

West Life

*The Newsletter of West Auckland Parish Council
No 50 – December 2019*

Remembrance Day



The annual Remembrance Day service took place on the afternoon of Sunday, 10th November at the Pant War Memorial in the village. There was another excellent turnout and the afternoon was blessed with dry weather and a reasonable temperature

Many people chose to join the parade which set off from the car park outside the Well and followed the route lined with large poppies attached to trees and lampposts, whilst many more simply gathered at the Pant. Special thanks to the Ferryhill Town Band who led the parade and provided the music during the service. It was good to see several families in the parade and at the service. Once again, individually named small wooden crosses had already been placed in the gravel bed in front of the Pant by local school children. These crosses, alongside the wreaths, remain in place throughout the year and are only removed shortly before the next Remembrance Day

service to be replaced by a fresh display. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Royal British Legion, Bishop Auckland Air Cadets, Durham Constabulary, Durham County Council, West Auckland Parish Council, St Helens Scout Group, St Helens Guide Group, St Helens Rainbows and Brownies, West Auckland Women's Institute and West Auckland Workingmen's Club. The names of those commemorated by name were read out by the Chairman of the Parish Council

Apologies to one or two people who turned up on Sunday morning for the service only to be disappointed but details were published in two editions of West Life and in a full-page listing of local remembrance events in the Northern Echo; perhaps some additional posters around the village might help in future

The West Auckland Remembrance Day Service has always been held in the afternoon in recent times. The Memorial Hall was built to remember the men from West Auckland and St Helens Auckland who gave their lives in the First World War and was opened in February 1925 but the Pant War Memorial in the village was only created much more recently. The Pant itself was erected in 1848 to supply water to the village but was left unused once the Waskerley Reservoir opened in 1888. It was decided to make this area into a war memorial in several years ago and hold an annual Remembrance Day service here. The afternoon was chosen for the service probably because there were already many long-standing services being held in the Bishop Auckland area in the traditional morning time; this would have made it difficult to attract a band and other representatives who might be engaged elsewhere. In addition, the local churches which serve West Auckland include an act of remembrance in their morning worship whilst St Helens Church prepares and leads the order of service for our Remembrance Day.



Long Awaited Speed Matrix



After years of campaigning to overcome obstacles and setbacks, the Parish Council has finally managed to have speed matrix signs installed on two of the entrance roads into the village.

There is one on the A68 to warn drivers that they have entered a 30mph limit on the approach to Toadpool. The second sign is on Copeland Road just above Windermere Drive which will hopefully persuade drivers to slow down and obey the speed limit in the built up area and on towards the school.

These signs may not be the ultimate solution to the long-standing problem of speeding in and around the village but they are a step in the right direction: they do work in other parts of the county.



50p Cinema

THE LION KING
on

Saturday, 1st February 2020, 6.00 pm
West Auckland Vineyard Centre,
Aptec Enterprise Park

Carols Around the Christmas Tree

Come and sing some traditional carols around the Christmas Tree at the village green on Tuesday, 17th December at 6.30pm accompanied by the Salvation Army Band with homemade soup served in *The Well* afterwards.



WEST of 60 at The Ark

Even if you are north, south or east come along to the Ark! West of 60 is a brand new community group starting in the Ark at St Helens Church. Every Tuesday from 1.30 to 3.00pm and every Thursday from 10.30am to 12.00pm, West of 60 is the ideal place to meet new friends, learn new things and listen to guest speakers. There will also be craft sessions and outings.

This new venture has been made possible with funding from the Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership to employ a session worker for two years. Louise Coxon is the new co-ordinator: "I am just so excited to invite people to get together. This is a great opportunity to learn, make friends and to have a warm, secure base to develop those friendships and listen to guest speakers or enjoy an outing."

Door to door transport will be available for anyone unable to make their own way. Feel free to bring along a carer if necessary: everyone will be welcome. For further details please do not hesitate to contact Louise Coxon on 07730 064214.



Christmas Church Services

ST HELENS CHURCH

Saturday December 21st

11.30am Messy Christmas in The Ark
*faith, fun, crafts and music
with lunch for all the family*

Sunday December 22nd

10.00am The Parish Mass
6.00pm The Parish Carol Service
*with Ferryhill Brass Band
and choirs from local schools*

Christmas Eve

11.00am A short Carol Service for
Adults with Learning Difficulties
with Growing Together Durham

4.00pm A Family Service for Christmas
with Christingle

11.30pm Traditional Midnight Mass
with all your favourite carols

Christmas Day

9.30am The Christmas Day Family Mass
*a lovely short service for all
the family lasting 45 minutes*
www.sthelenschurch.co.uk

WEST AUCKLAND VINEYARD CHURCH

*Unit 3
Aptec Enterprise Park
Darlington Road
West Auckland
DL14 9PD*

Sunday December 22nd

10.00am Family Worship

5.00pm Carol Service

*Carols and readings followed by
mulled wine and mince pies*

Christmas Day

10.00am Family Celebration

westaucklandvineyard.net

Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal



The Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child have completed another successful campaign. 304 shoeboxes were collected alongside donations totalling £140. This year the destination for the shoeboxes is Belarus. Thank you so much to everybody who was able to pack a shoebox, make a donation or help with the organisation behind the scenes. The effect these gifts have on the children who receive them is absolutely wonderful to see Visit: samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ



*Wishing you
a season of gladness,
a season of cheer,
and to top it all off -
a wonderful year.*

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.

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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/>

WestLife is produced by West Auckland Parish Council, printed by Cre8tive Graphics and delivered by St Helens Scout Group. If you live in West Auckland and don't receive a copy at your home, please contact the Parish Clerk.