

The next **Senior Tea** will be on Monday 18th May at the summer time of 2.30pm at Woodstock, Ford End. Do let me know if you are coming please and also if you need a lift. Sheila 07977077945

The May **prayer meeting** at Ashcroft will be on Wednesday 6th May at 2pm. Everyone is warmly welcome, talk to Jo or Carol Pritchard for more info.

Coffee with Christ will be on Weds May 20th at St John's, Little Leighs starting with breakfast at 9.30 and followed by a said morning prayer and a discussion. You are warmly invited to join us.

Little Leighs choir rehearsals are at 8.00pm at St Johns, Little Leighs on May 6th and 20th.

Thank you to everyone who has donated this tax year 2025/2026 to Great Waltham and Ford End Churches whether it was for the buildings, the costs of worship, or special fund raising. This is really appreciated. We also have received a considerable amount back from the HMRC on Gift Aided donations. I will be sending out a personal letter in May with the details of your donations and this statement can be used for tax purposes if required.
Very many thanks again
Sheila Bearman

'Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable and receives the impossible.' Corrie Ten Boom

Christian Aid Week: Pray with us to grow hope
Great change can begin in the smallest moments.
In prayer, we place before God the world as it is — and the world as it could be.
In Nairobi, Fridah and Belinda are growing food in crowded, uncertain conditions. Their work begins small, but it is rooted in patience, care and hope. It reminds us of Jesus' words: 'It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree.' - Luke 13:18 (NRSV)
In prayer we sow our own small seeds: naming injustice, holding suffering before God, and trusting that God is at work, often beyond what we can see.
Pray that parents living with the relentless stress of food insecurity can access training and tools that will support them to provide for their children.
<https://caw.christianaid.org.uk/uk/churches/service-and-worship>

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.

Parish administrator: Alison Creighton
admin@littleandgreat.org.uk 07957 228467
Church Websites: www.greatwalthamchurch.org.uk
<https://churchesattheleighsandlittlewaltham.org>

Welcome to Gracefields Pew Sheet for May 2026

Gracefields' May Services

Sunday 3rd May

11.00am – Gracefields' Joint Service - Great Waltham

Thursday 7th May

6.00pm – Still Waters Communion – Little Waltham

Sunday 10th May

9.30am – Rogation – Little Leighs
see below for details

Thursday 14th May

6.00pm – Still Waters Communion – Little Waltham

Sunday 17th May

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

Thursday 21st May

6.00pm – Still Waters Communion – Little Waltham

Sunday 24th May

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

Thursday 28th May

6.00pm – Still Waters Communion – Little Waltham

Sunday 31st May

11.00am – Gracefields' Joint Service - Little Waltham

Sunday 7th June

11.00am – Gracefields' Joint Service - Great Waltham

Private Prayer

Little Waltham: open every day 9.30am to 4.30pm

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.

Sunday May 10th is **Rogation Sunday** and there will be a service at Gate Farm, Little Leighs, CM3 1QA, for the Gracefields' congregations starting at 9.30am. This will be a walk round the farm with stops for prayers and meditations. For those who prefer not to walk there will be an indoor service.

The usual refreshments will follow, and you are invited to bring a picnic and chair or rug to sit on.

As this day is the start of Christian Aid Week there will be a collection for that charity.

Please Pray:

- For world peace. We pray for an end to all conflict, we pray for divine guidance for world leaders for them to be honest, just and fair, for protection for all people, and for a transformation of hearts from hatred to compassion. We pray for unity across nations and mutual respect among all people.
- Please pray for "Thy Kingdom Come" 14th - 24th May — that more people come to know Jesus Christ and God's transformative presence, power and love at work in their lives.
- Please pray for all the Street and Rail Pastors as they patrol each week and bring God's love to their local communities.
- Please pray for the House of Retreat at Pleshey, for all those who work and minister there, for all Pleshey Partners, and for those who visit or stay.
- We give thanks to God that he calls us all to varieties of forms of service in his Church and in the world and we pray for openness to his Holy Spirit, that each of us may discern the call of God upon our lives.
- Sunday 10th May – 16th May: God of the impossible, we pray for justice, peace and reconciliation. And when the challenges seem too many, remind us of your resurrection power, and the miracles of your love that happen whenever injustice is dismantled and rebuilt with peace. Help us to hope that the impossible can happen and live as if it might do so today. Amen (Prayer for Christian Aid)
- Pray that there will be unity and harmony in the Anglican Communion throughout the world.
- 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, Sue Forsyth and others we know.
- For those who mourn, especially the family and friends of Arthur Whybrow, Pat Pepper and Nigel Maguire.

Pat Pepper's funeral will be at Great Waltham Church on 12th May at 1 pm followed by burial in the churchyard.

Lord, within us and around us,
Beneath us and above us,
Open our hearts to love You,
Open our ears to listen to You,
Open our tongues to declare You,
For You are our Maker and Redeemer,
The God of truth, love and justice.

Heather Ward

52nd Great Waltham Art Show

Great Waltham Church – 2nd and 3rd May

Saturday 11.30am - 4.30pm

Sunday 12.30pm – 4.30pm

Amission £1 Refreshments (cash only)

Sale of artwork (cash, cheque, card)

Includes an exhibition of work from Great Waltham Primary School

New this year! Free art workshops for children:

Saturday 1-2pm and Sunday 2.20-3.30pm

'There is no pit so deep that God's love is not deeper still.'
Corrie Ten Boom.

Photo exhibition in Great Waltham Church

23rd and 24th May from 10am to 4pm

There will be an exhibition of old photos of the village and people, organized by the Community Network, which will be going off to the Essex Records Office later this year. Before they go, there will be an exhibition in the Church.

There is also planned an archive of information on the WW1 and WW2 soldiers from the village which will be displayed.

For the LORD your God is living among you.

He is a mighty Saviour.

He will take delight in you with gladness.

With His love, He will calm all your fears.

He will rejoice over you with joyful songs." Zephaniah 3.17

Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. Taking place between Ascension and Pentecost, everyone is invited to take part. There is a new theme for TKC in 2026 - 'God with us' – and it's all about the presence of God. The God who is with us in the everyday – in the joys and sorrows of life (and everything in between) and the One who, through His spirit, longs to reveal Himself to those who do not yet know Him. From the story of Ruth to the story of Gideon, from the story of Elijah to the story of the early church who waited for the promised Holy Spirit to come- over the 11 days we will explore a different Bible story each day, which demonstrates God's transformative presence, power and love at work in the lives of people and places.

www.thykingdomcome.global

Song of Songs

Saturday 9th May, 7.30pm, Great Waltham Church CM3 1AR.

Essex Voices presents *Song of Songs*, a programme of music setting words from The Song of Solomon, also known as the Song of Songs.

We shall perform settings by Palestrina, the master of sixteenth-century counterpoint, alongside settings of the same or similar words by his contemporaries and more recent composers. Come with us as we evoke the spices and scents wafting in the air, the endearments of the lovers as they meet, and the beauties of nature as spring unfurls.

Tickets £15 (£6 under 16) available from www.essexvoices.org or on the door.



Essex Voices
present
Song of Songs
Settings by Casals, Lassus,
Palestrina, Praetorius,
Schütz and Tomkins.
Saturday 9th May 2026 at 7.30pm
Great Waltham Church CM3 1AR
Tickets £15, £6 (under 16) from
www.essexvoices.org
annabel@maltons.me.uk
01245 360240

