

## **ROSTRUM FEBRUARY 2011**

### **VILLAGE DIARY**

#### **February**

- 1<sup>st</sup> PARISH COUNCIL HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE meeting – 6.15 pm
- 1<sup>st</sup> PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 7.30 pm followed immediately by a meeting of the Planning Committee
- 10 W.I. – Andrew Clark – Old Maidstone Firms
- 16 HISTORY SOCIETY – Bob Ogle – A Local Newspaper Reporter
- 19 ORGAN CELEBRATION CONCERT by Duncan Atkinson– Church 7.30pm
- 23 Police informal surgery Wateringbury Hotel Restaurant noon – 1pm

#### **March**

- 1st PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7.30 pm followed immediately by a meeting of the Planning Committee
- 4 World Day of Prayer Service in Wateringbury Church -10.30am
- 16 HISTORY SOCIETY – Keith Ford - Agincourt
- 26 LAUNCH of Friends of Wateringbury Church – Church - 9.30am
- 30 Police informal surgery Wateringbury Hotel Restaurant noon – 1pm

**You are invited to**

### **AN ORGAN RECITAL**

**to celebrate the restoration of**

**Wateringbury Church's magnificent organ**

**SATURDAY 19 FEBRUARY AT 7.30PM**

**by organist Duncan Atkinson,**

**Director of Music for the Church of St. Margaret, Lee, London.**

**Duncan, who sang as a boy in Wateringbury Church Choir, is a talented musician and the audience, will not only hear, but also see him playing, via a camera situated in the organ loft, and projected on to a screen in front of them.**

**Tickets £5, accompanied children free,**

**from 01622 813032 and Wateringbury Post Office**

## VILLAGE PEOPLE

Congratulations to Peter and Lisa Glasscote on the arrival of Noah Walter Gabriel, who arrived on 7 January weighing 6lb 10oz. A brother for Edward, Henry, Elijah and Evangeline.

### **MOLLIE PILCHER (Longley ) R.I.P**

Mollie was born in 1927 in Leeds, and was brought up by her Grandmother. She attended a Quaker boarding school, where her adventurous nature often got her into trouble. She attended the Chelsea College during the war years. The College had been evacuated to Wales, where the social life was greatly enhanced by a nearby American service base. She obtained her degree in Sport. Her first job was at Faversham Girls Grammar School, where she was very popular with the girls, once being sent home by the Headmistress for wearing red nail varnish and a split skirt.

It was in Faversham that Mollie met her future husband Peter. They married, had a daughter Jan and a son Mark, and in due course came to live at Barnjet Cottage in Barming where they created a beautiful garden. .. Mollie enjoyed travel, gardening, and stewarding at Leeds Castle. Sadly Peter died far too young. Mollie moved to Upper Mill in Wateringbury, and rapidly entered village life. She joined the Wateringbury Local History Society, and in 2004 became its first female Chairman.

Mollie re-met an old friend from her Faversham days in Roy Pilcher, and they enjoyed travelling together. They fell in love and married. Sadly this happiness was not to last as Mollie was diagnosed with a brain tumour, and died in the Heart of Kent Hospice on the last day of 2010. Mollie was a cheerful and jolly person who enjoyed family life and sport. She was an excellent chairman of the W.L.H.S., and had a voice which commanded attention. We shall miss her very much, and send our condolences to her daughter and son and to her husband, Roy. E.F.B.

### **HOP GARDEN FARM CENTRE**

It only came to my attention the weekend the 15/16th January that the Hop Garden Farm Centre, off the Tonbridge road, in Teston, is threatened with closure. At the moment I am unclear about the ins and outs of this situation but I felt it was important to alert people as soon as possible.

Margaret Leggat has run the Centre as an animal rescue and livery facility for around twenty years with significant support from friends, family and other supporters. It would be a tragedy if this wonderful, caring facility for animals had to close. Please rally round and support Margaret in her hour of need. More details can be obtained from Fred on 07906359512 or from Dave Mitchelmore on 01622812391. DM

### **DECEMBER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

*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 mail 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..*

**Planning Applications** The council had no objections to the following applications – single storey side extension at 25 Phoenix Drive, new external boiler at Oakenwood Cottage (provided the Listed Buildings officer is satisfied). The council deferred a decision on the Polytunnels application at Hugh Lowe Farms. Mrs Marian Regan attended the meeting and gave background information and details to the council.

**Allotments** – the planned December inspection had been postponed due to the snow and would be rescheduled when the weather improved.

**Train and Bus times** Residents are recommended to check on bus and train times before travelling as timetables have been adjusted.

**Village Hall Bookings** – these were now being handled by Dennis Stones.

**Salt Bins** – it was disappointing that the salt had been removed from the car park bin just before the bad weather. This loss was not an isolated incident as others in the area had also suffered a similar fate. Councillor Bev Evans thanked the volunteers who had cleared snow from the entrance to the village car park.

## **JANUARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Michael Cayzer chaired the meeting in the unavoidable absence of Kate Averill.

**The parish budget** for 2011/2012 was approved. This included provision for election expenses for May 2011. An election will only need to be held if there are more applicants than places on the council.

After discussion councillors agreed to buy a further supply of **road salts** in case of further snow and ice. The supply will be stored by the parish council and then distributed, when needed, to volunteers in the village in an effort to make roads and pavements less problematic.

**Police news** It was reported that 2 new officers PC Wilkinson and PC Healey would be joining the local team. In December 6 crimes had been reported 2 of fraud (one on e-bay and one where money had been withdrawn from a bank account) 1 burglary when items had been stolen from an outbuilding in Danns Lane, 2 thefts related to motor vehicles (number plates stolen from a vehicle in Leney Road and a radio from a car in Bow Road) and one assault on a male who was sharing a taxi home from Maidstone. CPSO Dave Gilham reminded residents that a police surgery is held on the last Wednesday of each month in the restaurant of the Watlingtonbury Hotel between noon and 1pm. This is an opportunity for residents to discuss any police related matters in an informal setting.

**Latest Planning Applications** The council's comments about the following planning applications can be viewed on the T & M website or at their offices in Kings Hill 2 storey side extension at 16 Leney Road, Outline Application for the provision of 64 two, three and four bedroom dwellings with associated roads, footpaths, parking and landscaping, including the retention and management of associated woodland on MOD land South of Discovery Drive, Kings Hill (Some of the perimeter of this land is at the end of Teston Road (opposite the North Pole pub) and Cattering Wood).

**Dog Fouling** is becoming a problem. The playing fields and Glebe Meadow were giving the most cause for concern. It was felt that the vast majority of dog owners are responsible and pick up after their pets. Residents can help to solve the problem by reporting details to the T & M dog warden on 01732 876181. To be most effective the warden needs names of offending dog owners or the times and places so patrols can be mounted.

Borough Councillor Frances English reported that Tonbridge & Malling Council had received notification from the government of a 28% reduction over a 2 year period in the money given to the council to provide local services. Fortunately the council had been prudent and so has some cash reserves but all expenditure will need to be carefully reviewed. Following the December meeting when a resident drew the council's attention to the overgrown state of the walkway between the Tonbridge Road and Allington Gardens, T & M's workforce had cleared the area and it would be placed on the regular maintenance schedule. She had also investigated the problem of the planning condition regarding drainage from the shop at the corner of Boorman Mews. This is an ongoing investigation by T & M officials.

The next meetings of the council, to which all residents are welcome, take place in the village hall at 7.30pm on 1 February and 1 March. The planning sub-committee meetings follow immediately after the general council meetings. The Sports & Recreation Association, who manage the playing fields, are scheduled to give a presentation of its activities at the February meeting.

## **WATERINGBURY VILLAGE HALL QUIZ NIGHT**

(organised by the Management Committee in aid of the Village Hall)

Come and enjoy an evening of brain-teasing entertainment!

**WHEN ?** FRIDAY 25<sup>th</sup> March 2011  
(Doors open 7.00 for 7.30 pm start)

**WHERE?** THE VILLAGE HALL  
**HOW MUCH?** £6 per person

TEAMS of 6-8 people (or book for yourself and we will match you up with others to make up a team...)

There will be a bar available, but please bring your own food...Of course, there will be prizes for the winners and losers...and a chance to win prizes in our special raffle....

To book a place, please ring Phil Rex 01622 814483

## **WATCHING YOUR WEIGHT?**

Weight Watchers meets at Wateringbury Village Hall every Monday at 12.30pm. We are a fun, friendly and very successful group. So if you are thinking about losing weight and feeling great this new year, come along and join us and be one of our successes!

## **BULKY REFUSE SERVICE**

The trailer to take away large bulky household items or green garden waste which is too large for the normal wheelie bins can be taken to the vehicle which will be parked in Fields Lane between 11am and noon on Saturdays 12 and 26 February, 12 and 26 March. For information of items which can be placed in the vehicle or to arrange for Free collection of fridges and freezers please call 01732 876147.

## **SALE OF HAY FOR PETS BEDDING OR STOCK FEED**

Highest quality hay, cut in August 2010 from specially grown local farm hayfield in Wateringbury – no artificial spray or chemicals used. Excellent bedding for pets particularly rabbits and guinea pigs or feed for stock. Sold in manageable, man-portable bales/or half bales. Price £6 a bale/£4 a half bale. Contact: **William English Farms** (Wateringbury) – 01622 812471

**TESTON & WATERINGBURY NURSERY GROUP (Registered charity 1044257)**  
**[www.testonandwateringburynursery.co.uk](http://www.testonandwateringburynursery.co.uk)**

**Admissions and all enquiries: Amanda Vidler 07805 796353**

The snow may have disrupted the whole country in December, but we soldiered on! We had a 'Lucky Jam Jar' stall at Wateringbury School's Christmas Fair in November so the children filled jam jars with lots of goodies which raised a lot of money. Thank you to all contributors, and to Wateringbury School.

The children visited Reverend Jim Brown at Teston Church, in December, and listened to his Nativity Story. They all had a chance to re-enact the scenes and sing some songs, including a new song, courtesy of Amanda Vidler – who needs X Factor!! Thank you to Reverend Jim, not least for his patience! At the time of going to print, we hadn't had our Christmas Concert, so news of that next month.

A huge welcome to our new starters – we know you'll be very happy with us, and look forward to getting to know you over the coming months.

We're all about shapes next term, making pizzas, warning triangles and houses, and we'll also be making bird cakes for our feathered friends. At Chinese New Year, we'll be trying Chinese food, and for Valentine's Day, we'll be sending cards to our loved ones

### **WATERINGBURY BABY & TODDLER GROUP**

What a fabulous Christmas time we had at toddler group! We all had lots of fun making decorations to display around the hall and Christmas hats to wear to our Christmas party, where we were entertained by Jo Jingles and Santa came to surprise all the children with a lovely present each. Everyone enjoyed the party food and went home very happy looking forward to the big day itself.

If there are any parents/guardians wishing to join our friendly group, our sessions are held on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10am to 12 noon at the Wateringbury Village Hall. We have started 2011 with lots of new ideas for craft activities. We have been making butterfly pictures and later this term will be making cards for Valentine's Day and rocking rabbits for the Chinese New Year. Please note that the pricing has changed slightly to meet increased costs of hall hire, refreshments etc. There is a small charge of £2 for the first child and £1 each for subsequent children over 12 months old. Adults continue to be free. We also hire out our tables/chairs and toys for birthday parties etc. If you are interested please contact Tina on 07956 004363.

### **WATERINGBURY CRICKET CLUB**

The Club are still looking for players for their **Under 13 Junior Team**. The team will compete in the Mid Kent Youth League. Players must be under 13 on midnight 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010, (i.e. School year 8 or below).

**If you would like to play please contact Mike Witts on 01622 812027.**

### **WATERINGBURY WEATHER WATCH**

January 2010 was the coldest I have recorded in the last 20 years, while at the other end of the year we had the coldest December on record. Apart from these two months, the year seemed to pan out much as expected. Total rainfall was about 710 mm (28") which was just about 23 mm (1") above the annual average. The minimum temperatures were about 0.5°C (1C (1°F) below the annual average and the maximums were about 1°C (2°F) below.

The general tenor of our weather is determined by the "Jet Stream" (wind in the upper atmosphere). When it is behaving itself it blows more or less from East to West and brings Atlantic low pressure systems across us, which together with the sea's "Gulf Stream Drift" help to keep us relatively warm in the winter. However, in December the Jet Stream broke into two parts and the part affecting us was coming from the Arctic bringing the snow and ice that most of the country experienced.

I am glad to say that, for the moment at least, the Jet Stream has reverted to its usual East to West pattern and the January 2011 mild, wet weather is the result.



## TWENTY FIVE YEARS OLD

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Beavers becoming a formal Section within Scouting. We'll have a special badge to wear on our uniforms, and will be celebrating with various special events within the Colony and with Beavers from other Colonies throughout Kent. With a change in the rules which now allows Beavers to camp out under canvas, who knows ... we may celebrate with our very first proper camp!

Tudor Price, Beaver Leader



## SCOUT GANG SHOW

Have you ever heard of a Scout Gang Show? Have you ever attended one? If the answer is "No", then you don't know what you're missing.

Gang Shows were introduced to Scouting by the late Ralph Reader CBE back in the 1930s as a means of giving young people in Scouting the opportunity to develop performance skills and perform in a close to professional theatrical environment. There are also opportunities for young people to work backstage, in front-of-house roles, and as musicians in the orchestra. The performance takes the form of a variety show with songs, sketches and dances, and is suitable for all the family. All the planning, writing, composing, choreographing, building of stage scenery and props, and making of costumes, not to mention rehearsal and the performance itself, stretches over several months and requires considerable commitment by those taking part.

Maidstone Scouts have been putting on Gang Shows since 1939. Our 2011 Show runs from Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April to Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April with nightly performances at 7.30pm and a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm. Two of our very own Waterringbury Scouts will be performing this year for the second time.

I invite you to come and see what the youth of today can achieve when they put their minds to it. I am sure you will not be disappointed, and we will all appreciate your support.

Ticket prices vary from £9 to £11.50 depending on the performance you select and how quickly you book (reductions apply until 25th February). Please contact Joanna Fyson on 01622 814980, or email [joanna@wateringburyscouts.org.uk](mailto:joanna@wateringburyscouts.org.uk) for more information or to book your tickets. Joanna Fyson, Akela 01622 814980

## HISTORY SOCIETY

Our Chairman Christine Thomas kicked off the evening with a non pc Christmas poem, much enjoyed by our members.

This was Don Dray's third visit to us and, as before, his talk, which had been pre-recorded by him, was accompanied by sounds and slides of WW2. Don informed us that during 1939 many venues closed and put up their black out curtains in anticipation of what was to come but, when nothing happened to disrupt their entertainment, it was then declared business as usual and most dance halls, cinemas and theatres kept open.

A rash of comic or infantile songs were recorded and in particular George Formby with his ukulele and we heard what is considered to be his signature tune, "When I'm Cleaning Windows" Ben Lyon and Bebe Daniels, American by birth, chose to stay in England rather than taking the easy option of returning home whilst we were at war, entertaining as many people as they could. In 1942 the first American service men arrived in England and trad jazz heralded their arrival together with their

dancing, including jiving. During the evening we heard music from Glen Miller, Anne Shelton. Vera Lynn and Florence Desmond and saw pictures of Flanagan and Allen, Betty Grable and some heart rending pictures of children being evacuated singing The Lambeth Walk. GS

### **WATERINGBURY FLOWER CLUB Susan Shaw "Wonderful World"**

Susan a well known speaker and demonstrator from Maidstone has demonstrated for us many times and its always a pleasure to welcome her to the club. Susan was part of the Kent Area team that represented us at Chelsea in 2008 winning a silver gilt medal, a fantastic achievement.

Susan thrilled us with her demonstration - her designs were inspired by her travels all over the world and of course she is an accomplished after dinner speaker and is in demand for this as well. All Susan's designs were amazing and we will be sure to have her back again at sometime.

February's meeting is our AGM and a change over of committee and Chairman - we are adding a fun theme this year entitled The Pudding Club - we normally have some sort of supper and social after the business so that members can have a chat to each other and this year the theme is puddings, there goes the new year diet! Jean Schofield.

### **PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

Parish Council Elections take place on 5th May. Any resident who would like to apply to be a Parish Councillor should request nomination papers from Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council after Wednesday 23rd February by calling 01732 844522 Electoral Services. Should you require any further information on the role of a Parish Councillor please contact the Clerk on 01622 817068 or email [susan\\_jc@btinternet.com](mailto:susan_jc@btinternet.com)

### **NETTLESTEAD & WATERINGBURY PRE-SCHOOL AND OUT OF SCHOOL CLUBS - CHARITY NO.1062792**

Nettlestead and Wateringbury Pre-school have now opened their doors to children from 7.30 am until 3 pm each day. The breakfast club and walking bus to Wateringbury school have proved to be very popular. The children have been asking for cooking, scrabble and puzzles - who says children only want to be on the computer! We have been outside playing football at 8 am in our covered area which is doubling as an all weather pitch with all the rain we have been having recently! It has been lovely getting reacquainted with old friends and hearing all their news since they left us when they were 4 years old.

Our pre-schoolers have settled beautifully into their new home. They are able to initiate ideas and we are able to supply their needs almost immediately! They wanted to turn the home corner into an ice-cream parlour, the resources were available so they all helped to make playdough ice-cream scented with cinnamon – it really doesn't get much better than that. Wednesday afternoons has now been dedicated to the older pre-school children and places have filled very quickly only a few more spaces available. Staff and children have the opportunity to explore in more depth activities and routines preparing them for the transition to school later this year. As from Term 4 we will be offering after school clubs. 01622 869916 or [nettlesteadandwateringbury@yahoo.com](mailto:nettlesteadandwateringbury@yahoo.com)  
website [www.nettlesteadandwateringburypreschool.org.uk](http://www.nettlesteadandwateringburypreschool.org.uk)

### **WATERINGBURY NEEDS YOU ! HELP TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Wateringbury Cricket Club have registered to take part in "Nat West Cricket Force" a nationwide exercise which is to take place over 8, 9 and 10 April 2011. (Please note these dates can be altered to suit the works being undertaken).

The main purpose will be to renovate the pavilion and improve the playing facilities at the sports field in Wateringbury. However, due to the fact that the sports field is a facility shared by the whole

community, it has been decided to combine the Cricket Club's efforts with the Wateringbury Sports and Recreation Association and broaden the scope of works.

The proposed list of works is as follows :

Application of Spring/Summer fertiliser over the whole of the main playing field (approx 14,000 sq. metres)

Paint the pavilion and repair/replace external boarding

Paint the storage sheds.

Litter pick the whole area

Clear vegetation from under the trees and strim back weeds adjacent to the boundary

Clean/treat all the commemorative benches down at the playing field.

Erect the cricket mobile practice net and weld loops to the storage cabin to enable the net to be securely padlocked when not in use.

Prune trees around the playing field and dispose of branches, etc.

Work on the cricket square before the season commences.

Clean/scrub the cricket sight screens.

Provide refreshments for all volunteers.

To succeed in this exercise we need your help, whether it be as an organisation or as an individual.

Meetings will be held to carefully plan the operation and allocate specific tasks to volunteers. We need volunteers to give their skills, services and time.

We need donations of materials from businesses.

It is our intention to inform the local press, radio etc. to gain publicity.

Our County Councillor, Richard Long, has contributed towards the overall cost of the cricket mobile practice net and will be invited to "unveil " the facility.

This is your chance to enjoy meeting new friends and to make the playing field and sporting facilities in Wateringbury something to be proud of. Please contact Mike Witts 812027.

### **FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL (Registered charity 1038836)**

Our Christmas Fayre on 27 November made a spectacular profit of £2,800 which will be ploughed back into priority projects at the school. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the event such a great success.

At the time of going to press we were finalising plans for the unveiling of a new mural for the school hall. Work on the mural, which features Biblical themes, began in September 2009. It will become a focus for our morning Worship after its official unveiling on 28 January to parents and members of the local community. Thank you to all the parents and staff who have contributed to the mural and to The Wateringbury Players who have funded the project.

We are working on a new website and we hope to set up a volunteer Operation Groundforce team to rejuvenate the school's wildlife area in the spring.

If any local businesses or individuals would like to get more involved with one of the school projects like the wildlife area through sponsorship or hands-on help, in return for some great local publicity, please contact Chairman Gail Isted (Tel 01622 813716, e-mail gail.isted@eagle-eyePR.com).

Date for your diary: Our Summer Fête will take place on Saturday 18 June. By publishing the date early we hope to avoid clashes with other local events.

### **WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

We received the sad news of the death of Betty Benjamin, a past but long-serving member of the WI. Betty was a very active member having been Treasurer of our branch for many years. She took part in all types of craftwork and had fun playing in many shows with which the WI were involved. Friends which she had made while in the WI attended her funeral at Wateringbury parish church. She will be sadly missed. .



Our branch 90th Christmas party was a huge success, food having been provided by our members - WI's are well known for their cooking skills! The chairperson of the WI West Kent Federation, Chris Klempau, celebrated this event with us, together with members from Allington, Barming, Yalding and East Farleigh.

At our January meeting Mrs Christine Thomas gave us a wonderful and interesting talk about her trek in the Himalayas. We were shown slides of the breathtaking scenery and villages perched on the hillsides. I think this made some of us feel quite unfit and in awe of what she had achieved. Walking on flat ground for 8 hours at a time is one thing, but on the sort of terrain which she was describing quite another. At times this involved crossing bridges with no side supports and a massive drop below. Christine did the trek to raise money for Demelza House. KC 814618

## **NEW FRIENDS IN THE VILLAGE**

This spring a new community group will be launched in the village – the Friends of Wateringbury Church (FOWC) chaired by William English and supported by his Committee of Wateringbury residents. Its aim is to raise funds to maintain and improve the church building and churchyard, ensuring it can continue to develop its valuable work in the community and be with us for generations to come.

St. John the Baptist Church has been at the heart of village life since the 13th century and it is easy to take it for granted, but it is up to us as a community to maintain it. As the focal point for our local school, scouts and guides, mothers and toddlers groups, plus many more community activities, our church contributes enormously to making living in Wateringbury so enjoyable, of course not forgetting that it is an integral part of our village's history.

From 26th March 2011 you can help us maintain our church for our future generations by :

Becoming a "Friend of Wateringbury Church" by making an annual donation of £10 per household. Your money will be passed to the Wateringbury Parochial Church Council for use in maintaining the building and churchyard

By becoming a "Friend" you will have access to potentially over 40 local businesses who, by supporting us will offer you a member's discount for work undertaken.

Look our for more information about the "Friends" here in our March Rostrum, including how you can become involved! W:[www.fowc.org.uk](http://www.fowc.org.uk) (under construction) T 812471 (Secretary – Frances English)

## **BIG CHRISTMAS CARD**

Once again members of the church family were invited to sign the big Christmas card to send their village friends Christmas greetings. They were invited to donate the money saved from sending individual cards to the 2010 chosen charity – SOS Children's Village in Bethlehem. An amazing £590 was raised, including £174 from the School Carol Service collection. Organiser Jane Bates thanks everyone for their generous support.

## **MOTHERS' UNION**

The Benefice Mothers' Union meets on Thursday 3 February when Rev Jim Brown will talk on bee keeping and Thursday 3 March when Rev Peter Doodes will talk on the Chaplaincy at Beachy Head. Both meetings are in East Malling Church at 1pm, visitors most welcome.

## **THOUGHTS FROM THE VICARAGE**

2 The Grange, East Malling ME19 6AH

e-mail [jamesbrown2@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:jamesbrown2@tinyworld.co.uk) Benefice office ☎ 01732 843282

### **A NEW YEAR!**

Did you know that New Year's Day is the one holiday that is almost universal? It is the world's most observed holiday. I trust you've made your New Year's resolutions but I won't ask you if you've resolved to lose the weight you gained between Christmas and New Year, or if you're planning on joining a health club, or if you're going to run five miles a day. We have just seen 12<sup>th</sup> night pass and it is now mid January by which time, so I'm led to believe, most people surrender their New Year's promises and revert to normal!

These are some of the more memorable resolutions I heard this year:

1. I will go to no doctor whose office plants have died.
2. I'm going to follow my husband's suggestion to put a little excitement into my life by living within our budget.
3. I'm going to apply for a hardship scholarship to Weight Watchers.
4. I will never loan my car to anyone I have given birth to.

Resolutions are good, especially if there are changes we need to make in our lives. I heard about one poor chap who dialed his girlfriend and got the following recording: "I am not available right now, but thank you for caring enough to call. I am making some changes in my life. Please leave a message after the beep. If I do not return your call, you are one of the changes."

It's good to make changes, for the most part. As we are often reminded by our critics, our spouses or our children, none of us is perfect. In fact, some of us might have some deep regrets about the way we've lived our lives.

My prayer for you all is that you don't have regrets and that you live your lives to the full so that each and every day counts! I am really convinced that that is what would be pleasing to God. God has given us life in abundance for you to live to the full and so count your blessings and don't worry too much about those resolutions!

Revd Jim Brown

### **THE MOTORIST'S PRAYER**

Lord, grant me a steady hand and watchful eye  
That no man may be hurt when I pass by.  
Thou givest life, I pray no act of mine  
May take away or mar this act of thine.  
Save those, dear Lord, who bear me company  
From shock and pain and all calamity.  
Teach me to use my car for others' need  
Not miss, through love of speed,  
The beauty of this world that I may  
With joy and courtesy go on my way.

## DEMELZA HOUSE, CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

The treacherous conditions meant that, with much regret, the proposed Carol singing round the village on 8 December had to be cancelled. Due to the regulations for house to house collections we could not change the date. We are sorry to disappoint the village. We also did not wish to deprive Demelza of our usual donation so the collection at the Family Nativity Service in church was donated to them and the Handy Stores kindly agreed to have a collection box for a month. Demelza will let us know the total raised in due course. Lisa Glasscote.

## FUN WITH FAITH

Our next meeting will be in the village hall on Saturday 19 February between 11.30-1.30pm. The cost, for all primary-aged children, is £2 and covers lunch and art materials. This month we shall be looking at the story of Sampson. For more details please phone Sally on 01622 817098.

The children enjoyed joining with the Sunday's Cool group to tell the story of the Nativity, as seen through the eyes of the mice in the stable, at the December Family Service in church. Special thanks to Brenda Clarke who wrote the script and knitted finger mice for all the cast and children in the congregation and to all who helped with the masks, costumes and generally encouraged the children. In January we were delighted that Helen Commander came to visit us and the children had fun acting out the story of Jonah and the Whale at the Family Service.

## SUNDAYS COOL

Meets in the Church Vestry during the morning service at 10am on Sunday February 13. All children welcome, under 4s should bring an adult along

## BENEFICE CHURCH SERVICES – FEBRUARY 2011

<b>Sunday 6 February</b> 8am Holy Communion – Teston 9.45am Family Service – East Malling 9.45am Family Service - Teston 10am Morning Praise – Wateringbury	<b>Sunday 13 February</b> 8am Holy Communion – East Malling 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 10am Holy Communion - Wateringbury 6.30pm Evening Prayer - Teston
<b>Sunday 20 February</b> 8am Holy Communion – Wateringbury 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 10 am Family Service – Wateringbury 6.30pm Eucharist - Teston	<b>Sunday 27 February</b> 8am Holy Communion – East Malling 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 10am Holy Communion – Wateringbury 11.15am Eucharist - Teston 6.30pm Evening Praise - Teston
Every Monday – 2-3pm – Scout & Guide HQ, Glebe Meadow – Toddler Praise	
Tuesdays (not 1 <sup>st</sup> in month) – 7.30pm in Wateringbury Church – Holy Communion	
Every Thursday - 9am in East Malling Church – Holy Communion	

## **Special Church Services**

**Quiet Hour Wednesday 9 February** – 8-9pm a chance to come and go as you please to spend time in quiet prayer and contemplation.

**Service of Healing and Wholeness.** The next services will be at 8pm on **Tuesday 1 February** a meditation style service in Wateringbury church and **Tuesday 1 March** a Taize service in East Malling.

## **World Day of Prayer – Friday 4 March at 10.30am**

This is a world-wide inter-denominational event and in 2011 the Malling area service is in Wateringbury Church. The Christian Women of Chile have prepared this year's prayers and given the theme the title How Many Loaves Have You? Do come along if you can and join in this world-wide prayer circle.

## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

### **Memorial Services**

3 December Peter Rubin

13 January Molly Longley Pilcher

### **Funeral**

13 January Betty Benjamin

### **Baptism**

16 January Jacob Christopher Awcock