

## Statement From Roger Bearman & James Hawkes and a Letter from Revd Dan Pierce

**Sunday 23rd October 2022**

**This statement is from James Hawkes and Roger Bearman,  
Chairs of LL/GL & LW PCC & GW with Ford End PCC**

This week we received an email from the Bishop's Office that referred to the Rev Dan's new duties, licensed as Priest in Charge of our Parishes, whilst remaining as Lead Minister for St. Francis Community Church. As you may imagine this came as a surprise to all those who have been involved with the appointment process as this had not been discussed at his interview or at any subsequent time.

We immediately replied asking for clarification of his position and to be perfectly blunt we have received a reply which is disingenuous and has not given us the clarification we were looking for. Consequently, we have requested a meeting with Bishop John.

This miscommunication from the hierarchy in the Diocese should not distract us from the essence of Dan joining us as a much loved and respected leader. We are confident that he will work well within our Parishes. He will bring fresh ideas to reach out to worshipping and non-worshipping community, supported by our lay leaders and other clergy from the NCMMP group.

Meanwhile, we will pursue our enquires with the Bishop to establish Dan's exact terms of reference in our Parishes particularly how his time will be divided, the financial implications of linking up with St Francis and for our 2023 Parish Share commitments.

**Monday 24th October 2022**

Dear friends

I need to acknowledge the considerable confusion, disappointment and frustration that has accompanied the realisation that I will continue to have responsibility for St Francis alongside my new role in the villages.

I'm not quite clear yet how we have come to the state of affairs in which we find ourselves. Can I first apologise and express my irritation that I may have contributed to it.

There are things I could say (and will say face to face) that may bring clarity and excitement about our potential future together although it is evident that mistakes have been made somewhere along the way.

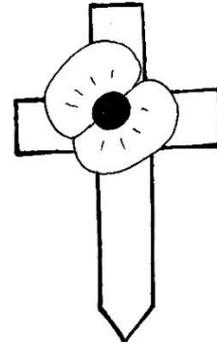
I would like to lend a note of hope in this regrettable situation. I have nursed what I believe to be a calling to work with you since February. It's really surprised and delighted me. We have had an excruciatingly long wait to enter the "process" and be appointed so I am, like everyone else, very upset to think that this has been somehow under false pretences.

I don't want to diminish what has been a spectacular system failure but there remains an opportunity here to forge a way of working that will bring life and love both to our existing parishes and to all the housing that will continue to spring up among us. My view is that St Francis will bring more than it takes from this endeavour (not excluding financial contribution). However, I admit that without proper explanation this potential may be difficult to conceive at present. I hope I can get an opportunity to express why and how St Francis and the villages collaborating can have consolidated long-term benefits for us all as "one body with many parts" (to quote St Paul).

Until such a time please accept my apologies for any way I may have contributed to the present difficulties. It is not a good way to start and I hope it doesn't derail us before we even begin. I trust we will find an agreeable way forward with our Bishop and Archdeacon Mike. More than that though I pray aloud today the salutation from the end of the book of Hebrews.

"Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you [us] with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Yours in Christ, Dan



**Welcome to your Church  
Pew Sheet for Nov 2022**



### November Church Services

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Nov

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

#### 13<sup>th</sup> Nov

9.15am - Remembrance - Ford End  
10.45am – Remembrance – Great Waltham Memorial  
(10.30am - Muster at Duffries Close)  
11.00am – Great Waltham Church  
all welcome at The British Legion following service  
10.45am – Remembrance - Great Leighs  
10.55am – Remembrance - Chignals  
Little Waltham will be joining the URC.

#### 20<sup>th</sup> Nov

11.00am – Communion – Great Waltham  
11.00am – Communion – Little Waltham  
11.00am – Communion – The Chignals

#### 27<sup>th</sup> Nov

9.30am – Communion – Great Leighs  
6.30pm Joint Advent Service with Jesse Tree – Ford End

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Dec

9.30am – Family Service – Little Leighs  
3.00pm – Christingle – 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.

Great Waltham: open Mondays 1pm to 2.30pm and last Wednesday of the month 10am to 12pm

### Joint Advent Service

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 6.30pm at Ford End Church  
Please come and join us at Ford End Church for the Jesse Tree Service. Hear the story of the Bible from Creation to the Birth of Jesus.

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

#### Please Pray:

- O loving Lord, be near us at this time of worship. Open our ears to hear your voice; our eyes to behold your glory; our hearts to receive your grace; our lips to show forth your praise; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our King and Saviour.
- Father God we pray that you will guide our world leaders. We pray they will make wise decisions and justice will prevail.
- We pray the newly elected Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, that he will encourage unity and will lead the country in a just and fair way.
- For all who suffer because of war, the friends and families who have lost loved ones. Give thanks for our Armed Forces, veterans and the work of The British Legion.
- Ever-living God, We remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (A prayer from the Church of England.)
- For all those men and women who work in the emergency services providing 24 hour care and protection, both in front line and behind the scenes. Pray, too, for their chaplains.
- From 30th October – 6th November, Mission Aviation Fellowship are holding their global week of prayer reflecting on John 1:5, 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it'. Please pray for MAF and those they serve.
- 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, Izzy Reed, Richard James Porter, Teddie Emmett, Libby Hill, Dorothy Osborne and others we know.
- For those who mourn, especially the family and friends of Keith Brooker, John Trew and Thelma Davies.

Mum and I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and flowers after my heart attack. I am recovering well and we feel very blessed to know that so many people have been praying for us. Jo & Carol Pritchard

"The wonderful thing about praying is that you leave a world of not being able to do something, and enter God's realm where everything is possible. He specialises in the impossible. Nothing is too great for His almighty power. Nothing is too small for His love. Corrie Ten Boom.

#### Friends of Essex Churches Trust Ride & Stride

By participating in the annual Ride & Stride, Janis and Greg Waters, Jane and Howard Smith and Alison and Tim Hancock raised £400 in sponsorship - a wonderful result which makes £200 for the St John's Building Fund. We are immensely grateful to them all.

God of hope, who brought love into this world,  
be the love that dwells between us.  
God of hope, who brought peace into this world,  
be the peace that dwells between us.  
God of hope, who brought joy into this world,  
be the joy that dwells between us.  
God of hope, the rock we stand upon,  
be the centre, the focus of our lives  
always, and particularly this Advent time.

[https://www.faithandworship.com/prayers\\_Advent.htm#gsc.tab=0](https://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_Advent.htm#gsc.tab=0)

#### Great Waltham Christmas Fayre – 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec

Please can we have volunteers to help on all stalls and refreshments at the Great Waltham Christmas Fayre.

If you have any items suitable for the tombola, including bottles of wine, please give them to Val Tyler or leave at the back of Great Waltham or Ford End Church. Any books please also leave at the back of the Churches.

If you are able to bake a cake please let Wendy Proctor know. Thank you.

#### Christmas Tree Festival - Great Waltham Church

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

Decorated trees in the church

Christmas Fayre – Saturday 11-4pm

Essex Police Band Concert

with licensed bar - Saturday evening 7pm

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December** Christingle – 3pm

Please see separate posters nearer the time for more info

#### Christmas Meal – The Beehive Great Waltham

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

We have booked a Christmas meal on 6th December at lunchtime for up to 25 people at The Beehive. They have kindly offered Great Waltham Church a special price of £10.00 for a 2 course meal. Please pay your £10 to Sheila Bearman or David Williams when booking.

Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.  
1 Peter 5.7

#### Licensing Service for Revd Dan Pierce will be in Great Waltham Church at 7.30 pm on Thursday 24th Nov.

For the service we will need volunteers to be sidespersons, car parking stewards and to help with refreshments. If you can help, please let David Williams, Roger Bearman or your churchwarden know.

We have the pleasure of reading  
the Wedding Banns for  
Lawrence & Alejandra  
at Great Waltham  
on 6th, 13th and 20th November