Dear Friends,

It has recently been reported that a Silicon Valley whiz kid is working on the creation of a new god.

With a background in self-driving vehicles, Anthony Levandowski has founded a non-profit religious organisation that seeks to “develop and promote the realization of a Godhead based on artificial intelligence and through understanding and worship of the Godhead contribute to the betterment of society”.

It is difficult to know quite what to make of such an idea. Perhaps we should not be surprised at anything that might come out of Silicon Valley, but to talk openly about ‘worshipping’ an artificial intelligence will strike most people as, at the very least, odd.

On the other hand, perhaps he is just taking the goal of the Enlightenment to its natural conclusion.

It all began with thinking that we should be able to work things out for ourselves, without any need of revelation from God. And that continues to be the basic attitude driving public policy all over the Western world.

The trouble is, life is all so fiendishly complicated. And we don’t really seem to be all that good at working things out for ourselves — at least if the results are anything to go by. Hence the call in many quarters for ‘evidence-based policy-making’, in which only things which have been tried out, rigorously tested, and found to work are fully implemented — (continued over)
rather than anything which a politician can persuade enough people sounds like a good idea.

But finding the evidence is all very tedious and time-consuming, and there are numerous complicating factors which might give misleading results. In short, it’s difficult. So perhaps artificial intelligence can help. Perhaps it could gather enough data, untangle all the complications, and find the right patterns to tell us how we ought to organise society for the good of all.

That sounds very much like what Levandowski’s “Godhead” is aimed at doing.

Except, of course, that ‘telling us how we ought to organise society for the good of all’ sounds rather like the kind of ‘revelation’ that we were meant to be getting away from in the first place.

And we have to question whether it would really work in the ideal way that is envisaged. For however much data it managed to gather and analyse for patterns, it would still fall a long way short of being all-knowing. And the evidence is growing that the artificially intelligent ‘algorithms’ which are being left to take an increasing number of decisions are not as neutral or objective as was fondly supposed, but instead reflect the unconscious biases of their creators.

In short, there is no reason to suppose that any god created by human beings will really contribute to the betterment of society, however artificially intelligent it may be. Rather, it will just magnify our human failings and — if we treat it like a god — make an even bigger mess.

That is always what happens when we abandon the real God, and try to work things out for ourselves. Far better to trust the one who really is all-knowing, who created not just us but the whole universe, and who has been gracious enough to reveal to us what is really the best way to live.

It can only be our stubborn pride that makes us want to ignore such revelation, and try to work things out for ourselves.

David Andrew

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Shottesbrooke with White Waltham Parish Magazine  Page 4
Woodlands Winter Wonderland

which took place on Saturday 9th December, would have been impossible without the help and support of:

Christian Smith House, Forest Green Trailers, GEMS Entertainment, Greggs Maidenhead, Macfarlane Telfer, Perton Signs, Round Table Maidenhead, Travis Perkins, Waitrose Maidenhead, Waitrose Twyford, White Waltham Parish Council, White Waltham Village Association, White Waltham Academy, Woodlands Park Pharmacy

We would also like to thank the following major sponsors of Woodlands Community Events throughout 2017:
Cornish Carpets, Grant & Stone Builders Merchants, White Waltham Garage.

Future Woodlands Community Events

We are planning more Woodlands Community Events in 2018. By the time you read this work will have started on **MayDay Mayhem** which, this year, is on Monday 7 May. Look out for more news in the next edition of the Parish Magazine and see our Facebook page: Woodlands-Community-Events for more details nearer the time.

To get in touch with either Bridget or Dave at Woodlands Community Events:
Tel. 01628 822000, email woodlandscommunityevents@gmail.com or contact us via the Woodlands Community Events Facebook page.

Woodlands Community Events

is a collaboration of White Waltham Church, Woodlands Park Methodist Church, Housing Solutions and local residents, working together to strengthen community in Woodlands Park.
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Burbidge
St Mary’s Flower Guild

The Guild’s Annual General Meeting will take place in the Tree House on Saturday 3rd February at 10am. All are welcome.

2017 was another successful year for the Guild although not without its challenges. My thanks go to all our members who worked hard to ensure that the Church had beautiful displays of flowers both for Sunday services and for Church festivals. There have been many compliments from the congregation and visitors to the church particularly at Christmas. Well done to everyone who took part.

Back in the summer we were very sorry to hear of the death of Pam Smith’s husband Derek. We were delighted though to welcome Pam back into our midst later in the year where as usual in the past she has been a great help and support to us all.

We will be holding a number of workshops again this year and always welcome new members, whether you are an enthusiastic beginner or an experienced flower arranger.

Dates for your diary:

Saturday 10th March at 10am – a workshop with spring in mind
Saturday 31st March from 9.30am – decorating the church for Easter

If you would like to join in any of the Flower Guild activities please contact Liz Atlay (01628 778462) or Julia Hodgson (01628 821058). We look forward to seeing you.

Liz Atlay
Secretary

Know your spouse

While attending a Marriage Seminar dealing with communication, Tom and his wife Grace were told by the instructor that it was essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other. He addressed Tom. ‘For instance, can you name your wife's favourite flower?’
Tom leaned over, touched his wife's arm gently and whispered, ‘It's self-raising, isn't it?’
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As is often the case in wintry seasons, the humidity in the ringing chamber at Shottesbrooke has caused the bell ropes to become stiff, making them unmanageable and dangerous. Sadly this has prevented us from ringing in the New Year as is our custom. The situation at White Waltham was somewhat better and four ringers met to ring. Although Shottesbrooke’s ropes do become troublesome as a result of variations in the temperature, no one recalls previously being prevented from ringing on New Year’s Eve. Currently, we patiently await an improvement in the weather before ringing can be resumed.

Shottesbrooke’s bells were rehung in 1964 by The Whitechapel Bell Foundry and it was with some dismay that we learnt that this firm, established in 1570 is to close. It has cast many thousands of bells, amongst them certain of Shottesbrooke’s and the recast ring at White Waltham. Shottesbrooke and White Waltham ringers were fortunate enough to be able to tour the foundry in 2012. On a previous visit we had witnessed White Waltham’s bells being cast, which was very impressive to see.

**Bob Packer**  
Tower Captain  
Shottesbrooke

**Lesley Graves**  
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White Waltham CE Academy

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas. We had a very busy but thoroughly enjoyable autumn term. It was packed with many festive events - BBC Berkshire recorded our children singing; Foundation children performed their Nativity play beautifully at Maidenhead Town hall; Year 2 hosted a Christingle service for parents in the school hall and Years 1 and 6 led a wonderful Christmas service for the whole school at St Mary’s White Waltham church. The PTA organised two hugely successful events, the Winter Ball and the Winter Bazaar both of which were very well attended. The PTA also organised a Swimarathon recently in association with Lions International at the Magnet Leisure Centre which was thoroughly enjoyed by parents and children.

This term we are covering some very exciting topics and going on many adventures. Foundation, Years 1 and 2 went on a school trip to ‘Crocodiles of the World’ as they have been learning about dinosaurs and their habitats and what happened to them. They participated in lots of exciting workshops and saw the widest collection of crocodiles, alligators and caimans in Europe. They also learnt about critically endangered species of crocodiles.

Years 3 and 4 are learning about the Egyptians, their way of life and about Kings and Pharaohs. They have been carrying out excavations in the school playground digging up valuable artefacts. Years 5 and 6 have been studying about Sherlock Homes and the topic of CSI (Criminal Scene Investigation). They have been looking at how crimes are solved using different clues and pieces of evidence and crime scenes and how to piece together clues just like Sherlock Holmes!

(continued on page 13)
As a Church school we celebrate core values like compassion, forgiveness etc in our assembly and our value for this term is ‘Perseverance’ and children have been discussing what perseverance is and different ways they can show perseverance. Children have been sharing and reading stories of perseverance in their classes.

We are looking forward to our upcoming events this term. The Eisteddfod Poetry finals is in February, it is always a great pleasure to watch children perform with such confidence on stage. It has been an absolute joy to watch our children perform in the past as such a wide variety of talents and abilities come to light in events like these where we see more to a child than their academic side alone. We also have the Dance Extravaganza in February at the Magnet Leisure Centre in which all the year groups will be performing. The theme for this event is ‘Night at the Museum’ and all the children have started practising their moves with eagerness to show it off to their audience of parents, carers, friends and families!

We also have the Young Voices concert at the O2 where our choir will be performing with thousands of children from other schools. This is a tremendous annual national event. Young Voices is the largest ever concert tour with over 120,000 children taking part in the UK and Ireland. Every year they have concerts at the O2 in London and other arenas in different parts of the country. Schools across the country practise the given music in preparation for these massive concerts. The choirs range from 4,500 to 8,500 children all performing at the same time to capacity audiences of friends and family. With a full live band, backing singers and a conductor, it makes for one of the most exciting and memorable musical experiences one can imagine!

Wishing everyone a great start to 2018 and may this year bring peace and joy to all. We are proud of our community of staff and children and you are most welcome to visit our school and see our staff and children in action! Please visit www.whitewalthamschool.co.uk to find out more about our school or call the school office to arrange a visit.

Mr Matt Thompson,
Head of School
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UNDERDOGS!

It’s that time of year ~ early January: the third round of the FA Cup has just taken place. Surprises? As I write here are some:

NORWICH drew with CHELSEA 0-0
NOTTINGHAM FOREST beat ARSENAL 4-2
COVENTRY beat STOKE 2-1
FLEETWOOD drew with LEICESTER 0-0

Maybe your team put up a great fight against a stronger, more experienced opposition. So what do we think about when we talk about an ‘underdog’? The dictionary says “A competitor thought to have little chance of winning.” Or “A downtrodden person.”

Every successful coach or manager makes a plan for their team to carry out, to stop the “top dogs” and sneak a victory! It may or may not work for your football team. But having this plan, doesn’t just apply to the nation’s obsession with the FA Cup! It has applications to other parts of our lives too not just sport.

Do you remember the Bible account of David and Goliath? God’s people the Children of Israel were threatened by the mighty Philistines. Their hero Goliath at about 9 feet tall was pretty impressive ~ he was their plan! No wonder none of King Saul’s outstanding warriors were willing to go hand to hand with him. They certainly were the underdogs! Goliath and the Philistines were the top dogs, & teased Israel about their weakness & their lack of faith in their God!

But teenager David didn’t want to give in to the Philistines nor Goliath as they took the mickey out of God’s people. David had a plan. He knew his own strength, his skill & his faith in God would prevail despite his apparent underdog status. He could see Goliath’s weakness ~ all arrogant, powerful people probably have a weakness ~ a forehead that was not protected. His plan, his skill, his faith hit the mark to topple Goliath & give victory to God’s people, the Children of Israel. David’s plan worked.

Then there is another more important “underdog” too. God promised Mary a baby, Jesus, in very unexpected circumstances. She with Joseph, made the long hot journey to a historic census in Bethlehem; but nowhere to stay; just a dirty animals’ trough for a new baby; shepherds, angels & wise men dropping by; what’s going on for this little “underdog”? God then warns of danger in a dream so the family rush off to Egypt & live there safely for a while as refugees. And mad King Herod threatens to murder Jesus. All the odds were against Jesus in his infancy and later too in his life’s work. But his birth that we have just celebrated at Christmas and his dying for us that we remember at Easter were God the Manager’s plans. They were perfectly carried out when Jesus died to give us all victory over evil.

Jesus, as an underdog, changed history for you and me! Have a look again at the account of Jesus birth at the start of Matthew’s and Luke’s gospels. That’s pretty good success for an “underdog” isn’t it? He could become your Manager!

Bob Crittenden
St Mary’s Church, White Waltham

Little Roots

A group for babies and toddlers with their parents/carers

We meet from 9.00 – 11.30am on Mondays during school term time. Come when you can, go when you must – we have a lot of toys out for free play, as well as a craft activity, and at about 10.15 we gather together for singing and a story followed by a snack.

We meet in The Tree House, which is located in the churchyard at White Waltham Church. Some parking is possible at the bottom of Church Hill, and more spaces are available in the yard of Bury Court Antiques (Alistair Price).

We would love to see you!

Please contact Claire Brayne if you would like any more information.

www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk  White Waltham Church
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For more information visit:
www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk   whitewalthamchurch
**Bible Bite**

**A short story from the Bible**

In Egypt the Hebrew people flourished so well that the new Pharaoh grew scared and ordered all their new-born boys to be killed.

Moses' mother hid him when he was born, but he grew too big.

She made a basket from reeds for him and put it in the grass by the river Nile.

She told Moses' sister Miriam to keep watch.

Pharaoh's daughter found Moses.

Shall I get someone to look after the baby?

So Miriam got her mother.

Waaa!

Waaa!

The princess adopted Moses as her son.

When Moses was grown up he went to see where his people worked as slaves.

Perhaps I will be the one to save my people.

Moses saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew slave.

Moses checked no-one was looking and...

He hid the body in the sand.

**Work harder!**

...killed the Egyptian.

No-one will know it was me!
Wordsearch
And now see if you can complete this wordsearch based on the Bible story opposite!

sand  mother  grown  grass  save  princess  Pharaoh  flourished
reed  Nile  Egyptian  slaves  river  son  Moses  scared
basket  killed  daughter  ordered  Miriam  body  baby  Hebrew
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Looking Forward

February, so Christmas and New Year celebrations are already items in the past. And for you in Maidenhead, the next stage is Spring, doing work in the garden and planning for a good crop later in the year. For me, well here in summer, it is pretty hot, things are growing well and I have already harvested some fruit and vegetables. I did have a minor disaster! I always spread compost which is made in bins in the garden from all our compostable waste. Sadly, not all seeds are destroyed and so, having sown several courgette seeds and watched them start to grow, I was at first puzzled to see more plants growing than I had sown seeds for. You’ve probably guessed what happened, as well as the courgettes there were lots of pumpkin plants which look similar to start with but soon they outgrow the courgettes which have all died. I have chopped most of the pumpkins out but kept at least one which has set a pumpkin which hopefully will grow to full size.

So you have some idea of what I am looking forward to. But as I get older, the work seems to be harder, but still well worthwhile. And I ask, what are you looking forward to? I don’t just mean in the garden, but in your life, in your family, in your church (if you go to church!)

Life seems to get harder as the days go by but all Christians have a wonderful future to look forward to and it is a future not limited to where we are now, but extends after this life is over. We call it heaven; I mean the real heaven, where we can all look forward to living with Christ. Are you actively expecting this? I have to remind you that there is an awful alternative. I have a neighbour who, when he dies, does not want any funeral; he’d like it if his body could be put into a rubbish sack and dumped at the kerb for council pick up. He means it!! How could our short life be all there is? No, we are placed here to live with an eye on eternity. How far does your hope for the future extend? And is your future certain?

Eric Green

Curiosity

A teacher was finishing a lesson on the joys of discovery and the importance of curiosity.
‘After all,’ she declared, ‘Where would we be today if no one had ever been curious?’
One child quietly spoke up from the back of the room. ‘In the garden of Eden?’
Throughout the year we have speakers, walks with pub lunches, and holidays both home and abroad.
Scrabble and arts & crafts groups are held at members’ homes.

Programme for February - March 2018

February 15th  Work as a Detective  Speaker: Steven Roberts
March 15th   A.G.M.
Jean Chant

Rob Robertson AIPHE RP
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We hope you all enjoyed a very happy festive season. Many employees at the council did have a few days off during the period but there was always someone available to deal with any emergency issues. These could be temperatures dropping where the need for salting our main roads becomes a priority etc.

**Have our youngsters heard about ‘YOUTH CHOICE YOUTH VOICE’?**

The aim of this project which has been running for six years, is to get as many of our young people to take an active part in their community with ideas that will benefit the wider community or by voting for their favourite. Last year the scheme awarded funding to a number of projects, including the Reach group, which received £1,000 for equipment for young people with special educational needs or learning/physical difficulties; Family Action Young Carers Service, which received £1,385 to fund a trip to the living rainforest for twenty young people and three adults in the Easter holidays; and Furze Platt Senior School, which was awarded £1,500 for their Maidenhead Cycle Hub.

Applicants must live or study in the Royal Borough and be aged between 8 and 19 years (or up to age 25 if they have learning disabilities).

The scheme for £10,000 will be open between February and May and if you wish to submit an idea during that time - please go to [www.wamster.org.uk/Youth_Voice_Youth_Choice.htm](http://www.wamster.org.uk/Youth_Voice_Youth_Choice.htm)

**CCTV investment helps keep residents safe**

A £1.3 million investment into an improved state-of-the-art CCTV system will help keep residents in the borough safer. The new wireless system will be monitored all day, every day, throughout the year, enhancing coverage across the area.

*(continued on page 25)*
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07506 569268 OR
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Working alongside Thames Valley Police the new system has been designed to help keep people safe while supporting policing across the borough. This investment is one of a number of measures we are taking to make our borough safer.

We want to support the police and partner organisations in protecting our residents, businesses and visitors. The existing CCTV system is reaching the end of its serviceable life after more than 20 years and our replacement will be a significant upgrade.

The investment follows a detailed review of the existing facilities by an external company and fits into wider work to improve public security across the borough. This new system will enhance preventative measures already taken, including installing CCTV cameras in Hines Meadow, Broadway, Stafferton Way and Victoria Street multi-storey car parks’ stairwells.

Many of you will have seen the Hostile vehicle mitigation barriers in Windsor and a developing strategy to tackle anti-social behaviour in the town centre will help improve safety.

Superintendent Bhupinder Rai, LPA commander for Windsor and Maidenhead, said: “We have worked with the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead on the new CCTV programme. We believe the new system will bring with it increased opportunities for crime prevention and detection. It forms an integral part of our ongoing partnership work to keep those who live in, work in and visit our borough safe.

The new wireless CCTV system is expected to be operational by the end of 2018.

Please remember if we can give any help with anything to do with the council and its services, please do get in touch.

Best wishes
Carwyn, David and Maureen

Windows

She texted her husband from home on a cold winter’s morning: ‘Windows frozen, won't open.’
He texted back: ‘Gently pour some lukewarm water over it.’
She replied five minutes later: ‘Computer really messed up now.’
Rebecca Pearmund
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A Happy New Year to all in White Waltham!

Christmas Cricket was a wash out for us this year ☹️. However, festivities were taken over the road to our sponsor and patron, the Beehive, where a merry time was had by all.

Berkshire Calling!
We are very proud to announce that Siddhant Pant (pictured on the right), from our Juniors, has been asked to join the Berkshire U10 squad for winter training. A great achievement by Siddhant and for the club’s Junior section.

Pre-season Training
Starting on Wednesday 28th February at Cox Green Leisure Centre with winter nets being held weekly from 20:00-21:30.

Juniors
Junior winter nets will also be starting in February (dates and location TBC) so please check our website or follow us on Facebook for up to date information.

Player Recruitment
We are actively recruiting new players ahead of the 2018 season for all levels of the game. If you are interested in competitive cricket or even just the more relaxed and social Sunday games then please contact us for more details or attend the winter nets to blow out the cobwebs ahead of the summer.

Website: www.whitewaltham.play-cricket.com
Facebook: @WhiteWalthamCC
Twitter: @WWCC_1879
Amber Foundation

Barty Smith, Patron of White Waltham and Shottesbrooke Churches and Church Warden of Shottesbrooke Church, was made an OBE in the New Year’s Honours List. The award came in recognition of his work as founder and chairman of the trustees of the Amber Foundation.

This charity helps homeless and unemployed young people in crisis to transform their lives. It has residential centres based in Wiltshire, Surrey and Devon and the charity’s website, Amberweb.org, gives many case studies of young people who have been helped. Combinations of homelessness, unemployment, alcohol, drugs, crime, bereavement and poor relationships are some of the factors which bring young people to seek help from Amber. In 2016 the charity helped 163 young people to re-build their lives, many leaving having learnt new skills, discovered new passions, and with qualifications and/or careers.

Visit their website to find out more about the work about this charity.

DOG GROOMING SERVICE

Woodlands Park Area

I am City & Guilds qualified and have been grooming for 30 years and have a wealth of experience in training, handling and grooming all breeds.

Complete dog grooming service, bathing, clipping, nails, ears, anal glands, handstripping.

Please call Penny Charlton for any enquiries or bookings
Telephone: 01628 829623
email: penny.barkshirebandits@yahoo.co.uk
www.pawsatpennys.co.uk

£5 discount off your first appointment with this advert
Funerals

Cremations

January 3rd  
Barbara Kathleen Barker, aged 90, (Christian Smith House)

January 17th  
Doris Mabel Burton, aged 91, (Church View)

Children, Young People and Families at White Waltham Church

Children and young people are welcome every Sunday

On most Sundays children’s groups meet in church before moving to their separate activities during the service. There is a crèche for babies and a group for younger children in the Chapel Room in the church building. Older groups take place in our new building, The Tree House. On the first Sunday of each month the service is shorter and simpler.

At festivals, such as Christmas Day, Mothering Sunday and Easter Day, all ages meet together in a Family Service.
## Church Service Rota
### February & March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Service Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday</strong></td>
<td>9.00 am</td>
<td>Shottesbrooke</td>
<td>Morning Prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 February</td>
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<td>BCP</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10.30 am</td>
<td>White Waltham</td>
<td>Short Morning Prayer</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday</strong></td>
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<td>Shottesbrooke</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>White Waltham</td>
<td>Morning Prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ash Wednesday</strong></td>
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<td>10.30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 February</td>
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<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Shottesbrooke</td>
<td>Morning Prayer</td>
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<td>18 February</td>
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<td>White Waltham</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday</strong></td>
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<td>24 February</td>
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<td>Messy Church</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday</strong></td>
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<td>Shottesbrooke</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<td>25 February</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday</strong></td>
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<td>White Waltham</td>
<td>Morning Prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mothering Sunday</strong></td>
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<td>11 March</td>
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<td>Mothering Sunday Family Service</td>
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<td>Shottesbrooke</td>
<td>Morning Prayer</td>
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<td>19 March</td>
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<td>White Waltham</td>
<td>Morning Prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Maundy Thursday</strong></td>
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<td>8.00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 March</td>
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<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Good Friday</strong></td>
<td>10.00 am</td>
<td>White Waltham</td>
<td>The way to the Cross for all ages</td>
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<td>30 March</td>
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<td>12.00-3.00 pm</td>
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<td>Three Hours Service</td>
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<td><strong>Easter Day</strong></td>
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<td>1 April</td>
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<td>Morning Prayer</td>
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Finding us online:
www.stmaryswhitewaltham.org.uk

White Waltham Church

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