

ROSTRUM JUNE 2015

ROSTRUM SUMMER ISSUE

Don't forget that our next issue will cover both **July and August** so any articles and news of events for these 2 months should be sent by **17 June**.

VILLAGE DIARY

- 2nd June **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** – 7.30 Village Hall
7th June **FOOTPATH WALK** – starting at Village Hall at 2.0 pm
11th June **W.I.** – 2.30 Village Hall – Bob Ede – Ambulance Community Service and First Responders
17th June **HISTORY SOCIETY** – 7.40 pm Village Hall – AGM/Chris Jupp Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment
22nd June **WORKING MENS' CLUB** - "Mike" Karaoke and Disco

Date for your Diary 1 August 2.00-4.30pm - Abbeyfield Greenstead Summer Fete. To book a stall please contact Sam Ryan on 01622 813106

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES

The total for this year was £413.57. Again thank you all for your continued support. On behalf of the Children's Society. Maria White

CHURCH THANKS

Our very sincere thanks to The Marsh Warblers Quire for their enjoyable lunch time concert of West Gallery Music. Also thanks to those who donated raffle prizes, to Jane MacKay for the Watringbury Apple Juice, to the helpers and all who supported this event, which raised a sum of £261 after expenses for Church funds.

WATERINGBURY FOOTPATH GROUP

Our annual Bluebell walk into the woodland attracted 23 people. Taking the path alongside Gransden to Cattering Wood, recent coppicing had restricted the growth of some flora, but within a few yards we were not to be disappointed! We found a carpet of blue all around us. Come out on to Canon Lane more Bluebells were seen in woodland alongside the golf course on our way to Wisteria Cottage, we then returned back via Millpond. Other flora seen on the walk, Common Toadflax, Early Purple Orchid, Wood Anemone, various Violets, Bugle, Selfheal and a few late Primroses.

Our next walk on 7th June, is a short 3 mile walk starting early at 2pm from the village hall we will finish at the village fete in the playing fields and

WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our St George's Day assembly took place in front of the flagpole on 23rd April with our scouts in uniform. The opening music and national anthem accompaniment was provided by two of our brass players. The legend of St George was retold by the headteacher and the Rev Jim Brown explained the link between St George and Baden Powell's scouting vision.

Special events this term included 15 of our musicians performing their own composition at St George's Church in Wrotham, playing alongside ensemble Chamber Domaine. Each year we take part in the Music@Malling workshops and schools' performance. Our children worked alongside professional musicians in three workshops before the concert to compose and rehearse their piece "Loops" inspired by "Shaker Loops" by John Adams.

The earthquake in Nepal has been in our minds and children in Years 3-6 took part in Rice for Lunch, donating the cost of their normal school lunch to our own fundraising effort. The children queued up for a bowl of rice and a prayer was said for the children and families of Nepal. Our Reception and Keystage One children brought goods for our food bank. A total of **£265** has been sent to the Disaster Emergency Committee.

Year 2 children will be guests at the Hampton Court Flower Show on 29th June when they install their prize-winning scarecrow in the palace grounds. As part of their Gardening School lessons, they designed scarecrows to submit to the national competition. Their 'Neil Strawstrong' design won.

Finally, congratulations to Year 6 pupils who worked hard during their demanding week of SATs examinations. We are proud of all of them for trying their very best. Chasey Crawford Usher, Headteacher www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk

WATERINGBURY W.I. – The WI – Inspiring Women

May is our Annual Meeting month. We had a lively discussion on this year's Resolution from the NFWI. A new committee for our own WI was appointed, and Elizabeth Astridge was re-elected as President. We held a Silent Auction for fund raising.

Our next meeting will be held on 11th June, the speaker will be Bob Ede, and his subject Ambulance Community Service and First Responders, which promises to be extremely interesting and informative.

MAY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

There being only 6 nominations for the 9 vacancies on the parish council the following were returned unopposed. Mike Cayzer, David Marks, Lin Simons, Chris Talbert, Richard Tripp and Michael Wells. There are therefore 3 opportunities for residents to actively contribute to village life by joining the Parish Council.

Mike Cayzer was elected Chairman for the next 12 months. Dennis Stones and Jean Smith did not stand again for Council and the Chairman thanked them for their efforts on behalf of the village. Chairman's report will appear in next Rostrum.

There had been a meeting with Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council re problems of parking in the car park. No suitable solution had been found. Councillors discussed quotes received for completion of the overflow car park at the playing fields. It was agreed to get the views of the Sports Association at the next meeting. It was considered repairs to the track leading to the playing fields was more urgent at this time.

Council agreed that Michael Williams' request to clean the village signs be accepted and the Council would make an ex gratia payment to cover the cost of materials. Mr Williams agreed he would carry out the work entirely at his own risk and the Chairman thanked him.

Japanese Knotweed has been found to be growing in the allotments and also in the churchyard. Council agreed to instruct James Woolley to treat both areas. The problem of Ragwort growing the field adjacent to the Drayhorse Meadow was raised. Following correspondence with the owner of the field, it was agreed to ensure any Ragwort growing on Council land be treated and then to go back and discuss again with the owner of the middle field if it theirs had not been treated

Councillors agreed to register an interest in a Pilot Local Warden Support Officer scheme

Crime - our new PCSO Callum Harkness attended the meeting. Report - 1 Threats/racist comments - 1 Theft of a pushchair - 1 Criminal Damage to bonnet of car - 1 Burglary. Other anti social behaviour reports

Planning Council had no objection to 1 Conversion of garage to habitable room Waterside Mews - 2 First floor side extension over existing garage - Leney Road

3 Details of Landscaping 38 Mill Lane - The Parish Council is disappointed and would hope the Planning Officer could achieve improvements to the scheme 4 Tree work Land opposite Watermill Cottage & The Mill - Provided the work addresses the danger of these trees and the Tree Officer is satisfied the Parish Council has no objection

VILLAGE PEOPLE *Please share your good news and tributes and let us have your copy by 15 June for our Summer Magazine which covers July and August. There is no charge.*

Diamond Wedding Anniversary congratulations to **Colin and Edna Craig** who will be celebrating their 60th Anniversary on 4 June.

CONGRATULATIONS to Martin and Debra Cronk on becoming grandparents to Ivy Florence Morgan, daughter to Charlotte and Justin on 30th April, 2015. Birth weight ... 9lbs 13 oz

and to Kay and Mike Williams who are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their first grandchild – Alanna Flora Grace, a daughter for Adam and Fiona

Brenda June Adams, who we heard about in last month's Rostrum, born in Watlington 3rd June 1934 has sadly died (two days before her deceased husband Edward Leslie birthday 17th) on the 15th May 2015 at 7.30am in Maidstone hospital. She had been suffering a long illness before being admitted into the hospital on 20th April. All the remaining four children, Diane, Gary, Roland and myself Shane plus all the grandchildren will miss her dearly.

UNEXPECTED REUNION Ted and Doreen Vincent were recently on a family outing to Dover Transport Museum and were nearing the end of their visit when they came upon a motorcycle in a display case, and to their amazement realised that it was the 1923 Levis registration KK 4935 which Ted had lovingly restored.

The motorcycle had been purchased new in 1923 from Heath Engineering, Horsmonden by the mother of Ted's great friend Roy Thompsett. Mrs Thompsett rode the bike until 1935 when it was put into one of the barns at the family's Fox Hole Farm in Matfield. Some years later when Ted was visiting the farm he saw the bike and told his friend that if ever he wanted to part with it he would love to restore the motorcycle. Then about a year before he retired from Matfield Garage Ted received a call from Roy and acquired the bike which was in a sorry state. Ted stripped it down and retrieved all the re-usable parts, some were sand blasted and re-sprayed, the chrome parts were nicol plated; the engine needed extensive work and the magneto was re-wired. The front wheel had rusted away but luckily, through the Vintage Motor Cycle Club which Ted had joined, a replacement was traced in Poole. Fortunately the spokes were easily replaced as they were standard bicycle ones. When the restoration was complete Ted rode it round his garden.

Upon Ted and Doreen's down-sizing move to Watlington he dismantled the motorcycle and packed it away. Eventually Ted made the decision to sell the Levis and a buyer was found in Ramsgate. It was this man who loaned the machine to the Museum. The Vincents told the museum staff of Ted's part in restoring the machine and they were delighted to meet him and hear the story.

CHURCH THANKS

Our very sincere thanks to the Marsh Warblers Quire for their enjoyable lunch time concert of West Gallery Music. Also to those who donated raffle prizes, to Jane MacKay for the 3 Watlington Apple Juice, to the helpers and all who supported this event, which raised, after expenses £261 for church funds

WATERINGBURY WORKING MENS' CLUB Welcome back by popular demand
"Mike" Karaoke and Disco on 22nd June.

STREET DANCE

We are starting a brand new Children's Street Dance and Theatre Skills Class at Wateringbury Village Hall. The 6 week introduction course aimed at 6 - 10 year olds will commence Friday 5th June 2015 5.30pm - 6pm. Further details can be obtained by contacting Samantha's Academy of Dance at samsacad@hotmail.co.uk or by telephoning 07960 355184.

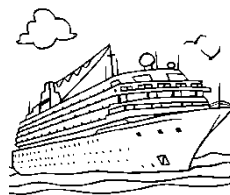
CRICKET CLUB

Here are our home fixtures for the rest of the Season. All matches are played at Fields Lane. If you would like to play or join the club then please contact the club captain, Richard Benjamin on 07739 814080

Sunday 7 June	11:00	VILLAGE FETE
Saturday 13 June	14:00	Telston & Mereworth CC
Sunday 5 July	14:00	Capel CC
Saturday 11 July	14:00	West Farleigh CC Venue TBC
Saturday 18 July	14:00	Northfleet CC
Sunday 26 July	14:00	Chelsfield Exiles CC
Sunday 2 August	14:00	Frindsbury CC
Sunday 9 August	14:00	Murston CC
Sunday 16 August	14:00	Castle Hill CC
Sunday 23 August	14:00	EEM CC
Sunday 30 August	13:30	Loose & Leeds CC

**This Summer, come and sail the seas at the
'Adventure Cruise' Holiday Club. (And its**

**On Tuesday 18th , Wednesday 19th and
August. From 10am-12pm at Wateringbury**



FREE)
**Thursday 20th
Primary School.**

We will be playing lots of outdoor games and sports, make many different crafts each day, have singing , dancing , face painting, refreshments and more...

The Holiday Club is open to all primary school aged children. Pre-school children are most welcome if a parent or carer stays and joins in the fun too !

These days will be led by experienced 'children and youth workers' from different local Churches. Last year we had a number of secondary school children who made the most fantastic Young Leaders, we would love that help again if any young person is interested.

There is no charge for this event and children are welcome to do all 3 days or the odd day(s).

It would just be lovely to see lots of children ready for some summer fun.

For more information or to book a place (s) please contact Lisa Glasscote on 07950 852899/

WATERINGBURY VILLAGE FETE

SUNDAY 7 JUNE 2015 - 12.30-5PM

AT THE PLAYING FIELDS OFF FIELDS LANE

Entry Free and Free Car Park

Come along and have a great time and support your village

Soft Ball Kwik Cricket Tournament

Teams of 6 players - 2 must be female

Get together with your neighbours and make up a team

Penalty Shoot Out

Children's Fun Races for all ages

Not too Serious Dog Show

Has your dog got the waggiest tail? Can it catch a ball at the greatest distance?
Which owner looks most like its dog?

Coconut Shy

Live Music by our local star Les Blackburn

Owl about Art -

Come along and meet Haru the Asian Wood Owl
and make your own owl to take home

Ellinor's Ices

Cricket Club BBQ

Alcoholic Refreshments by North Pole Pub

Pimms Tent by Friends of Wateringbury Church

Tea, Coffee, Soft Drinks, Smoothies and Cake Stalls

Great variety of stalls including Fair Trade Goods, Second-hand Books, Pre-used Toys, Crafters and Knitters, Local History, Jewellery, Cards, Local Artists, Face Painting, etc

GRAND RAFFLE WITH GREAT PRIZES draw about 4.30pm

1st Prize £150 in open-dated Theatre Vouchers 2nd Prize 2 seats on Teston Tours trip to Savill Gardens and River Thames Cruise on 20 August value £120

3rd Prize 3 course meal for 4 plus bottle of wine at The Wateringbury

Plus many, many more prizes

Fields in Trust - "Have a Field Day"

NETTLESTEAD AND WATERINGBURY PRE-SCHOOL & CLUBS

(Charity No. 1144343)

How can it be Term 6 so soon, so much still to do and so little time to do it! We have already started preparing our 'Fledglings' for the move to Primary school and they are working hard to get the right shoes on the right feet and the left shoes on the left feet! Our 'Writing Centre' is up and running with all the children's names visible for copying and discussion about capital letters etc.

Cake week has been a great success, we are raising funds for our end of term outing to the Hop Farm and the Out of Schools Club end of term party. So many imaginative cakes, burger cakes, rainbow cakes, chocolate orange cakes ...

Finally don't forget the Michael Jackson tribute on Saturday 26 September nearly all the tickets have gone, be there or be square!

For information ring : 01622 813120 email: nettlesteadandwateringbury@yahoo.com

or visit: www.nettlesteadandwateringbury.co.uk

TESTON AND WATERINGBURY GROUP

Summer is here and the children have been enjoying our garden where we will soon be releasing our caterpillars that are now safely tucked up in their cocoons. The children have enjoyed watching them grow and have painted wonderful caterpillar pictures. Next week we will be welcoming some ducklings into the Nursery for the children to observe and handle, thanks to Mrs Worrall for your kind help.

This term we are concentrating on Sports, which brings me on to our first activity this month Football, not sure how many keepy ups I can do anymore!! we have a

qualified football coach coming in to play some footy with children and staff. We also have our fathers' day activity on Friday 19th June where our fathers, granddads, and uncles are invited to join us for a fun craft activity. .

Recently we have received from the preschool we have twinned with in Swaziland a collage of hand prints from all their children along with photos and names of all the children. These are on display in our hall for all to see. It is wonderful to hear from our friends and see their children looking very happy and content despite only having the basics. We will continue trying to help by sending out craft material for all the children to use, and funds will be raised at our sports day, more details will follow. For information contact Tina Driver on 07805 796353

WATERINGBURY WORKING MENS' CLUB

By popular demand "Mike" Karaoke and Disco will be returning on 22nd June.

REDEVELOPMENT OF ABBEYFIELD INTO A BLOCK OF FLATS

There is a plan to demolish Abbeyfield Residential Care Home, move the residents elsewhere, and built a 55 flat block in its place in the Orpines. There is to be an "exhibition" about the plan for locals on Monday June 1st from 2pm until 6.30 pm at the Railway Tavern in Bow Road. Any concerns you may have may be expressed to the Parish Council. Note that the next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 2nd June.

Suffice to say that the local residents are up in arms at the fact that we have not been notified of this and the exhibition has not been widely advertised and is during mainly working and commuting hours in a pub! What is important is that the event is known. The information I have in the text above comes from the letter sent to the Parish Council this week so is correct but it will take time to be discussed and appear in Council business. I have not detailed the nature of the block of flats because that is really for them to do. There has already been an emergency residents' meeting and there is universal concern on many levels about the size and scale of development and the speed of the consultation process. No building regs papers have arrived but the letter of intention has been publishes and newspapers run so my message is in the interest of local civic responsibility.

Bob Bowie

PILOT ERROR.....

At 6.30 in the morning our calm repose was shattered by an almighty bang, akin to an explosion, followed by a noise resembling the destruction of a sizable dinner service all to the accompaniment of a slivering, sliding thump!

Thus rudely awaken I urgently sought an answer to the unholy racket and found it in the shape of a swan stomping about on the lawn below amidst the litter of wrecked Kent peg tiles.

I would guess that the swan had taken off late from the Mill Pond (we live next to it), barely cleared our hedge but lacked sufficient height to avoid the cottage's roof leaving a sizable hole as its crash site. It is difficult to explain how a swan can look disgruntled but it was managing this feat impressively whilst conducting a thorough search of the garden for a way out. In this I obliged by opening our gate having assured myself that it appeared to be unharmed.

By now fully awake my next thought was to find a copy of *The Rostrum* for the number of a local roofing contractor; and a discussion with my Wife as to earliest we could intrude on his breakfast by telephoning. He later told us that our call was one of the funniest he had for a long time.

B C Marshall offers not only a local service but a speedy and very modestly priced one too; he called out to us later that same day sized up the damage and returned the next to effect repairs - excellent and to be recommended, just make sure that there is plenty of tea on hand. As a postscript I half expected his advert (which appears in *Rostrum*) to include 'repairs to swan damage' to the services offered and as a moral to this always keep a copy of *The Rostrum* to hand in case of need.

War News, May 1915

- 7 May RMS Lusitania sank by German submarine with loss of over 1000 lives, including 100 Americans
- 19 May Upper age limit for recruits to British army increased to 40 years
- 23 May Italy declares war on Austria-Hungary

This was the first month of multiple war deaths for Wateringbury. Both **Richard Heath** (promoted to lance-corporal the day before his death), from Canon Lane, of the Royal Marines and Private **Ernest Sales**, from Old Road, of the Worcestershire Regiment died on the same day, five days after the initial landings in Gallipoli. Both were mature military professionals: Richard, 39 at his death, enlisted in 1894; Ernest, 29, enlisted in 1905. Both were Wateringbury born, into families engaged in trade (Richard's father was a house painter; Ernest's a fishmonger) and both attended Wateringbury School.

Also at Gallipoli but surviving were: Ernest Jennings, a recruit in 1914 to the Hood battalion of the Royal Naval Division (RND) was wounded at Gallipoli on 17th May; and Captain Richard Brocklebank, a professional soldier in the 9th Lancers, photographed, in good health with his 4 brothers at Wateringbury Place in 1916, after returning from Gallipoli.

Another war fatality, but not at Gallipoli, came on 27 May when H.M.S. Princess Irene, converted by the navy to a minelayer, blew up near Sheerness, probably as a

result of mines being primed in a hurry; 352 were killed including **George Hearn**. Although not Watlingbury born or educated, he had married a Watlingbury girl, Louisa, who was living at the time of his death in Pizenwell. He joined the navy in 1906 and was 29 when he died.

Back home, Victor Goodwin, with the Army Service Corps (A.S.C.) was arrested in Watlingbury on 5th May for being absent without leave and was remanded to await an escort by Malling magistrates. He had been awarded a good attendance certificate at school and won three events at the [Empire Day sports in 1906!](#)

James Sales, Ernest's elder brother, was prosecuted for using obscene language in the village on 22nd May and fined 21 shillings (£1.05 but equivalent to over £100 in today's money).

The vicar in the May 1915 parish magazine wrote: "I want to take this opportunity of publishing the names of those of our young men at home who have already felt the call and have offered themselves but have been rejected on medical grounds. Otherwise their staying at home might be misunderstood by those who would not know the facts." He lists 16 men by name. Probably it was related to the white feather campaign which had started in August 1914, when 30 women went onto the streets of Folkestone with white feathers, which they gave to men not in uniform. I suspect this type of behaviour caused much unpleasantness, even in a village like Watlingbury. Terry Bird

For more details see <https://www.sites.google.com/site/watlingburylocalhistory/>. In particular, on any page, type in the search box, at top right, *Richard Heath, Ernest Sales, Ernest Jennings* or *George Hearn* for more information.

HISTORY SOCIETY

In June, Chris Jupp will be coming along to tell us about the "Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment", his talk will follow our short Annual General Meeting. Visitors very welcome

Our talk in April entitled "Everest Pioneer" was given by Sandra Noel, whose father Captain John Noel had made two expeditions to Mount Everest, one whilst serving in the army in North India in 1913 and the second in 1924, which was sponsored by the Royal Geographical Society. On each expedition Captain Noel had not only taken with him food, very basic clothing and walking aids, but also his camera and photo developing equipment. For the first expedition John had learned to speak the local dialects, had organised guides and planned the route to Everest, the trip took place during leave from the army, unfortunately it over-ran by a month and he only escaped a court martial because of the start of WWI, in which he served.

Captain Noel remained in the army until 1922, when he resigned from his commission, in order to make his second planned expedition to Everest. Sandra

showed us, through both black and white and hand painted coloured photographs taken and developed by her father during the expeditions, exactly what had been experienced by the many people involved. For the second expedition, silk underwear was worn for extra warmth and also camel hair sleeping bags were used but the conditions were still very grim at times, and accidents and fatal injuries occurred.

On returning to England he bought a derelict house in Smarden, and he spent many happy years restoring this and other properties. Captain Noel died aged 99 years and although his expeditions did not reach the summit of Everest they paved the way for the later successful expeditions. JH

FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY SCHOOL

As I write this, the next half term holiday is in sight and we enter one of the busiest periods of our fundraising activities aside from Christmas. The results of the fundraising questionnaire showed that there is a desire to upgrade the IT equipment and so that is our current priority. We are also supporting along with a grant from KCC works on the pink class play area. As a way of doing this, we are holding our school disco on Friday 22 May and then when we return to school, we have the golf day on the 12 June followed by the Father's Day shop on the 18 June. If anyone hasn't signed up for the golf day there is still time to join in the fun.

We are currently preparing for the summer fete on 4th July. This will start at 11.45 with an opening ceremony and something special involving those leaving in year 6. We are currently looking for sponsorship of the fete, so if anyone would like to be involved with this then please let me know. Additionally if anyone would like a stall then please also advise. We will be looking for donations and volunteers nearer the time and will keep the website updated with the latest news which can be found at <http://www.fowps.org.uk/>

Thank you all for your continued support. Craig Lightheart FOWPS Chairman

FUN AT THE EASTER PROJECT

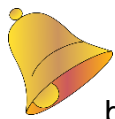
Not even the coldness of the weather could dampen the spirits of the 63 children attending this year's event. The church experienced a buzz of excitement and enjoyment throughout the morning.

It all started with a sing-a-long to some well known songs and Rev Jim spoke of the Easter story via a slide show. The children got into their teams and were soon getting stuck into their activities. Hanging crosses were put together, fridge magnets were constructed and the Faith of Flowers were discussed and put together. Colouring skills were put to the test with a respite of drink and biscuits. Fairy cakes were skilfully decorated with different toppings and layered with many sweet things. I was surprised by how many cakes were not eaten straight away but somehow managed to be presented to their parents at picking-up time! Beautiful mini gardens

were proudly produced, showing an empty tomb with the rolled away stone and our wooden cross in the church is now laden with a colourful display of doves of different sizes and craft materials.

It rained a lot the night before so we couldn't do the usual run-around quiz in the churchyard but completed a paper quiz within the church. However, we did manage to complete the egg rolling. The winner for 2015 was Lewis Worrall with 15 metres down the path. Followed by Tia-Mai Johnson and Elenya Goodyer, respectively and with a 0.1 of a metre between them! The morning came to a conclusion with the end of the Easter story and presentations of various yummy chocolate goodies.

I would like to thank all the children who attended, they showed kindness and much respect to everyone they met throughout the morning. Another lot of thanks goes to the merry band of helpers who every year support the work of this event. Without you giving up your time, this event couldn't be held so 'Thank You'. My last heartfelt thanks and gratitude goes to our very own Rev Jim. He championed this event from the beginning and from adults to school children and from many toddlers within the village, he will be sorely missed upon his retirement later this year. Thank you for all your support and encouraging words. Debbie Bond



BELLRINGERS are needed at St John The Baptist Church, Watlington.

Can you help? We would welcome anyone with previous experience of bell-ringing or anyone who would be interested in trying this for the first time.

Please contact Sue on 01622 812262 for further details.

PRIESTLY PONDERINGS [parishofficeemwt@gmail](mailto:parishofficeemwt@gmail.com)

CHALLENGING POVERTY

About 2.7 billion people, over a third of the world's population, live on less than U.S.\$2 a day. It causes 21,000 child deaths per day. Over the last year, there has been an increased awareness of the plight of the poor and 2015 will be a particularly significant year for poverty. In May the Pope called on the United Nations to initiate a "worldwide ethical mobilization" that would address the plight of the poor. The Millennium Development Goals (agreed by the United Nations in 2000 and whose aim was to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015) are to be revisited and redefined in 2015.

Although some people feel the UK economy is picking up, this isn't true for many. The number of people using foodbanks continues to grow (One estimate reaches 1 million). The Bishop of Truro and Frank Field MP chaired the all party parliamentary group which produced the report 'Feeding Britain' calling upon the government to eliminate food poverty in Britain by 2020. "Listen to God: Hear the Poor" was an initiative launched by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Cardinal Archbishop of

Westminster last April when the Archbishops were encouraging churches to join them in praying for the work of the Church helping those in need.

Churches in our Diocese are encouraging us all to raise awareness of poverty by understanding the reasons and discovering how God blesses the poor. So important, however, is to explore how we might respond. So communities and parishes are encouraged to explore the theme in creative, innovative and eye-catching ways, involving local communities where possible. Already a number of folk in our church at Wateringbury have undertaken "Living Below the Line" challenge (living on £1 per day for 5 days) to enable them to experience the hardships of life in poverty. There has also been conferences where we have learned more about poverty and what can be done to tackle it. We also manage our own food bank scheme.

Poverty is challenging and complex. Over the years, countless lives have been transformed when poverty is confronted. The challenges may seem overwhelming, but we really can make a difference as we seek justice for the poor and food for the hungry towards our commitment to tackle the causes and effects of poverty in different parts of the world.

I pray that Challenging Poverty will provide opportunities to make that difference.

BENEFICE MOTHERS' UNION

On **4 June at 1pm** in **East Malling Church Richard Arnold**, who was head teacher of our school for many years, is coming along to give a talk on the work of the **Salvation Army**. Visitors very welcome.

COFFEE BREAK - Wednesdays 10 and 24 June - 10.30-12.30

Look out for our stall at the Village Fete on 7 June. Or go along to the church and enjoy some home-made cake and tea or coffee on 10 or 24 June. Some of us knit while we chat, some are developing crafting skills and some just look on in admiration at the beautiful items made for various charities. It's an enjoyable morning and our numbers are growing so do come, it would be good to see you.
Pauline and Gillian

THE WATCH CLUB Sundays 14 and 28 June

The Club, for young people aged 10, over meets in the Village Hall from 5-7pm. The next meetings are on 14 and 28 June and 12 July. For more details phone Lisa 07950 852899

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING REPORT

At the meeting on 21 April Rev Jim Brown thanked everyone for their service to the church and community during the past year. He thanked Eddie Scarlin for the "sterling job" he had done as churchwarden for the past 7 years. We all appreciated his dedication and hardwork. Joanna Fyson and Peter Bond were elected to serve

as churchwardens for the coming year. There are 91 people on the Electoral Roll, the same figure as last year, 2 people had left and 2 joined.

The reports of the various organisations within the church were reviewed.

Rev Jim said we were blessed to have so many people who worked together, sharing their talents, to serve the people of the parish. Services ran smoothly and the church building was lovingly maintained.

Those elected (and ex-officio) for the coming year to serve on the Parochial Church Council are: Patricia Berry, Bob Bowie, Christine Byron, Richard Dunn (treasurer), Barry Fisher, Liz Gummer, Kate Millar, Emma Palmer, Eddie Scarlin, Alan and Joy Searle, Gordon Self and Sheena Stewart (secretary).

At the close of the meeting Rev Jim was thanked for his hard work and service to the Parish. He received a standing ovation.

BENEFICE SERVICES

Visit our website www.wateringburychurch.org.uk

<p>Sunday 7 June</p> <p>8am Communion - East Malling</p> <p>9.45am Family Service – East Malling</p> <p>9.45am Family Service – Teston</p> <p>10am Morning Praise – Wateringbury</p>	<p>Sunday 14 June</p> <p>9.45am Eucharist – East Malling</p> <p>10am Holy Communion - Wateringbury</p> <p>6.30pm Evensong - Teston</p>
<p>Sunday 21 June</p> <p>8am Communion – Wateringbury</p> <p>9.45am Eucharist – East Malling</p> <p>10 am Family .Service – Wateringbury</p> <p>6.30pm Eucharist - Teston</p>	<p>Sunday 28 June</p> <p>9.45am Eucharist – East Malling</p> <p>10am Holy Communion – Wateringbury</p> <p>6.30pm Patronal Festival Service - Teston</p>

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

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

Pilsdon Community, 27 Water Lane, West Malling - Rev Pam
Rink invites you to the Barn Chapel to join members of the
community for a Eucharist Service every Wednesday at noon
and 6pm on Sundays

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

Service of Healing and Wholeness. The next service will be at 8pm on Tuesday
2 June in East Malling Church.

Evensong with the Choir - Tuesday 23 June at 7.30pm in Watringbury Church

IN OUR JOYS AND SORROWS - FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism - We welcomed Anaia Louisa Bowen into the family of the Church on 19
April.

Marriage - We wish joy and happiness to:

Mark Trevett and Pippa Rose (17 April)

Christopher Noble and Elizabeth Ward (18 April)

THOUGHT

History teaches us that people and nations behave wisely once they have exhausted
all other alternatives.