collection of animals on display there.

On Thursday 6th March, White Waltham Academy participated in the annual World Book Day. We had some fantastic costumes on the day and we enjoyed a day off curriculum to celebrate all things reading. We had a Masked Reader, where the children had to guess the characters (staff members) reading to them, and each child created their own story book, which they shared with pupils from another class in the school. The children have also all had visits from local authors, with many being able to purchase their very own signed copy. This is an excellent way to inspire future authors.

White Waltham Academy took part in Children's Wellbeing week back in February. Our PTA arranged for workshops for the children, including meditation, massage and yoga. Our prayer team also provided activities every lunchtime for the children, allowing them time to refocus and reflect. We look forward to making this an annual event.





Two wonderful parents organised and ran a Scholastic Book Fair for us once again this

year. I am always amazed at the incredible buzz it creates in school and how excited the children get to go and visit and buy their books. The Reading Ambassadors were able to go and select books for each of the classes and we raised a staggering £545 to spend on new books for the school.

On Friday 7th March we had RockSteady Music School join us for a really fun assembly and workshop. We are looking forward to the new music classes being offered to the children in Summer Term. Let's Rock!!



In March, year 6 pupils travelled up to London to enjoy a workshop and performance of The Lion King, ready for our own whole school production in July. The workshop was led by musical theatre professionals who have been specifically trained by the Disney Theatrical Education Team. The children used scenes from the West End script to explore characterisation techniques, investigate how actors use voice and movement to tell a story.

Our Foundation class went on their first 'proper' trip to Waltham Place Farm. The children enjoyed a workshop on farm animals and loved the minibeast hunt: a beautiful day in a beautiful location.



We still have the exciting Dance Extravaganza taking place on Thursday 3rd April at Braywick Leisure Centre,

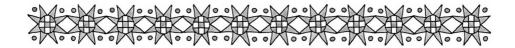
where all the children will perform a dance for their parents and carers.

I wish all the families a wonderful Easter break, which I hope is filled with love, laughter, reflection, and perhaps a little bit of chocolate too!

Mrs Denham.

Head of School

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Good Friday for All Ages - Woodlands Park School at 10.30am

The Cross - 'Surely this was the Son of God'

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Good Friday Reflective Service – In Church at 2pm An hour at the cross...

•••

Easter Day All Age Service - In Church at 10.30am

The Empty Tomb - 'Being sure'

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Everybody is welcome to services at White Waltham Church

Services in church are also available via Zoom for those who are unable to join us in person www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk/zoom





COASTLINE

My wife and I love walking. One of our favourite things is to venture along the coastline of Southern England, sometimes using the south-west coast path. We really enjoy the beauty of the cliffs, the marvellous views across the sea and bays, the varied rock formations and the secluded beaches which are totally inaccessible. Recently, we have spent time at Hope Cove in south Devon where life has remained pretty much the same for ages. It is unspoilt; the road mainly leads to the family beaches and the start of great coastal walks. In north Devon we enjoy Lynton , where shops never change, the funicular railway continues to power up and down the cliff – an easy route down to Lynmouth, from where you can walk along the coast.

But the other day we decided to take a two-night break in Dorset – with so many of its wonderful beaches strewn with fossils. We stayed close to Lulworth Cove with its amazing views. Another unspoilt village. Despite the cool wind, the sunshine encouraged us to walk up the cliff path from Lulworth to Durdle Door. The well-built track made walking comfortable, but the ascent was tough. Down the other side was a respite, though the return would be equally challenging. Seeing Durdle Door in bright sunshine on a cool day was magnificent! We realised that this was the reason so many people venture along this demanding walk to see such a beautiful sight.



It was as I reflected afterwards that I realised there were some deeper lessons to learn at Durdle Door as well.

- 1. The Door yes, the rock has an archway with a door, which apparently you can sail through. It's a bit like Jesus being the door to a new life which we need to go through to start in a new direction
- 2. The Bridge across stacks as the rock has eroded over millions of years, the stacks on either side are surmounted by rock across the top to form a type of bridge. This too provides us with an image of Jesus, the man-God, being the bridge between God and man. He has experienced life as a human, to help us draw closer to God, his Father.
- 3. The Two Stacks these consist of eroded or broken pieces of rock which were originally formed from the same horizontal strata. These two stacks remind us of the two choices we have in life. Jesus dying on that centre cross, between two criminals, showed that we either reject him and his teaching or we accept him and commit ourselves to follow him. One criminal rejected Jesus, the other accepted him.

So, Jesus is that door, he's that bridge & he's that central figure we remember who died for us on the first Good Friday. Come to church & find out more this Easter!

Bob Crittenden



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St Mary's Flower Guild, White Waltham

Everyone is welcome to join our friendly group. You don't have to be an experienced flower arranger to join us.

By the time you read this, the 29th of March may have come and gone. However, just in case...

Saturday 29th March at 10am – a demonstration and workshop for Mothering Sunday in The Tree House.

Some other dates for your diary:

Saturday 19th April from 9.30am – do come and join us to decorate the church for Easter.

Saturday 24th May at 10am – a demonstration by Lorraine Predgen "Pot au Fleur". In The Tree House.

Saturday 19th July at 10am − a garden visit to Little Marlow as part of the National Garden Scheme - £12 per head to include refreshment. Contact Carolyn (number below) if you would like to join us.

We plan to meet once a month throughout the year. We are planning several activities for later this year including workshops, fund raisers and coffee mornings. Details of our annual Garden Party, in Carolyn's garden, will be available soon.

For further information, please contact: Carolyn Thompson 07834 545967, Liz Atlay 07881 785131 or Julia Hodgson 07904 999685

We look forward to seeing you!

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Tales from the Bells



Mhite Waltham Bell Ringing

Since the last magazine, I attended the Sonning Branch AGM which was held at All Saints, Wokingham. I rang a couple of times before the service. The sallies (the padded, multicoloured tail ends of the ropes) were quite thin. This is due to the age of the ropes, and because the sally has been caught so many times when ringing a bell.

Once again, the vicar based their talk on bell ringing and how it relates to church life: the fellowship that a band and the Branch has, and the service to the church.

After the service we had the usual Ringers' Tea (with such wonderful cakes) and then had the AGM, where our youngest ringer was elected as a member of the Oxford Guild.

Tower Tours at White Waltham will be on offer to groups and/or individuals. So if you belong to a group, please book a tour by contacting us via the email address below or by calling the church office.

We will run these tours during the lighter months of the year from April to September 2025. So book early to avoid disappointment.

If you are interested in learning to ring, please contact us. Taster sessions can also be arranged, with no obligation.

Wishing you a Blessed Easter.

Lesley Graves

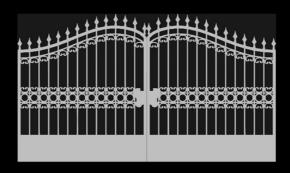
Bell Captain

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Seasonal Thoughts

How quickly time seems to be passing! I know they say this happens as one gets older, but this year seems to be so far gone already - perhaps it's because of my soon coming birthday.

For you, you are leaping into spring while here on the other side of the world, autumn is here. For us, this has meant much cooler mornings but still relatively mild days which makes harvesting a joyful series of events. Not that I get a big harvest; when one keeps chickens, there are limits to where and what you can grow. Mind you, we love our chooks and the lovely eggs I collect every morning, some of which Liz cooks, others are given away to neighbours and church friends.

Speaking of church, I am very grateful for the young man who keeps my fast-growing lawn reasonably tidy - it has become too much for me. But I attack weeds and long grasses away from the lawn.

We had a big surprise last week. I went to collect eggs and found a large bough of our fig tree has broken away from the trunk. I assume this was on account of the weight of the fruit! Liz and I both like figs and I have a dehydrator if only they would ripen - I love dried figs!

Our wee dog, a three-legged fox terrier of 11 years, recently went out into the garden and found a hedgehog. These guys love eggs so I was grateful to Lily, picked it up and removed it from our garden, Next day, she found not one but four of the creatures, two adults and two youngsters, which all had to be relocated. I think a chick we were trying to rear was taken by a hedgehog earlier. We are grateful to Lily for alerting us, especially as we have not seen any since!



I enjoy my garden but I do tire very quickly and cannot do as much as I would like. I do hope you good folk have a wonderful season as you prepare the ground and sow or plant.

Jesus told a parable about a farmer who sowed seed in his field. Some of the seed fell on the bare ground where the birds ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground where there was not enough soil so as the sun grew hotter, these seedlings withered. Some seed fell among thorns which grew up and choked the plants. Yet more fell on good ground and produced a real harvest.

So what was Jesus saying? When anyone hears the gospel and does not understand, the devil gets in and clears what was sown in his heart. These are like the seeds sown on the path. But some are like the seed on rocky ground – they hear God's word and it lasts for a while: but when troubles come they quickly fall away. Others are like the seed that fell among the thorns - they hear the word; but the worries of life and deceitfulness of wealth choke the message, so the seed bears no fruit. And that leaves the seed that falls into good ground. This person understands God's message, so it bears fruit their life. That means that her or his life is given to God and so they receive eternal life and the forgiveness of sins. Which are you?

Just remember I write these articles because I want to see loads of you in heaven! Make sure you are good and fertile soil for the seed.

Eric Green eric.green@xtra.co.nz



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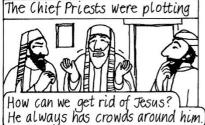
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Read this short story from the Bible...

BIDERIC

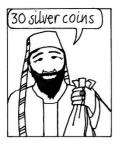
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Lk 22:1-13, Mt26:14-19, Mk14:10-16 It was just before Passover, when Jews celebrate God rescuing them from Egypt. Jesus and his disciples were in Jerusalem...









30 silver coins happened to be the same amount that had to be paid as compensation to the owner if a slave was killed

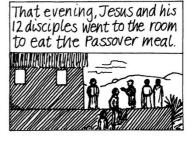












...and complete this Wordsearch about it!

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White Waltham Cricket Club



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Cricket season approaches fast at White Waltham. The sun was very welcome over the weekend just gone and we really hope to see some more of it! Our groundsman Luke has been hard at work all through the winter and into early spring and the ground is looking fantastic already.

Winter training has been under way for about a month now and everyone is sharpening their skills again!

Prior to that, we will host our annual groundwork day on 5th April. This tends to mark the start of the season for us and is a chance for the team to get together and also help start preparations for the ground.

The season starts officially on Saturday 19th April, when we host Chearsley CC.

Looking forward to brighter, warmer days!

Many thanks,

Jonny Mahoney,

WWCC Chair

For more information, or if you are interested to join/train with the club, then please visit our website or contact us using one of these options:

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Berkshire Area Group of the N Gauge Society

Model Railway Exhibition

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Featuring N Gauge Layouts including Whitmoor, White Meadow Quarry, Leigh St George, Children's Brio, Oak Grove Central, Tremierten, Wokingham & Paddock Hill

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We are the Berkshire Area Group of the N Gauge Society and welcome visitors and new members. We meet every Thursday, with an occasional meeting on a Saturday to set up our large 4 track modular layout, which we also take to exhibitions, with both DC and DCC tracks available.

We are a small friendly club, linked to the N Gauge Society, we help and encourage one another to build additional scenic modules to the N Mod standard, details of which can be found on our web site. Something we pride ourselves on is the wide range of interests of our members, we share interest in British Steam/Diesel & Modern era, plus Continental, American and Japanese Railways.

We meet at the West London Aero Club, White Waltham Airfield, Maidenhead SL6 3NJ on every Thursday of each month at 6pm in the meeting room at the back of the club house. Come along to see what you think or contact us via the website www.bagladdies.weebly.com

Full details can be found at:
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News from your Borough Councillors



Maureen Hunt cllr.hunt@rbwm.gov.uk



George Blundell cllr.blundell@rbwm.gov.uk

We are now approaching a time when we can look forward to spring and the new growth. And, of course, Easter is on the horizon with Easter egg hunts for the children and, for many, Lent and the festival of Easter.

In our last article we mentioned the increase in costs for both Adults' and Children's Services. These increases, along with the now £30 million historic accountancy errors and the increase in providing temporary accommodation, has meant your Council Tax has risen by 8.99%.

The council asked for, and was given, exception financial support of £103 million, a loan which is to be repaid over 50 years.

All in all, this may be a difficult time for some – or maybe many. If so, there has been funding set aside, so if you do find yourself in this position, please contact Citizens Advice. Their Household Support Fund will provide one-off payments of £150 to help with the cost of essentials and bills, along with free school meal vouchers for those struggling to provide food for their children during the school holidays. You can also contact the council as they can help with council tax support, energy costs, debt support etc on https://rbwmtogether.rbwm.gov.uk/hub-page/here-to-help

You will have seen that the Government now wants more houses to be built. We have been given the new number of 1449 houses to be built per year which is an increase of around 500 new houses every year. There are also changes in Planning Policy. Relevant to RBWM is the new Grey Belt Policy and Green belt protections intended to restrict sprawl of large built-up areas should now no longer be applied to villages. We wait to see if these policies impact our villages.

Moving away from council and thinking about Easter, have you bought the fantastic, knitted chicks covering a small Easter egg from the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice in Snowball Hill? Ideal for an Easter egg hunt or as a small gift on the day. Needless to say, we have already purchased ours — only £3 each for such a lovely surprise.



As always, we are here to help you with any council issues you may have, so please do get in touch.

Maureen and George, Maureen Hunt and George Blundell



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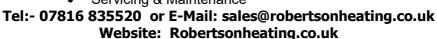
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	4	9	2					
	6		1				3	
	1						8	
	9				3		5	
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	3	4	5	6		7	9	

MEDIUM SU DOKU

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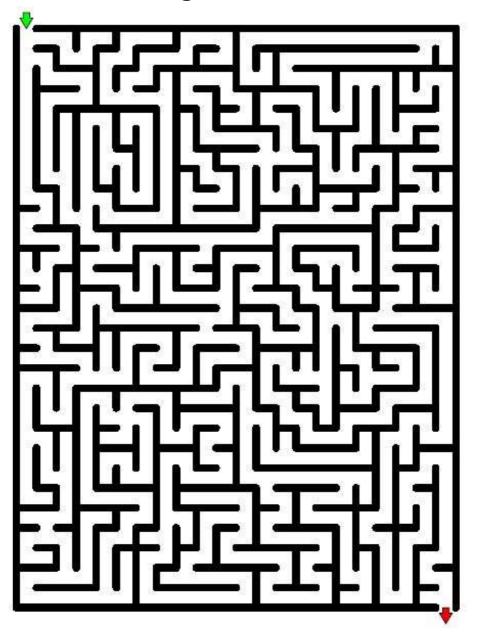
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Can you find your way through the maze?



Shottesbrooke and White Waltham Charities

Clerk - Carolyn Thompson 07834 545967 carolynt52@icloud.com

Shottesbrooke and White Waltham Welfare Fund

This fund was established by the Charities Commission in 1912 to help those living in the 'area of benefit' (the Civil Parishes of Shottesbrooke and White Waltham and the Ward of South Hurley).

How we can help: The Charity income may be used to help generally, or help individual people living in the 'area of benefit' who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress. It can do this by making grants of money or by providing or paying for items, services or facilities.

Restrictions: The trustees cannot help pay for rates, taxes or other public funds. However, it may use its funds to add to help that is already being provided out of public funds.

Each application for funding will be considered separately. Applications that are successful on one occasion may not be successful in future.

If you believe you would qualify for funding, please get in contact with the clerk by email (carolynt52@icloud.com) or telephone (07834 545967) and you will be contacted by your local Trustee.

A letter of support will be required from a Social Worker, a Vicar/Priest, a Head Teacher, or another official body.

Want some financial help with your education?

Have you left school? Are you thinking of full-time training or education? (apprenticeship/College, university etc.) or are you already there?

If you are under 25 and live in the civil parishes of Shottesbrooke or White Waltham, or the south ward of Hurley ... then the Duell and Hawes Educational Trust may be able to help you with a grant *(this includes areas within Knowl Hill, Warren Row, Littlewick Green, Woodlands Park and Paley Street).*

For further information on the areas covered and eligibility, please write to: Clerk to the Trustees, Carolyn Thompson, Spire View, Waltham Road, White Waltham, SL6 3SG or email: carolynt52@icloud.com for an application form



7:45am-6:15pm

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Services at White Waltham Church

Sunday Services at White Waltham Church

are at 10.30am with activities for children every Sunday

Services are in person and live via Zoom from the church building: http://www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk/zoom

N.B. you can join us in one click on our website's main page

Easter Services for All Ages



Good Friday 18th April at Woodlands Park School

Easter Sunday 20th April at White Waltham Church

both at 10.30am

With activities for everyone, of all ages, we invite you to join us for these services.

Some content is available on our Facebook page

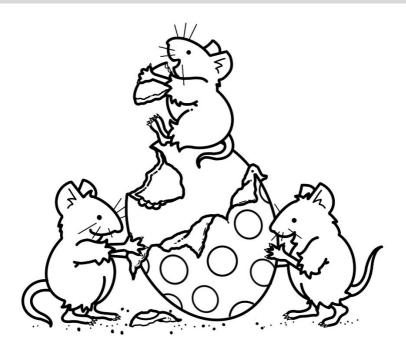
f White Waltham Church

Do come and join us – everyone is welcome at White Waltham Church



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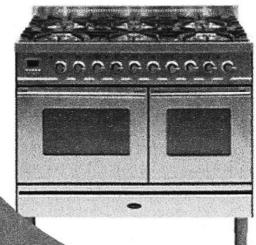
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