

## Christmas Tree



The permanent Christmas Tree is in position. It will replace the cut trees previously bought annually and save money in the long term. Yes, it's rather small but it will grow! Hopefully it will not become a target for the mindless vandals who caused problems last year. We can all help by keeping an eye out and reporting any antisocial behaviour.

## Remembrance Sunday

The umbrellas give it away: the weather was wetter and windier than in past years but the Remembrance Service on Sunday November 8th was still well attended.

The service was led by Father McTeer from St Helens Parish Church with contributions from Father Tindale of St Mary's Catholic Church and a representative of West Auckland Vineyard Church. The names of those commemorated by name were read by Councillor Charlton, Chair of West Auckland Parish Council.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant of County Durham, The Royal British Legion, West Auckland Club, Bishop Auckland Air Cadets, Durham Constabulary, Durham County Council, West Auckland Parish Council and St Helen's Scouts and Guides Groups. Many thanks to the organisers for their efforts and for the very welcome tea and biscuits served in the Monteith Parish rooms afterwards.



## St. Helens Parish Church

Services at St. Helens Parish Church over the festive period are as follows:

*Youth Carol Service*  
followed by a party in the centre  
6.30pm Friday December 18th

*Parish Carol Service*  
with choirs from local schools  
6pm Sunday December 20th

*Family Celebration*  
4pm Christmas Eve

*Midnight Mass and Carols*  
11.30pm Christmas Eve

*Family Mass*  
9.30am Christmas Day



## Christmas in West Auckland

On Tuesday December 15th the Salvation Army Band will lead the singing of traditional Carols at the Christmas Tree on the Village Green starting at 6.30pm.

Soup will be available at The Well afterwards.

There will be a Carol Service in The Manor House Hotel at 6.00pm on Sunday December 20th followed by refreshments.

West Auckland Vineyard Church invite you to a Family Service on Christmas Morning at 10.00am in their new premises at Unit 3, Aptec Enterprise Park



## Harvest Festival

St Helen's Rainbows and Brownies collected food for the local Foodbank for their Harvest Festival. Sara and Bruce visited from The Well, along with Big Bird to talk about the Foodbank and why it is needed in the current economic climate.



## Problem Parking

A resident recently raised the issue of inconsiderate parking in Oakley Green. This is a private estate often plagued by a large number of cars on West Auckland FC match days. It may be that it is visitors causing the problems rather than home supporters but if you do drive to the ground, please consider alternative parking. The grass area near the allotments opposite the Memorial Hall is usually made available and monitored by the Football Club to provide ample space on most match days.

There isn't a great deal that the Police, County Council or Parish Council can do so the residents are relying on more consideration from car drivers. Please help to relieve their problems.

## New Home for Local Church

West Auckland Community Church has a new name and a new home. The Church Leaders are extremely grateful to the Memorial Hall Committee for the use of their premises over the last eight years since the Church was formed.

Under its new name, West Auckland Vineyard Church has just moved into a greatly refurbished Unit 3 in the Aptec Enterprise Park. An Open Weekend is being planned for January 22nd, 23rd, 24th 2016 but in the meantime Family Worship takes place every Sunday at 10.00am. Everybody welcome.

Please be a responsible  
pet owner and  
clean up after  
your dog



*If we don't take pride in  
our village no one else will*

## Pathways Trouble

It was highlighted at a recent Parish Council meeting that certain paths in the village are in a poor condition. In particular, these include the path from Darlington Road towards Oakley Cross School and the one at the other end of the Recreation Ground leading to Staindrop Road, especially considering their high usage by parents and children. What makes them worse is the continued lack of thought by some dog owners using the paths.



The Parish

Council had already agreed to allocate funds towards improving paths and intend to pursue this. There are some problems concerning ownership of and responsibility for some of these paths but we do hope to make progress.

As usual, if people are able to supply details, such as certain times when people are regularly allowing their dogs to foul the paths (or anywhere else), wardens can be informed and asked to take action.

Please contact one of the Parish Councillors if you have any concerns or suggestions about any issue within the village.

Parish Councillor Contact Numbers:

Hazel Charlton (C)	832464
Ed Farrer	832810
Colin Mairs (VC)	833616
Valerie Raine	349697
Lynn Rielly	833032
Martin Roberts	833214
Andy Turner	606021
Billy Robinson	833663
Greg Robinson	07515269794
George Smith	388381
Neil Thomas	832267
Ruth Wright	834000

The Parish Clerk, Sharon Wootton can also be contacted on 834360 or [sharon.home@btinternet.com](mailto:sharon.home@btinternet.com)