

ROSTRUM JUNE 2012

Village Diary

June

- 3,4,5 History Society – Jubilee celebrations taking place in Church, an exhibition of History Society archives, plus sale of publications and walks around the village during afternoon of 4th June
- 6th Parish Council meeting 7.30pm - change of date due to Diamond Jubilee bank holiday on 5th, followed immediately by meeting of the Planning Committee
- 14th WI 2.30pm – Village Hall
- 20th History Society – Village Hall 7.40 pm – A.G.M. followed by Peter Hartley – Queen's Jubilee

July

- 1st Footpath walk – meet at Village Hall, 2.30 pm for local walk
- 3rd Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm followed immediately by a meeting of the Planning Committee
- 12th W.I. Village Hall 2.30 pm
- 18th History Society – Wine and Buffet Party

SUMMER ISSUES OF ROSTRUM

Contributors and advertisers please note that this year the combined summer issue will cover the months of August/September. **So if you are holding an event in August or September the deadline for copy is 17 July.** The deadline for the July issue is 17 June and for the October issue will be 17 September. Contributors are also respectfully reminded that their copy should be no more than 250 words (ie half an A5 page in Arial 10 font).

STAPLEHURST OPEN GARDENS 23 and 24 JUNE 10.30am -4pm

Twelve gardens will be open for visitors to enjoy. Programmes available in the village. Proceeds to Staplehurst Church Funds.

YOUR VIEWS ARE WANTED

Public consultation on Wateringbury School:

Wateringbury Church of England School is thinking about changing its status and local views and comments are encouraged. The school governors are conducting a public consultation on the possibility of changing status to become a Voluntary Aided Church of England school. Full details are available online here:

<http://www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk/letters/letter181.pdf>

Or you can call in at the school office and ask for a leaflet. Views and comments may be sent to the School at this address: Wateringbury School, 147 Bow Road, Wateringbury Maidstone, Kent, ME18 5EA, or by email office@wateringbury.kent.sch.uk

Please send your views as soon as possible

CHURCH THANKS

A HUGE THANK YOU TO Bijou and Cromar Nurseries for their extremely generous donations of plants, and to all who supplied home grown plants, to those who baked the delicious scones and cakes, to those who donated items for stalls and raffle, and to all who helped and came to support this Church fund raising event, which raised £1,255.38.

BLESSING BAGS

We operate a weekly food bag scheme for anyone in need- whether this be through financial hardship or a temporary situation such as illness or injury which makes it difficult to get shopping. If this could be helpful to you or a neighbour, please contact Rev Jim Brown at the vicarage (01732 843282) or Lisa Glasscote (01622 812661) and request a blessing bag, no reason need be given, just an address and we can leave a bag on the doorstep.

If you would like to donate food to this scheme any groceries can be left in the titled box found on the back pews at St John the Baptist Church, Wateringbury or at Lisa's - 16 Waterside Mews, Wateringbury.

CAN YOU HELP?

Do you have a tailors' dummy or a mannequin that I could borrow for the weekend of 1st/2nd September, 2012? In September 2002 we held a Wedding weekend to which we personally invited all the couples who had been married at St. Mary the Virgin, Nettlestead over the previous 50 years to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee. We displayed some 30 of their wedding gowns and bridesmaids dresses last time. Now 10 years on we shall need more means of displaying the gowns. If you are able to help please ring me, Marguerite on 01622 871272. I will be very happy to collect and return them. Thank you.

MAY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The planning committee would appreciate the opinions of parishioners in relation to planning applications prior to its meeting to help formulate the response to T & M. Please send comments to the Parish Clerk, Redhill Cottage, Redhill. Alternatively come along to the planning subcommittee meeting which follows the monthly general meeting

Mike Cayzer was re-elected as Chairman
Richard Tripp re-elected as Vice Chairman

Drayhorse Meadow - Following the last appeal which was turned down, Mrs Medhurst had requested an oral hearing which will take place on 14th June
A new CCTV camera with cage had been fitted at the rear of the village hall

Crime Report - one crime reported - garage door at a property in Old Road had been forced but nothing taken
Queen Elizabeth 11 Fields Trust - The Fields Trust Deeds had been signed by the Trustees of the Sports Association. These Deeds were signed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman and witnessed by Cllr Chivers
Due to the number of events organised for this year it was agreed any celebration on gaining QE11 status would be deferred until May 2013.

The small strip of land outside Station House owned by the PC was discussed and it was agreed to write to the owner Mr Gibbs stating the Parish Council was considering selling the land for an asking price of £2500 plus legal expenses on both sides.

There was some discussion on whether some plots in the cemetery should be made available for burials from outside the parish, particularly Kings Hill

It was stated that Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and Kent County Council had a proactive committee looking into the problems of pollution at Watringbury traffic lights

Planning Applications :Retrospective change of use of a building from store and office for former cattery and conversion to a chapel in part for ancillary domestic use And in part for gatherings for worship on an occasional basis. 37a Barming Road

Installation of ground mounted 3.92 kwp solar photovoltaic system 143 Canon Lane
Details submitted to conditions 3 (constructional drawings and 4 (joinery details) of listed building consent Rear single storey and rear first floor extension 290 Old Road

The Council welcomes members of the public to its meetings which are held in the village hall and start at 7.30pm.
Next meeting 6th June.

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Found on a doorstep in Hillside Court – one Scout Proficiency Badge (basket worker?) If it's yours, phone 813742

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At our last meeting, the W.I. Resolution – More Midwives Needed – was vigorously debated, and some of the points raised will be passed to our delegate at National's AGM.

This was followed by the Annual meeting. A new President was elected, and also a new Committee. Our retiring president, Kathy Coates, was thanked for all her hard work over the last two and a half years. Our membership has almost doubled during her time as President, partly due to her promotion of the W.I. Sue Cockburn and Marcia Bond, have also retired from the committee. They have both been on the Committee for many years and will be greatly missed.

The afternoon finished with tea and cake and a Silent Auction which raised money for our funds.

AGE CONCERN MALLING ASSISTED SHOPPING SERVICE

Would you like to go shopping at ASDA but need some help? Every fortnight you can be picked up from your door and be taken to ASDA at Kings Hill. If you need help or a wheelchair round the store this will be arranged. You will then be brought home and your shopping put indoors ready for you to put away. For more details contact Pauline or Jean at Age Concern Malling on 01732 873977. The cost is £5 per shopping trip plus £12 annual administration fee.

HELP WITH TRANSPORT

The Red Cross can provide a driver with a vehicle to offer door-to-door assistance for those who cannot get about easily or use public transport and particularly those that live on their own. Besides transport, they can also provide an escort who, if necessary, will stay with a client throughout their journey. For more details, including costs, please phone 0800 0280 831. The Red Cross would also like to hear from volunteer drivers who would be happy to give a couple of hours say once a month, or a week. Again please call the above number for details of the scheme including the payments made to drivers to off-set the costs.

TESTON & WATERINGBURY NURSERY GROUP (Registered charity 1044257)

www.testonandwateringburynursery.co.uk

Admissions and all enquiries: Amanda Vidler 07805 796353

Well, before we start on our latest activities congratulations are due...AGAIN. Two recent inspections, ECERS & ITERS (I don't make these up you know, you can Google them!) prompted these comments: *"Particular strength was children accessing free flow play between inside & outdoors"* & *"Excellent staff/child interaction & rapport & good behaviour management"* - well done...AGAIN! There's more info on our website.

Now for the fun stuff: a trip to our local Fire Station was a big hit, not least with our mums, and included a tour of the station, climbing in a fire engine, and, yes, lots of photos! Thank you to Ray, Dave & Geoff & all of Red Watch. A visit from our local CSO resulted in the children having their finger prints taken. As yet, no-one has been arrested, but we'll keep you posted!

Our strawberry & blackberry plants are doing well (I have volunteered for chief taster) & our new bird table is a hit with the local residents (I'm guessing, & hoping, it's the feathered ones...).

To celebrate the Jubilee, a Garden Party was hosted by the children at the end of May, but I'll bring more on that next month. I can tell you that despite enthusiastic invites from the children, Mr Tumble sent his apologies, David Cameron was unavailable & the Queen was busy – who knew?! At the end of this month we'll be holding a sponsored Pedal Push at Wateringbury School to raise funds for the Nursery Group so if you have a tiddler or a toddler with a passion for pushing pedals, why not join us? Call Amanda to register.

Mr & Mrs Bull from Sevenoaks are the winners of the latest 100 Club Draw - well done too!

PADDOCK WOOD CHORAL SOCIETY

The Society present a Choral Spectacular in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on SATURDAY 16th June at St Andrew's Church, Paddock Wood at 7.30 pm with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, Gershwin, Handel and Fauré. Tickets cost £10 from Box office tel: 01892 822448

email: summer12@paddockwood-choral.org.uk or on the door (if available)

www.paddockwood-choral.org.uk

GRAVESHAM CHORAL SOCIETY presents Brahms's great German Requiem, at St George's Church, Gravesend on Saturday 30th June at 7.30pm. Well known to be intensely moving, with its focus on the transition from anxiety to comfort, this choral work has a lesser known piano accompaniment for four hands which is featured in this performance. With pianists Roger Harris and Christine Diggins, soloists Elaine Tate and Christopher Dixon, and conductor Alan Vincent.

Tickets are priced at £10 (£5 for full-time students), and are obtainable by telephoning 01474 816684, from members of the society, or on the door. www.graveshamcs.co.uk

WATERINGBURY WORKING MEN'S CLUB

To celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, Wateringbury Working Men's Club are hosting 'A Cockney Night', with live entertainment and fresh seafood for members on Saturday 2 June 2012 at 8pm. The evening is open to non-members too, at a price of £5 per head. Tickets must be purchased from the club, prior to the event, to ensure adequate provisions for all.

During the daytime on 3rd June there will be a family barbecue.

We also have a pop and soul evening on Saturday 30th June at 8pm, with Ray Collins.

Football - Euro 2012 – Come and watch England play – special promotions as the tournament progresses.

Wimbledon – Free strawberries and cream when Andy Murray is playing!

New members always welcome – A warm and friendly atmosphere awaits.

FLOWER CLUB

Our next meeting is Thursday 21st June – “Joy of Summer” with Jill McGregor, Area Demonstrator

May's meeting was a workshop run by Jean and Katrina from the Committee. Members made a trug with copper mesh biodegradable wire mesh, lined with tilliandra moss clear cellophane and decorated on the outside with sphagnum moss, the main body of the trug was constructed by laying one metre of the mesh flat, folding it in half, laying the tilliandra moss in between and the cellophane layer on the top, then the other mesh half closed over it in a sandwich and the wire ends being bent on to each other keeping the two pieces sandwiched firmly. Next the sphagnum moss was attached to the outer edges, and over stitched with reel wire, the finished square looked like a metal blanket square edged with moss. The last phase of construction was to take the square and turn it over with the cellophane facing you and start to fold it in on itself to produce a square/rectangular/ unusual shape for the container, most people created a different shape from their neighbour, the last phase of the construction was to support the fragile structure and support the shape by using some interesting twigs - these were inserted through some of the shape on the top then wired in place - this completes the trug shape, the next step is to put a container with a piece of oasis floral foam in the bottom, then you have your container to arrange your flowers in, there were lots of different ideas from members and Katrina had done a Blue Peter with one she made earlier and Jean did a couple of alternative designs with the same shape to show that there are endless possibilities with the Basic construction. Katrina and Jean attended a workshop with Vanguard -Kent's contemporary floral design group and decided to share their experience with members of their own club, I think we can safely say that all 40 members who took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves, Jean and Katrina have now recovered from their teaching experience. Jean Schofield, Chairman

GOOD NEWS FROM YOUR POPPY APPEAL ORGANISER!

I am delighted to let you know that all your effort has been rewarded – we have collected the grand total of **£3,084.32**.

This is a record for Wateringbury!

This figure may still increase, as we are still awaiting confirmation of the Gift Aid total. I would like to thank everyone who participated, and I look forward to increasing our figure this year.

It's always good to know that our efforts are truly used, to assist members of the armed forces who have contributed to our freedom by their unstinting sacrifice and endeavours.

If in any new volunteers would like to help this year, we need your help. Please contact Larry Collins, Poppy Appeal Organiser on 01732 872302 or email me at larry.collins@hotmail.co.uk Thanks to all. Larry Collins POA (Wateringbury)

FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY CHURCH HARVEST FAYRE

Following last year's success, the Friends will be holding their second Harvest Fayre on **Saturday 15th September** in the school field. Once again it will be an old-style country fayre with a huge range of activities for kids, such as a sunflower-growing contest, a scarecrow competition, a coconut shy, apple-bobbing, face-painting and lots more. There will be plenty for the adults too – a fruit, vegetable and baking competition and a Beer & Pimms tent. There will be lots of other refreshments as well, including a hog roast and home-made cakes. We have asked local attractions and businesses to provide some stunning raffle prizes too. All funds raised will go towards maintaining and improving the building and churchyard of Wateringbury village church. The Friends help to ensure that the church will continue to be there for us and our children for many years to come. If you'd like to run a stall or to

volunteer to help make the Harvest Fayre a success, please contact Frances English on 01622 812 471 as soon as possible.

DIAMOND JUBILEE CHURCHYARD FETE

The Friends will be hosting the Pimms tent at the Diamond Jubilee celebrations on **Monday 4th June 2-4pm**. Come along and enjoy many crafts and activities in the churchyard and join us by raising a glass to the Queen!

HISTORY SOCIETY

In June our speaker will be Peter Hartley giving a talk on the "Queen's Jubilee", this will follow our short Annual General Meeting. Peter worked for over thirty years for the Royal Family and was based at Buckingham Palace for most of that time and is able to bring to us the inside story of what goes on behind the Royal closed doors. Our new programme commencing September will be available, and we will be happy to collect your subscriptions for the coming year.

Bronwen Sadler was our speaker in April, she came along to give us her very personal experience of 'The Great Flood of 1953' at Canvey Island on 31st January. Bronwen was a child of 10 at that time and her everlasting memory of the very dark night was the severe cold felt by her family, and the terrible noise made by the wind as it increased to a hurricane force of 140 miles per hour. On waking next morning Bronwen discovered that they were surrounded by water, as the sea wall had been breached. Many people lost their lives on that night, where all along the East Coast from Scotland to Whitstable, villages and towns were affected by the adverse weather conditions. It is recorded that 11,500 people were made homeless on Canvey Island alone. Although a lot of lives were lost due to drowning, many were gassed because gas fires had been left on in order to keep warm. We were shown pictures of Canvey Island, before, during and after the flood and we could see the devastation that the wind and sea had brought to this area. JH

NETTLESTEAD & WATERINGBURY PRE-SCHOOL AND OUT OF SCHOOLS CLUB

This has just been the busiest Term ever! Lots of lovely things happening in our playroom and lots of new friendships being made. Welcome to our new families both pre-schoolers and the older children in our after school and holiday clubs.

We had a surprise visit from Ofsted, but until the Report is made official I cannot reveal the many 'outstanding' areas of our practice – so watch this space, more information to follow!

Our older children are busy preparing for moving onto school in September. We have had visits from Reception class teachers who have been very complimentary about our children and their environment. All the children are embracing their PE sessions and are more than able to change into the PE kits and take part in their keep fit activities.

We are looking forward to our Sports Day at the end of Term 6 and would like to remind all Parent/Carers/Grandparents/Aunts/Uncles etc etc that they are more than welcome to come and join the fun.

Come and visit at the rear of Nettlestead Village Hall, contact us on 01622 813120;

email nettlesteadandwateringbury@yahoo.com or visit the website; www.nawps.org

JOIN IN THE FUN AT WATERINGBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Plans are taking shape for our special Olympic-themed Torch Procession through Wateringbury village on **Saturday 14 July** prior to the opening of the school's Summer Fete. Bow Road will be closed to all traffic between 11.45am and 12 noon on this day – see *Notice below*. We hope everyone will come out and cheer on the children during the procession, which will be led by our Year 6 Leavers carrying a special Torch and flags. The winning captains from the school's Sports Day on 20 June will have the honour of carrying the Torch. Please come and join in the fun. Entry to the fete is **FREE!** Retiring Deputy Head Teacher Mrs Jenny Herbert will officially open the event and main attractions include an adults Tug of War, BBQ and Bar, School Sports Displays, Grand Draw, Face Painting, Bouncy Slide, Tuck Shop and lots more.

We have now raised enough money to place an order for a wooden gazebo which will provide shade, shelter and an outdoor learning environment for the children. We are now fundraising to replace five data projectors used in classrooms.

On the last day of term we will have a special Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebration, involving two special deliveries from Wateringbury Parish Council and The Flag Consultancy – more details next time. Later in the day, we plan to have a Picnic Lunch – weather permitting - and a cake sale. Children will also be invited to wear red, white and blue for the day.

We will run a Father's Day Shop in school time on 14 and 15 June so that children can buy special gifts. If you have any suitable gifts that you'd like to donate (ie toiletries, chocolates etc) please pass them on to the school.

Thank you to The JCB Group for sponsoring our inaugural Golf Day at Kings Hill Golf Club on 29 June. Jonathan Bischoff, Managing Director of The JCB Group, said: "The JCB Group is pleased to be sponsoring the Golf Day and would like to wish all those participating the very best of luck." Thanks also to Kings Hill Golf Club (www.kingshillgolf.co.uk) for its support and assistance with this event.

If you or your business want to support our activities in any way, please contact Gail Isted, Friends of Wateringbury Primary School Chairman, Tel 01622 813716 or email chairman@fowps.org.uk.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Bow Road (B2015) will be closed to all traffic between Wateringbury Village Hall and Wateringbury Primary School while the Torch Procession is taking place between 11.45am and 12 noon on Saturday 14 July. Thank you for your co-operation with this special event.

FOOTBALL - WATERINGBURY UNDER 16

Congratulations to Wateringbury under 16 football team who won Division 2 of their league undefeated, and won promotion to Division 1 next season.

Congratulations also for reaching the final of the Mike Shirley Cup.

Well done to all players and Paul and Chris.

WANTED Under 18 players for all positions for next season. Please phone Paul 07794 256659.

WATERINGBURY BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Ready TEDDY go!! Teddy?! Yes, Teddy! Teddies please put on your best fancy dress (there's a prize for the best costume), grab your owner and take them to the toddler group annual Teddy Bears Picnic. We're holding two events on 27th and 29th June so there's no need to miss out. Bring a rug and a picnic and let's hope the sun comes out to play too! There will be a teddy bear hunt and prizes for everyone. If you go down to the village hall you're sure of a big surprise!

Also on Wednesday 27th June (it's going to be a busy day!) is our annual evening river boat cruise. The Allington Belle will set sail on a round trip from the Malta Inn as far as Teston Lock, with fish and chips and music along the way. Puddings are then partaken at the Malta Inn for those who still have room. Tickets can be purchased at toddler group sessions or contact Linda on the number below. See you there!

This is such a busy time that I don't even have time to tell you about the fab things we're making our Daddies for Father's Day, the pizzas we'll be cooking (and eating) and just how much fun our Jubilee parties were before we broke for half term. Phew!!

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 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 tables/chairs and toys in the hall; ideal for birthday parties, Christening celebrations etc. If you are interested please contact Linda on 01732 522437 or try our mobile - 07506 735137. **THE COMMITTEE**

VILLAGE CRICKET CLUB

The cricket season has started and we have played our first match. It didn't even rain. This is the current fixture list for this season. Please keep it and come down to Fields Lane to watch us. If you would like to join the club then contact either myself (Abbi) on 07773681677 or the captain on 01622 721423.

We hope you come to see us.

W.C.C. Fixtures - 2012

<u>JUNE</u>			
Sat 2nd	Horsemondon	H	2.00pm
Sat 9th	Town Malling	H	2.00pm
Sun 10th	East Sutton	H	2.00pm
Wed 13th	Telston & Mereworth	H	6.00pm

Sun 17th	Grasmere Park	A	2.00pm
Sat 23rd	Bredger	A	2.00pm
Sun 24th	Kings Hill	H	2.00pm
Thurs 28th	Hunton	A	6.00pm
Sat 30th	President's Day	H	2.00pm
JULY			
Sun 8th	Detling	H	2.00pm
Sat 14th	Tonbridge YMCA	H	2.00pm
Sat 21st	East Malling	A	2.00pm
Sun 29th	West Peckham	H	2.00pm
AUGUST			
Sun 5th	Telston & Mereworth	A	2.00pm
Sat 11th	Otterden	A	2.00pm
Sat 18th	Sandhurst	A	2.30pm
Sun 26th	Elliots	H	2.00pm
SEPTEMBER			
Sun 2nd	Loose	H	1.30pm
Sun 9th	Murston	A	1.30pm
Sat 15th	East Sutton "THE ASHES"	A	1.30pm
Sun 16th	West Kent Police	H	1.00pm
Sat 22nd	Holborough Valley	A	1.00pm
Sat 29th	Tonbridge Forresters	H	1.00pm
Sun 30th	Detling	A	1.00pm

WATERINGBURY FOOTPATH GROUP

NOTE: There will not be a walk in June as this is the Queens Diamond Jubilee Weekend. However, the local History Society are doing two guided walks of approximately 1½ miles, at 2.30 pm and 3.30 pm on MONDAY 4th June, starting from the Church, so if you wish to learn more about the village and get some exercise please come along.

A walk is planned for 1st July, of around 3½ miles, to start from the Village Hall, and also on 5th August starting from Mereworth School (parking in the lay-by outside the school) to walk around the Swanton Valley, both walks starting at 2.30 pm sharp. For more information please call Syd on 812338

THE QUEEN'S SILVER JUBILEE (Taken from Rostrum 1977) The School's Silver Jubilee Oak

All children who have ever attended the old school (*in Red Hill, now demolished*) will remember that in the grounds of the 'old school' was an old oak tree planted in Coronation year 1902. A little sapling grown from one of its acorns was planted in the New School grounds in the autumn of 1977 to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee. The PTA bought a flagpole which was erected just before the Jubilee celebrations.

BLACKTHORN TRUST

Busy as bees. the rain of the last few weeks has transformed the garden into a green oasis with the gardeners coming out between showers to tend to the array of crops, herbs and flowers. It is a busy time at Blackthorn and a good time to come and visit.

Indoors Blackthorn is busy planning summer fundraising events. Friday 22nd June sees the return of **Dr Jazz** for a picnic style concert. We invite you to bring your picnic, chairs or a rug and enjoy a summer evening of jazz. £10 per head, tickets available from the café or by contacting the charity office 01622 722219 emma@blackthorn.org.uk This popular event always sells out fast.

Saturday 28th July is our **Summer Workshop Event** come and learn something new in our beautiful garden surroundings. Create a hanging basket to take away, join a craft workshop or learn how to bake artisan bread. Fees payable per workshop. Call for a full list of what's happening and to book your place.

FREE SUMMER LECTURE

This is the last of the three talks in this year's series. If you have not managed to get to the first two, don't worry, you will be very welcome at the last one.

Us – Speaker Rev Jim Brown – 14 June – Watlington Church – 8pm

Rev Jim Brown will use this as an opportunity to reflect on the past 10 years as a Benefice and the shape of things to come as we continue to minister and share the good news of the Kingdom to all those living and working in East Malling, Teston and Watlington. Just what is the challenge?

THOUGHTS FROM THE VICARAGE

2 The Grange, East Malling ME19 6AH

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

JUBILEE JOY

What a joy to write to you in this edition of Rostrum upon the occasion of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee. So few Monarchs manage to reign for so many years and this makes it a rare moment in the history of sovereign rule in this country. The Diamond Jubilee takes place this year, marking 60 years of The Queen's reign. The Queen came to the throne on 6th February 1952 (her Coronation took place on 2nd June 1953).

In the United Kingdom, The Queen's title includes the words 'Defender of the Faith'. This means Her Majesty has a specific role in both the Church of England and the Church of Scotland. In both England and Scotland, the established Churches are subject to the regulation of law. The principle of religious toleration is fully recognised both for those of other creeds and for those without any religious beliefs. Recently, at a meeting with other faith leaders, she said this of her role, "*It is not to defend Anglicanism to the exclusion of other religions, instead the church has to protect the free practice of other faiths in this country*"

For me it is interesting to note that, whilst she defends the rights of others to practice their own faith, she herself has always held on to her own personal faith in the Christian Church with much strength and conviction. She speaks about her own faith as if she herself were a preacher. In times of national disaster, personal tragedy, celebration or commemoration she has never faltered in declaring her own personal position and belief.

Her Majesty ranks as not only a stabilising influence in this nation but across the world too. Her efforts in maintaining good relationships with our neighbours have been well received and are well respected by many. There can be no sovereign throughout the world who has achieved as much as our monarch, Queen Elizabeth. The Queen has been our sovereign for 60 years and she still conducts herself with much enthusiasm and commitment to the people of this nation, this surely is a cause for celebration and thanksgiving to God. I hope you are able to attend one of the many events our churches are leading during the Diamond Jubilee weekend, as we seek to celebrate, with equal enthusiasm, 60 years of Queen Elizabeth as our sovereign and "Defender of the Faith"!

I should like to commend to you all a prayer, written under the Queen's direction by the Chapter of St Paul's, which you might care to use yourself during this period of celebration:

God of time and eternity, whose Son reigns as servant, not master;
we give you thanks and praise that you have blessed this Nation, the Realms and Territories with Elizabeth our beloved and glorious Queen.
In this year of Jubilee, grant her your gifts of love and joy and peace
as she continues in faithful obedience to you, her Lord and God and in devoted service to her lands and peoples, and those of the Commonwealth,
now and all the days of her life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Enjoy the celebrations.

Revd Jim Brown

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE – CARPET OF FLOWERS

Sunday 3 June - 2-5pm

Monday 4 June and Tuesday 5 June - 10.30am-5pm

Come and see the Carpet of Flowers depicting the Jubilee
laid in the central aisle of the church
Exhibition of Wateringbury 1952 to present
Jubilee Cake Raffle
Cream Teas, Home-made Cakes and Refreshments

Monday 4 June 2-4pm

Churchyard Fete with various stalls, to include Pimms tent, cake stall, tombola, candyfloss, popcorn, children's craft activities ie a children's banquet with cake decorating, crown making and an opportunity to come dressed as a knight or princess, sweet stall, face painting and much more

2.30-3.30pm Musical Entertainment with Tony Pepper on guitar and Peter White on keyboard

Jubilee guided walks round the village

organised by the History Society with printed booklet

Walks at 2.30pm and 3.30pm

3.30pm Fete will conclude with the ringing of the church bells

Tuesday 5 June

Afternoon music by **Harpist Carys Hughes**

The 3 day event culminates with an

Evening Service of Thanksgiving at 7.30pm

Further information from 01622 813076 or 813032

Week-end supported by TMBC Community Enhancement Fund

ROSEMARY FOR REMEMBRANCE?

At Wateringbury Church on Sunday 24 June between 1-4pm

An opportunity to dedicate your favourite flower in memory of a loved one.

Vases and dedication cards will be provided

Cream Teas with Home-made cakes

Further information from 01622 814656

BENEFICE CHURCH SERVICES

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

Sunday 3 June – Trinity Sunday 8am Holy Communion – Teston 9.45am Family Service – East Malling 9.45am Family Service – Teston 10am Morning Praise Jubilee Service – Wateringbury	Sunday 10 June 8am Holy Communion – East Malling 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 10am Holy Communion - Wateringbury 6.30pm Evening Prayer - Teston
Sunday 17 June 8am Holy Communion – Wateringbury 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 10 am Family Service – Wateringbury 6.30pm Eucharist - Teston	Sunday 24 June 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	

SPECIAL SERVICES

10am 3 June **Service to Celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee**

7.30pm on 5 June **Thanksgiving to Close Carpet of Flowers Festival**

Patronal Festival Sunday 24 June 10am - **Rev David Commander** will be taking the Service

Quiet Hour 8-9pm on Wednesdays 13 June and 11 July. Come and go as you please – take time out from the hustle and bustle of everyday life to spend time in personal prayer and contemplation.

Service of Healing and Wholeness. The next service will be at 8pm on Tuesday 3 July in Teston church when the format will be Taize.

Celebration of Ministry To mark the tenth anniversary of the Benefice of East Malling, Teston and Wateringbury the contributions of the sidespeople, lesson readers and intercessors will be recognised at the service in Wateringbury on Sunday 17 June at 10am.

GUILD OF CHURCH FLOWER ARRANGERS

Rochester Cathedral is the venue for the Guild’s meeting on **Monday 11 June at 7.45pm.** The demonstrator is Jean Plaskett and the title of her demonstration is “What shall we do here?” Non members very welcome for the modest charge of £3.50.