

Please note that the on the 15th Dec the Ford End Christmas Tea at Woodstock will be at the later time of 3pm. We will be having a proper Christmas Tea not just tea and cakes Do let me know if you are coming please and also if you need a lift. Sheila 07977077945 (please note-The information in the Dec Parish News is not correct.)

The December **prayer meeting** at Ashcroft will be on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 3pm. Everyone is warmly welcome, talk to Jo or Carol Pritchard for more info.

The Leighs and Little Waltham PCC meet on Tuesday December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7.00pm at Gate Farm.

"May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the Magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. Amen."  
By Ray Pritchard

#### **Important Information for us all - Beware of Scams**

As we are busy getting ready for Christmas we must not let our attention slip.

There are many scams that are taking place.

This official advice is to

**Never reply or click on a link from unsolicited emails, texts WhatsApp's or any forms of media. or even cold callers on the doorstep.**

Whether the media looks like it's from the bank or a site that you think is ok Do Not Be Tempted. Please do not trust it and **never give important banking details or personal details out on this sort of site.**

Come out of the site and if you are uncertain and want to check anything then please make contact via the official phone number that you know is correct or email the correct address and check it out.

**Also be very careful to only use official sites for your Christmas shopping. If it looks cheap it probably is not the right site.**

If you are careful all will be well. We do not need to worry, just be careful.

Check first and then have a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

**"Glory to God in the highest,  
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" Luke 2:14**

If you would like the pew sheet by email please let Alison know, [admin@littleandgreat.org.uk](mailto:admin@littleandgreat.org.uk), and she will add you to the mailing list.

Parish administrator: Alison Creighton  
[admin@littleandgreat.org.uk](mailto:admin@littleandgreat.org.uk) 07957 228467

Church Websites: [www.greatwalthamchurch.org.uk](http://www.greatwalthamchurch.org.uk)  
<https://churchesattheleighsandlittlewaltham.org>



## **Welcome to Gracefields Pew Sheet for December 2025**

### **Gracefields' December Services**

#### **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

6.00pm – Communion – Little Waltham

#### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

11.00am – Gracefields' Joint Service - Great Waltham

4.15pm – Lighting of Tree in Banbury Square - Great Waltham

5.00pm – Christingle - Great Waltham

#### **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

6.00pm – Communion – Little Waltham

#### **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

9.30am – Christingle – Little Leighs

11.00am – Family Communion – Ford End

#### **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

6.00pm – Communion – Little Waltham

#### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

11.00am – Communion – Great Waltham

3.00pm – 9 Lessons & Carols – Great Waltham

4.00pm – Carol Service – Great Leighs

#### **Christmas Eve - Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

3.00pm – Crib Service – The Chignals

4.00pm – Crib Service – Ford End

5.00pm – Crib Service – Little Waltham

11.30pm – Midnight Mass – Great Leighs

11.30pm – Midnight Mass – Great Waltham

#### **Christmas Day – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

10.00am – Christmas Communion – Little Leighs

10.00am - Christmas Communion – Ford End

#### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December**

9.30am – Communion – Great Leighs

10.00am – Family Worship – Ford End

#### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

11.00am – Gracefields' Joint Service - Great Waltham

### **Private Prayer**

Little Waltham: Sundays 11am - 3pm

Little Leighs: open daily for private prayer

Ford End: open daily 9am – 4pm for private prayer

The Chignals: closed apart from Church services.

Great Waltham: open Mondays 1-2.30pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month 9.30-11am and last Wednesday of the month 10-12pm.



#### Please Pray:

- Dear Lord, we worship You during this Christmas season. You are our Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). Help us to put You at the centre of our lives as we celebrate Your birth. Please comfort those people who struggle at this time of year.
- For all our Carol Services that the people who come will enjoy singing the Carols and listening to the lessons and that they will meet Jesus. Give thanks for all our choir singers and organists in our churches.
- For people who struggle at Christmas time.
- For people living in residential and nursing homes and those who care for them.
- For all those who need our prayers due to sickness or ill health, especially Luke Wiffen, Richard Gibson, Joanne McLachlan, Izzy Reed, Teddie Emmett, Mick Duke, Tony Neal, Bridget Wright, Keith Derry, Janet Luckin, Peter Wells, Rachel Threlfall, Michelle Hall, Alan Baker, Danny Fincham, Jake Bamford and others we know.
- For those who mourn, especially the family and friends Jean Sly and Shirley Dannatt.

Jean Sly's memorial service will be on December 1st in St John's, Little Leigh's at 1pm followed by a private cremation. If you intend to come can you let Alison Bates or church wardens James Hawkes or Marion Richardson know please.

Shirley Dannatt's celebration of her life will be on 16th December at 1.30pm at Great Waltham Church.

'As we grow older, we become like old cars - more and more repairs and replacements are necessary. We must just look forward to the fine new machines (latest Resurrection model) which are waiting for us, we hope in the Divine garage.'  
C.S. Lewis

#### Great Waltham Christmas Tree Festival at Great Waltham Church

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

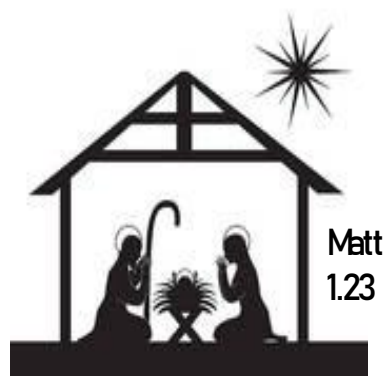
View the Christmas trees decorated by local clubs, enjoy the stalls, game and refreshments.

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 7pm for 7.30pm**

Christmas Concert - Essex Police Band and Village Choir  
(with bar)

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 2pm onwards**

2.30-4pm View the Christmas Trees, refreshments available  
4.15pm Tree lighting at War memorial & Father Christmas  
5pm Christingle Service in the Church



**Emmanuel - God with us**

**Daily Devotional** - For 2026 we are going to read Count Your Blessings devotional. Count your blessings—every day! This 365-day devotional from Our Daily Bread challenges you to give thanks to God every day and in all circumstances. In daily readings that pair relatable personal stories with biblical insights, you will find countless things to praise God for, from the beauty of creation to Jesus's perfect life, death, and resurrection. Written by a diverse group of authors, this devotional collection is filled with daily Scriptures and gratitude prompts. After spending a year in grateful praise, you will have developed a practice of gratitude that will sustain you in the hard times and allow for greater rejoicing in the good. If you would like a free copy of Count Your Blessings, please let Carol or Jo Pritchard know.

#### A Christmas message from the Bishop of Chelmsford

**The Right Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, the Bishop of Chelmsford has written a message for the Christmas season:**

'Fear not said he for mighty dread had seized their trouble mind.'

These words from the famous carol, While Shepherds Watched, will be sung again this year in churches, schools, on village greens and in pubs all around the country. Since the 1700s, this faithful rendering from Luke's account set to a simple tune, has stood the test of time. Indeed, the description of the shepherds' fear when the angels appear speaks directly to our own time.

Fear is all around. Many live in fear of uncertainty; too many live in fear of domestic violence and abuse; in fear of failure, rejection, inadequacy. In our national life, fear of the outsider has led to deeply troubling rhetoric and policy proposals on immigration, with the fear of financial disaster making scapegoats of some of the most vulnerable in society. Nor is the church immune. Differences of perspectives in our internal debates, as well as our weighty responsibility in seeking to atone for past mistakes, can all too easily lead to a culture of fear.

But it is into all this that the angels arrive with their message, directly confronting the reality of our lives. It is right that we should take peoples' fears seriously, neither diminishing nor belittling them; moreover, working to overcome them. Yet in the midst of fear we encounter the gentle angelic rejoinder which paralysed the Shepherds. FEAR NOT ... because good news is brought to us, news of great joy for all people.

Sometimes we need encouragement to hear again the message of the angels. There is joy to be found in the stable scene in Bethlehem. There is joy in the angelic chorus that lifts us, as it did the shepherds, from crouching fear to the glory of the Highest Heaven. There is joy unbounded through the coming of the Christ child, in the love he proclaims and which Christians are called to share.

So this Christmas will we allow the singing of the angels to overwhelm our fear so we can hear again the message of joy? Will we, like the Shepherds, leave the place of fear and go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

+Guli Chelmsford

Great Waltham Church would be very grateful for volunteers to help with refreshments and setting up Communion. Please speak to David Williams or Jean Blaber for more information.

The Great Waltham Village Choir are carol singing round the tree in Banbury Square on Thursday 11th December at 7pm, all welcome.