

West Life

The Newsletter of West Auckland Parish Council
No 44 March 2018



In Good Company.....

The Parish Council sent a card to the Queen on behalf of the village to mark her 70th Wedding Anniversary. West Auckland residents John and June Franks also celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary just before Christmas. Former Parish Council Chair Hazel Charlton arranged a surprise afternoon tea for the couple, their friends and family.

A Very Big Shout Out For DCC!!!

Full marks to Durham County Council for their prompt response to concerns raised by the Parish Council about the cemetery. The County Clean and Green Team have repainted the entrance railings and tidied up the shrubs and grass areas. The County have commenced an improvement programme and

will liaise with the Parish Council as to how it progresses. The Council also did a sterling job clearing roads during the recent 'Beast from the East' freezing winds and snow storms.



Private Edward Mason



Private Edward Mason, 15th Battalion Durham Light Infantry, was killed in action on April 10th 1917. His name appears on the memorial plaque at the Village Pant.

During author and West Auckland resident AAG Whitehead's most recent research trip to Northern France, he visited the grave of Edward Mason with the full knowledge and agreement of his descendants. Andy took with him a piece of West Auckland coal dug from the embankment of the old railway track so that a small piece of Edward's village will be forever with him.

The village of St Martin-sur-Cojeul was taken by the 30th Division on April 9th 1917; it was lost in March 1918 but retaken the following August. The military cemetery on the outskirts of the village is one of three in the immediate area which hold many other members of that regiment.

A German Pillbox still exists on the ridge above the village; it was designed to house several machine guns and could well have been responsible for the deaths of many of

the British troops buried in the cemeteries below. It took true bravery to leave the relative safety of the heavily damaged village and charge uphill towards the gunfire.

Be proud of the men of West Auckland who gave everything for King and Country. Their sacrifice and that of so many more allowed us the freedom we enjoy today. The poem that was left on Edward's grave was 'For the Fallen' by Laurence Binyon which is now used as the 'Ode of Remembrance':

*They shall not grow old, as we that are left
grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years
condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the
morning
We will remember them.*

It was relatively easy to locate the whereabouts of Edward Mason. If you have a family member named on the memorial and know his regiment you can find information, sometimes including photographs of the cemetery, by visiting the Commonwealth War Commission website.

Lest We Forget



Open for All



Work has begun on a £350,000 extension to West Auckland Parish Church. The project, being built by Vest Construction and due to be completed by September has been in the planning for over 10 years. This is the first major extension to the 900 year old church in 500 years and will make the building viable into the future. Leading from the old north door of the church the extension will provide a meeting room, a refreshment area and toilets.

The new extension will be used as a Drop-in Centre for tea and coffee, light breakfasts and light lunches. It could be used as an Advice Centre and for other community services such as a Credit Union and computer area suited to a small, well designed space. It would provide a facility for small baptism and funeral teas, for refreshments during and after concerts, for choir rehearsals and meetings or for use by local schools on educational visits. There are exciting plans to support the elderly who may feel isolated or those who need a warm place to be in the winter months. It will also enable the church to be open each day as a place of peace and quiet for people in a busy world. This new initiative in a 900 year old building is a brave and imaginative project: it will enable your parish church to be "Open for All" every day.

There is still hard work in progress to secure the final £20,000 of the total cost and if you would like to help with the project, donations can be made by contacting: The Vicarage, 8 Manor Road, St Helens Auckland DL14 9EN.

Christmas

It was encouraging to see a good number of people gather to sing carols around the village tree on the Tuesday before Christmas; the soup on offer at The



Well afterwards was very welcome. It was also good to see that the two trees opposite the Manor House Hotel were lit up once more with new lights replacing the old ones.



Christmas hampers were delivered to Devonshire House and Roslyn House as usual on behalf of village residents.

CINEMA for 50p only



The next showing at West Auckland Vineyard Church will be *Paddington 2* on Saturday April 7th at 6.00pm. Yes, it's only 50p! Payable at the door.

The Vineyard Centre, Unit 3, Aptec Business Park, Darlington Road DL14 9PD.

Comedy Night at West Auckland Vineyard Church. Friday March 23rd. 7.30pm
Featuring Paul Kerensa who writes for TV comedies including 'Miranda' and 'Not Going Out' as well as performing live.

Tickets are £5.00 and available from The Well or WestAucklandVineyard.net



Allotments

A section of the perimeter fence around the allotments site has recently been replaced. A grant from the Gaunless Gateway. Partnership enabled the work, carried out by Trevor Burn Fencing Ltd, to take place. With further funding support, it is hoped to replace the remainder of the fence which faces Darlington Road. The work will help to make the allotments safer and more secure for allotment holders, their families and visitors as well as improving the appearance of the site.



Local Church Services

Holy Week & Easter & St Helens Church

Palm Sunday March 25th

10.00am Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem and Parish Mass

Monday and Tuesday March 26th, 27th

7.00pm Holy Mass and Devotion

Wednesday March 28th

10.00am Holy Mass and Devotion
6.30pm Stations of the Cross

Maundy Thursday March 29th

7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by the Watch of the Passion

Good Friday March 30th

2.00pm The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord
2.00pm Children's Good Friday Liturgy

Holy Saturday March 31st

7.30pm The Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter followed by fireworks and Parish Party

Easter Day April 1st

10.00am Festival Mass followed by drinks in the Parish Centre

6.00pm Festival Evensong & Benediction

West Auckland Vineyard Church at Easter

A Sunrise Service will be held on Brusselton Top at 6.30am on Easter Sunday followed by breakfast at the Vineyard Centre in the Aptec Business Park. Services at the Vineyard Centre include:

Good Friday March 30th 10.00am

Easter Sunday April 1st 10.00am

Please bring daffodils to decorate the cross during this service

Church Services for St. Mary's and St. Wilfrid's

Palm Sunday - Service of Forgiveness and Reconciliation at 6.00pm - St. Mary's

Maundy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm - St. Wilfrid's

Good Friday - joining in Walk of Witness at 10.00am - Newgate St., Bishop Auckland

Good Friday - Service at 3.00pm - St. Mary's

Saturday - Easter Vigil at 8.30pm - St. Mary's

Sunday - Mass at 9.30am - St. Wilfrid's and Mass at 11.00am - St. Mary's

It's Your Village – Have Your Say

Come along to a meeting and let the Parish Council know what improvements you would like to see in your village.

West Auckland Parish Council Contacts

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Jean Curl.....	833610
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Neil Simpson.....	07725979714
Rachel Gargett-Gillens.....	07949 959564

Parish Clerk: Sharon Wootton . 834360

Email: sharon.home@btinternet.com

Meetings held at Monteith Close Community Parish Room at 7.00 pm on the 2nd Monday of each month (except August).

For more information visit our website:

<http://www.westaucklandparishcouncil.org.uk>