

Thank you to the church family from Revd Sandra

What can I say? Words are totally inadequate to express what I am feeling. Days later, I am still overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and warmth I received at my final service. It was a holy and beautiful time together and at times I found it extremely hard to keep the tears from flowing.

Thank you to all who made it such a beautiful day. For the beautiful flowers, delicious cakes and food and drink. For the truly amazing choir. For Alan on the organ. For the cleaners, welcomers, readers, producer of order of service, intercessor and server and churchwardens. For the myriad of folk (far too many to mention) who did all the jobs and tasks- big and small- needed to ensure this whole glorious event happened! And for all of you who came and enveloped me with love and affirmation (including the 5 labradors! How apt to include the animals to mark my inclusive ministry I thought). For Greg who preached so beautifully and summed up my ministry and for the kind written words I received from Revd Canon Christopher Sly afterwards. For your amazing generosity in beautiful gifts and messages. Though I am sad to leave my role as priest in these parishes it was a time to give thanks for what has been and look to the future and what may be next.

It is now a time to trust that God is going before you and before me and he has plans for us all. It is so true that you have all blessed me more than you can ever know in my years here. I can say wholeheartedly that it has been an honour and delight to serve as a priest here. I have been one very lucky lady! I would never have guessed in a million years when I walked nervously through St John's Lt Leighs doors 20 years ago as a confused seeker, that one day I would be serving as priest in our churches and communities. God is surely a God of Surprises!

Slowly I am enjoying reading and re-reading the cards and many messages I've received and they have warmed my heart and touched my soul. I leave this role with so many happy memories and the recognition and deep belief that God is indeed working powerfully within you. You grew me into a priest. Perhaps one of you is on that same journey, however unlikely you might feel that could be? Or maybe the next person you welcome may just become a spiritual leader?

You are good and faithful folk. Remember that God is faithful and he will always be faithful to you: "For I know the plans I have for you, "declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29: 11)

I will always remember my years here with a smile and hold you all in deep affection. You will always be in my prayers. Someone who prays for me sent me this blessing on Sunday. Blessings need to be shared so I now pass it on asking God to pour this blessing upon your heads.

With much love, Rev'd Sandra.

May you be immersed in the Sacred Three.

May you feel their power and peace in you.

May their breath be yours to live.

May their love in you be yours to give.

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you

Wherever he may guide you.

May he lead you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm

May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you.

May he bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

This is the day that the
Lord has made, let us
rejoice and be glad in it.



Welcome to your Church Pew Sheet for May 2022



May Church Services

1st May

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

8th May

9.30am – Communion – Ford End
followed by GW&FE APCM
9.30am – Communion – Little Leighs

15th May

10.00am – Community Service – Ford End
11.00am – Communion – Great Waltham
11.00am – Communion – Little Waltham
11.00am – Communion – The Chignals

22nd May

9.30am – Communion – Ford End
9.30am – Communion – Great Leighs

29th May

11.00am – Joint Service – Little Leighs

5th Jun

9.30am – Little Leighs
11.00am – Communion – Great Waltham
3.00pm – Open air service of thanksgiving
for the life of the Queen – Great Waltham

Private Prayer

Little Waltham: Sundays 11am - 3pm

Little Leighs: open daily for private prayer

Ford End: open daily 10am-4pm for private prayer

The Chignals: Sundays 10-6pm – open for private prayer
unless a service is taking place.

APCMs

Great Waltham with Ford End PCC
on 8th May Ford End 10.30am

Gt Leighs, Lt Leighs and Lt Waltham PCC
16th May Little Leighs 7pm

Sun 5th Jun 3.00pm Great Waltham Church

Open air service of thanksgiving for the life of the Queen
followed by wine, tea and biscuits in the churchyard.
Free event – just turn up.

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

Please Pray:

- Please pray for followers of other faiths, that there may be discussion and understanding between all of God's people.
- Please pray for the House of Retreat at Pleshey, for all those who work and minister there, for the Friends of Pleshey, and for those who visit or stay.
- Please pray for the ministry of the Actors Church Union, and everyone involved in the local theatre and entertainment industry in our Diocese.
- Please pray for Thy Kingdom Come – that more people to come to know the love of Jesus Christ and for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness.
- Sunday 29th May: Anglican Communion Sunday: Pray that there will be unity and concord in the Anglican Communion throughout the world.
- For all those who need our prayers due to sickness or ill health, especially Pat Mitchell, Luke Wiffen, Richard Gibson, Joanne McLachlan, Stephen Lidbury, John Trew, Jean Sly, Hugh Godfrey, Elaine Lattimore, Ruth Beenham, Izzy Reed and others we know.
- For those who mourn.

Great Waltham and Ford End We would like to ensure that everyone who wants to come to Church can. If you would like a lift to Church or you are able to offer a lift please let David Williams or Jo Pritchard know.

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.
Archbishop Justin Welby Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

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

Christian Aid Week 15th-21st 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)

A Prayer for a New Priest for our Parishes

Lord
Send down Your Holy Spirit upon us all at this time of uncertainty and change.
We send You our prayers to guide us through our journey ahead in finding the right incumbent to bring new life to our parish and community.
We pray that all of us remain united in love and friendship continuing the work that has been done to this day.
Heavenly Father we pray that You will send us the person You have chosen as our next priest.
Lord hear us.

Cast all your anxiety on Him, because he cares for you.
1 Peter 5:7.

Thy Kingdom Come 2022 26 MAY - 5 JUNE

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. During May 26 - 5 June everyone across East London and Essex is invited to join in by making a Pledge 2 Pray. Find out more about Thy Kingdom Come and browse the full range of resources at www.thykingdomcome.global

We have the pleasure of reading the Wedding Banns for
Oliver Dobner & Marianne Luck
at Little Leighs on 1st, 8th and 15th May
Richard Parish & Natalie Crispin
at Little Waltham on 15th May
Andrew Towns & Emma Pavesi
at The Chignals on 15th May
Carl Smees & Kathryn Kilpin and
Philip Wright & Analize Terry
at Great Waltham and Ford End
on 1st, 8th and 15th May

Aid for Ukraine

UK-Aid (Felsted), their web address shown below. It has delivered aid out in Ukraine for twenty years to a children's centre in a city called Cherniv (pronounced Chernigiv) which is 30 miles from Chernobyl. It has also delivered aid for the refugees coming from the Eastern war torn part of Ukraine since the conflict with Russia started in 2014. <https://www.felstedaid.org>

Hope and Aid Direct (HAAD), working together with UK-Aid to send out aid to the Ukrainian refugees in Poland and possibly Moldova.
<https://www.hopeandaiddirect.org.uk/>

I start this day
In the presence of the Father
In the peace of Christ the Saviour
In the power of the Holy Spirit
I start this day
In the love of the Holy Three
In the might of the Trinity David Adam