



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held on Tuesday 16th April 2019 at 8.00pm in the Rathbone Pavilion, North Waltham

Chairman: Cllr Geoff Chapman

Present: Cllr Adele Stevenson, Cllr Sally Evans, Cllr Judith McGinley, Cllr Peter Waggett, County Cllr Anna McNair Scott, Borough Cllr Stuart Frost, Borough Cllr Rob Golding, presenters (as listed below), Rosemary Coulter (Parish Clerk) & 6 members of the public

1 **Welcome & Apologies for absence:**

Cllr Jennifer Hordon, Borough Cllr Diane Taylor

2 **Minutes of 2016 meeting**

The Minutes of the previous year's meeting have already been accepted by the Parish Council and signed as correct. Copies were available at the meeting for the public to view.

All arising matters have been dealt with during the year or are covered in the following reports.

3 **Key Speakers: Proposals for land at Basingstoke Golf Course** **Jeremy Handle, BDI; Rebecca Fenn-Tripp, Bloor Homes, Alice Davidson, Planning Consultant & Jerry Boyle, Basingstoke Golf Club**

Bloor Homes is a national housebuilder based in Newbury. They have submitted an outline application to BDBC to build approximately 1,000 homes on land at Basingstoke Golf Course. This development will include a local community centre, sports facilities, shops and green spaces. There will be no school, as this is planned to be built on the Hounsome Fields development. Their presentation included views of the initial plan.

Discussion and questions from the audience focussed on roads and transport, energy efficiency, trees and biodiversity.

4 **Report from Hampshire County Council - County Cllr Anna McNair Scott**

HCC are currently addressing the following issues:

- Financial issues – the council need to make £80m savings over the next 4 years but are in a better financial state than many authorities.
- Potholes are being addressed by Operation Resilience.
- Reviewing all council buildings to make more energy efficient.
- Gone paper free and councilors have been issued with ipads.
- Libraries now have computerised book returns.
- Making country parks self-sustaining.
- Vehicle registration recognition in car parks.
- Sharing services with other authorities, eg providing personnel services for Oxfordshire, managing children's services for Isle of Wight.
- Made changes to how services are delivered, eg. although children's centers have been closed, other venues are being used instead.
- Providing extra care accommodation for older people and trying to keep older people independent for as long as possible.
- Made provisions for a 'no deal' Brexit
- Council tax is increasing to help manage adult social care costs.

Cllr McNair Scott is currently the Chair of the Cultural Affairs Committee, on the Conservation of the Countryside Committee and the Management Committee of the Basingstoke Canal.

5 **Report from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council - Borough Cllr Stuart Frost**

Borough Cllr Frost outlined how the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) is funded and how the council tax is used to support this. He also outlined the current position of housing developments that are planned in the borough.

A copy of the full report is attached as Appendix A.

6 **Police Report - Andy Jones, PCSO**

- PCSO Jones reported on the Basingstoke Rural South Team and showed a map to demonstrate the areas covered by this team – Whitchurch; Overton; Laverstoke and Steventon; Oakley and North Waltham; Upton Grey and the Candovers. He also outlined the officers working on this team.

- From a crime perspective, North Waltham is good and relatively little crime occurs.
- The priorities have been burglary and criminal damage, although there has been hate crime reported in the last few days.
- Rogue traders continue to operate in the area and people should not be pressured to buy at the door. Reputable tradespeople will have a landline telephone number.
- A question was asked about rural drug dealing and if there is any evidence of this in this area? A lot of cannabis reports but little else. Other teams in Basingstoke are also working on this issue.

7 North Waltham Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report – Cllr Geoff Chapman, Chair

This report included the Parish Councils activities during the last year, as follows:

- Internal housekeeping and ensuring policies and procedures are in place following the implementation of GDPR.
- The Lengthsman Scheme, which was re-tendered early in the financial year. There is now a new Lengthsman in place who has undertaken a range of general maintenance jobs around the village.
- Other maintenance around the village, such as work to trees at the pond, St Michael's Green and the island at the top of St Michael's Close.
- Commenting on approximately 35 planning applications.
- Supporting the establishment of Community Speed Watch and discussing a cohesive approach to road safety around the school with other stakeholders.
- Organising the annual Garden competitions.

The Clerk and all Parish Councillors were thanked for their hard work during the year.

A full copy of the report is attached at Appendix B.

8 North Waltham Parish Council Financial Report 2016-17 – Rosemary Coulter, Responsible Financial Officer & Parish Clerk

The accounts for the financial year to 31st March 2019 were presented and are attached as Appendix C.

9 North Waltham Village Trust – Malcolm Knight

The report included the Village Trusts activities during the last year, as follows:

- Events – the Trust organized the Big Lunch and Village Fete jointly with St Michael's Church and plan to repeat this again in May 2019; Father Christmas's visit to the pond on Christmas Eve and a Rolling Supper. Thanks were given to those who helped organized these events.
- Rathbone Pavilion – hiring has remained steady with regular village clubs and organisations and some occasional private hiring.
- Cuckoo Meadow – the Trust is pleased with the new contractor for cutting the grass. The picnic tables are being used and will remain in situ. Working parties have been successfully held to clear debris from the meadow. The Trust has received a request to fly a drone over the meadow but after consideration, this was refused.
- Car park – the Trust are proposing to install matting to increase the size of the car park and are awaiting the funds to commence this. They have also been approached by a fish and chip van for a weekly visit. The Trustees have agreed this in principle but as the land is not licensed for the sale of food, the owners have been asked to obtain the relevant permissions.
- Finances remain healthy.

A copy of the full report is attached as Appendix D.

10 North Waltham Charities Report – written by Keith Evans, read by Rosemary Coulter

- Unfortunately, none of the trustees of the Charity of William Batchelor (otherwise known as the Village Charity) were able to attend.
- The charity has had a quiet year with no outgoings. However, donations have been received from a private donor and some of the proceeds of Father Christmas's visit to the village on Christmas Eve. The generosity of these donations is greatly appreciated.
- In the last couple of years, the charity has contributed to the school and the youth club.

A copy of the full report is attached as Appendix E.

11 North Waltham Primary School Governors' Report – Rob Cooper, Vice Chair of Governor's

- **Numbers** – there are 165 children in school, only 1% are considered disadvantaged.
- **School Team** – there is an experienced, stable Senior Management and Governor Team. There has been four new members of staff and the school continues to be involved with Schools Direct (teacher training).
- **Community Links** – continue with the church. Rev Julia often leads assemblies and the church provide regular workshops for the children.
- **Friends of the School** – were thanked for their continued support and fund raising. Some examples of how the money has been spent were given.

- **Awards** – the school has achieved the Gold Mark Award for providing good PE and physical activity, the BIG award for excellence in challenging bullying and the Gold Stars award for promoting sustainable travel to school.

A copy of the full report is attached as Appendix F.

12 St Michael's Church Report – Alan Purkiss

The various activities of the church were outlined, as follows:

- Regular Sunday services with extra services to mark special occasions in the Christian calendar.
- Active role with the primary school, including experience session for the children at Harvest, Christmas and Easter.
- Act of Remembrance on 11th November.
- Co-ordination of filled shoe boxes containing Christmas gifts for people in Romania.
- Joined with the Village Trust to organize a joint Church Fete and Big Lunch, which will be repeated this year.
- Collection point for the Food Bank.
- Collection point for recycling.
- Messy Church for children approximately every 6 weeks.
- Men's Group which meets several times a year.

A copy of the full report is attached as Appendix G.

12 Meeting open to the public

There were no comments or issues raised.

Appendices are available to view online at <https://www.northwaltham.net/parish-council/meetings/>

Signed

Dated

**APPENDIX A AN UPDATE FROM BASINGSTOKE & DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL – BOROUGH COUNCILLOR
STUART FROST**

How is the Borough Council Funded?

This is my 5th Annual Parish Meeting at North Waltham, and I was wondering what I could say that would be informative, helpful and not be repetitive. So, I thought I'd talk about how Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is funded.

We all pay council tax, though some more begrudgingly than others, what does the council do with it? How is the borough funded?

We all know that the council tax is made up of precepts which fund the following, HCC, B&DBC, Police & Crime commissioner, Hants Fire & Rescue and then the Parish Council here in North Waltham, all of which are collected by the borough before being passed on to the relevant bodies.

We always talk about a Band D property, so that we can compare council tax precepts across the country, it's the standard default, I suppose. Anyway, for us, the standard band D property without a parish or town council, the total amount the Borough wants to collect for this year is £1627.46.

The annual breakdown is as follows:

- HCC get £1236.87 per year.
- Police and crime commissioner get £201.26 per year.
- BDBC get £121.42 per year.
- Hants Fire and rescue get £67.71 per year.

So for £121.42 per year from every band D property, the Borough provides a range of services including bin collections, kerb-side recycling, planning and building control, community safety, housing services, street cleaning, grass cutting, licensing, car parks, sports facilities and culture and the arts.

B&DBC are providing the highest spend per head for services per district council for the lowest precept, in Hampshire.

You might be thinking that £121.42 per band D property is not a lot to run all of these services and you'd be right. The total amount of the council tax collected for this year that the borough can keep is £7.985m, the rest has to be passed on. The amount of £7.985m equates to just 6% of the £129.6m needed to run B&DBC, the remaining 94% comes from the following:

• Central Govt Grants	£39.1m	30%
• Interest on our investments	£2.9m	2%
• Income fees and charges	£7.3m	6%
• Council tax precept	£7.9m	6%
• Other Income	£10.6m	8%
• Property income	£16.7m	13%
• Spending of reserves	£13.7m	11%
• Business rates that we can retain	£ 31.1m	24%

Over the past 5yr, B&DBC has suffered a 70% reduction in the level of Central Government funding and this is expected to reduce further by another £3.2m.

There also remains a continued pressure on current expenditure due to

1. Inflationary cost increases
2. Continued or increased demand for services
3. Significant impact of partner organization cost cutting due to austerity pressures (as already heard from Cllr McNair-Scott, HCC).
4. Very low interest rates, significantly reducing investment interest income.

However, despite all this the Council vows to protect vital frontline services to support those in need and to improve residents' quality of life.

The Borough council continues to invest in major projects to lay the foundations for a strong long-term future for the borough, this year being some £63.4m.

This includes £31.9m on Manydown, £7.1m for Basing View regeneration (helping to keep unemployment in the borough at 2% with a further £10m set aside for 'invest to grow' schemes and £5.4m on Property Investment Strategy.

All this means that the Borough Council unlike some of its counterparts will be able to continue to invest in the community, supporting those in need, spending the highest amount on services per head of all the districts in Hampshire while charging the lowest Council Tax precept in Hampshire.

You've already heard from Bloor Homes about the Golf Course, but I'd just like to update you on the other sites that we have in the local plan that are near us.

Our Local Plan has a demonstrable 5.3 year land supply and currently there are 5680 dwellings that have planning permission.

Manydown - 3520 dwellings, it looks as if this application will come before committee in June 2019 with 40% affordable homes, circa 1400 homes.

Hansome Fields - 750 dwellings, outline planning permission has been granted and we are awaiting detailed and reserved matters.

Basingstoke Golf Club - draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is out for comment now, the SPD is expected to go before EPH in June/July and then can be applied against the detailed planning permission on the site at the back end of the year.

DRAFT

APPENDIX B AN UPDATE FROM NORTH WALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL – GEOFF CHAPMAN, CHAIRMAN**Parish Council Chairman's Report**

As it comes to and end it may appear from the outside that 2018-19 has been a relatively quiet year for the Parish Council, however over the last 12 months a lot of effort has been going into internal housekeeping. The majority of this was instigated by the arrival of GDPR which has had major implications for any body that may hold any form of personal data. As a result, the council has had to either review existing policies or create new policies for among others:

- General Data Protection
- Document Publication,
- Public Privacy notices
- Employee and Councillor Privacy Notices
- Document retention policies
- Freedom of information request policies
- Complaints Procedures
- Grant Awarding Policy

This is in addition to our annual reviews of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations which I know are always a favourite of the councillors.

All in all, this has been a huge body of work for the Clerk and Rosemary's efforts over the last year cannot be under estimated.

Early in the year we also renewed our contract with the Lengthsman scheme, which provides the Parish with a resource and funding for those general maintenance matters that usually fall through the net with regards to the larger authorities, the likes of hedge trimming, sign cleaning and weed killing etc. Unfortunately, the lead Parish then proceeded to re-tender the actual contract for the scheme which meant that there was no resource available through the majority of last spring which was a tad disappointing but once he got going he has done a grand job for us including the culling of self-seeding sycamores around the pond/old forge area and the repairs work on the gate between Ramsholt Close and Mary Lane.

In addition to the Lengthsman's work the Parish Council has enabled a few other pieces of ground maintenance round the these include the work that took place on the trees around the pond and after finally determining the ownership of the island at the top of St Michael's Close Hampshire County Council eventually did some tidying up on the trees. On top of this a working party of local residence recently took to the woodland at the top edge of St Michael's Green to tackle the ivy and undergrowth to allow for the health check of the trees growing there.

One of the other areas that the Parish Council covers over the course of the year is local planning applications, over the last 12 months we have been consulted on over 35 applications for planning or tree work within the Parish. Unfortunately, due to a backlog of workload at BDBC some of these have been waiting rather a long time to be decided upon with the likes of The Sun Inn still being undecided some 12 months after amended plans were submitted.

A subject that has been high on people's radar of late is that of road safety and speeding in and around our community. In response to a Community Speedwatch program as recently been established within the village. For those that don't know this is a national initiative where active members of local communities join with the support of the Police to monitor speeds of vehicles using speed detection devices. A lot of thanks must go to Adele for her efforts in driving this forward and as a result the community now has a group of trained volunteers and, via to an agreement with Overton Parish Council, access to suitable equipment to allow the scheme to provide a proactive solution to the problem of real or perceived speed related offending and improve the safety and quality of life for everyone in the community.

The Parish Council has also been having conversations with the school's travel team and the Friends of the School to try and put together a more cohesive approach with regards to some of the concerns in the community over road safety in and around the school.

As usual the Garden Competition was run in the summer with this years' being:

- Jan and Terry Woodfin for front Garden
- Keith Slater for Hanging Baskets

To finish off I would like to give a big thank you to our clerk Rosemary, without whom the Parish Council simply would not function and would also like to thank all the Councillors who give up their time, completely voluntarily, to serve the residents of North Waltham.

APPENDIX C

NORTH WALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2019

Box no	Title	31.03.18	31.03.19	% inc/dec	Comment
1	Balances b/f	£ 22,060.00	£ 22,684.00	3%	
2	(+) Annual Precept	£ 12,214.00	£ 14,167.00	16%	Increase in precept = £1,953.00 Due to reduction in grants from BDBC (£679) (see box 3), the precept was increased to enable NWPC to maintain previous level of activity. The budget for Village Maintenance was increased by £250 to £750 in anticipation of works to trees needed at the pond. A budget of £640 was introduced for traffic measures in the village.
3	(+) Total Other Receipts	£ 3,435.00	£ 2,585.00	-24%	The Limited General Grant from BDBC was discontinued, resulting in a loss of £550 from the previous year. The Council Tax Support Grant was reduced by a further 33%, resulting in a loss of £129 from the previous year. Total loss in grants £679
4	(-) Staff Costs	£ 3,938.00	£ 4,115.00	4%	Clerk's salary was increased in line with National Joint Council (NJC) for local Government Services pay recommendations.
5	(-) Loan Interest / Capital Repayments	£ -	£ -	0%	
6	(-) Total Other Payments	£ 11,087.00	£ 10,466.00	-6%	
7	(=) Balances carried f/w	£ 22,684.00	£ 24,855.00	10%	
8	Total Cash & Investments	£ 22,684.00	£ 24,855.00	10%	
9	Total Fixed Assets	£ 3,796.00	£ 3,796.00	0%	
10	Total Borrowings	£ -	£ -	0%	

Prepared by Rosemary Coulter, Responsible Financial Officer

11th April 2019

Details of the Parish Councils spending and other financial decisions are recorded in the minutes of meetings which are available to view online at <https://www.northwaltham.net/parish-council/meetings/>. Alternatively, if further information or clarification is required, please contact the Clerk/RFO at clerk@northwaltham.info

Village Trust Report

Role of the Trust

North Waltham Village Trust was established in the early 1950s when Mr William Rathbone gifted the land now known as Cuckoo Meadow to the village of North Waltham and its environs. The Trust became a registered charity in 1953, registered with the Charity Commission. The Management Committee (Trustees) are responsible for the running of the organisation; we are local people who are either life or elected members, or representatives of local clubs and societies who use the Trust's facilities.

Events

We again ran the combined Big Lunch and Church Fête in 2018, this time in May. The event continues to be a success, with the Trust providing the usual beer and Pimms tent, BBQ and games including mini-football and tug-of-war. The two Village organisations are joining forces again in 2019 on the 19th May – a date chosen to take account of other local events.

The Trust again assumed responsibility for the visit by Father Christmas to the Pond on Christmas Eve; this was as always a popular event generating useful funds from donations for the Trust and Village charities. Many thanks are due in particular to Lucy Henry who led the organisation.

Another Rolling Supper was held 2nd March 2019 which raised valuable funds for new playground equipment and many thanks are due to Barbara McLaughlin and Jane Keene for organising this event.

Rathbone Pavilion

The hiring pattern remained steady throughout 2018 with regular use by Pre-School, Puddleducks, the WI and Youth, Dancing, Gardening Clubs and the Yoga club. We also had some usage for private events. The hiring pattern for 2019 looks steady with some enquiries from both private and commercial hirers.

Cuckoo Meadow

Meadow

The new grounds maintenance contractor appointed at the beginning of 2018, Joe Noades, fully met our expectations of a much-improved service; we have been delighted with his performance and received positive feedback from villagers concerning the state of Cuckoo Meadow. This has entailed a significant increase in our Meadow maintenance costs and we are grateful to the Parish Council for a £2000 increase in financial support against this item.

The four picnic tables installed in 2017 continued to be used and we intend to leave them located on grass secured by ground anchors, rather than transferring them onto concrete platforms, which would require planning permission.

When required, we have held working parties to clear the Meadow of tree debris dislodged by storms and, as ever, are indebted to Alan Purkiss for his support in removal of the substantial debris collected. We recently commissioned substantial maintenance work to the Meadow's trees, a refurbishment programme for the tennis court and a replacement frame for the toddler swings in the Play Area.

During the year, we were approached by a villager for authority to fly a drone from Cuckoo Meadow. This request was considered by the Management Committee, and we appreciated the responsible approach taken by the individual concerned; however, we concluded that we would not support the flying of drones in the Meadow on the grounds of safety to other users and disturbance to neighbouring residents.

Car park

A proposal has been raised to install reinforcing plastic mesh over the grass between the BMX track and Steventon Road verge with a view to converting this area to an overflow car park. The grass will grow through the mesh to help lock it in place and, once grown, will be cut as normal. The overflow area will be used for some Trust events such as the Big Lunch but will be of particular value as an overflow during school terms when the main car park gets particularly busy; the intention here is that the overflow area will be reserved for the Primary School and Pre-School staff, freeing up space in the main car park for parents. Overall project costs, to include an additional wooden chain barrier at the northern end, are estimated at ~£6230. Proposed financing will be via Section 106 funds, for which an application has been submitted to B&DBC, grants

(£1500 has been pledged so far) and reserves. If the project proceeds, the intention is to lay the mesh in the spring, with the work undertaken by the supplier's staff.

At the end of 2018, we received a request from owners of a mobile fish & chip van for a weekly sales visit to our car park on one evening. The Trustees agreed to this in principle, and met the owners to discuss some details; since our site is not licensed for the sale of food, the owners need to obtain either the necessary planning authority, or provide clear evidence of a waiver from the borough council; the ball is currently in their court.

Finances

The Trust's financial position was essentially healthy in 2018. Timing issues affected some payments - principally 4 Pre-School payments were made in the year instead of the usual 3 – and this led to the reported income being higher than usual at £23,197. Expenditure, at £17,443, was also increased with Grounds Maintenance in particular rising following the appointment of the new contractor, albeit significantly offset by increased Parish Council support. However, with minimal purchase of new equipment in the year, there was thus an overall surplus of £5,754 and at year-end, reserves stood at £54,566.03.

APPENDIX E AN UPDATE FROM THE VILLAGE CHARITIES – KEITH EVANS, TRUSTEE

Village Charity Report 2018

The trustees of the Charity of William Batchelor (otherwise known as the Village Charity) continue to be Rev Julia Foster, Margaret Carter and Keith Evans. Unfortunately, none of us are available to be here tonight.

We are fully registered with the Charities Commission and our annual report to them will be submitted later this month. It will show that we have had a quiet year with no out goings but have, with a couple of generous donations, recovered some of the funds distributed last financial year. As at the end of 2018, our funds stood at £1510. (£1397 at end of 2017). One of the donations was private and the other was from the proceeds of Father Christmas's visit to the village on Christmas Eve. Our thanks to Lucy Henry and her team for that. I should also say that this generosity has been repeated in the current year.

As you can gather, our funds are modest, but we continue to try to help in the community. In the last couple of years' we have contributed to village organisations (the school and the youth club). Thankfully, North Waltham is no longer a poor village as it was in the 17th Century but there is still a need on occasions for charitable funds for individuals and families. We try to meet that need when we can.

APPENDIX F AN UPDATE FROM NORTH WALTHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNORS – ROB COOPER, VICE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS**North Waltham Primary School 2018-19****The school in numbers**

- There are currently 165 children in the school.
- 1% are disadvantaged.
- No looked after children or children in care.

The school team

- The school has an experienced Senior Management and Governor team, which has been stable for some time.
- This year, there has only been one new member of teaching staff, Mrs Chalkley, plus there have been three new teaching assistants.
- The school continues to be heavily involved with the Schools Direct Programme (teacher training) with the Anton Alliance.

Community Links

The school continues to maintain close links with the church with Rev Julia leading regular assemblies and all the school attending workshops in church, on the subjects of Harvest, Easter and Christmas, as well as end of term services. This year there was also a visit from secondary school children and teachers from our linked school in Uganda.

The Friend's Events

The school would like to thank the Friend's for their continued support and fund raising. Some of the money raised has been used to revamp the upper school adventure playground, a basket ball hoop for the lower school, new signs for the nature trail, a reading chair and new dictionaries. Events include Dad's Camp, Christmas Fair, Scarecrow writing and colouring competition, School Disco's, Movie Nights, Easter Extravaganza, Village Quiz Trail, Mother's Day Secret Shopping and Quiz Night.

Awards

- In the past year the school has achieved the Gold Mark Award for the 4th year running. This award demonstrated that the school provides high quality PE, physical activity and school sport – the school has had continued success at sporting events.
- The school was awarded with the BIG award for excellence in challenging bullying. BIG (Bulling Intervention Group) is a national award for outstanding anti-bullying practice in organisations.
- The school also achieved the Gold Stars award which is a national scheme to promote sustainable travel to school.

(This presentation included photographs of the children in school, which are available to view on the North Waltham Primary School website. However, it was decided not to reproduce those photographs here.)

APPENDIX G AN UPDATE FROM ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH – ALAN PURKISS, CHURCH WARDEN**St. Michael's Church, North Waltham**

St. Michael's Church has a small but thriving congregation, and worship takes place on each Sunday of the year, except when there is a fifth Sunday in the month, when this is shared by the other three Churches in the Benefice. We also have extra services throughout the year, to mark special occasions in the Christian Calendar.

Our range of services cover the more formal Holy Communion, either said or sung, a less formal Holy Communion, aimed at the younger members, and an informal type of worship, usually led by a lay person.

We have an active role with the Village school, having three experience sessions for groups of varying ages from the school. We have had a Harvest, Christmas and Easter theme at the appropriate times of the year, when we try to explain the significance of those times of the year.

On 11th November, several villagers joined us for the Act of Remembrance, at the Village War Memorial, to remember our Village dead, and others from conflicts over the years. A minutes silence was observed and wreaths were laid.

Julia Foster, our village priest, is also welcomed into the school, to carry on explaining the Christian message to the children.

Together with the school, last Christmas we encouraged members of the congregation to prepare "shoe boxes", containing Christmas gifts, to be taken to Romania. This action has helped the Charity to gain the trust of the local population, and seems to be having a positive effect.

Last year, we joined with the Village Trust, to combine our annual Church Fete, with the Big Lunch, all held on the second Sunday in June, and this was a great community event, and will be repeated this year.

The Church is open every day, and is available for private prayer, or contemplation. There is a collection box inside the main door, for parishioners to leave donations for The Trussell Trust Food Bank. This has been very successful, and several of our members regularly help at the Food Bank, in Basingstoke.

We endeavour to help the environment, by collecting items for re-cycling, and collect milk bottle tops, printer cartridges, used stamps, and foreign coins, as well as participating in using the green waste bins for the Borough's re-cycling scheme.

About every six weeks, we have a Messy Church afternoon, when children come to take part in craft work, with a Christian message, snacks, and a small informal Christian based story.

We have a thriving Mens Group, who meet several times a year, for a meal, a talk and a few beers. We also join with Overton Mens Group, to challenge them at Skittles. There is also a small group who meet on a Monday night, to discuss various topics in a Christian based society.

The Church in North Waltham feels that it is a welcoming community, and if any person within the Village, either resident or visiting, feels the need of to talk over problems, then either Julia or the Church Wardens, are available to assist.