



GREAT WARLEY Lychgate

YOUR VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

December - January 2021

EDITORIAL TEAM:

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STOP PRESS

Next edition:
February/March
2021. Please send
any contributions
by **30 January**
2021 by email to
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Lychgate
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No. 81

Remembrance Sunday 8 November

Unfortunately we were unable to hold our usual Service of Remembrance at St Mary's this year because of the second covid lockdown. A short Remembrance commemoration was held instead round the war memorial on the village green, with social distancing being observed.



We were not allowed to publicise this event widely, but we were pleased to be joined by people who live around the green and by some passers-by, as well as by Sergeant Major Sophie Galley and Captain Gary Buckle who represented the Warley Army Cadets. Some past Cadets joined us too. Luckily the sun shone for us.

The commemoration was arranged and led by Helen Burgess. David Wellings read a list of names of those from Great Warley who died in both World Wars, and of those from the Royal Anglian Regiment who died in Afghanistan. The familiar sentences were read, the last Post was sounded, and a two minute silence was observed at 11am. After the Reveille, wreaths were laid by Sophie Galley on behalf of the Cadets, by Phil Smith on behalf of the Great Warley Conservation Society, and by a representative of the past Cadets. The event ended with the playing of the National Anthem.



VILLAGE NEWS

Warley Place

The amount of rubbish and vandalism at Warley Place has decreased since the last issue of the Lychgate, and we have been pleased to welcome a larger than usual number of visitors during the second lockdown. The gates are now locked between 4pm and 9am each day/night, and we again apologise to visitors for any inconvenience caused.

Working parties have not been allowed at all by EWT during the second lockdown, so leaves are now covering the paths, to the delight of some young children who enjoy wading through them. The upper terrace path has had to be closed because a huge tree branch fell in high winds in October just outside the northwest corner of the walled garden.

Walks around Great Warley

Thank you to everyone who made appreciative comments about the ten village walks which I described in the June Lychgate newsletter. The instructions were deliberately kept short so that the walks could all fit onto one page. I hope to make an edition with more descriptions available soon.

One mistake: In walk 4, 'clock tower' should have been 'water tower'. I apologise to anyone who was confused by this. I hope you were not lost for too long!!

Fiona Agassiz

Message from Alex Burghart MP

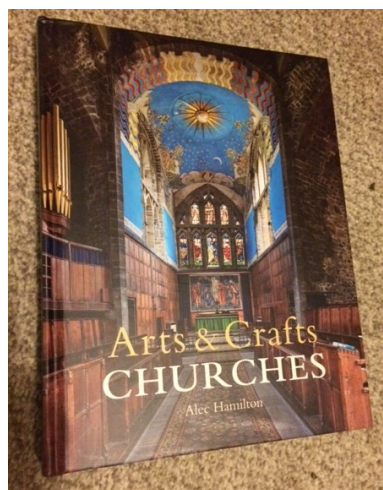
It has been a year like none other. Through all the difficulties, however, the most heartening thing has been the way in which the local communities of Warley and Childerditch have come together to look after each other – people helping those at risk by shopping for them, walking dogs, phoning to keep each other company, being good neighbours in the most important sense. This is something we must hold on to once the storm has passed. As I write this in early November, Covid-19 is surging once more – and we do not yet know how Christmas will be – though it is clear it will be a

little different. However you celebrate this year, please continue the wonderful work you have done taking care of those around you – there is nothing more fitting for the season. Happy Christmas.

Local Christmas book suggestions

John Cannell's latest semi-historical novel about Warley Place, 'Ripples in a Pond' costs £5 and is available from Fiona on 07762 200594 or fionaagassiz@hotmail.com. This is the third and last of a trilogy about Warley Place past and present. Fiona also has copies of the two previous volumes, 'The Wall' and 'The Walnut Tree', also costing £5 each. The three books, taken together or separately, would make ideal Christmas presents!

At the other end of the scale, our Great Warley Church features quite prominently in the East of England section of an impressive volume entitled 'Arts and Crafts CHURCHES' by Alec Hamilton, recently published by Lund Humphries. The cost is £45. There is a copy in the church which can be viewed or borrowed.



Printing of the Lychgate

We have been lucky enough to have Tony (formerly of Brentwood Community Print) to arrange the printing of our newsletters after the closure of BCP. We would like to thank Tony and recommend him for any of your printing needs.

Email: tonymerrittdesign@gmail.com

VILLAGE NEWS

Great and Little Warley WI

Usually by this time of year our plans for a Christmas Lunch are complete and the November meeting would be spent with much laughter in the creation of a Christmas decoration for our homes. Unfortunately, there was no chance of that happening this year but we are managing to keep in touch in various ways. The other task for the November meeting has traditionally been to bring contributions to support the local foodbank. I am told that this year the need is greater than ever. Whilst it has not been possible for us to meet in the village hall the committee decided that there was no reason for the food bank to lose out on our support. A collection of non-perishable foods, toiletries and Christmas treats was made and handed over on November 20th in order for the items to be sorted and reach their destination in good time. Thanks to all those who participated.

We wish all our members a very Happy Christmas in spite of the continuing restrictions. Stay safe and well and above all, please keep in touch with each other.

Pam Tee



Five Acre Field

We are waiting for a date for the Planning Inspectorate enquiry at which a judgement will be formed about the alleged infringement of Green Belt policy at Five Acre Field. Delays are partly being caused by the pandemic.

De Rougemont Cricket Ground

Sadly, following the notice in the last Lychgate, I have to tell you that not only has dog fouling at the cricket ground indeed continued but has escalated, and the final straw was finding a pile of poo in the middle of the cricket square, which is of course sacrosanct - not least because of the money that we have spent on it and have to continue to do in order to keep it in pristine condition.

While we don't think the culprits are the longstanding residents of the village who have been walking their dogs there for many years and who would never dream of letting the situation arise, it may be the more recent incumbents who cannot practice common decency.

We have no desire to come across as heavy-handed, and want to continue enjoying our relationship with the local community, but individuals who want only to let their dogs roam free and do as they please, or choose not to notice, are ultimately going to spoil the facility for everyone.

Malcolm Webb

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ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

Date	Time	Service
6 December	11.30am	Holy Communion
13 December	11.30am	Morning Prayer
19 December	5.30pm	Carol service
20 December	11.30pm 4.30pm	Morning Prayer Carol service
22 December	3.00pm	Crib Service
24 December	11.30pm	Midnight Communion
25 December	10.00am	Family Communion at Christ Church
27 December	11.30am	Holy Communion
3 January	11.30am	Holy Communion
10 January	11.30am	Morning Prayer
17 January	11.30am	Morning Prayer
24 January	11.30am	Holy Communion
31 January	11.30am	Morning Prayer

Church Services

The above services are planned but Covid restrictions may change things. Please check with one of the Church Wardens if you are unsure of anything. We continue to have services on Sunday at 9.30am via Facebook.

Great Warley Churchyard

Very many thanks to everyone who has helped to keep the churchyard tidy this year. We were unable to hold formal leaf-clearing sessions in November, but several people have been clearing the leaves in their own time. Please keep on doing this – the leaves are not all down yet!! We can't thank you all individually, because we don't know who you all are, but your efforts are much appreciated.

If covid regulations permit, there will be one last formal leaf-clearing session on **Saturday 12 December from 10am**. Please come if you can.

We would particularly like to thank Simon Dipper for pleaching the lime trees, the Padfield family for

organising the strimming of the lower graveyard, and Liz and Jim Stanford for keeping the churchyard so well mown all year as well as doing many other tasks.

The churchyard bonfire site is no longer in use. Please take your litter home. Prunings and leaves can be hidden around the edges of the churchyard.

Christmas at Great Warley

As with everything this year our arrangements will depend on Government Rules for Covid. However, we are planning celebrations! Not one but two shorter candle lit Carol Services with Bra-vissima to focus our musical thoughts.

On December 19th at 5.30pm and 20th at 4.30 pm. We are planning on the service lasting about 45 minutes. If you would like to come numbers are restricted to 40 per session so please email Fiona Townsend (fiona@christchurchwarley.org). If you don't have access to email please contact Steve, Helen, or Fiona Agassiz, to email for you. Please state your first and second choice of service when you email Fiona Townsend.

During Midnight Communion at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve, we will have organ music, but unless restrictions change, no singing.

Our Crib Service is at 3pm on 22nd December and is a celebration of Christmas for all the family.

Masks are essential in church. We will not have a collection, but you may either complete an envelope in church, and leave on the way out or BACS to Great Warley Church 20-12-21 50435368. Please put your surname and postcode as reference so we can get the gift aid. Happy Christmas to all, and keep safe.

Decorating the Church

On Friday 18th December at 10am we will be decorating the church, putting up the candles, opening the crib, and decorating the Christmas Tree. Please bring a mask. Do let me know if you can make it but a bit later. We need young people to help with the Tree!!

Helen Burgess

Clergy	Stuart Hull	01277 295881	revdsj2@gmail.com
Church wardens:	Stephen Brabner	01277 230771	stephenbrabner@rocketmail.com
	Helen Burgess	01277 227557	Helen.burgess1@gmail.com
For visits and guided tours	Fiona Agassiz	01277 230436	Fionaagassiz@hotmail.com
Church Address	St Mary The Virgin	Great Warley Street	CM13 3JP

MESSAGE FROM REV'D STUART

Message from Rev'd Stuart

It is my sincere hope that this letter finds you well amidst all of the challenges, fears and uncertainties that we have faced these past months. As the evenings continue to draw in and we approach the beginning of Advent, it is strange to think back to those days in March when we first had to face the reality of lockdown.

In many ways this now feels like a long time ago, and in the onset of 2020 few of us could have imagined how much our lives would be changed by the pandemic. Weeks upon weeks of furlough, national uncertainty and severed relationships have left many of us tired, lonely and anxious for the future. Technology has helped to some extent, enabling many to continue working and stay in touch with loved ones. However, this has not been possible for everyone, and for those of us who have tried to say connected virtually, there is a fuller appreciation that there's nothing quite like meeting in person.

At the time of writing we do not yet know how we will gather together for Christmas, either for family time or for worship within our church buildings. Even as the prospect of numerous effective vaccines appear upon our TV screens and newspapers, it appears that this winter, with its long nights and as yet unknown social restrictions, will be a challenging one.

And yet, even in these dark times, we have reason for hope.

Now hope and faith can often seem most distant from us when they are most needed. In fact, the Bible says this about faith: Hebrews 11v1, "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

Indeed, there are many things which at this time we cannot see. It is uncertain when the current restrictions will end and many of us may feel disconnected from our usual routines. However just because we cannot see something does not mean that cannot have hope. During these past months, few of us will have seen, in person, the work done by those who have supported our communities in so many wonderful ways. Few

will have witnessed the earnest prayer spoken on behalf of those who are isolated. And yet they happened.

It is easy for us to feel alone in our worries, but the Christian story is one of God calling us into a loving relationship with him, so that we might know that even amidst the darkness of the world, we never walk alone. Jesus is our Emmanuel, he is "God with us". God loves us so much that he saved us before we could even ask it, and in the person of Jesus he promises to walk beside us amidst every trial, and even through death's dark veil itself.

May you feel the presence of God at this time, confident in his promise of love and hope. May we all know that as human beings made in his image we are, each of us, dearly loved and of the greatest worth. No matter what is to come, Jesus will be there – John 1v 5, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it".

Please do get in touch if we can ever be of help.
Email: revdsj2@gmail.com

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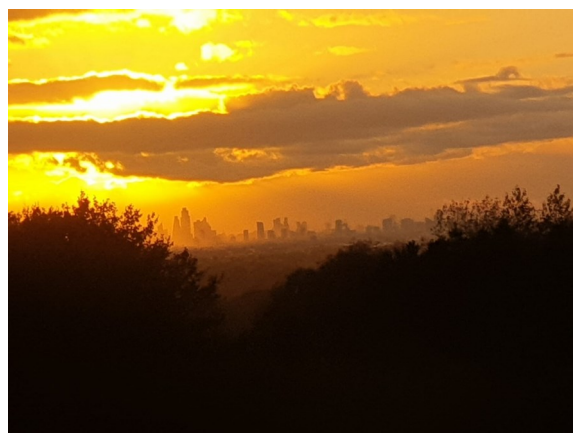
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VILLAGE PHOTOS



Covid Guy created by Mike Camfield



October Sunset over Great Warley, looking towards London



Pink spindle berries by the Persian ironwood tree at Warley Place.



Early morning autumn fog clearing at the cricket ground



Harvest Festival floral arrangements at St Mary's October 2020