

February 2014

Welcome to the first issue of Rostrum for 2014 which we hope you will enjoy reading. We thank our advertisers (both old and new) for their support which enables the magazine to be delivered free to each home in the village. Thanks too to Tony Gosby for his delightful cover pictures which this year are Bridges of the River Medway.

We are always pleased to receive news and articles for the magazine and ask that these be about 250 words in length (half an A5 page).

Christine, Janet and Ted

VILLAGE DIARY

February

- 2 Footpaths Walk – meet Village Hall Car Park - 2pm sharp
- 4 Parish Council meeting –Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 8 Cricket Club Quiz Night – Village Hall – 7.30pm
- 13 W.I. The Dark Side of the City - Village Hall – 2.30pm
- 19 History Society — Wilf Lower – Lost Empires, the Last Days of Music Hall and Variety - Village Hall – 7.40pm

March

- 1 East Peckham Silver Band Concert – Church – 7.30pm
- 2 Footpaths Walk
- 4 Parish Council meeting – Village Hall – 7.30pm
- 15 Village Hall Quiz Night Doors open 7.00 for 7.30 start
- 19 History Society Ian Porter – Young Dickens – Village Hall – 7.40pm

Wateringbury Cricket Club are holding their quiz night.

on 8th February 2014 at 7.30pm

in Wateringbury Village Hall

If you would like to book tickets then please call

Cliff Hickmott on 07792791945.

VILLAGE PEOPLE

New Arrival Congratulations to:

Hilary and Peter Cayzer on the birth of their granddaughter Leah Violet Weddon who arrived at 8.00pm on Tuesday 17 December and weighed 7lbs 5oz, and of course to proud parents Alison and Andy.

Joy and Alan Searle, Andy and Rosie on the birth of Augustus Mansfield Searle who was born in Pembury Hospital on 9 January and weighed in at 7lb 9oz.

Ted and Jane Bates on the arrival of their first great grandson Ryan Andrew Bates in Wellington, New Zealand on 16 January.

AVRIL MITCHELL It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Avril Mitchell. In 2009 Avril was diagnosed with mesothelioma, a cancer brought on as a result of exposure to asbestos when she worked at a company for three years in the 1960's; mesothelioma can have a dormancy of more than 40 years.

Having undergone surgery in 2009, Avril then continued to be as well as can be expected, whilst under the supervision of Maidstone Hospital, and in October 2012 she underwent a course of chemotherapy and radiotherapy. However, during the latter part of 2013, treatment was stopped when she became too weak to undertake any more and palliative care began. Avril fought the battle against the cancer so courageously and her determination of spirit is a lesson to us all. Avril spent the last 20 days of her life in the fantastic facility that is the Heart of Kent Hospice. She passed away on January 11th and whilst her family have had much time to "prepare", her passing has left a huge "Avril-shaped" hole.

Avril and Peter moved to Wateringbury from Yorkshire in 1992. Avril was a keen and active member of Paddock Wood Athletic Club during which time she completed 24 marathons in the UK and abroad. She made many friends whilst competing and training, and she inspired others to take up running; her enthusiasm and Yorkshire humour was infectious. Her family played a key part in Avril's life, especially with the arrival of her two granddaughters, Grace and Olivia. She was loved by all who knew her and will be greatly missed.

Avril's funeral took place at St John the Baptist Church in Wateringbury on January 28th with a cremation at Vinters Park Crematorium. The family requested no flowers, but if anyone would like to make a contribution, the family would love them to make a donation to the hospice which can be done at <http://www.hokh.org/> Anne Moss

NETTLESTEAD AND WATERINGBURY PRE-SCHOOL

MANAGERS' REPORT JANUARY 2014

After getting off to a shaky start numbers wise we are now inundated with requests for places across all sections of the provision. We have decided to cap the numbers at 18 per session for preschool which gives us leeway to offer extra one off sessions to current families.

We have also completely revamped our staffing rotas and in order to ensure staff spend as much quality time as possible with the children we have decided to employ a general assistant who can do all the odd jobs currently covered by trained staff. This has also enabled us to build in time for our Senco/staff to do specific and general observations on all children.

We have reintroduced notice boards into the playroom to be used as visual reminders to staff when a particular child needs to be observed or given a little bit of extra attention.

In the past training has been given free of charge by KCC however they are now proposing we buy training days at £300 per 6 hours for a max of 25 attendees, the venue is then paid for separately. If we book sessions in advance there is a slight discount, but we cannot carry over training from one year to the next. However, we have made the decision to deliver training ourselves and to buddy up with St Peters and St Pauls in Ditton to share expertise. If we felt there was a need for more specialised training we have contacts that we can use.

WATERINGBURY WORKING MENS' CLUB

The Committee wishes a Happy New Year to all members and our village friends, and thanks everyone for their ongoing support for the Club. A list of our coming events will appear in the March issue of Rostrum.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 24 FEBRUARY TO 9 MARCH

Please try and buy items bearing the Fairtrade mark during the fortnight, they are good quality and fairly priced.

BLACKTHORN starts the New Year with our new charity shop on-site. If you haven't popped in already to grab yourself a bargain, you must make a date in January as we have a great offer in our Café (which will run into February); when you purchase a main course you will receive a FREE starter or pudding. We need volunteers, especially in the shop, so if you've got a spare morning or afternoon and fancy giving something back to your community, please get in touch. Ring 01622 722219 and we'll arrange a meet up.'

WATERINGBURY FOOTPATH GROUP

Our next walk will be on 2 February – A local 4 mile walk to Redhill Farm, Livesey Street, Teston then return along the river. This walk may be altered depending on weather conditions on the day. All welcome, including dogs on leads, meet at the village hall car park to leave at 2pm sharp. Further details from 01622 812338.

1 December walk. On a fine sunny day about 24 people set off for a walk out towards the hamlet of Pizien Well, I intended to do this walk on a different route but was requested to take in the Apple and Pear orchards that had been grubbed out there. I understand if the trees were unproductive the land can be put to better use, now being used for cereal crops, but I do despair the way in which it has been carried out with no thought for the wild life there. The old tin barn was demolished that had been used as a roost for bats and Barn Owls. It was a good walk and will be repeated later in the year to see what progress has been made.

1 January 2014 New Year's Day walk What can one say! Strong winds, persistent rain, the river in full flood, three villagers turn up for the walk which I abandoned from the start for safety reasons more than anything.

WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE - The WI - Inspiring Women

At our January meeting, Members became 'Magistrates' during an interactive session with local Magistrate Mike Bean, ably assisted by Steve Coates. We enjoyed working together in small groups and apparently we made good decisions on sentencing! Our next meeting will be on Thursday 13th February, when we'll be hearing a talk entitled 'The Dark Side of the City'. Visitors will be very welcome.

Members took opportunities to sign up for several events offered through our District, including the 'Choir of the Year' competition. Membership fees are now due and remain excellent value at £34.70 for a year of Institute meetings and events, the popular publication 'West Kent News' and access to opportunities in the wider WI. Our own Institute's choir, social and scrabble afternoon and lunch meetings will take place as usual.

SPADEWORK FARMERS' MARKET Saturday 8 February 10am to 2pm, Teston Road Offham.

Spadework is a charity providing life skills training and work experience for adults with learning and other disabilities. Its aim is to support trainees to develop their personal skills through social interaction with the community and experience of working in a commercial environment as they help to run the plant nursery, garden centre, farm shop and cafe.

SMART START TO 2014 FOR WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

State-of-the-art interactive SMART Boards, featuring the latest laser technology, have been installed in every classroom to facilitate dynamic teaching and learning. This £12,000 project has been funded by the Friends of Wateringbury Primary School (FOWPS). To celebrate the astonishing amount of money raised for such an important classroom resource, the school will host a special Maths Assembly and Open Morning on 4 April to give all parents the chance to see the SMART Boards in action.

Gail Isted, FOWPS Chairman, said: "The school hoped to have all the SMART Boards in place by September 2014 but the generosity, support and determination of parents, local businesses and the wider Wateringbury community has meant we hit our fundraising target eight months early. The passion for making a real difference to our school and our children's education is fantastic, especially in such difficult economic times, and the outcome demonstrates what can be achieved when everyone pulls together. Thank you to all those who have played their part in this achievement."

Chasey Crawford Usher, Acting Headteacher, added: "The support from the Friends of Wateringbury Primary School is overwhelming. This huge investment in SMART Boards means that our teachers have access to a flexibility and variety of whiteboard tools that are enormously beneficial to classroom practice and children's learning. We can't wait to demonstrate the boards' full potential to our parents during our Open Morning celebrations."

Chasey Crawford Usher – Acting Headteacher Gail Isted – FOWPS Chairman
www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk www.fowps.org.uk

TESTON AND WATERINGBURY NURSERY GROUP

The Group have been having lots of fun this term with our 'Pets' theme. We have been making animal masks, sugar mice, sock puppets and animal shaped sandwiches! The children have brought in their pet stuffed toys to see a qualified Veterinary Nurse, who came in to talk to us about pet care and demonstrated some bandaging on some of the poorly toy pets! We are also very excited to have a visit from Haru an Asian brown wood owl. Natasha will be bringing in her feathered friend for all the children to see.

If you would like to find out more about our Nursery Group please visit us at
www.testonandwateringburynursery.co.uk

GET OUT TO AN UNUSUAL EVENT IN HUNTON ON SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY The Friends of St. Mary's Church will be welcoming snowdrop visitors to both its churchyards which have a wealth of snowdrops in a charming setting. Open between midday and 4 pm. Refreshments, information and displays. Entrance free

WATERINGBURY WEATHER WATCH 2013 SUMMARY You will have noticed that in 2013 we experienced unusual extremes of weather with high winds and heavy rain over the latter part of the year. This was brought about by variations in the Jet Stream (upper atmosphere wind flowing ideally from West to East). In December the cause was exceptionally cold air from the Arctic which drifted down through Canada to the United States where it met warmer air causing the Jet stream to accelerate. When the cold air reached the States it caused havoc as they experienced record low temperatures, but fortunately it did not spread across the Atlantic.

The 2013 overall rainfall figure might surprise you in that it was slightly less than average 674mm (26") against 688mm (27") with the temperatures about average. However the month by month figures show a different picture. The first 7 months of the year yielded only 251mm (9.9") of rain while the last 5 just over 423mm (16.6"). October was the wettest month of the year, although the heavy rain around the Christmas period caused the rivers to flood Wateringbury, Yalding, Maidstone and many other parts of Kent with storms battering the coast. June was the driest month, but the only unusual temperatures came in December when the average maximum was 10.34oC (50.61oF) against a norm of 7.35oC (45.24oF).

Several people have said to me that they have heard that we are in for snow; we do usually have some snow but there is nothing in the charts to suggest it is coming just yet, although by the time you read this things might have changed. WWW

JENNIFER BUTTON – WRITER! I have been writing novels for five years now and I still have a great deal to learn. But I have definitely improved with practice. However, I am indebted to my editors and proof readers, who I argue with and grumble at, but who are inevitably right and without whom my work would be decidedly the poorer! I am also extremely grateful to everyone who has supported me by buying my books, and spreading the word. Thank you.

Now that my third book is out, I feel I can stop describing myself as 'a woman who writes' and call myself a writer. My new novel is called PEBBLES ON A BEACH . I believe it to be my best work to date, but I leave the final verdict to you. The story begins in Brighton – in the swinging Sixties - and leads through to the present day. It explores mother /daughter relationships, friendships and loyalty. Secrets and lies weave their way through the narrative, creating a complex tangle. Each character is asked to decide how much they are willing to sacrifice to discover the truth. I hope you enjoy sharing their struggles and their journeys. PEBBLES ON A BEACH is available on Amazon, and Kindle. Signed copies can be bought at Wateringbury Post Office. Enjoy!VILLAGE HALL QUIZ EVENING Also needs justified right margin

Spring is not far away so it must be time to wake up the old grey matter after those Christmas and New Year festivities. This is your chance! Our very own Quiz Master, Phil Rex, is busy assembling the questions to test you.

Our annual QUIZ EVENING is to be held on. SATURDAY 15 MARCH
at WATERINGBURY VILLAGE HALL

Doors open at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start. You need a team of 6-8 people (or come on your own,

we will match you up with others to make up a team). As usual a raffle and prizes for the quiz winners (and losers!) Please bring

your own food and drinks. Tea and coffee will be available. The cost is £6 per person and proceeds will be used to help maintain and equip our lovely Village Hall. To book a place...or a table...please ring

Phil Rex on 01622 814483 or e-mail annerex@btinternet.com

WFC – JANUARY MEETING – COMMITTEE CAPERS!

Our first meeting of the year - members were treated to an evening of fun and laughs when 4 of the members gave us a selection of presentations on their favourite subjects/hobbies -Jean gave us a short talk on plants for bees and bees for plants! Pam told us all about her love of miniatures and dolls houses, Anne told us of her favourite 10 shrubs and finally Pat told us of her amusing tributes, that's funeral tributes, and all the unusual designs she has been asked to produce for tributes to the deceased. A different kind of evening for our members, but I think everyone will agree it was most enjoyable!

February is our club AGM for members only, after we get the club business over and all our new officers in place, we will have a cheese and wine evening for members to socialise. Trophies presented and our new Chairman in place, this will be my last post as Chairman. I have enjoyed every moment of it, and hopefully I will have added a small legacy to this wonderful club, I wish our new Chairman Susan every success, and hope she will enjoy it as much as I have. Jean Schofield Retiring Chairman Wateringbury Flower Club.

LIONS TRIATHLON ON 5 MAY TO HELP AIR AMBULANCE

Night-flying Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance is appealing for runners, swimmers and cyclists to sign up for this year's Tonbridge Lions Triathlon and help save lives 24 hours a day. The triathlon is to be held on 5 May at Tonbridge School's sports complex which was used by the Australian Olympic team as a training base. Competitors can choose a sprint consisting of a 400-metre swim, 25km ride and 5km run or the standard route which is double the distance. There are 500 places available with an entry fee of £46 for the standard distance, £42 for teams of three and £39 for the sprint. To book a place go to www.tonbridgelions.co.uk or call 07549 949615.

HISTORY SOCIETY

In February our speaker is Wilf Lower who will be telling us about 'Lost Empires – The Last Days of Music Hall and Variety', "which will revive memories of the times before television gained popularity and entertainment was 'live' and Britain really did have talent!

Robert Sackville-West came along in November to talk about Knole House, and to give us an insight into life at the house, living with not only his own young family and relatives, but also the National Trust. Robert told us many stories relating to his ancestors very chequered past and said that in 1946 the family had handed the 'calendar' house to the National Trust, to care for the "52 stair cases, 7 courtyards, and 365 rooms" together with the external and internal walls etc., and grounds.

At our December meeting, on a very wet and windy night, we held our social evening enjoying wine and nibbles and a talk by Pat Mortlock on a Country Christmas. Pat gave us an overview of Christmas celebrations from medieval times, through Victorian and on to the 20th Century.

WATERINGBURY SCOUTS

If you go down to the woods today you won't see an awful lot without a pair of binoculars!!! At least, not if you're in the new playing fields overflow car park next to the cricket pavilion. But in a few years' time, there should be a beautiful piece of mixed tree copse, masking the sight of those ugly parked cars from viewers on the opposite valley side. A small army of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts braved the weather to plant 105 hawthorn, rowan, blackthorn, silver birch, hazel and common oak whips in the lower part of this designated area.

In the meantime, all Sections have enjoyed a thoroughly mixed bag of fun and adventurous activities. Perhaps one of the highlights for Scouts was a SCUBA taster session – watching the video of their session, they had a truly fantastic time. They proved their entertainment skills by putting on their own special "Wateringbury's Got Talent" evening, explored the local area with a geocaching expedition, learned more about how to eat healthily and keep fit, and went ten pin bowling. Not to be outdone, Cubs enjoyed a bonfire at Hamlet Wood, and made a magnificent Guy to top the fire, and our little friends, the Beavers "travelled" to the other side of the world to meet up with the Australian "Joey" friends, also built a (smaller) bonfire and burned their Guys. The Group is thriving, with more and more young people from the village wanting to join the fun and adventure. If you're aged between 6 and 18, and any of those activities sound like fun to you, then come on down and give us a try. If you're over 18, and you'd like to help our young people enjoy them and can spare just a couple of hours a month, then come on down – we'd be delighted to see you and find a role which fits with your talents and time. Join the Adventure! That's Scouting for you. Joanna, Group Scout Leader

DECEMBER PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The planning committee would appreciate the opinions of parishioners in relation to planning applications prior to its meeting to help formulate the response to T & M. Please send comments to the Parish Clerk Redhill Cottage, Redhill or e-mail susan_jc@btinternet.com Alternatively come along to the planning subcommittee meeting which is held directly after the monthly parish council meeting in the village hall on the first Tuesday of each month..

Due to Cllr Michael Cayzer being unwell Cllr Richard Tripp took the Chair. Mr Doug Chivers had resigned from the Council due to business and family commitments. On behalf of the Council the Chairman thanked Mr Chivers for all his help and support during his time on the Parish Council. There are now two vacancies on the Parish Council

Changes To Footpath M502 A letter received from KCC about the proposed changes to the footpath was discussed. Councillors concluded that although it was disappointing that Council's recommendations would not be considered without a lengthy and costly procedure, it was agreed to withdraw the objections. Later at the public discussion Mr Syd Thompsett said there had been great improvement to the original plan by Kent County Council but taking into account a possible public enquiry he agreed it was right that any objections should now be withdrawn. It was stated in future whenever the subject of Public Rights of Way in the village come up the Ramblers Association should be consulted at an early stage.

Wateringbury Sports & Recreational Association - Mr Mike Witts said that 27 stall holders had been approached about attending a fete on 1 June 2014. To date only 8 replies had been received and it would depend on how many agreed to come if a fete was to go ahead. Mr Witts thanked the

Council and the Clerk for their help and support received during the past year.

Drayhorse Meadow Overflow Car Park It was confirmed that planning permission had been granted for the overflow car park at Drayhorse Meadow and work would start at the appropriate time.

Speedwatch- Mr Charles Stroud said Speedwatch had been active during November with 174 detections. 29 Warning letters sent out: 13 for 2nd detection, 6 for 3rd detection, 2 for 4th detection, and 8 letters sent for excessive speed (i.e. 45mph on a 30mph limit). The highest observation was 50mph on Tonbridge Road

Allotments - Following an inspection on Thursday 28 November an email had been sent to all plot holders mentioning that all but a few plots were in good condition and another inspection would be carried out before April 2014.

Cemetery - A site meeting was held on 28th November to discuss a new children's area in the cemetery. A site was identified and Councillors discussed and agreed there would be no charge for burials from stillborn to 12 months for residents and non residents. There would be a charge of £60 from 12 months to 12 years for residents.

Hermitage Lane Development KCC Cllr Balfour said Kent County Council was concerned about the proposals for building in Hermitage Lane as this would affect the surrounding area. T & M Cllr Jessel stated it was felt Maidstone Borough Council was in some confusion over the Hermitage Lane planning proposals, and although it would probably still proceed the plans may be modified.

JANUARY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Drayhorse Meadow The appeal on the rating for Drayhorse Meadow was ongoing. The track leading to the pavilion would be monitored as it may be necessary to carry out some remedial work.

Crime Report - The following crimes had been recorded in December: a Burglary on Tonbridge Road (watch left on window ledge with window open). Criminal Damage at The Handy Stores where shelving was pulled over by a customer and a Theft when several conifer type trees were dug up and taken.

Speedwatch During December there had been 126 observations of vehicles travelling at over 35mph. This included 2nd detections 18, 3rd 2, 5th 1 and 7 for excessive speed of 45mph or above. Unfortunately no new volunteers had come forward to help with Speedwatch and without new people it may be difficult to keep it going. It was felt that not enough support was coming from the police to back Speedwatch and it was agreed to write to Commissioner Ann Barnes

Play Area Some research had been done on the cost of fencing the children's play area and TMBC had given some advice

The Sports Association had to turn down a request for a vehicle to use the playing fields for repairs to a fence belonging to a resident due to the ground being saturated.

A possible STOP sign at the gate exit on to Fields Lane from the playing field was raised and it was agreed to contact Kent Highways to see if a sign could be put on the road side of the gate. Some drivers were not taking enough care when leaving the track and joining the highway.

Finance The budget for 2014/15 was agreed and the Chairman told the meeting the precept figure

was down on last year.

Planning - No objection to application to add an extra floor over existing single storey garden room making a very small bedroom 4 into main bedroom with possible ensuite and fitted wardrobes - 20A Mill Lane. No objection to 2 storey side and rear extension - 16 Leney Road

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 4 February in the ground floor meeting room of the village hall starting at 7.30pm. Residents are welcome to attend.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS THANK YOUs

Concert – “Music for Advent and Christmas”. A huge thank you to conductor Alan Vincent and to the members of the Kent Chamber Choir for such a wonderful programme of choral music performed at our church at Wateringbury so beautifully. Thank you also to Geoffrey Lester for his athletic trips to the organ loft and for his splendid playing of our organ; and to soloist Jack Holton who sang so professionally. From the applause and from comments afterwards the audience thoroughly enjoyed this excellent evening’s entertainment. Our grateful thanks to those who supported this event, donated raffle prizes and helped in raising approximately £650 for Church Funds.”

Christmas Decorations Many thanks to those who helped make the church look so delightful over the Christmastide. To those who donated towards the flowers in memory of loved ones; to Yvonne Marks, Cathy Miller, Rosemary Skinner and Gillian Sessions for their spectacular arrangements. and to Bijou nursery for donating our beautiful Christmas Tree. Thanks too to Alan and Andrew Searle for setting out all those candles for our candlelit services and to Carol for the welcoming festive planters at the church door.

The Big Christmas Card Once again, thanks to the great generosity of the church congregation we can send a substantial cheque to this year's chosen charity - ZANE - with its Jump for Joy appeal. The amount raised was £419.00 and, with appropriate Gift Aid added, the grand total is £504.25. This amount will enable more children in Zimbabwe to have an operation to cure club foot and so to lead a normal life. Thank you all for your support. Jane Bates

Christingle Thanks to Teston Farm Shop for donating 100 oranges for our Christingle Service and to all who donated small change in the ‘collecting box candles’ to aid the work of the Children’s Society. We were able to send £80.

TWELTH NIGHT QUIZ

Congratulations to this year’s winners and thanks to Jan Pursey who devised the quiz on a musical theme this year. Thanks to all who took part and helped raise £147 for church funds. First prize, a bottle of wine, went to Barbara Uden Second prize, a box of chocolates, to Sara and Simon Collier. third prize also of a box of chocolates, to Debbie Bond. Answers on church notice board or on church website www.wateringburychurch.org.uk

THOUGHTS FROM THE VICARAGE

2 The Grange, East Malling ME19 6AH

e-mail jamesbrown.brown21@gmail.com - Office (01732 843282

Good Vicars = Growing Churches

You may have heard of a recent debate concerning comments made by the Archbishop of Canterbury that where a good parish priest is present, churches grow. In an interview on the BBC's Today programme a few weeks ago, the Most Revd Justin Welby suggested that he was "extremely hopeful" about the future of the Church of England, despite falling numbers, partly because of "signs of growth in many places". He then said: "Of course there are churches that are doing better and churches that are struggling more, depending on area and on leadership. But the reality is that where you have a good vicar you will find growing churches." Wow! That is when discussions began amongst the clergy, as you can imagine. I must admit, I did reflect on my own position and asked questions of myself (as all vicars were probably doing)!

However, there is an unquestionable change in attitude and opinion towards the Christian Faith in this country but is this down to the local vicar? I personally believe that there are more issues to consider and that the answer is complex. For example, folk do not recognise the need for something spiritual, something beyond this world, in their fairly materialistic life. We have so much more opportunity to fill our time with most enjoyable social activities (many taking place on a Sunday). Issues differ from one region to another. I could go on and on.

Another view is that, whilst a good vicar equals growth, it may mean a bad vicar experiences church decline. I am sure, nevertheless, that the vicar has much bearing on church growth and church decline. On a personal level I would not wish to shy away from such responsibilities. I am called to be a leader of the church and that I should do.

So why aren't our churches full? Well, we are not doing too bad at Wateringbury, although we do have some room for you! However, perhaps we are not attractive enough or we are poor at encouraging folk inside the building, especially for that all important first visit. How we present our message may need improving. The Archbishop suggests we need to be flexible in how we engage locally and we also need to be very clear about our intention of growing our numbers. It doesn't happen accidentally.

I do believe that if we don't actually set out to grow the number of people and draw people to the reality of the love of God in Jesus Christ it doesn't just happen. But I am rather hoping you will pop along at some point to St John The Baptist, Wateringbury, see what we have to offer and put the Archbishop's theory to the test!

Rev Jim Brown

REV JIM BROWN – SICK LEAVE

As many of you will know Rev Jim Brown has been receiving treatment for prostate cancer for the past few months. This will intensify soon and he will therefore be taking 3 month's sick leave with effect from 12 February. During this time he will be unavailable to carry out any duties. The Benefice Clergy, assisted by visiting clergy, will carry out all the vicar's services, tasks and duties. All enquiries should be addressed to the Parish Office as normal and your requests and messages will be passed on so you will receive help and assistance as needed. Please hold Rev Jim and Jean Brown in your prayers and respect the family's need for privacy at this difficult time. EDDIE SCARLIN & JOANNA FYSON CHURCH WARDENS

AN EVENING WITH EAST PECKHAM SILVER BAND
AT WATERINGBURY CHURCH ON SATURDAY 1 MARCH AT 7.30PM.

This friendly thriving Silver Band formed in 1895 can boast the title of the oldest surviving village

band in Kent. It will play toe tapping music for the entire family to enjoy.

Raffle proceeds will be donated to The Children's Liver Disease Foundation, a charity which supported a family who are members of the band and the church.

Tickets: £10. Accompanied school children and students: £3

Available on: 01622 813032 or from Wateringbury Post Office.

COFFEE BREAK

The next meeting of the Coffee Breakers will be on Wednesday 26 February in the Church between 10.30 and 12.30. The group meets on the fourth Wednesday morning of each month in the Church for coffee, cake, chatter and crafts (optional). Local transport available - please phone 01622 814673 to arrange a lift.

BENEFICE WI

The next meeting will be in East Malling Church at 1pm on Thursday 6 February when Rev Jim Brown will give a talk 'Police to Priest'. All welcome.

BREAKFAST MEETING SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY AT 9AM

In The Institute Hall East Malling.

Talk "With the PM and Others" by Guest Speaker Peter Coles

(ex DCI Special Branch and Prime Minister's Protection Officer now Director of Security at Barclays Bank)

A full English Breakfast will be served so please get a ticket by contacting Eddie on 01622 812148. All welcome.

BENEFICE CHURCH SERVICES

Visit our website for full details www.wateringburychurch.org.uk

Sunday 2 February Candlemas

8am Holy Communion – Teston

9.45am Family Service – East Malling

9.45am Family Service – Teston

10am Morning Praise – Wateringbury

Sunday 9 February

8am Holy Communion – East Malling

9.45am Eucharist – East Malling

10am Holy Communion - Wateringbury

6.30pm Evening Prayer - Teston

Sunday 16 February

8am Holy Communion – Wateringbury

9.45am Eucharist – East Malling

10 am Family Service – Wateringbury

6.30pm Eucharist - Teston Sunday

23 February

8am Holy Communion – East Malling

9.45am Eucharist – East Malling

10am Holy Communion – Wateringbury

6.30pm Evening Praise - Teston

Every Monday – 2-3pm – Scout & Guide HQ, Glebe Meadow – Toddler Praise

Tuesdays – 7.30pm in Wateringbury Church - details below

Every Thursday - 9am in East Malling Church – Holy Communion

For Baptisms, Weddings and other arrangements please attend the Parish Office at the Vicarage on Wednesdays 6.30-7.15pm

Tuesday Evening Services in February – All in Wateringbury

Feb 4 Benefice Healing & Wholeness Service a Taize style service - 8pm

Feb 11 Taize Worship led by Bob and Becky Bowie – 7.30pm

Feb 18 Communion Service – 7.30pm

Feb 25 Evening Service with the choir –7.30pm

Quiet Hour Wednesday 12 February 8-9pm in Wateringbury Church.

Come and go as you please. A time for quiet prayer and reflection

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY 7 MARCH Our local service will be at 10.30am at St Margaret's Church, Addington. The speaker will be Mrs Sandra Moran from the Salvation Army. All welcome.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms 16 November Alice Rose Hart-Champion
 8 December Ella Chelsea Bennett

Funeral 17 December Jack Vince

