

The Vicar's Letter

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

Dear Friends,

“It’s not fair!”

The complaint is a common one amongst children, even from a very early age. And adults who are called on to correct the unfairness soon learn that that may be easier said than done.

Because fairness, very often, is in the eye of the beholder. What may seem fair from one point of view may seem very unfair from another. And what seems, to the outside observer, to be the fairest solution may leave both sides feeling hard-done-by.

So sometimes we just have to try to help children to learn and accept that ‘unfairness’ is a normal part of life. And yet even as adults that doesn’t stop us thinking that life *should* be fair. Indeed, the idea of fairness (or the complaint that something is not fair) seems to lie behind almost every area of political debate.

The push for ‘equality’, for instance, is just another way of asking for fairness. And of course it sounds fine in principle, for who could be against fairness or equality (or ‘justice’, to use another similar term)? But the problem comes when you try to define in practice what you mean by it.

THIS MAGAZINE

Published bi-monthly, six times a year.

Delivered free to all homes in
White Waltham, Shottesbrooke and Woodlands Park.

Freely available at church services.
Given to all families at White Waltham School.

Articles for the next edition should be sent to:

derek.r.smith@hotmail.co.uk

by 7th March 2013

The magazines will be available by the last Sunday of the month

Website. www.stmaryswhitewaltham.co.uk

In fact, a world where nobody could complain of unfairness would be a remarkably boring world — because it would have to be a world where everyone was exactly the same. But the fact that we are all different, with different likes and dislikes, needs and abilities, means that it is *appropriate* to treat people differently, without that necessarily being unfair.

That doesn't mean, of course, that there aren't ways of treating people differently that really are wrong. But it does suggest that arguments based on 'fairness' or 'equality' or even 'justice' are not always as clear cut as we might suppose.

It also suggests that most of us should be less bothered than we often are with comparing ourselves to others, or trying to assert our rights.

Jesus told a story which most people still find quite shocking, because it suggests that even God does not treat people in a way which we might think fair. But the twist is that he is unfairly *generous*. No-one in the story gets less than they deserve — although that still leaves some feeling hard-done-by, because he has not been as generous to them as to others!

Perhaps we ought to remember that next time we are tempted to think "That's not fair!" Because ultimately what we all need is mercy, grace, generosity — not fairness. If God treated us in the way we really deserved there would be no hope. But he doesn't, and he calls us to show similar generosity to others.

It's not fair — but it is good news, the best there could possibly be.

David Andrew

Funding For Woodlands Park Community Events...

Would you like to see more events like "Woodlands Winter Wonderland" and "The Big Jubilee Lunch" taking place in Woodlands Park?

You could help the group that organises these Fun Days to win funding for more events like these in 2013 by voting for:

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Seasonal Walks

Throughout the year we offer Seasonal Walks to share with you some of the plants and flowers that make Waltham Place such a beautiful, tranquil place. Join one of our gardeners for a guided walk and then finish with tea, coffee and cake. All walks start at the Ormandy Centre, Church Hill, White Waltham at 2pm.

Snowdrop Walk- February 2nd 2013

Daffodil Walk- March 30th 2013

Bluebell Walk – April 20th 2013

Spring Walk – May 4th 2013

Apple Walk – September 28th 2013

Festive Walk- December 7th 2013

Courses

Organic Vegetable Growing for Beginners - Wednesday 13th February 2013

Bread Making – Wednesday 27th February 2013

Naturalistic Gardening – Wednesday 13th March 2013

Preserving Fruit – Wednesday 20th March 2013

Composting - Wednesday 27th March 2013

Sausage Making – Wednesday 17th April 2013

Soup and Bread Making Course – Wednesday 1st May 2013

Price: From £75—£95 will include a light organic lunch and refreshments throughout the day.

Booking is essential for seasonal walks and courses.

estateoffice@walthamplace.com or Telephone 01628 825 517



Everwelcome Club (Over 60s)

Christian Smith House, Heywood Avenue, Woodlands Park

2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. alternate Wednesdays

Contact: Jennifer Glennie, 19 Burcot Gardens, Maidenhead, SL6 7UR.

Telephone: 01628 626939.

Our 2013 programme for the club commences on Wednesday the 6th February.

A very interesting programme has been arranged and our first speaker is Mr Clegg whose talk is about Bletchley Park.

Future Meetings

February 6th	Club Resumes	
February 20th	Mr Clegg	<i>Talk on Bletchley Park</i>
March 6th	Diana Hayes	<i>Talking Newspapers</i>
March 20th	Bingo & Raffle	

I am looking forward to seeing you all on February 6th.

Ursula McAndrew



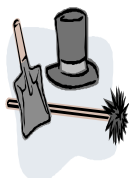
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St Mary's White Waltham Churchyard

The 2012 grass cutting season was not an easy one. If you recall we had a very wet season making it hard to get time to cut the grass when it was not raining. When it was possible it was usually heavy going as the ground was still wet and soft. It was certainly one of the most difficult summers I can recall in the many years I have been a volunteer.

Just a few details: during the 2012 season over **200 hours** were spent by the volunteers cutting and strimming the grass alone. There are also many unrecorded hours spent on general clearing up and keeping things tidy during the whole year.

I would like to thank my fellow volunteers who as always have done an excellent job always giving freely of their time, without which we would not have the tidy and looked after churchyard that we enjoy.



Churchyard Concerns



- Can we please ask visitors or people passing through to make sure they always close the gates.
- If you visit the churchyard accompanied by a dog will you please make sure you **do not** allow your dog to foul in the churchyard. If this happens please clear it up. It has become quite common to find dog dirt in the churchyard even on graves over the past couple of years and this is really not acceptable.
- When attending the graves of a loved one please make sure any rubbish is placed in the wheelie bins at the top entrance to the churchyard and not just discarded in the churchyard or thrown in to the pit.
- Please show respect for the place you are in.

We are very fortunate to have a cared for churchyard, so please visitors do your bit to keep it that way. **Thank You.**

Derek R. Smith

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All the usual Arts & Crafts, Scrabble, Monthly Walks and Pub Lunches continue throughout the year.

The Programme for February– March is as follows:-

- February 21st** Annual Dinner
March 21st Butterflies of Berkshire. *Speaker Jan Hassler*

Future Events 2013

- April 18th** Red Kites. *Speakers Ann & Philip Farrer*
June 8th to 15th Walking Group Holiday
June 10th to 14th Federation Holiday to Harrogate
August 13th Federation Picnic in the Park at Blue Coats
School Reading

For further details please contact me - details above.

Jean Chant

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St Mary's Flower Guild, White Waltham

By the time you read this the Flower Guild's Annual General Meeting will have taken place and we will have decided on our programme for the coming year.

Our thanks go once again to Pam Smith, a professional florist as well as a member, for her help and guidance throughout 2012. Hopefully we will be holding a number of workshops again throughout the year. Thank you to all who worked so hard last year to ensure that the Church had beautiful displays of flowers for both Sunday services and Church festivals. The highlight of 2012 must surely have been decorating the Church for the Queen's Jubilee. There were some amazing displays - well done to all our talented members.

We welcome new members, whether you are an enthusiastic beginner or an experienced flower arranger. If you would like to join us in any of the Flower Guild activities please contact Liz Atlay (01628 778462) or Julia Hodgson (01628 821058).

Liz Atlay
Secretary



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LETTER FROM NEW ZEALAND

The Treaty of Waitangi



I have recently realised that ever since I started writing these newsletters from New Zealand I have never talked about our nation's founding document. In these days when many nations do not have written constitutions, and thus where people are not always aware of the basis upon which their country exists, I thought you might like to read a little about how New Zealand came into being as a sovereign nation.

Of course, Captain Cook had a great deal to do with it. He was the English Naval Captain who carried out many voyages of discovery in the late 18th century. In 1770 he made his first voyage to the Pacific where he circumnavigated New Zealand and produced the earliest maps. He made two other journeys to this part of the world and there are traces of his presence here in almost every part of New Zealand. Indeed, even the suburb of Dunedin where we live, Abbotsford, may have been named by Captain Cook. The story goes that a sailor called Abbot slipped from his horse and fell into a small creek. The name was then given to the ford where this occurred – Abbot's Ford – well, whether this is true or not there are hundreds of much more definite evidences of the good Captain from Yorkshire in our country.

But it is not until 1840 after several years of trading, whaling and the beginnings of white settlement that the British Crown chose to make a treaty with the indigenous people of New Zealand, the Māori who have lived here for some centuries before Captain Cook "discovered" New Zealand.

I have chosen to write about this because it is so important to all New Zealanders but also because I believe it is a landmark treaty in global terms. Of course there are indigenous people in Australia, the Aborigines, and the native Indians of Canada and the USA but as far as I am aware, there is no similar treaty in those countries and I also believe that the way the Crown has tried to treat the Māori (not always successfully!) compares very favourably to those other nations.

The treaty, which is quite a short document, was signed by William Hobson Consul & Lieutenant Governor appointed by the Crown and also by all of the Māori chiefs in 1840 and this is now celebrated with a national holiday on February 6th. Thus our nation actually started as a nation on that date in 1840. Incidentally, Australia was not constituted as a nation until early in the 20th century. We also say that Australia is a country with deep convictions . . . a reference to the fact that hundreds of Britons were transported to Australia as punishment for sometimes quite trivial offences. We have no such history as a convict settlement.

Our country has not been without its troubles since the treaty, indeed, the Māori wars were fought since the signing and there were injustices done over the sale and purchase of land and these events are still being worked through. But the treaty has given a basis upon which justice can still be done to redress grievances over past years.

Now it is true that there are many treaties and covenants in existence in our world, none is perfect and all require that agreement of (at least) two parties who each agree to the terms of the treaty and to comply with whatever obligations the treaty imposes. But are you aware that there is a treaty which may involve you? This treaty is quite different in that it is entirely one sided. It is also universal and applies to everybody everywhere.

In Old Testament times God made agreements with His chosen people in which He agreed to protect them, provide them with a homeland and to be their God IF they would agree to obey His commands and laws. History shows that they failed dismally time and time again and were eventually taken captive and removed from their territory and that even now, when the State of Israel is a fact, it falls far short of the territory that God had promised to the Israelites of old.

But now God's treaty is quite different. It is set out John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Have you joined this treaty? Do you expect to go to heaven when you die? Please don't ignore this, after all, suppose it is all true (as of course I believe it to be) what do you have to lose? But just think of what you have to gain.

Eric Green (eric.g@clear.net.nz)



Sarah Sugden



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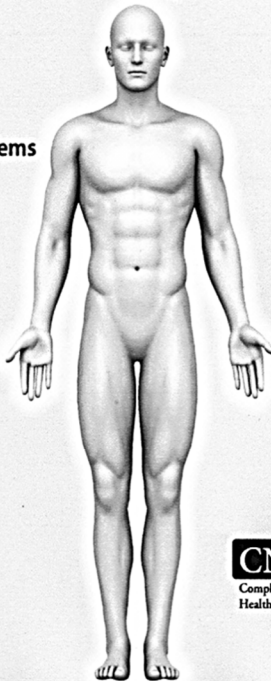
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Project Rainbow

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100 Mile Run News...

Bob Crittenden and Andy Eden's 100 mile run raised a grand total of £5157 including Gift Aid. Many thanks to all those who supported them in their endeavours.

Other recent events...

The **Autumn Musical Soiree** held on **Saturday 24 November** raised a total of £223.80 including donations of £188.80 on the night and £35 from the sale of Project Rainbow Preserves. Our special thanks go to Pippa Eden, Elizabeth Slade and their pupils for providing such great entertainment.

The **Project Rainbow stall at White Waltham Academy's Christmas Fair** raised £139.90 through sales of Project Rainbow Preserves, Christmas Cards, hyacinths and cacti! Our thanks go to the PTA of White Waltham Academy for this event.

On Monday 17 December the Choir of White Waltham Academy joined us for a **Coffee Morning with Carols at Christian Smith House**. We served mince pies, tea, coffee and cakes, and in addition to a good singsong there was a raffle and Project Rainbow preserves were sold. A small donation has been made to the Christian Smith House social fund.

Project Rainbow is White Waltham Church's building project which will construct purpose built accommodation to provide a base for the church's work with families, giving a venue for both midweek and Sunday morning activities for children and young people. It will also provide a resource for church related activities for the whole local community during the week enabling the Church to better serve its local community.

In the next edition of the magazine we will be giving news of our **Burns Night celebrations at White Waltham Academy on Friday 25 January**. If you receive this magazine before that date and would like to come along please contact Jane for more information on 0118 934 3704.

Coming up...

Join us for our **Spring Musical Soiree** with **Pippa Eden, Elizabeth Slade and their pupils** on **Saturday 2 March at 5.00pm**. Refreshments will be served. Entry is by donation on the door. This short concert is suitable for all the family.

Waltham St Lawrence Silver Band will be joining us for a **Concert** on **Wednesday 15 May** prior to their tour of Germany. This will be the third of the Silver Band's very entertaining summer concerts for Project Rainbow. For more information about this event and how to get your tickets see the next edition of the magazine.

Project Rainbow progress....

Since launching Project Rainbow on 16 May 2010, we have raised, or had pledged to us, nearly £440,000 of the £497,200 total needed for the project. This includes a gift of £5,000 that we recently received from the Prince Philip Trust together with two other very generous gifts that we have recently received totalling £21,000! We are enormously grateful to everyone who has contributed to that total and are now working hard to raise the final amount needed.

To make a one-off gift to Project Rainbow, or to set up a pattern of regular giving, you can either complete the form in the giving packs available from the Church and The Vicarage, or give online via our website: **www.projectrainbow.org.uk**.

For more information visit the Project Rainbow website:

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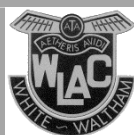


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Woodlands Park Primary School



I would like to start by saying that we are so happy to have welcomed many new families to our school this term. Our nursery is now almost full and we will have to put a waiting list in place. Our Stay and Play sessions which take place in the Nursery on a Monday and Thursday afternoon are growing in popularity and it is wonderful to see new families joining us for these sessions. Please feel free to drop in. The cost is £2.50 per visit including tea, coffee, juice and a biscuit.

We have been building on our successful Ofsted Inspection which deemed Woodlands Park to be 'A Good School'. Recommendations have been put in place and our pupils continue to improve in terms of their results and also the progress they have made since joining us.

Our curriculum continues to engage and excite the children through enrichment activities such as visits and extra curricular activities. We are also planning to put in new play and climbing equipment to enrich playtimes for the children this term.

The term so far has been busy at Woodlands Park with some of the Key Stage Two children taking part in a project with the Stanley Spencer Gallery in Cookham. The children started the project by visiting the gallery and the school has been working with a creative partner to develop music and drama skills. The project will culminate in a presentation at Cox Green School Theatre in March.

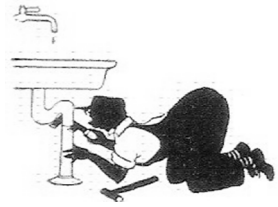
Key Stage Two children have also been busy rehearsing in preparation for the annual dance festival at The Magnet in February.

Once again, we are always happy to show around visitors to the school. Please contact us on 01628 822350 to arrange a visit and meet our wonderful pupils and staff. Alternatively take a look at our school website www.woodlandsparkschool.co.uk

Alison Penny
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White Waltham C E Academy

Best wishes to you for a Happy New Year from all of us at White Waltham C.E. Academy. Starting back on the 8th of January, has afforded us all the opportunity to re-charge our batteries and staff and children have returned full of energy and enthusiasm ready to tackle our Spring term.

Each year has selected an author that they would like to focus on and we are all very busy with our Writing project; where the children are creating their own 'books' and poems to share with their parents and the community at our ***'White Waltham Writers Festival'*** on Wednesday 27th March from 14:00 to 18:00.

To inspire the children, years 3 - 6 have enjoyed a fun, stimulating day with The Etherington Brothers, comic writers. The children have used many of their stimulating ideas and techniques to enhance their own story writing. We have also been fortunate to have enjoyed a theatre performance of BFG written by Roald Dahl for the whole school and in addition, years 3 - 6 also watched 'A taste of Dahl'. These opportunities have brought the story and Dahl to life for the children, giving them a greater understanding of the story and Roald Dahl as a person and author.

The term continues to provide exciting learning opportunities for the children, with three fun-filled days with a group called 'Thrift' to look forward to. Tim and his group provide opportunities for the children to immerse themselves in mark making (writing opportunities) which we are hoping will further encourage children to be brave and confident writers.

The children's learning will be further enriched through a variety of outings. Year 4 are thrilled to be looking at the 'Harry Potter stories and are off to learn more about the movie at the Warner Brothers Studio, whilst our lower school children will all enjoy a visit to the Roald Dahl Children's Museum in Aylesbury.

Year 5 have already been to Roald Dahl museum in Great Missenden and are looking forward to their trip to Cadburys World to enhance their understanding of 'Charlie and the chocolate factory.' Year 6 are looking at Michael Morpurgo books linked to WW2 and are visiting RAF Museum London followed by an interactive WW2 experience at BCA at the start of term 4.

We continue to be busy on the sporting front. Our netball and football teams are playing a number of matches in their leagues this term. In addition we have a wide variety of after school clubs on the go ranging from Tag-ruby to dance and strategy games to lego. It's lovely to see the children so busy and healthy. We also continue to enrich the children's life experience by teaching them cookery skills as well as gardening, where they plant and harvest foods to use in their cookery. We are also very excited that year 4 will be working with a Michelin chef, Dominic Chapman as part of the Academy of Culinary Arts - Chefs Adopt a School.

The PTA continue to raise very valuable funds for the school, their excellent Christmas fayre raised approximately £ 2300. A big thank you to the local community for their support, and we still have many more projects on the calendar and look forward to your continued support.

Looking ahead, we will be focusing our term 5 & 6 work on the local community and we would love to hear from any residents who would be able to share any local history, accounts of living/working in the local area. Any ideas for visits that would promote learning would be greatly appreciated. Any information about talented locals, present and past, that could come into the school and share their life experiences or work with the children would also be greatly appreciated.

Our pupils love sharing their school experiences; we welcome visitors and are proud to show them around. Please feel free to arrange a visit to our school. Contact the school office on 01628 822533 or by email whitewaltham@rbwm.org to arrange a visit or for any further information.

Isabel Cooke Principal

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Tales from the Bells



We hope you all had a good Christmas and a lovely New Year.

What a year 2012 was for us. We rang for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the opening of the London Olympics, weddings that took place in the parish, a quarter peal saying goodbye to friends, and special Christian occasions especially Sunday services. We also had our trip to Whitechapel Bell Foundry.

We were, once again, busy ringing over the Christmas period. All bells were rung in the parish at both churches.

At White Waltham on Christmas morning a quarter peal was rung.

Christmas Day

Tuesday 25th December 2012

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Thomas Andrew | 4. Derek Smith |
| 2. Naomi Andrew | 5. Caroline Andrew (C) |
| 3. Lesley Graves | 6. Derek Brayne |

Rung to Celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ.

The bells were also rung at Shottesbrooke for Christmas morning and for the Shottesbrooke Carol service.

We also had enough ringers to ring in the New Year of 2013 at White Waltham and Shottesbrooke. This was because we had two ringers come from another tower to help out. Our thanks go to them for their support.

This year of 2013 seems to be less busy at the moment, but I'm sure there will be more quarter peals as the year progresses. Our next main quarter peal will be for Easter Sunday when we will celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We are still looking for people to come and have ago at bell ringing. So if you are interested please call me; my number is at the back of this magazine. Or if you are in church do come and ask me any questions you may have.

Lesley Graves, Tower Captain, White Waltham.

Mark Dearlove

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Children at St Mary's

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All ages meet together at Family Services. These are usually at 11.00 a.m. on the 1st Sunday of each month, but check the rota for current information.

On other Sundays children's groups meet in the Chapel Room for their own activities while the adult service is taking place.



Parish Register



Baptism

At White Waltham

December 9th Eleanor Beatrice Annabelle Butler,
daughter of Sam and Caroline Butler

Marriage

At White Waltham

November 17th Dean Victor Knight & Briony Jane Trillow

Funerals

Burial of Ashes at White Waltham

November 17th Evelyn Rachel Cowlard

Cremation

December 20th Eileen Elsie Denne, aged 80 (Wessex Way, Cox Green)



Church Service Rota

February & March



	8.00 am White Waltham	9.30 am Shottesbrooke	11.00 am White Waltham	Evening
Sunday 3 February	Holy Communion BCP	Morning Prayer BCP	Family Service	
Sunday 10 February	Holy Communion BCP	Holy Communion BCP	Morning Prayer	
Ash Wednesday 13 February				8.00 p.m. Holy Communion at White Waltham
Sunday 17 February	Holy Communion BCP	Morning Prayer BCP	Holy Communion	
Sunday 24 February	Holy Communion CW	Holy Communion BCP	Morning Prayer	
Sunday 3 March	Holy Communion BCP	Morning Prayer BCP	Morning Prayer	
Sunday 10 March	Holy Communion BCP	Holy Communion BCP	Mothering Sunday Family Service	
Sunday 17 March	Holy Communion BCP	Morning Prayer BCP	Holy Communion	
Sunday 24 March	Holy Communion CW	Holy Communion BCP	Morning Prayer	
Maundy Thursday 28 March				8.00 p.m. Holy Communion at White Waltham
Good Friday 29 March			10.00 am The way to the Cross <i>for all ages</i>	12.00-3.00 pm Three Hours Service at White Waltham
Easter Day 31 March	Holy Communion BCP	Holy Communion BCP	Family Service <i>followed by short Holy Communion</i>	
Sunday 7 April	Holy Communion BCP	Morning Prayer BCP	Morning Prayer	



The Who's Who



Telephone codes are 01628 unless stated otherwise

Vicar

David Andrew, The Vicarage,
Waltham Road, White Waltham
SL6 3JD 822000
email: waltham.vicar@btinternet.com

Licensed Lay Minister

Carole Perkins, 1 Kendall Place,
Cox Green, Maidenhead
SL6 4GA 623445
email: carol.perkins@ukgateway.net

Churchwarden – Shottesbrooke

Bob Packer, Corner Cottage,
Shottesbrooke Park SL6 3SW 823774

Churchwarden – White Waltham

Liz Atlay, 39 Tithe Barn Drive,
Maidenhead SL6 2DF 778462
email: jandeo@btinternet.com

Treasurer - Shottesbrooke

Richard Sykes, Coltmans, The Street,
Waltham St Lawrence
RG10 0JJ 0118 934 3228
email: rsykes@compuserve.com

Treasurer - White Waltham

Andy Eden, 15 Heywood Avenue,
Maidenhead SL6 3JA 823992
email: andy1me@hotmail.com

Secretary to Parochial Church Council

Carole Perkins, 1 Kendall Place,
Cox Green, Maidenhead
SL6 4GA 623445
email: carol.perkins@ukgateway.net

Secretary for Gift Aid & Stewardship Envelopes

Tony Hill, Homewood, Innings Lane,
White Waltham SL6 3RU 822654

Deanery Synod Representatives

Bob Packer, Corner Cottage,
Shottesbrooke Park SL6 3SW 823774

June Brayne, 2 Orchard Cottages,
Drift Road, Hawthorne Hill,
Maidenhead SL6 3ST 625462
email: braynewave@hotmail.com

Roger Sparrow, Merion House,
White Waltham, Maidenhead
SL6 3RU 822693

Sunday School Coordinator

June Brayne, 2 Orchard Cottages,
Drift Road, Hawthorne Hill,
Maidenhead SL6 3ST 625462
email: braynewave@hotmail.com

Crèche

Andrea Greenwood, 15 Bedford Close,
Maidenhead SL6 3UP 07595287002
email: andream.greenwood@o2.co.uk

Pathfinders (11-14s)

Caroline Andrew, The Vicarage,
Waltham Road, White Waltham
SL6 3JD 822000

Revelation (14-18s)

Contact The Vicarage, Waltham Road,
White Waltham SL6 3JD 822000

Captain of Bells - Shottesbrooke

Bob Packer, Corner Cottage,
Shottesbrooke Park SL6 3SW 823774

Captain of Bells - White Waltham

Lesley Graves, 2 Heywood Cottages,
Waltham Road, White Waltham
SL6 3JD 828408
email: whitewaltham@sdb.oda.ora.uk

Lesson Reading Rota (Shottesbrooke)

Bob Packer, Corner Cottage,
Shottesbrooke Park, SL6 3SW 823774

Project Rainbow

Bob Crittenden, 10 Stratford Gardens,
Maidenhead SL6 3DT 676117
email: bobcrittenden@aol.com

Car Parking

Simon Graves, 2 Heywood Cottages,
Waltham Road, White Waltham
SL6 3JD 828408

Bookstall + Bible Reading Notes

June Brayne, 2 Orchard Cottages,
Drift Road, Hawthorne Hill,
Maidenhead SL6 3ST 625462
email: braynewave@hotmail.com

Flower Guild Secretary

Liz Atlay, 39 Tithe Barn Drive, Maidenhead
SL6 2DF 778462
email: jandeo@btinternet.com

Wedding Flowers

Pam Bray, 74 London Road,
Twyford, RG10 9EY 0118 9343792
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Coffee Rota

Barbara Day, 62 Foliejohn Way,
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Church Cleaning Rota (WhiteWaltham)

Jane Nottage, 46 Littlefield Green,
Maidenhead SL6 3JL 0118 9343704

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Vivienne Low, 4, Norreys Drive,
Maidenhead SL6 4BU 627136

Magazine Production

Derek Smith, 16 St Patricks Close,
Maidenhead SL6 3BD 776181
email: derek.r.smith@hotmail.co.uk

Magazine Advertisements

Bob Crittenden, 10 Stratford Gardens,
Maidenhead SL6 3DT 676117
email: bobcrittenden@aol.com

Magazine Distribution

Derek Brayne, 2 Orchard Cottages,
Drift Road, Hawthorne Hill, Maidenhead
SL6 3ST 625462
email: braynewave@hotmail.com

Webmaster

Mark Stanger, 3 Caswall Close,
Binfield RG42 4EF 01344 455206
email: stanger.mark@googlemail.com

Website

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