

APRIL 2016

VILLAGE DIARY

April

- 3 **Footpaths Walk** - Hall car park - 2.30pm sharp
- 5 **Parish Council** - Hall - 7.30pm followed by Planning Committee
- 9 **Coffee Morning with Tombola** - Church - 10.30-noon
- 14 **Air Ambulance Talk** - WI - Hall - 2pm
- 20 **History Soc** talk Women & the Home Front in World War I - Hall - 7.40pm
- 22 **Fun Quiz** - Nursery Group - Teston Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 23 **Antiques and the Road Show** - A family Affair - talk by David Sandon (son of Henry, brother of John) - Church - 7.30pm

May

- 1 **Annual Bluebell Walk** - Hall car park - 2.30pm
- 3 **Parish Council** - Hall - 7.30pm followed by Planning Committee
- 15-21 **Christian Aid Week House to House Collection**
- 28 **Annual Plant Sale** - Churchyard - 10am-4pm



**Sunday 5 June**  
**at the Playing Fields 12.30-5pm**

**Lots of fun and entertainment for everyone**

*Look out for the prize draw programme in next month's magazine*

**DIARY DATE - GODSPELL 7/8/9 July 2016** at St John the Baptist Church. This is a Wateringbury Players joint production with Wateringbury Primary School.

**STOP PRESS - CYCLING CHALLENGE AHEAD!**

You may be aware that the Church is in urgent need of replacing the shingles on its spire. The Church is seeking funding for work to commence as soon as possible and so this year FOWC's fundraising will go directly towards this expensive but worthwhile project; a legacy which will last for generations to come.

FOWC was therefore delighted when **David Wilson-Green** approached us to offer his support in fundraising for the shingles – support in the most spectacular fashion! Over the next few months he will be taking on a number of significant cycling sportives; cycling not only long distances but also undertaking some massive cycling climbs: **The**

**Surrey Cyclone** with 4,730 feet of climbing (20 March), **Castle 100** with 3,886 feet of climbing (15 May), **Velothon** with its 5,991 feet of climbing (22 May) and the **BIG one, Mont Ventoux Cingles** in France on 1 July 2016; 150km of gruelling cycling with a climb of 14,478 feet, cycling each of the three road routes up and down Mont Ventoux in a single day – a challenge that only 1,077 other English people have done!

This is an awe-inspiring challenge. If you would like to support David, please go to [www.fowc.org.uk](http://www.fowc.org.uk) to view his plans in detail, photos, updates and if wished, sponsor him on the secure sponsorship link. Alternatively contact Frances English, FOWC Secretary, on 01622 812471 or email [friends@fowc.org.uk](mailto:friends@fowc.org.uk).

FOWC has just entered its 6<sup>th</sup> Membership Year. Thanks to your help, we have reached our 5 year target of £15,000. Now the shingle challenge lies ahead. If you would like to become a Friend, for only £10 per household per year, please enrol on our website where a Direct Debit can be set up. Alternatively, send a cheque to the Secretary payable to Friends of Wateringbury Church.

**We greatly value your support and generosity** [www.fowc.org.uk](http://www.fowc.org.uk)

### **ABBAYFIELD KENT - GREENSTED REDEVELOPMENT**

The Parish Council would like to stress that the recent withdrawal of an application for Greensted refers to the original application put in last year for 55 units, not to the amended application reducing the units to 51. To date the Parish Council has yet to receive the amended application from Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council.

**VILLAGE PEOPLE** *Please let us have your news and tributes by 17 April for our May magazine. Entries are free.*

**New Baby Congratulations to Louise and Ben Bryant** on the arrival of **Toby James** on 1st March (weight 7lb 13oz). A first grandchild for **David and Helen Commander**.

**Congratulations to Gerry and Phyl De Knop** on recently becoming **Great Grandparents** to baby **Cameron**. Congratulations too to parents Simon and Louise of Guildford.

**Congratulations to Michelle Toft, Chief Marketing Officer at Coregeo Ltd** in Wateringbury who has been honoured with a top business accolade at the 2016 Kent Women in Business Awards. She was named runner-up for the coveted Women in PR and Marketing Award.

I would like the village to know what an **excellent medical centre** we have at Pelican Court. I took my wife there without an appointment as she was taken ill whilst shopping. The staff were exceptional. They were very helpful and Dr Patterson was second to none. My wife is now recovered. Wateringbury residents should be grateful to have such a remarkable team looking after them. Mervyn Law, Glebe Meadow.

### **FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

FOWPS held a successful and fun Quiz and Curry Night at the end of February as well as a Mothers Day Shop for the children to purchase gifts in March. Our next event is the Easter Egg Hunt at the end of term. We are also busy planning a school disco and our annual **Summer Fayre on Saturday 2 July**.

The **5th Annual FOWPS Golf Day** is planned for **Friday 24 June 2016**. For further information or to book a place please contact either Andrew Riedl ([andrew.riedl@btinternet.com](mailto:andrew.riedl@btinternet.com)) or Fraser Nicol ([fraser\\_nicol@btinternet.com](mailto:fraser_nicol@btinternet.com)).

FOWPS Committee [chairman@fowps.org.uk](mailto:chairman@fowps.org.uk)

### **HISTORY SOCIETY**

Our next meeting is in the village hall at 7.40 for 8pm on **Wednesday 20 April** when the subject of Ian Porter's talk is **Women and the Home Front in World War I**. Visitors welcome at £3.50 per person. In May we have our members only Wine and Buffet evening at Leybourne Castle. Members will also have the additional option of guided tours of the nearby Leybourne Church.

At our March meeting Cyril Baldwin spoke about Myths, Magic and Mistakes in Medicine which made most of us glad to be living in the 21st century with all the benefits of our National Health Service.

#### WAR NEWS, MARCH AND APRIL 1916

March 1: Germany resumes unrestricted submarine warfare.  
April 9: Germans take some French frontline trenches at Verdun.  
24: Easter Rising begins in Dublin.  
29: British garrison at Kut-el-Amara surrenders to Ottomans.

**Wateringbury Post Office** discontinued its midday delivery in March 1916 so that now there would be only two deliveries a day, and just one on Sunday. We do not know the reason for the reduction but it was probably war related. As a consequence, James Climpson, the postman who had covered Wateringbury, Mereworth and West Peckham for 35 years, was transferred elsewhere with a present of £5 and 16 shillings (worth over £500 in today's money!) organised on James' behalf in "appreciation of his unfailing courtesy and punctuality." Much of the notice about the changes was concerned with detailed instructions for sending post to soldiers and sailors abroad and the rates of charge. For example, to send a postcard to a soldier serving overseas cost 1d.; to send a book or newspaper cost  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for every 2 oz.

The only war death, and the first of 1916, was of **Charles Dawson** of the rifle brigade who, as reported by the May 1916 parish magazine, was killed on 18<sup>th</sup> April by a "stray bullet". His name is on the village's war memorial but alone of those listed there he has proved an elusive person to find anything more about his life (or death).

**Richard Fremlin**, aged 80, died at home in Broomsdown (formerly May Lodge, on the little hill at the side of the Mill Pond) on 25th March 1916 having lived there for 45 years. The garden and arboretum, which he had created there, was open to the public on Wednesday afternoons in spring and summer. He was part of the large Fremlin brewing family, who brewed in Maidstone, but many of whom had been born at Wardens in Wateringbury. Richard was the younger brother of Ralph who had died in 1910 and who had been the main driving force behind Fremfils brewery. Richard remained single and was personally very wealthy and, like the other brewers such as Augustus Leney who had died the previous year, had contributed generously to village "subscriptions" (collections) for various purposes. His estate for probate purposes was valued at £ $\frac{1}{4}$  million (£25 million in today's money).

**The school log** reminds us that poverty existed alongside the wealth in the village. The headmistress was engaged during March and April in an ongoing dispute with two families whose four daughters were coming to school with dirty hair. The girls had been excluded from school; they returned but were excluded again. The managers, attendance officer and village doctor all get involved and with visits to the school from the parents. The school's normal war related activities continued as usual: the school received a letter of thanks for mittens knitted by the girls for a minesweeper; and they sent cigarettes to the wounded at Preston Hall. For the first time the need for economy in the use of paper was recorded in the log, a theme which would become increasingly prominent later in the war.

Terry Bird For more details see the web-site of Wateringbury Local History Society. (<https://www.sites.google.com/site/wateringburylocalhistory/>).

#### THE RAILWAY STRIKES A CHORD!

The Railway in Wateringbury has struck a chord with budding musicians, as the village pub now **offers free guitar lessons on Thursday evenings!** Recognised as one of Kent's leading music venues, The Railway attracts musicians from throughout the county and beyond, with top guitarists willing to share their skills with complete novices and competent players alike on Thursday evenings.

Landord Jay says Thursday evenings at The Railway have become a magnet for great guitar players and customers are treated to some of the best acoustic guitar pieces being played during informal sessions. But the musicians are also keen to encourage others to play and willingly teach budding guitarists, how to master the instrument with ease. There's great camaraderie with new friendships being formed every week, which makes for wonderful evenings of free acoustic music for villagers. With some of Kent's best bands playing most weekends, contrasted with the popular **Quiz Nights being held on Wednesdays**, The Railway is fast becoming the village hub in Wateringbury. See [www.therailwaywateringbury.co.uk](http://www.therailwaywateringbury.co.uk) for more information, or simply pop in!

## FOOTPATHS GROUP

All are welcome at our next walks: **3 April Walk** meet at village hall at 2:30pm for a 3.75-mile river and farmland walk via Nettlestead church. **1 May Walk** will be our annual **Bluebell walk** through the local woods, again 2:30pm from village hall.

Our March walk took us along the river to Teston Bridge, then through to Livesey Street where we branched off near the top at the North Pole Pub, through Redhill Farm before returning to the start. When doing the reconnoitre for this walk the new path from the cottage bottom of Livesey Street was clear, dry and good under foot. Since then tree felling had taken place recently and the path was ploughed up by tractors, but that I suppose is the price of country living, no complaints.

On the subject of footpaths, I have been disturbed by the amount of dog fouling on the paths leading to the woods and on farmland in the village. Even though this is not on the paved paths it still needs to be picked up, it can cause disease and is unpleasant to see, there are plenty of dog bins around so there are no excuses; (picking it up in bags then hanging in trees or throwing over fences is not the preferred way to dispose of the waste)!

Kevin Reynolds

## Compaid

Opportunities for disabled people

### Can you spare some time to make a difference?

Compaid is a charity based in Paddock Wood supporting disabled people in a variety of ways, and we are looking for volunteers to assist our work. If you have a few spare hours a week and are good with people, you can make a difference by volunteering in a number of ways:

- Join our training centre team supporting clients to discover the magic of computers in a relaxed and informal way, helping individuals gain in confidence and ability.
- Join our team of volunteer minibus drivers providing a vital lifeline to many disabled people.
- Help us to raise vital funds by holding events or by taking part in a sponsored run, walk or other challenge

If you would like to find out more please contact Judith Williams,  
t:01892 834539 e: [judith.williams@compaid.org.uk](mailto:judith.williams@compaid.org.uk) [www.compaid.org.uk](http://www.compaid.org.uk)

## WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE The WI - Inspiring Women

March is our Competition month, a highlight in our calendar. All WIs aim to excel in 'Domestic Arts' and Wateringbury WI is no exception, proving that we have many skilled and talented members. There was much examining and admiring of an impressive range of entries. Margaret Andrew and Wendy Waygood were our cake tasters and judges, thank you ladies. Other competitions were decided by voting. The winners declared after these rigorous processes were:

Freda Robbins Plate: A Tray Bake 1st Joyce Manning 2nd Gillian Sessions 3rd Chris Caldwell

Huxley Cup: A Fresh Flower Arrangement in a Cup and Saucer

Joint 1st Joan Wilson and Stroma Richardson

Joint 2nd Rita Bourlet and Kathy Coates

Hickman Cup: A Needle Case 1st Joyce Manning 2nd Gillian Sessions 3rd Chris Caldwell

Correction: The winner of last month's Poetry Competition was Trudy Reynolds. Apologies.

This was a lovely afternoon. A celebration of each and every entry. Every item had been made with great care and decisions were close. Our next meeting will be on **14 April** at 2pm in Wateringbury Village Hall. Our speaker is from the local Air Ambulance, which is very close to many of our hearts. There will also be time for tea and catching up with friends old and new. We're a friendly group and if you're thinking of joining us you'd be very welcome to come as a visitor. Elizabeth 07977 125000 [elizabethstrid@aol.com](mailto:elizabethstrid@aol.com)

## WATERINGBURY SCOUT GROUP

Well, it's been so busy within the Scout sections in Wateringbury lately I've not even had chance to toast a marshmallow!!

**Beaver Scouts (6-8yrs)** have been climbing, on night hikes and even a sleepover at the hut. They also went to see the Wateringbury Village Panto en-mass, as Tudor, the Beaver Leader, was director of the show...OHH YES HE WAS!!

**Cub Scouts (8-10.5yrs)** are celebrating 100 years of Cub Scouts nationally! The Cub Scouts was started way, way back in 1916 and here we are in 2016 with over 35 Cub Scouts, three amazing leaders and some of the most ambitious plans I've ever seen! Including Pack Holidays, Family Camp, Parties and even a trip to Disneyland in France... Awe-inspiring!

**Scouts (10.5-14yrs)** have had an action packed time with camping in February (it was only minus 2 degrees!), they took part in over 30 activities including mini-diggers, laser games, high ropes, climbing, zorbing plus loads more!

**Explorer Scouts (14-18yrs)** have some very big plans for 2017 to go to Canada. This is an amazing opportunity for our members, but requires lots of fundraising, so keep an eye out for articles in the Rostrum for events where you could come and help support our young members become amazing adults through their experiences with Scouting.

Think you could give up a couple of hours to join a highly successful and motivated Scout Group? You'll get the chance to go places you've never been, try things you've never done and meet friends that will stay with you for life. **We don't lead, we inspire our members to take the lead!**

Interested? . . . get in touch . . . [nick@wateringbury-scouts.org.uk](mailto:nick@wateringbury-scouts.org.uk) ☎07403202321 Nick Keates - Group Scout Leader - Wateringbury Scouts

## HUNTON BOWLS CLUB KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELDS - HUNTON

Have you thought of trying outdoor bowls? Anyone is welcome to come and give it a try. Experience is not necessary - just come along you might enjoy it. Club bowls are available for you to use until deciding if you would like to take it up and join as a member. We are a small friendly club situated behind Hunton village hall. We play mixed friendly matches, league and ladies games. Our practice night is on Thursday evening at 6.00pm starting in May. Anyone is welcome, so do come and give it a try.

For more information ring John Apsey (Chairman) :01622 743813 or Diane Cheeseman (Secretary) 01622 745642.

## **WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

This has been a short term but one with lots packed into it! We had our long-awaited SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) on 11 March and I look forward to sharing the report once it's published. These inspections focus on the Christian Character, Collective Worship, Religious Education and Leadership and Management of church schools.

Summer term begins on Monday, 11 April and it's straight into learning and preparation for the national SATs examinations. Teachers are hosting a Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Forum for parents our first week back (14 April) to help them understand how to support in these areas at home. These essentials of written language form an increasingly larger part of the National Curriculum and teachers continually strive to embed a good understanding of grammar, punctuation and spelling without putting children off the pleasures of writing.

However, the term isn't without trips and activities that underpin deep learning and provide memorable experiences. Our Year 5s are off to Kew Gardens to explore the tropical rainforest and our orchestra will be joining other schools to perform at the Music@Malling ensemble day. A number of families are joining me at the Royal Festival Hall on Saturday, 16 April and taking advantage of a Saturday family concert which is part of the International Menuhin Violin Competition. The school is grateful to the Menuhin Board and its sponsors for our generous allocation of free tickets and subsidised rail costs.

And finally, St George's Day will be marked one day early at school on Friday, 22 April with our annual service outdoors by the flagpole. This is now a firm fixture in the school calendar and gives the children a chance to re-hear the legend of St George and the Dragon as well as to reflect on the link between our patron saint and the strong tradition of service and scouting in this country.

*Mrs C Crawford Usher, Headteacher*    [www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk](http://www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk)

**SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER. Celebrations to mark the 40th Anniversary** of the opening of the new school building.    Look out for more details in future editions of Rostrum and on the school's website.

**CALLING YOUNG MUSICIANS** East Peckham Silver Band has recently formed a Junior Band. Young players of all ages and abilities are welcome to go along to the monthly meetings. Details from [www.eastpeckhamsilverband.org.uk](http://www.eastpeckhamsilverband.org.uk)

## **OUR VILLAGE HALL IS 10 YEARS OLD**

Yes on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2006** the building formally changed from being a village fund raising project into the splendid village hall we have at the cross roads today. Most of you will have contributed to the hall in some way, be it direct involvement in the fund raising, through participating in events, covenants or paying your council tax. The impressive donor board in the hall reception gives you an idea of the spread of people and organisations that were involved. So we thought we ought to bring you up to date.

"Wow!", "This is more than just a village hall", "What a lovely space". These are typical comments from first time hirers, also "what super toilets". (We soon found out that toilets are important when looking to hire a venue).

There are lots of regular activities in the hall - we hope something for everyone. Once a month the History Society and Women's Institute (WI), twice a month the Watch Youth Club. The Wateringbury Players rehearse and then perform their Annual Panto. For those with young children the Baby and Toddler group meet weekly. For those who like sport there is Badminton once a week. We have lots of classes too most meeting weekly, Art, Tai Chi, Zumba, Pilates, Drama and several Dance Groups. The University of the Third Age (U3A) use the hall monthly. The Parish Council holds its monthly meetings in our ground floor meeting room and so does the very popular Foot Clinic.

Compared to most village halls our weekday usage is good. The weekend usage is mainly taken up with family occasions such as children's parties, christening celebrations, wedding receptions, family celebrations.

On the finance side the hall is not carrying any debt, and the accounts are in good health. We work hard to keep the running and maintenance costs down by doing a lot of it ourselves. There is a small group who gather at the hall most Thursday afternoons. It's a bit like "The last of the Summer Wine", but with tea and biscuits! Our hire charges are very competitive with other halls in the area. Also we get plenty of return hirers, even with the parking limitations. But that's a village issue not just the village hall.

The hall is run by a Management Committee which is a combination of six trustees, representatives of the regular user groups and the parish council. We hold formal meetings every three months. The day to day stuff is looked after by the "Thursday afternoon" group plus John Ibbs, the Village Warden.

So what about the next ten years? The current set up is working well. However it could do with an injection of new people to keep it going. If you think you might like to join in, please come along and see if it would suit you. Any knowledge, skills and time you have to spare will be welcome. You might even, like me, find it enjoyable to be making a small contribution to our community.

Check out our website. <https://sites.google.com/site/wateringburyvillagehall/home>

You can contact us on. 07535 320552. Or [wvh.enquiries@gmail.com](mailto:wvh.enquiries@gmail.com).

Mike Hoiles (Chairman) 01622 813573. [mikejhoiles@aol.com](mailto:mikejhoiles@aol.com)

## **MARCH PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

**County Councillor Matthew Balfour** said that the central government funding to KCC would be reduced for the next few years. He was pleased to advise that most applications submitted by parents/guardians for their choice of secondary school for their children had been granted. The proposals to reduce flooding along the Medway should be released soon. Concerns were raised over the knock-on effect on Wateringbury of flooding improvements carried out in the area.

**Playing Fields Play Equipment** - The revised quote from RSS to repair play equipment was approved. There would be a delay of 3 weeks for the delivery of new equipment.

**Call for sites** An informal meeting had taken place between Parish Councillors and Croudace Homes to discuss their plans for developing land adjacent to Fields Lane. It was felt that Croudace had a long way to go before making a suitable case for development. Matters of increased traffic congestion and pollution were only some of the concerns raised.

**Strengthening of the surface of the Drayhorse Car Park** area was discussed and after research of suitable grade of materials, an agreement was made to proceed with the work in the near future.

**The issue of congestion in the village hall car park** was raised and it was reported that a few bookings for the hall had been lost due to the lack of available parking spaces. Various solutions such as a limited time ticketing system were discussed. This would be a difficult issue to resolve as the car park is owned by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and they would be reluctant to monitor any changes to the current arrangements. Ultimately, the area is designated as a public car park, management of which rests with T & M.

The future of the **decommissioned Signal Box** at the level crossing was discussed. This is a Listed unit and the possibility of changing it into some other kind of business use would be ideal.

The possibility of a gift of a commemorative coin to mark the Queen's 90th birthday to each pupil of the village school was discussed.

**Planning application TM/16/00306/FL** - Change of use of stables to single dwelling house at 70 Teston Road. No objection was given by the Committee.

**Next meeting** The public are very welcome to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council at **7.30pm in the Village Hall on Tuesday 5 April.**

### **ANTIQUES AND THE ROAD SHOW – A FAMILY AFFAIR**

**Saturday 23 April at 7.30pm in Wateringbury Church**

**David Sandon**, son of Henry and brother of John,

will be giving an interesting and humorous talk on Antiques and the Road Show. David will tell us about some of the more memorable moments.

Tickets: Adults £6, Children/Students £4. Available from:

Sheena Stewart on 01732 873737 or from Watlington Post Office.

#### **COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 9 APRIL 10.30 - NOON**

As usual there will be delicious cake and filter coffee plus plenty of books. The Special Stall this month will be a **Tombola**. Do come along.

#### **CHURCHYARD ANNUAL PLANT SALE**

**SATURDAY 28 MAY- 10.00am – 4.00pm**

Any donations of your surplus seedlings/plants for the Home Grown Stall will be much appreciated. Thank you for your support.

#### **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 15-21 MAY - CAN YOU HELP?**

A house-to-house collection is planned again for this year. If you are able to volunteer to deliver and collect envelopes from a street in the village this would be very helpful. Please contact Gillian on 01622 813076.

#### **BENEFICE MOTHERS' UNION**

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 5 May** when a tour of Aylesford Priory has been arranged followed by a visit to the tea rooms. All welcome, for further details, or to arrange a lift, phone 01732 848176.

#### **CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES**

Another year's counting done; the total this year from the home boxes was £328.93 plus £70.68 raised from the Christingle Candles. Your continued support is very much appreciated. Thank you on behalf of the Children's Society. Maria White

#### **ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING - TUESDAY 5 APRIL**



## at St John The Baptist Church at 8pm

This meeting is an important part of church life and features reports on all church activities during the previous year. During the meeting election of officers will take place. There may be a role that you are called to perform or you may simply be wanting to be better informed and supportive of the various activities. Whatever your reason, your presence will be greatly valued. All reports will be available on [www.wateringburychurch.org.uk](http://www.wateringburychurch.org.uk) or in hard copy on request from the parish office ☎ 01732 843282.

**Fr Derek writes**                      **parishofficeemwt@gmail.com**

*Canon Derek Carpenter is a retired priest living in East Malling who is assisting in the Benefice*

### IN OUT, IN OUT – SHAKE IT ALL ABOUT?

When, a month or so ago, the Prime Minister announced the date of the UK's EU referendum, it triggered a debate which will be with us for the next three months. At present it is the main item on the news and in our newspapers, with discussions at times heated and with 'fear' as the predominant word. The big guns are blazing on both sides of the argument – which is why I wonder whether a small canon has anything significant to add !

Those who maintain that we function best as part of something larger than ourselves in which membership affords the opportunity to influence affairs from within are counter-balanced by those who claim that the UK is strong enough to stand on its own two feet and forge relationships with those on other continents. Sovereignty, politics, and economics are all thrown into the pot, and stirred in with it is the vexed question of millions on the march, some from war-torn places seeking a new and better homeland, others searching for a new way of life where economic prospects are better, refugees, migrants, individuals and families, sometimes it seems whole communities – all challenging our compassion and moral judgements. Some want to open borders, others to close them: morality often needs to sit alongside practicality.

Is there anything specific that the Christian church can say about it? It seems that here also opinions are strongly divided. A writer in *The Economist* recently said: 'On the one hand, European churches and religious charities have played a prominent role in succouring migrants and campaigning for them to be treated decently; on the other, politicians on the nationalist right are beating the drum of Christian nativism; they have redoubled their warnings about the threat to Europe's long-established religious culture.'

When, many years ago, I 'wore an ecumenical hat' in the diocese as part of 'Churches Together in Kent' and worked for churches of differing traditions to come together there was often resistance, and invariably the chief fear was the fear of loss. What we might gain was always weighed against what we might lose – our independence, our Women's Group, our Vicar, our church building. And the fear of loss often won the day.

What church communities and individuals within them can contribute, of course, is prayer, which does not avoid the conflicts but enables folk to be informed by them; which is open to being guided and does not turn a deaf ear to other perspectives; which seeks to be rational and understanding of other points of view while sharing our own; and which may ultimately help us in the choice which each of us has the democratic privilege to make.

And this is vitally important – because whichever way the vote goes, and whether we stay in or come out, the decision will undoubtedly affect both this country and the continent of Europe irrevocably.

### **COFFEE BREAK - Wednesdays 13 and 27 April - 10.30-12.30**

We meet fortnightly in the church for tea, coffee and fellowship. Everyone is most welcome. Pauline and Gillian

### **SIMPLY SOUP LUNCHES**

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's Lent Soup Lunches. The charities supported were Cobtrees Playgroup for Special Children, Maidstone, Kenward Trust, Yalding, Send A Cow (helping rural communities in Africa), Heart of Kent Hospice and Christian Aid's Soupa Lunch Appeal. In total **£327.04** was raised for these charities.

### **EAST PECKHAM SILVER BAND AFTERNOON CONCERT 13 MARCH**

Our warmest thanks to the East Peckham Silver Band and conductor Wally Hammond for their splendid concert of such varied arrangements of music which gave enjoyment to the toe-tapping audience. Calum Graham, who plays at our Parish Act of Remembrance each year, was the soloist for Con Fuego by Max Stannard. Many thanks to all who helped and supported this church event which raised £429 for church funds.

### **WATCH CLUB - Next Meetings 10 April and 24 April**

In January we welcomed “Jaws & Claws” to the Club, where Phil told us all about his amazing creatures, which we also had an opportunity to handle - creatures such as cockroaches, giant millipedes, a tree frog, a snake, a giant snail, and tortoises. We were not able to handle the tarantula or the bullfrog but were able to get quite close to them. Everyone had great fun, youth, and leaders alike, and many faced their fears. In March we held our annual Sport Relief/Comic Relief Fundraiser with Easter craft, a skip-a-thon and a cafe for parents. We raised a fantastic £86, which will be split equally between Sport Relief and our club.

On 10 April we will have an Easter egg hunt and Easter fun. The Club is for young people aged 10 and over and meets in the Village Hall from 5-7pm. For more details ① 07950 852899.

## THE DAY IT RAINED IN COLOURS

The award winning **Absolute Gospel Company** will be staging **The Day It Rained Colours at the E.M.Forster Theatre, Tonbridge:** on **Friday 6 May at 7:30pm and Saturday 7 May at 3pm and 7:30pm.** Tickets from the theatre box office [www.tonbridgearts.com](http://www.tonbridgearts.com) or phone the box office on 01732 304241. A fun-filled story of 3 children who land by hot air balloon in Greyland where everything is.....grey! That's where the story starts. With stunning multi-media effects, joyful music and plenty of comedy this is a treat for all the family.

## BENEFICE SERVICES

*Visit our website [www.wateringburychurch.org.uk](http://www.wateringburychurch.org.uk)*

<p><b>Sunday 3 April</b></p> <p>8am Communion - East Malling</p> <p>9.45am Family Service – East Malling</p> <p>9.45am Family Service – Teston</p> <p><b>10am Morning Praise – Wateringbury</b></p>	<p><b>Sunday 10 April</b></p> <p>9.45am Eucharist – East Malling</p> <p><b>10am Holy Communion - Wateringbury</b></p> <p>6.30pm Evensong - Teston</p>
<p><b>Sunday 17 April</b></p> <p><b>8am Communion – Wateringbury</b></p> <p>9.45am Eucharist – East Malling</p> <p><b>10am Family .Service – Wateringbury</b></p> <p>6.30pm Eucharist - Teston</p>	<p><b>Sunday 24 April</b></p> <p>9.45am Eucharist – East Malling</p> <p><b>10am Holy Communion – Wateringbury</b></p> <p>6.30pm Eucharist - Teston</p>
<p>Every Monday – 2-3pm – Scout &amp; Guide HQ, Glebe Meadow – Toddler Praise</p>	
<p>Every Thursday - 9am in East Malling Church – Holy Communion</p>	
<p>Pilsdon Community, 27 Water Lane, West Malling - Rev Viv Ashworth invites you to the Barn Chapel to join members of the community for a Eucharist Service every Wednesday at noon and 6pm on Sundays</p>	

While we are awaiting a new vicar the parish office will still be operational. To arrange for baptisms, weddings or other services please visit the parish office at

2 The Grange, East Malling on Wednesdays between 6.30pm-7.15pm

phone 01732 843282 email parishofficeemwt@gmail.com

### **Special Services**

**Service of Healing and Wholeness.** The next service will be a Praise Service in Teston at 8pm on **Tuesday 5 April.**

**Canon Brian Stevenson** will lead our Communion Services on **10 April and 24 April.**

**Rev Denys Gower** will be our visiting priest for the Communion Service on **8 May.**

### **FAITH BOOKS LENDING LIBRARY**

The church now has a small lending library of Christian books which you are invited to browse and borrow. They were donated by Rev Jim Brown and are an eclectic mix of all sorts and sizes.

### **IN OUR JOYS AND SORROWS - FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS**

**Funeral** - We extend our deepest sympathy to the loved ones of

**Charles Robert Payne** - 29 March 1939 to 16 February 2016. Funeral and interment in Wateringbury Cemetery 7 March.