

VILLAGE DIARY

October

- 2 **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** 7.30pm followed immediately by a meeting of the Planning Committee – Village Hall
6 **TABLE TOP SALE** – School – 11am-2pm
7 **FOOTPATH GROUP** - Meet at car park by Linton Church – 2.00 pm sharp for walk around Linton/Boughton Place
11 **W.I.** “Maidstone Library – the Big Move – Janet Bedford” –
2.30 pm – Village Hall
16 **PUBLIC MEETING** 7.30pm School Hall (see back page for details)
17 **HISTORY SOCIETY** – The Battle of Trafalgar – Keith Ford – 7.40 pm – Village Hall
18 **FLOWER CLUB OPEN MEETING WITH NATIONAL DEMONSTRATOR** – 7pm – Nettlestead Hall – Tickets £7
23 **MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL** Finance & General Purposes Committee 7.30pm – Village Hall
27 **PINK FLOYD TRIBUTE BAND** – Wateringbury Club -

November

- 4 **FOOTPATH GROUP** - Meet at Wateringbury Village Hall car park at 2.00 pm sharp
6 **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** 7.30pm followed immediately by a meeting of the Planning Committee – Village Hall
17 **CHRISTMAS CRAFT BAZAAR** – Church - 11am-3pm
17 **RACE NIGHT** – Wateringbury Club – 8pm
21 **HISTORY SOCIETY** - Hops and Hop Picking – Richard Filmer – Village Hall - 7.40 pm
24 **CHRISTMAS FAYRE** – School

December

- 3 **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** 7.30pm followed immediately by a meeting of the Planning Committee – Village Hall
7 & 8 **DICKENSIAN EVENING AT CHRISTMAS** – Wateringbury Players – Church

THE FOLLOWING POLICE SURGERIES HAVE BEEN ARRANGED WATERINGBURY VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK

- 13 October - 1pm – 2pm
6 November - 12 noon – 1pm
5 December – 2pm – 3 pm

PUBLIC MEETING

The Parish Council would like to have at their disposal the means to buy land in the parish that would be of benefit to the village should any come on the market. In order to do this Council would have to take out a loan from the Public Works Loan Board and repayments would have to be made via the precept and would affect the amount on your Council Tax bill. In order do this Council must get the support of parishioners and so they are inviting you to a PUBLIC MEETING on **Tuesday 16 October 7.30pm in the school hall** when figures will be available and any questions answered. At the end of the meeting those present will be asked to sign either for or against. Sue Cockburn, Clerk to the Council - 01622 817068 susan_jc@btinternet.com

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Birthday congratulations to **Rev Jim Brown** who celebrates his 60th birthday on 13 October.

FROM WATERINGBURY TO WASHINGTON

Becky Reardon, a member of the Players – spent her Summer holiday working at Camp America Moss Hollow, some 25 miles or so from Washington, a camp for underprivileged children. Many of the kids arrive at Moss Hollow not knowing how to swim, and Becky, a qualified Life Guard has been teaching them how.

She has had a pretty interesting time – a heat wave, violent thunderstorm, with no power for several days, and fulfilled her life guard duties when two boys jumped in the deep end and didn't come up – she jumped straight in and managed to haul them out.

Becky was interviewed by the Washington Post, and received a very nice write up. She gave the English education system a plug saying “children in England have to learn to swim by about the age of 10 as part of a national curriculum”.

Becky travelled home by herself via New York where she spent 3 days sightseeing, and is now back to her Teacher Training Course in Canterbury.

GARDEN WASTE AND FLY TIPPING

If grass cuttings, parts of trees, shrubs or any garden waste is dumped on private or Highways land it is Fly Tipping and illegal. If anyone should be aware of garden waste being dumped on Parish land i.e. the Playing Fields, Glebe Meadow or the Cemetery and know who is responsible please contact the Clerk on 01622 817068 or susan_jc@btinternet.com when action will be taken. To report any other fly tipping please call the Borough Council on 01732 876060

WATERINGBURY FOOTPATH GROUP

Sunday 7 October – Meet at car park (top of hill) by Linton Church-2.00 pm sharp, for a walk around Linton/Boughton Place.

Sunday 4 November – Meet at Wateringbury Village Hall Car Park at 2.00 pm sharp, for a local walk.
For more information please call Syd on 812338

SEPTEMBER PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

There would be a Meeting on Thursday 20 September in the upstairs room 7.30pm to discuss celebrations for QE11 Status and 60th Anniversary of the Queen Coronation

There is a Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting on Tuesday 23^r October at 7.30pm in the village hall.

A new CCTV monitor had been installed in the Village Hall.

It was agreed to remove the roadside seat near The Orpines, which was damaged and replace with a new one.

Council agreed to instruct Richard Long to act on their and the Wateringbury Sports and Recreational Association's behalf to complete and forward Land Registry Forms in connection with the QE11 Status. Councillors also agreed to cover the costs for the sports association.

Councillors discussed the possibility of taking out a loan to buy any land, that would be beneficial to the village, that may come up for sale. As parishioners have to be consulted councillors discussed whether an article should appear in Rostrum or a letter be delivered by hand in the village. A draft letter would be prepared for councillors to consider.

The fencing around the small play area was in need of attention and it was agreed to have this inspected.

Crime report - There were 9 reported crimes for the month of August

(1) Theft of traffic light batteries (2) Theft of a motor vehicle (3) Theft from a motor vehicle (4) Theft of lead from a roof (5) Criminal Damage (6) house Burglary - and 3 incidents of a sensitive nature.

Councillors discussed Operation Rover. - a project where police would carry out extra speed checks in the village and stop any driver for other offences such as using mobile phones. There was a cost involved and Richard Long had agreed to use funds from his Members' Highway Fund. It was agreed to make further enquiries.

Councillors discussed an objection from a family for the cost of a burial in an existing grave in the cemetery which, due to the deceased never having lived in the village, would be double that of a previous resident. The cost is £1000. This amount is clearly shown on the list of charges for the cemetery and no reduction is given for a reopen grave. The fee was in line with other cemeteries. After discussion Councillors were asked to vote in favour of the fee standing at £1000, 4 voted in favour 1 against. Cllr Stones asked that the minutes record his objection.

Next meeting 2 October.in the village hall meeting room at 7.30pm

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MAIDSTONE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, Conductor, Brian Wright, will perform on Saturday 13 October 2012 commencing at 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park, Maidstone. The programme consists of three works - Shostakovich - Festive Overture. Rodrigo - Guitar Concerto. Mahler - Symphony No.1. Here's a sparkling programme to open our season featuring Mahler's spectacular 1st Symphony and world famous guitar virtuoso Carlos Bonell playing Rodrigo's popular concerto. His superb recording was awarded a coveted rosette in the Penguin CD Guide. Bookings by Cheque for Season tickets are available from the Membership Secretaries on 01622 735830 for five tickets at £40, £80 and £100. Season Tickets for all Children up to and including 18 years of age are FREE. Single concert tickets are £10, £20 and £25, full time Students with a student card £5, again available from the Membership Secretaries with cheque payment, collected on the concert evening at Mote Hall. Or from Maidstone Leisure Centre Mote Hall Box office on 0845 1552277 when payment can be made by credit card, a booking fee applies. Bookings can be taken on www.mso.org.uk using the booking form. Tickets for all Children up to and including 18 years of age are FREE.

MOS Registered Charity No. 287986.

TESTON & WATERINGBURY NURSERY GROUP (Registered charity 1044257) www.testonandwateringburynursery.co.uk
Admissions and all enquiries: Amanda Vidler 07805 796353

As our new starters have settled in, all our children are enjoying this term's topic: All About Me (no, not me – as fun as that would be – each of the children!). There have been cute baby photos, favourite toys and favourite clothes - who doesn't like talking about themselves? The other thing they're all talking about is the garden make-over. Apparently, whilst we were all enjoying some sun (finally, I hear you say!), the garden fairies appeared & put down matting, top-soil and grass seed. They left a little note asking the children to water the seed daily and lo and behold, grass is growing! If you take a look at our website, you'll see a few sneaky photos that a passer-by captured

– have you seen these fairies before? If you see them again, could you please thank them on our behalf – they have done a splendid job. The children have also been celebrating Rosh Hashanah – the Jewish New Year, by sharing their achievements of the previous year and dipping apples in honey (I believe Winnie the Pooh was invited but unable to attend, though I can't confirm that). Now that the summer is over (did it ever really get started? Now's not the time...), our thoughts are already turning to...yes, Christmas! Ouch, that hurt! We'll be holding another Shopping Evening on Monday 3 December, Congratulations to Nzwea Cossins from Teston for becoming our latest 100 Club winner.

STEP BACK IN TIME FROM THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF OCTOBER 1894

Burials

“Until the day dawn and the shadows flee away”

Sept 14 Louisa Loft, aged 20 months

Sept 22 Guinevere de Boisy, aged 17 years

Sept 22 William Robert Godfrey, aged 3 months

All the burials last month were connected with our hop-picker immigrants. The case of G. De Boisy was exceptionally sad. She had only arrived in the hop grounds a few days before her death, which occurred quite suddenly as she was standing at her bin, the Coroner's jury returning a verdict of “Death from pulmonary apoplexy.” A large concourse of hop-pickers attended her funeral, and the attention with which they followed the service, and listened to an address from the Rev W P Thorpe, joining also in “The Lord's Prayer” by the grave side was deeply impressive. The young girl was an orphan, a native of Jersey, and had been in Dr Barnardo's Home, whence she had been sent to a laundry in this neighbourhood. This, it appears, she ran away from, and she arrived in the hop grounds very insufficiently clad, and the damp cold weather brought on the disease which so suddenly ended her young life. A Coroner's inquest was also held to investigate the cause of the death of W R Godfrey, and resulted in a verdict of “Death from natural causes.”

HISTORY SOCIETY

Our speaker in October is Keith Ford who is coming back to tell us about ‘The Battle of Trafalgar’, which will again be performed through an enactment of the battle. Previously when Keith gave a talk to the history society he told us about the battle of Agincourt (through the eyes of a foot soldier), and he wore period costume and brought along replica weapons and some visual aids.

In July the Society held their annual cheese and wine evening at Leybourne Castle, where we all enjoyed fine food and wine in very pleasant surroundings. The owners of the castle made us very welcome and also told us about the history of the castle, what it had been like when they bought it, and the improvements they had made. Our grateful thanks go to the committee who ensured that yet again a great evening was had by everyone.

The History Society is still attempting to put together an album of reports and pictures about the Jubilee, for our archives. We would be very grateful for any photos or memories you may have of the weekend and would like to have included in the album. Please contact us on the website given below or ring 01622 812023 or 817833. Visit the History Society site on <https://sites.google.com/site/wateringburylocalhhistory/>, for further information.

FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are having a Bag2School fundraising textile recycling collection between 2 and 4 October so we would be grateful for bags of your old clothes, shoes, bedding, towels, hats, bags and belts. Bags can be dropped off at school on these dates or see below for contact details to arrange collection.

Everyone is welcome to attend our first Table Top Sale at Wateringbury Primary School on Saturday 6 October (11am – 2pm). Tables (£8) can be booked by contacting Gail Isted – see below for contact details. Entry on the day is just 30p. Join us for lunch and grab yourself a few bargains.

HELP OF LOCAL BUSINESSES NEEDED

Plans for our Christmas Fayre on 24 November are coming along with Brookside Garden Centre generously agreeing to sponsor our Santa's Grotto. Now we are urgently seeking local businesses to sponsor our Christmas Grand Draw and other activities in return for lots of positive publicity. Grand Draw sponsorship costs £75 to cover our printing costs. Other sponsorship opportunities are also available. The ongoing support of local businesses enables us to keep our costs as low as possible. Term 1 will end with two children's discos on 26 October.

Gail Isted, FOWPS Chairman Tel 01622 813716 Email chairman@fowps.org.uk

A SHINING BRIGHT PARTY

will be held on Wednesday 31 October 5pm - 7pm at the Church of St John the Baptist Wateringbury.

This party will not be scary but may be messy and definitely lots of fun for school aged children between 4 and 13 years who are invited to wear their brightest clothes. Food and refreshments will be provided.

Further information or a booking form please contact Lisa on 01622 812661 or collect a form from the Church during late September/October.

SPIRITUAL SPA- REVIVE, REFRESH, RESTORE

Coming to Wateringbury Village Hall on the 27 October between 2-4pm. A team from New Life Church invite you to be revived, refreshed and restored through prophetic art, dream interpretation, prophetic words and prayer.

Why not drop in for some spiritual refreshment and a cup of tea. For more information please contact Lisa Glasscote – 01622 812661

SAMANTHA'S ACADEMY OF DANCE

are celebrating a decade of dance. Established in September 2002 at the old hut that was classed as Wateringbury Village Hall the Academy has been teaching the children of Wateringbury and surrounding villages ballet, tap and modern dance for 10 years. Some of the original children who are now teenagers are still attending the weekly classes held on Fridays. The Academy celebrated its birthday this summer with a show and the presentation of exam awards. New pupils are always welcome and accepted from the age of 2 and a half years. We also run a well established adult tap class at Teston Village Hall. Contact Samantha 07960 355184 or email samsacad@hotmail.co.uk for the current timetable. www.samanthasacademyofdance.co.uk

WATERINGBURY FLOWER CLUB - guest demonstrator Sophie Beaney Her programme "let the music play" club competition of the same title. The club welcomed back Sophie for a second time with her wonderful demonstration - Sophie from Ashford a fairly new demonstrator, but a very original one thrilled us

with her wonderful and very colourful arrangements, half time saw Sophie judge our club competition, what a wonderful array of marvellous arrangements, each one different but all the same title, well done to all our members.

October's meeting - the 18th is a very special evening for the club, we have a wonderful Open Evening, this is our main fund raiser for the year, and we invite members from other flower clubs to join us, this year it is our pleasure to welcome the National and International demonstrator Tan Strong from Hertfordshire, with her programme called "Trading Places " we are honoured to have The Mayor and Mayoress of Maidstone and Kent area Chairman, Vice Chairman and our area rep too, we have several stalls selling plants, handbags and accessories, cards and other alternative flower arrangements and sundries. Tickets for non members are £7 and this includes a glass of wine and there will be nibbles too. If you fancy a fabulous night out, then come and join us, the doors open for browsing at 6-30 and the show starts at 7-45 with no break. For the sum of £1 you can purchase a raffle ticket to try and win one of Tan's arrangements or the chance to win our Hamper - tickets for this are in aid of the Mayors charity, so please give generously. We look forward to welcoming you on the 18th. Jean Schofield

WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE - The WI - Inspiring Women

Our annual Tea Party, held in glorious weather during August was very enjoyable, set in Sue Cockburn's lovely garden with opportunities to relax and chatter along with tea and cakes. Many thanks to Sue for her hospitality. We had an excellent club meeting at which Sue Hollings gave a lively demonstration of Italian cookery, with plenty of tasting opportunities. Several members attended a Women's Health Day, taking advantage of a range of events organised by WI District which are on offer to members. Our members enjoy monthly Club meetings, walks, lunches and a Scrabble and Social afternoon

We meet at Wateringbury Village Hall on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 2.30. Our membership is growing. Why not come along as a visitor? You will receive a warm welcome Next meeting is on **Thursday, 11 October**, with speaker Janet Bedford on "**Maidstone Library – The Big Move**" For further details please contact Elizabeth on 01622 812018 or 07977125000 or elizabethastrid@aol.com

WATERINGBURY BABY & TODDLER GROUP

With autumn now well under way (what happened to summer?!!), our theme for this term is harvest. We've already made a corn cob collage from pop corn, although it was hard to stop the children eating the pop corn before dipping it in glue to stick down! So to ease those rumbly tummies we made yummy, healthy fruit kebabs, with not-so-healthy marshmallows and chocolate dipping sauce (naughty but nice!). Next we're going to try our hand at necklaces made from pasta – let's hope it hasn't been cooked first – and vegetable/potato printing. We've also learnt the actions to "Dingle Dangle Scarecrow" and "Sleeping Bunnies" to complete the harvest theme and are loving playing with all the new toys purchased over the summer.

Now everyone say cheese! Cheese?!! Yes, smiling for the camera is essential if you want to come and have your photo taken by our fabulous professional photographer. Back by popular demand, he will be coming along during half term on 31st October and 2nd November at our normal session times; an ideal opportunity to get photos of all your children together, or maybe the whole family, ready for Christmas presents. (Did I mention the C word? Just the once, but I think I got away with it!) If you want to book a slot, please call Linda on either number below. We will not be running our normal group sessions on these days.

Our sessions are held during term time on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10am to 12 noon at Wateringbury Village Hall. There is a small charge of £2 for the first child and £1 each for subsequent children over 12 months old. We also hire out our children's tables/chairs and toys in the hall; for further details please contact Linda on 01732 522437 or try our mobile - 07506 735137.

GRAVESHAM CHORAL SOCIETY with orchestra, guest soloists and conductor Alan Vincent, presents a feast of Beethoven, featuring Symphony

No 8, the Egmont overture, the cantata "Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage" and the splendid but rarely heard Mass in C. Wonderful music full of interest and surprise, serene calm and sudden rhythmic outbursts that lift the spirits.

Tickets £12 (£5 fulltime students)

Box Office: 01474 816684

Saturday 17th November at 7.30pm

St George's Church, Gravesend

www.graveshamcs.co.uk

Gravesham Choral Society's popular Christmas Concerts will take place on Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th December at 8.00 pm bookings as above.

FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES – Sponsored Ride and Stride

Once again I bruised my feet around many miles of our beautiful Kentish countryside, visiting some even more beautiful churches, with the aim of raising funds for Friends of Kent Churches to help preserve these wonderful buildings for the benefit of our local communities. Unfortunately I did not have my trusty faithful four-legged companion this year, in the form of Mum's dog Jodi, but instead made a substitute in the form of son Alex. We aimed to visit around a dozen churches.

Well, what a "stride". Alex worked out a great route starting at West Malling, and doing an anti-clockwise circuit covering East Malling, Larkfield, Snodland, Birling, Ryarsh, Addington and Offham, a distance of some 17 miles and netting a magnificent 16 churches, most of which I hadn't visited before. It is fascinating to look round these churches, most of which are very beautiful (Holy Trinity at Larkfield has an absolutely gorgeous rose window), and see the improvements they've made. One had converted its west entrance/porch into a toilet facility, simply locking the outside door, installing WC and basin, and putting a lock on the inner door (a beautiful lattice screen, no less) – simple but effective! Another had stripped all its pews, installed lovely modern radiators, and equipped with chairs; with a beautiful cherry wood parquet floor, I bet it's wonderfully cosy!

A third has added a superb, airy and wonderfully light community room to the south side of its church – very modern, but beautifully blended in from the outside. And another had a working party busy in the grounds on the day, having felled trees and cut back overgrowth to reveal a splendid market cross at the entrance – quite imposing! To cap it, one of that working party turned out to be one of the teachers from Wateringbury School who knew Alex! They reminisced for a few minutes

Anyway, 8 hours almost to the minute of hot, sometimes dusty, trekking gave us a satisfying, though tiring day, and a goodly haul of churches. Very many thanks if you've already sponsored me, and please, if you haven't yet done so, do please consider helping to continue the wonderful and inventive improvements which our churches are making to help keep them relevant and useful as community assets. Visit www.justgiving.com/Joanna-Fyson

OCTOBER WEATHER THOUGHTS - When dry weather prevails with calm conditions, October can be 'the golden month' with an autumnal display of colour that can justify the Rev Thomas Constable's lines

Hail, old October, bright and chill, First freedman from the summer sun!

Spice high the bowl, and drink your fill! Thank heaven, at last summer's done.

(Taken from Red Sky at Night, Weather Sayings for All Seasons by Ian Currie)

WATERINGBURY WORKING MEN'S CLUB

Tuesday nights are pool nights, from 7pm, with free games of pool available to all our members. Thursday nights are ladies nights. Monthly Bingo – held on the 3rd Thursday of the month - with cash prizes, entry from £1, and open to members and non-members alike.

The Relics - a Pink Floyd tribute act are playing on Saturday 27th October from 8pm. Tickets £5 for non-members, free admission for members.

As it was so popular, we are holding another Race Night on Saturday 17th November at 8pm.

With annual membership at £10, (£5 for senior citizens) why not join the village club? Come and discover a relaxing, friendly environment for a quiet drink in the village – with free Wi-Fi to boot, great value for money!

SATURDAY HOUSEHOLD WASTE SERVICE – Fields Lane (junction Cobb Close) – 11am – 12 noon – first and third Saturday in the month.

If you have large bulky household items or green garden waste that is too large for normal wheeled bin, you can dispose of them by using the Council's Free weekend service on dates shown above. A member of the Council's contractor will be on hand to help. This service is provided for household waste only – commercial, trade or builder's waste will not be accepted.

Electrical items such as washing machines, cookers, etc, tyres, engines, car batteries, oil, paint tins, chemicals, asbestos, Plasterboard, soil or rubble, bricks, windows, toughened glass, water tanks, boilers, iron/steel baths **CANNOT** be accepted.

Friends of Wateringbury Primary School

TABLE TOP SALE

At Wateringbury Primary School

Saturday 6 October 2012

11am – 2pm

Entry 30p, Tables £8 (pre-booked)

Refreshments/Tuck Shop

Tel 01622 813716, Email chairman@fowps.org.uk

ALL WELCOME

NETTLESTEAD AND WATERINGBURY PRE-SCHOOL AND OUT OF SCHOOLS CLUB (charity No. 1144343)

What a lovely Summer holiday we have all had and what great experiences the holiday club children have all enjoyed.

Welcome back to school on Wednesday 5 September. We welcome our new children and their families and our new staff member who has lots of exciting experiences to share with us all.

Don't forget to book your tickets for the Elvis night in Nettlestead village hall and for the fashion show to be held at Wateringbury School. You can get tickets for either of these events by contacting us on the email or telephone number below.

If you are interested in joining our happy band for breakfast club, pre-school or after school clubs then please get in quick as spaces are limited. You are welcome to come and visit us anytime you like, or for more information give us a call on 01622 813120 or email; nettlesteadandwateringbury@yahoo.com OR visit us at nawps.org

FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY CHURCH HARVEST FAYRE

Thank you to everyone who made the second Harvest Fayre a real success. We raised more than £400 towards our aim of supporting the building and churchyard of St Johns Church. More than 250 people turned up in the fine weather to enjoy a traditional village fête, with fun activities for both children and grown-ups. As well as a hog roast, there were races and face-painting for the children, a special Children's Corner with a sweet stall, a cake and vegetable competition, a beer and Pimms tent, guessing the weight of the head teacher, home-made tea and cakes, strawberries and cream, and lots more. The Friends would like to thank everyone who helped us through their generosity and sponsorship to make this year's event such a success, especially Wateringbury School for the use of its playing field, the historic car owners who gave their time, as well as the people of Wateringbury for their generous support. We have raised more than £6,000 since April 2011 and are now working towards putting this sum to good use as soon as possible on behalf of the church. If you attended the Fayre and would like to comment on how to improve it for next year, or would like to help us run it, we would be keen to hear from you. Please contact the Friends' Secretary, Frances English, on 812471 or friends@fowc.org.uk.

The Friends are now recognised by HM Revenue & Customs as a charity for tax purposes with effect from 3 March 2012, and donations received after this date will be eligible for Gift Aid. This will make our task of raising money for the church a bit easier.

THOUGHTS FROM THE VICARAGE

2 The Grange, East Malling ME19 6AH

e-mail jamesbrown.brown21@gmail.com - Benefice office ☎ 01732 843282

Celebrate But Remember Others

We have had an amazing year so far but a puzzling one at that. The Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations were quite wonderful and the Olympics were astonishing. We are now enjoying the Paralympics. Then, of course, how can we forget the weather? My hope is that by the time you read this article the sun has shone!

There is such a spirit of celebration in Britain and a general sense of excitement that we are possibly forgetting some of the problems in the world, the recession, the wars which are threatening World peace and so on. So we should always try and enjoy the good things and also remember that failure is never far away. It is to our shame that children are dying of starvation in Africa and of war in Syria, for example.

My message is that we need to keep on celebrating but never at the expense of others. That is clearly wrong but all too common. Will we start worrying once again about the pressures on families as the recession takes a further grip on the nation after the Olympics or whether we can do anything about Syria slaughtering its people once everything else

gets back to normal? I am passionate about the need to celebrate, we are celebrating in the church our 10th anniversary this year as a benefice, but we should never forget our responsibilities towards others or else we shall be failing them.

This is the season of Harvest and so fundamentally important that we should never forget to give thanks to God and to think of others who have less than ourselves. This year may be a disappointing harvest with rotting potatoes and little fruit to pick but we, nevertheless, give thanks for all that we do receive and remember the needs of others. So Harvest is a most wonderful occasion in our calendar and needs celebrating!

The great news is that God never fails us because God knows what we need. God instinctively knows when we're hungry, when we're suffering, when we're doubting, when we need assurance, when we need his presence. God gives us what He knows we want and need. That is why we celebrate and give thanks at Harvest because God provides for our needs.

As the major celebrations are now coming to an end and you are beginning to turn your minds to other issues in your life then remember that God knows your needs. That's worth celebrating! Have a wonderful Harvest, celebrate it and remember others too!

Rev Jim Brown

COFFEE BREAK – 24 OCTOBER - 10.30-12.30

The next coffee and crafts morning will be on 24 October in Wateringbury church. It would be great to see you for a chat over tea or coffee, cake and biscuits. If you are at present making something please bring it along, or if you would appreciate a bit of help with a craft item, do bring it along and one of our "resident experts"! will try to help. Do come along and give us a try, we look forward to seeing you. Pauline

ELECTION OF SECOND CHURCH WARDEN

At an extraordinary Vestry Meeting held on Sunday 5 August directly after the Morning Praise service Joanna Fyson was elected to serve as churchwarden along-side Eddie Scarlin.

LICENSING OF BECKY BOWIE

Becky will be licensed as a Personal Assistant within the Benefice at a service in Rochester Cathedral on **Saturday 6 October** at 2.30pm. All friends and supporters are warmly invited to the service.

CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD AUTUMN CLEAN Saturday 3 November

Eddie and Joanna our churchwardens invite you to pop along for an hour or two to help spruce up the churchyard and to dust and polish the church in preparation for the Annual Parish Act of Remembrance on Sunday 11 November. Please take 'tools' suitable for the job which you would like to do. Tea and coffee will be provided.

BENEFICE MOTHERS' UNION

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday 4 October** and will be "Tea at Three" at 4 Woodlands Close, Teston ME18 5AL. The meeting will be a fund raising event to raise funds for our branch and so there will be a Raffle and a Bring and Buy stall. The meeting will begin at 2.30pm in order that everyone can peruse the Bring and Buy and purchase raffle tickets before "Tea at Three". Tea will include scones with jam and cream and a selection of cakes too together with tea or coffee. For catering and seating purposes please phone 01622 814305 by Wednesday 3 October if you are able to go along.

The November meeting will be at 1pm on **Thursday 1 November** in East Malling Church and will be a DVD and Bible Study led by Rev Jim Brown.

BENEFICE CHURCH SERVICES

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

Sunday 7 October 8am Holy Communion – Teston 9.45am Family Service – East Malling 9.45am Family Service – Teston 10am Harvest Praise – Wateringbury	Sunday 14 October 8am Holy Communion – East Malling 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 10am Holy Communion - Wateringbury 6.30pm Evening Prayer - Teston
Sunday 21 October 8am Holy Communion – Wateringbury 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 10 am Family Service – Wateringbury 6.30pm Eucharist - Teston	Sunday 28 October <i>(Clocks go back)</i> 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 (not 1 st in month) – 7.30pm in Wateringbury Church – Holy Communion	
Every Thursday - 9am in East Malling Church – Holy Communion	
For Baptisms, Weddings and other arrangements with the vicar please attend the Parish Office at the Vicarage on Wednesdays 6.30-7.15pm	

Special Services

Harvest Thanksgiving 7 October. Do come along to the Harvest Praise Service in Church at 10am to sing harvest hymns and give thanks for all the many blessings we receive from God's hand in our lives and our beautiful village.

Remembrance and Thanksgiving Service Sunday 4 November - 4pm

This special annual service gives us all the opportunity to pray and give thanks for the lives of those we love who have passed into God's nearer presence. If you would like individual names to be read out at the service please give details to the Stewards on your arrival.

Quiet Hour Wednesday 10 October 8-9pm The church will be open for quiet, personal prayer and reflection; all welcome.

Service of Healing and Wholeness. The next services, starting at 8pm, will be on **Tuesday 2 October** - a Taizè service in Teston Church and **Tuesday 6 November** - a Eucharist in Wateringbury Church.

TODDLER PRAISE takes place every Monday from 2pm-3pm in the Scout and Guide HQ. New born up to school-age children and their carers are very welcome. We dance, sing, listen to stories, talk to puppets, play with instruments and other games too. Carers have a chance for a chat followed by tea and biscuits. Do go along soon.

Christmas Craft Bazaar

on Saturday 17 November

from 11 to 3

at Watringbury Church

An eclectic mix of Local Crafts including

Stained Glass, Jewellery, Pottery,

as well as

Plants, Gifts and Accessories

Cakes, Raffle and Tombola plus Festive Refreshments

and a visit by Father Christmas.

A chance for you to choose totally unique gifts Entry Free

Details from 01622 814324

CREAM TEAS IN AUGUST

The magnificent sum of £370 was raised for Church funds. Apart from our "old faithfuls" it was heartening to greet so many new faces, many of them returning each week to try another variety of cake! Many thanks to all those who baked, washed and cleared up it is an appreciated contribution to the success of this popular event. NB

THE WATERINGBURY PLAYERS DICKENSIAN EVENING

We are now in rehearsal for our exciting new production of A Dickensian Evening at Christmas which will be performed at St John the Baptist Church on **Friday 7 and Saturday 8 December at 7:30 pm**. (Doors open at 7:00 pm). The evening will include excerpts from some of Dickens stories that have links with Kent as well as some historical background and interesting anecdotes about Charles Dickens. The script has been researched and written locally by members of the Players: Celia Pocock, Barry Fisher, Jonathan Overell and Anne Rex. There will also be a Christmas theme with readings from A Christmas Carol and festive refreshments available.

We hope you will be able to come along and join in with the festivities. Tickets will be on sale from Monday 5 November at the shops.
Celia Pocock Wateringbury Players wateringburyplayers@hotmail.com