

There will be no Senior Tea in January. The next one will be Monday 9th February at 2pm at Woodstock, Ford End. Do let me know if you are coming please and also if you need a lift. Sheila 07977077945

"Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at his disposition, and listening to His voice in the depths of our hearts". Mother Teresa

We have decided to cancel the January prayer meeting due to the wintry weather. We plan to meet again on Wednesday 4th February.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:5

As you go on your way, may God go with you.
May God go before you to show you the way.
May God go behind you to encourage you,
beside you to befriend you,
above you to watch over,
within you to give you peace.
In the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit.
John Ylvisaker

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. We also have a WhatsApp group to share encouraging messages. Please let Jo know if you'd like to join the group. God Bless, Jo and Carol.

You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream. C.S. Lewis

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



Welcome to Gracefields Pew Sheet for January 2026

Gracefields' January Services

Sunday 4th January

11.00am – Gracefields' Joint Service - Great Waltham

Thursday 8th January

6.00pm – Communion – Little Waltham

Sunday 11th January

9.30am – Communion – Little Leighs
11.00am – Family Communion – Ford End

Thursday 15th January

6.00pm – Communion – Little Waltham

Sunday 18th January

9.30am – Family Service – Little Leighs
11.00am – Communion – Great Waltham

Thursday 22nd January

6.00pm – Communion – Little Waltham

Sunday 25th January

9.30am – Communion – Great Leighs
10.00am – Family Worship – Ford End
11.00am – Communion – The Chignals

Thursday 29th January

6.00pm – Communion – Little Waltham

Sunday 1st February

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, 1st

Tuesday of the month 9.30-11am and last

Wednesday of the month 10-12pm.

Parish administrator: Alison Creighton

admin@littleandgreat.org.uk 07957 228467

Church Websites: www.greatwalthamchurch.org.uk

<https://churchesattheleighsandlittlewaltham.org>

Please Pray:

- For an end to all wars and violence and pray for unity for all people.
- For all who work in radio or television, the work of Premier Radio, and all stations relating to the Diocese.
- For the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – One Body, One from 18th to the 25th January (or during Pentecost). This year's theme reminds us that the call to unity is a call to work for peace for all people everywhere.
- Give thanks for everyone who serves in our Churches and help to keep them running.
- For the members of the General Synod, that they may be filled with the wisdom and love of the Holy Spirit.
- Thank You for the gifts and talents You have given to us. Help us to use them to bless You and bless others. Thank You for trusting us with these gifts.
- For those struggling at this winter time of year. Dear Lord please give them Your joy especially at the start of a new year.
- 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, Alan Baker, Danny Fincham, Jake Bamford and others we know.
- For those who mourn, especially the family and friends Michelle Hall, Oscar Whitehead and Olive Smith.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain...

Revelation 21.4

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.

There are better things ahead than any we leave behind.
C.S. Lewis

The Gate of The Year

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."
And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way." So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East."

Minnie Louise Haskins

Bible-Eyes at 7 on Tuesday 27th Jan in The Barn @St Martins, Little Waltham.

A New Year message from the Bishop of Chelmsford

The Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, the Bishop of Chelmsford, has shared her New Year message for 2026:

It was a joy to meet Pope Leo in Rome in November of last year. The occasion was the declaration of Cardinal Newman as a Doctor of The Church, made all the more meaningful in the Jubilee Year, themed "Pilgrims of Hope". It seems to me that as we stand on the threshold of a New Year, we are called to travel this path of Hope together.

It's always a temptation to be drawn towards despair. A febrile political environment, the diminished standing of the Church, even our own weariness can lead us to forget that we are called to be people of Hope. Those whose Hope is in the Word made Flesh - the message that's been proclaimed in churches throughout our Diocese this Christmas period and because of which we can journey confidently into a new year.

And Hope abounds not just when all is well, not just in life's joys and successes. In his November message for World Day of the Poor, the Pope urges us to recognise those experiencing poverty as "witnesses to a strong and steadfast hope, precisely because they embody it in the midst of uncertainty, poverty, instability and marginalisation". That is not how a secular society usually measures Hope. Christian Hope has nothing to do with whether a successful outcome can be predicted but everything to do with the conviction of things not seen and the determination to travel well in times of uncertainty, for our Hope is in the one who renews all things.

In my Persian childhood we celebrated New Year on 21st March - a time of new life bursting forth at the Spring Equinox. Joyful though that remembrance is, I've also come to see the blessing of the western tradition - of the New Year coming at a time of darkness and even a certain bleakness. Every morning in the small chapel at Bishops Court I see the words of St. John engraved on the stain glass window: Light Shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

Now that is Hope, and that is what I wish for you, your loved ones and your communities. May you have a happy and Hope-filled 2026.

+Guli Chelmsford

On Monday 26th Jan from 7 at Rev'd Dan's house (1 Glebe Meadow, Gt Waltham, CM3 1EX) for Church Wardens and anyone who might consider being a Church Warden or part of a Wardens team anywhere in Gracefields. We need to spread the load among more people so it doesn't weigh heavy on a few. Please understand that coming to the evening is only an expression of interest and does not commit anyone to taking on a role. Thanks for your consideration.