

VILLAGE DIARY

March

- 6 Parish Council meeting – Hall – 7.30pm then Planning Committee
- 8 WI Social afternoon – Flower Cup and Hickman Cup – Hall – 2.30pm
- 15 Flower Club – Angela Hyde – “The Planets” – N’sted Hall – 7.30pm
- 17 Village Hall Quiz Evening – Hall – 7 for 7.30pm start
- 21 David Carder, Some Historic Kentish Towns, History Soc – Hall – 7.40
- 24 Cricket Club Quiz Evening – Hall – 7.30pm

Note the Footpaths Group have no walk planned for March

April

- 3 Parish Council meeting – Hall – 7.30pm then Planning Committee
- 12 WI – Going to School in Japan talk by Mr C Spear – Hall – 2.30pm
- 17 Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Church – 8pm
- 18 Bronwen M Sadler, The Great Flood of 1953, History Soc – Hall – 7.40

DIARY DATES

5 May – Churchyard Plant Sale 10-4pm

3-4 June – Jubilee Carpet of Flowers and Events at the Church

14 July – School Fete with Olympics Theme

HISTORY SOCIETY – Annual outing

Our outing will take place this year on **Wednesday, 16th May**, and we will be visiting the Vineyard at Small Hythe for a conducted tour, plus wine tasting. We will then return to Tenterden for about an hour and a half for lunch (not included) followed by a tour of Tenterden with local guides. Two pick up points this year – the Church and the Watringbury Hotel. Price will be £21 to include coach and the two conducted tours and tip for the driver. To book, please ring Janet on 01622 814974 or 817833. JC

WATERINGBURY CRICKET CLUB

ANNUAL FUN FUND RAISING QUIZ

has been booked for

Saturday 24th March to start at 7.30 ish

in The Village Hall.

£5 per head, max 8 per team, Bar, etc.

Bring your own nibbles

Contact Cliff Hickmott to book a table ☎01622 812164

VILLAGE PEOPLE

We have lived in Canon Lane Wateringbury for almost a year, in that time our little cat Tom has managed to get himself lost twice for 4 days. 1st time stuck up a tree, the latest episode was Thursday 19th January once again we all went out as a search party myself my partner and my best friend. I put up posters and did leaflet drops through local doors, but to no avail. On Monday 23rd Tom managed to somehow get himself home. Unfortunately he had been involved in a car accident and had sustained some nasty facial injuries which meant he spent 3 days in the vets. I would like to use the Rostrum to say a big thank you to all the kind people who looked in their garages and sheds and stopped to chat to us when we were out searching. Tom is now home with lots of stitches and bruises and is making a good recover. It was nice to see so many people cared.

Karen and Andy Newcroft 145 Canon Lane

RETIREMENT OF MRS HERBERT (CURTIS)

Dear Friends

At the end of the academic year we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Herbert who is retiring after 38 years in the profession. Mrs Herbert (Mrs Curtis) has been a member of staff at Wateringbury School since 1988. She has been the Deputy Headteacher here for 11 years and touched the lives of many students, colleagues and friends in the community.

When I first came to Wateringbury in 2007, Mrs Herbert informed me that I had her for 2 years and then she would be retiring. Well this is my fifth year here and, although I will be sad to say goodbye, I think Mrs Herbert deserves to enjoy a life away from the pressures of school after giving us all so much.

It is a rare privilege to work with a professional teacher at the peak of her career that has retained the drive and passion to always want to do better for the children in her care. Mrs Herbert is still very passionate about learning and cares deeply about every child she teaches.

Mrs Herbert is an excellent role model for any new teachers entering an increasingly demanding and bureaucratic career. She reminds us all that our core business is the educational welfare of our children, not jumping to the tune of the latest initiative.

I am sure that many of you and your children have fond memories of Mrs Herbert. She deserves a very big send off in this Olympic and Golden Jubilee year.

The search to find a new Deputy Headteacher, a key position in any school, has begun. N Vinall

STEP BACK IN TIME

FROM THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF JANUARY AND APRIL 1885

We have now completed the second year of our Parish Magazine. There are 150 copies printed each month but as all these are not subscribed for we shall be glad to receive fresh names. We are happy to say that the Magazine has paid its way this year. This is owing to the kindness of those who send more than the monthly penny, and we trust these subscriptions will be continued. Back numbers of most of the months can be had *gratis* to make up sets. May the pages of our Magazine for 1885 record many blessings bestowed on families and individuals as well as on our Parish generally and may the end of the year find us all more prepared for the time when "all things shall become new." Spencer W Phillips, Vicar

The death of little Winny Luck (aged 4 on March 7) was attended with very sad circumstances, as she was poisoned by eating a rotten apple which she picked up on her way to school. She died in much pain within 24 hours of eating the apple.

HISTORY SOCIETY

In March our speaker will be David Carder who will be talking to us about 'Some Historic Kentish Towns'. David is a member of Maidstone Archaeology Society and in 2008 he gave us a very interesting and informative talk on historic buildings in Kent, so we are hoping to widen our knowledge further and to learn more of what to recognise on ancient buildings.

Our first speaker of the year was Dr. James Gibson whose talk on the History of Rochester Bridge was full of interesting information which included the fact that the first bridge was built by the Romans in 43 AD, the remains of which were discovered when the Victorian bridge was being built and, despite there being tolls in the past, we can rest assured that due to an Act of Parliament, tolls are no longer allowed to be collected for travelling over, or under, the bridge. In Queen Mary's time some of the tolls were 1d for a horse and rider, 1d for a horse or cow and 1d for 4 sheep. When a new mediaeval bridge was built in 1387 a bridge chapel was erected at the eastern end of the bridge which still remains today. Sir Thomas Style served as a Bridge Warden from 1652 to 1660.

MAIDSTONE MENCAP Jumble Sale - Saturday 10 March - 3.00pm
Cobtree Hall Mote Park (School Lane entrance off Willington Street)
Bargains galore!

FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL (FOWPS)

(Registered charity 1038836)

Children from Wateringbury Primary School joined thousands of other schoolchildren across the country to take part in the Sign2Sing Guinness World Record attempt on 8 February. Their efforts also featured on Meridian News. Well done to all those who took part. Thank you to Wateringbury Scouts who joined forces with us to clear and grit our playgrounds following the recent snowfall. It was a great team effort.

A big thank you to Scarbutts Printers of West Malling (www.scarbutts.com) for helping with some of our printing requirements this year. This sort of help allows us to plough more of our fundraising proceeds into our priority projects. Also thanks to Wateringbury Church for making us one of the beneficiaries for the proceeds from the Lent Lunches.

We are planning a Mother's Day Shop at school on 15 and 16 March and we'll hold our next school discos on 30 March, with the generous support of Sounds Alive Disco. As spring is just around the corner, we'll also be staging another Operation Ground Force event at school on Saturday 21 April to undertake some jobs in the school grounds.

Our Olympic-themed Summer Fete will take place on Saturday 14 July.

If you'd like to help us in any way in 2012 please call Chairman Gail Isted on 01622 813716 or e-mail chairman@fowps.org.uk. You can keep up-to-date on all our activities through our website at www.fowps.org.uk Gail Isted FOWPS Chairman

TESTON CLUB

A new Photographic Club has just been formed – meetings will be at 8pm on the third Monday of the month. Guest speakers, discussions about members' photos and working towards a Summer Exhibition are the current plans. New members are welcome, just turn up for the next meeting or ask at the Club for further details. We have also invested in a new 60" TV for the Lounge, not only to show the wide range of sporting events we cover but also for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and of course, the Olympics.

Sat 17th March – St Patrick's Day. 4 – 5pm, Live Music from Irish Band, Mullac a Boo. Complimentary Irish cheeses and soda bread. Good price on Guinness all day and also some genuine, legal, poteen available!

Sun 18th March – Mothering Sunday – free flower for all ladies having a drink with us that day

March Wednesday Afternoons 2 – 4pm

7th – Film Afternoon 14th – Cheltenham Race Festival 21st - "Loose Women" type discussion on current news items 28th – Ronnie's Quiz

We look forward to seeing you soon! Cate, Trevor and Paul, Teston Club

WATERINGBURY SCOUT GROUP – JOIN THE ADVENTURE!



Winter may be upon us, but that doesn't stop Wateringbury Scouts of all ages getting out and about, trying new experiences, learning new skills, and always having fun and adventure.

Scouts recently went tobogganing and snow tubing in Chatham – with real snow falling to help set the atmosphere! By the time you read this they will have returned from Winter Camp at Belchamps campsite in Essex, a weekend of action-packed fun with climbing, abseiling, inflatable duel, archery, wobbly pole, rodeo bull, laser tag, giant scalextrix and go-karts (who said Scouting was boring!). In between it all, they will need to learn how to keep themselves warm, dry and well-fed whatever the weather – and when it's cold and wet, camaraderie, friendship and mutual support become invaluable skills. Back in the warmth of the Scout Hut they will be unravelling the mysteries of clove hitches and reef knots, square and sheer lashings as they build a chariot capable of carrying another person around an obstacle course.

Cubs meanwhile have visited Maidstone Mosque, and were enthralled as they listened to the Imam describe the features of the Islamic faith to them (if you don't know what an Imam is, ask one of our Cubs!). I don't know what it was about that building – just an ordinary-looking hall, but there was such an atmosphere of peace and friendship which I'm sure affected us all. They will be putting their creative skills to good use to make a 3D map of Wateringbury, and then translating that into a portable format by finding out how to use OS maps. They're also looking forward to their own Olympics-themed Pack Holiday during the Easter holidays.

Beavers kicked off their Spring activities with a raucous visit to the Wateringbury Players pantomime when a great time was had by all. They're working towards their Promise Challenge badge this term, which involves living up to the promise that every Scout, from youngest Beaver to oldest Leader, makes when they join – to do their best, be kind and helpful to one another, and to look after God's world. No doubt they will be putting that Promise into good use when they visit Leeds Castle for a day of fun and adventure while earning another of their Activity badges.

As mentioned in our last feature, we now also boast an **Explorer Unit** for young people aged 14-18 yrs. Teenagers seem always to be hungry! so they do a lot of firefighting and backwoods cooking in this Section. Mmmm, what could be better than sitting with your mates round a glowing fire, watching your food cooking ... apart from eating it of course! If **you** would like to join the fun and adventure of Scouting, whatever your age from 6yrs upwards, male or female, then we have a place for you. Young people up to the age of 18yrs learn life skills while enjoying adventurous, fun, creative activities with like-minded friends.

The adults who guide and help them on their way gain tremendous satisfaction from watching these young people grow in skills and confidence, gain leadership and management skills which are widely acclaimed in the workplace – and most importantly have fun themselves! We welcome new recruits in all Sections, young people or adult helpers (where adult help can be as little as an hour or two a month!)

Join us! Contact Joanna on 01622 814980, or Joanna@wateringburyscouts.org.uk

TESTON & WATERINGBURY NURSERY GROUP (Registered charity 1044257)

As Spring beckons (beckon, Spring, beckon!) we've already seen our Spring flowers making a brave appearance through the snow and watched our indoor herb garden grow. And, speaking of snow, with our fabulous outside space we've been able to make full use of the white stuff by making snowmen and footprints – why stay indoors when you have such a great place to play? Our bog garden froze completely, so children to the rescue, making air holes for our sleeping frog (I can think of warmer places to snooze...). For our Clothes theme, we've seen a Policeman and a Paramedic, tried on their uniforms and played with their gadgets! We've painted T shirts (we were allowed to, honestly!) and Valentine's hearts onto fabric. Next term we're celebrating Spring (told you!), making pancakes, decorating fabric bags with our Mums, making Welsh cakes and dragons for St David's Day, bunny hunting and making woolly sheep and Spring cards! Is that all possible in one term, I hear you ask, why yes of course!

Now, the news you've all been waiting for...**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND**...It's our **EASTER FUN DAY!!** All the fun of last year and more! Yes, I know, I hear you, can we do it again? Can we? You know we can! Weds 4th April – put it in your diary – it'll be the best fun you'll have all Easter. Easter Bunny hunt, hot-cross buns, bouncing chicks, biscuit decorating – where else will you find all that?! Further information can be found on our new website: www.testonandwateringburynursery.co.uk – take a look, go on! Our latest 100 Club winner is Mrs Sarah Hudson from Wateringbury – congratulations!

**MAIDSTONE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA –
CONCERT IN MOTE HALL - SATURDAY 24 MARCH AT 19.30**

The fourth concert in the Society's 101 season they welcome the prizewinning young soloist Tamsin Waley-Cohen to play the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in this concert with a Spring theme. The programme comprises: Overture from Euryanthe – Carl Maria von Weber, On hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring - Frederick Delius, Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in E minor Op 64 - Felix Mendelssohn and Symphony No 1 in B flat, 'Spring' Op 38 - Robert Schumann Tickets £23, £19 and £10 students £5 under 18s Free from 01622 735830.

DID YOU KNOW? The entrance gates to Wateringbury Place in Canon Lane are reputed to be from the old London Bridge and were the original toll-gates.

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

During term 3 we have been celebrating Chinese New year – the children produced a lovely dragon collage, honing their sticking and cutting skills making Chinese lanterns. Snacks have included noodles and fortune cookies. With the cold weather we have been mainly using the outside area for physical play (no one wanted to stay still for long out there). Inside, the arrangement of the play room is still working well. The home corner accommodates several children, playing together or separately, all children seem confident to select what they want to play with and our reading area is usually a place for quietly enjoying a book.

On some Monday afternoons we have been lucky enough to join up with the Musical bumps sessions run by the children's centre toddler group in the village hall. It's lovely to see the confidence of the children joining in with a new activity. Our Wednesday afternoon fledglings are growing up fast – for these children who are due to join primary school in September, we offer a slightly more structured session, that builds up throughout the year (at their pace of course). After Easter, we will introduce PE sessions, where the children change into kits and do a variety of activities – skipping, football and dancing have been past favourites.

Finally, thanks to all the parents who have brought in WOW cards to share with us. We really value parent contributions to the children's folders, both the WOW cards and photos of special times, people and weekend activities – and they help to bridge the gap between home and setting for the children: so keep them coming! Phone 01622 813120 or email nettlesteadandwateringbury@yahoo.com

WI MEETINGS IN THE WATERINGBURY VILLAGE HALL

In February our speaker, Mr John Mills, gave us all an insight into the, sometimes horrifying, ways that the law dealt with those who broke it in the distant past. The interesting, and at times gruesome, talk certainly held our attention!

At our 8 March meeting we shall be holding the Hickman and Flower Cup competitions. These are always fun and give members a chance to demonstrate their artistic skills to each other. The speaker at our 12 April meeting will be Mr C.Spear, who will be giving a talk entitled 'Going to School in Japan'.

Visitors and new members are most welcome. Kathy Coates 01622 814618

WATERINGBURY BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Love is in the air at least it was the week of Valentine's Day at toddler group. The children had great fun making beautiful cards for their loved ones. Did you get one? Have I given the game away?! Bet you didn't know our little ones could be so creative. And so hungry! Our pancakes with yummy toppings on Shrove Tuesday week were greedily gobbled and moreishly munched; I'm not sure the Mummies got a look in! It's a good thing that we have lots more treats planned for the children to make for them to celebrate Mothering Sunday this month.

Don't forget to come along and see what we're up to for Easter too. I'll tell you all about it next month, but make sure you bring your Easter bonnets along on 28th and 30th March when we'll have our annual competition and Easter Bunny hunt where there are prizes for everyone. Hop to it now ... we'll see you there! 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. The children receive snacks and drinks half way through the session and there are free hot drinks for the adults. If you are interested please contact Linda on 01732 522437 or try our usual number - 07506 735137.

WATERINGBURY WEATHER JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012

January was a varied month with frost, sun and cold winds interspersed with some warmer periods; in other words a typical January. However the final figures for the month show that it was dryer and warmer than average. The lack of rain is a worry as the 36.8mm (1.45") was only just over half the long term average.

The first half of February brought us 13cm (5 1/4") of snow which was slow to clear. The lowest temperature I recorded was -5.4°C (22.3°F) although I know that in some parts of the village it got down to -10°C. We are still experiencing the edge of high pressure systems in the Atlantic South East of Cornwall and as these fight with lower pressure systems to the North we are still likely to have periods of both cold and warmer weather.

BARGAINS GALORE

in Teston Village Hall

TESTON CHURCH JUMBLE SALE

SATURDAY 3 MARCH 2.30PM

PLAYING FIELD REMEDIAL WORKS COMMENCE

Following the destruction and damage caused by the rabbits over the last couple of years, Watringbury Sports and Recreation Association have programmed the repairs to the main playing field to commence with scraping/levelling the area south of the cricket square on the 23 and 24 February 2012.

Once this work has been completed, 22 tonnes of top soil will be spread over this area on 3 March, with approximately 570 turves being laid the following week-end. All this work will be carried out by volunteers from the cricket club and WSRA. The area will be cordoned off with road pins and barrier tape. We have been able to commence this work due to the success of John Ibbs and Mike Wits in obtaining a "Community Enhancement Fund Grant" from TMBC of £2,500. Further works will be carried out during the year, funded by the Parish Council. If you have a wheel barrow and fancy spreading some top soil or laying some turves, you will be more than welcome. Please contact Mike Wits on 01622 812027.

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD – JANUARY 2012

Once again a huge thank you to the Watringbury Players for their annual pantomime. The script from Amy Johnson and Ben Bryant was both slick and funny and the overall performances seem to get better and better each year. I am not going to mention names as I would end up listing the whole cast, each one of whom gave a superb performance. Again the singing was excellent and I heard every word of the dialogue. But I must not forget the backstage artists without whom no show could go on. So thank you all and keep up the good work. Alastair Byron

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS - 3, 4 AND 5 JUNE

During the weekend it is hoped to have a small exhibition at the church of photos, memorabilia, anything of interest since 1952 of events in Watringbury, or of village shops, pubs, old school, etc. We would be very grateful to hear from anyone/organisations who would be willing to loan such items or if wished, could be photocopied. It would also be helpful if items/photos, were accompanied by your memories of the event. Your possessions will be treated with care and returned to you. If you can help or require more information please contact Ros 01622 813032.

FEBRUARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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

Cross Roads Signpost Agreement was made on a new top for the fingerpost at the crossroads and Heritage Fingerposts would be asked to proceed. KCC Councillor Richard Long had agreed to fund the cost from his Members Highway Fund

Playing Fields A request had been received from the owner of Station House to put 10yds of spoil from the garden along the fence in the playing fields. The Sports Association had been consulted. After discussion it was agreed not to accept the proposal as it was felt it would set a precedent.

Interment of Ashes It was agreed the width of cremated remains plots in the cemetery would be reduced from 2ft to 1ft 6ins.- costs would remain the same. The length of 4ft would remain until the present row is full and then this would be changed to 3ft .6ins

Crime report There had been an attempted burglary at a property in Tonbridge Road, a burglary at commercial premises in Danns Lane, theft of jewellery from a local dwelling, theft of copper piping (part of the lightening conductor) from the church, theft of hubcaps from a motor vehicle in Warden Mill Close and theft of number plates from a vehicle in Lodge Close. Criminal damage was reported to property in Canon Lane.

Planning The Parish Council had no objections, provided neighbouring property owners were happy, to the following planning application TM/11/03320/FL & TM/11/03321/LB Listed Building Application - Rear single storey and rear first floor extension Old Dukes Head, 262 Old Road

It was confirmed that Mrs Medhurst of Drayhorse Meadow had put in for an appeal against the High Court decision made on 8 December.

Jubilee Snowdrops the council were pleased to accept the offer from Rostrum, the village magazine, to plant 1000 snowdrops in the village to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Next Meetings of the Parish Council will be in the meeting room of the village hall at 7.30pm on Tuesdays 6 March and 3 April. The planning sub-committee will meet directly after the close of the main meetings. Members of the public are invited to attend the meetings as the council value comments from local residents.

FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT 27 FEBRUARY – 11 MARCH

The news that world food prices are rising is a concern for everyone. For those who live in a developing country, volatility around food prices and trade isn't just a concern; it can be the difference between surviving and flourishing, or even between life and death.



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We can all help to change the lives of millions of Fairtrade mark means farmers, workers and their families in developing countries by our choices when we shop. The enabling them to invest in projects to benefit their communities such as education, healthcare or environmental protection.

FAIRTRADE

families in developing countries get a better deal which can strengthen their businesses, enabling them to invest in projects to benefit their communities such as education, healthcare or environmental protection.

BENEFICE CELEBRATION SERVICE

On Sunday, January 29 there was a united benefice service at East Malling Church. The service marked the 10th anniversary of the creation of the benefice of East Malling, Teston and Wateringbury and the induction of its first vicar Rev Jim Brown. The service was taken by the Bishop of Tonbridge, Brian Castle, who is also celebrating his tenth anniversary as Bishop. At the close of the service Rev Jim presented Bishop Brian with a copy of a Taize icon as a token of appreciation for all his help to the benefice over the decade.

After the service the congregation were invited to the East Malling Institute for a bring and share finger buffet. Thanks to the generous response this turned out to be a finger feast. During the reception, on behalf of the benefice, Rev Alan Searle presented Rev Jim with gifts as a token of the thanks of all for his love and care over the past ten years. Mrs Jean Brown was presented with a basket of flowers and a glass table candelabra to thank her for her for all she has done in the benefice in support of her husband's work .

GUILD OF CHURCH FLOWER ARRANGERS

The next meeting of Guild will be on Monday 5 March at 7.45pm in St Nicholas Church, Poplar Grove, Allington ME16 0DE when Jill Griffin will demonstrate church flowers with the title New Ideas. All welcome, non members £3.50.

THOUGHTS FROM THE VICARAGE

2 The Grange, East Malling ME19 6AH

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

SECULARISATION

We tend to like to know what the "Definitive" is. We like clarity and clear understanding, whether it be about matters of science or matters of religion. In other words we like to know where we stand. These past few weeks have been interesting in the news with all sorts of fascinating news headlines, some throwing us in to particular uncertainties. Apart from feeling unsure about bank bonuses, about standing by to watch merciless bombing in Syria, football managers stealing the headlines for various reasons, even concerns about our beloved NHS, debates about Women Bishops and about services of blessing for civil partnerships. However, we were perhaps more surprised to learn that The National Secular Society had won a landmark ruling stating formal acts of prayers in Council Meetings were outlawed. This is seen by some as further marginalization of Christianity and an example of secularisation. It is at times like these that we become rather unsure about where we actually stand, our constant values are being attacked, and we should expect to hear the "Definitive" from the church and it's leaders.

This has all been compounded by the recent announcement from Professor Richard Dawkins, following a recent poll, that he found that "religion is largely irrelevant to those who still label themselves Christian." It is beginning to feel as if there is a campaign to rid Christianity as a public faith. The place of Christianity in our society appears to be under threat to secularisation. Fortunately, Christians are not in fact persecuted in this country. What they are is unfashionable, misunderstood and frequently laughed at. So how do we stop all this happening? How do we restore Christian values to our society and prevent further erosion of the definitives that we have always relied upon?

The way to respond is to offer a confident affirmation of faith. The society we are, the cultures we have created and those values we have treasured for centuries need to be respected. We defend all of this by sharing our experiences, our understanding and our belief in Jesus Christ with those who seem to oppose us. I refer to our Society and not just the Church. It is the responsibility of all Christians to proclaim our society as Christian, not to the exclusion of other faiths that we clearly respect. It means we believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the saviour of humankind. I believe that is the "Definitive" that we seek and if we are prepared to defend it then we will know exactly where we all stand and restore the general value of faith in our communities. Perhaps then we can carry on beginning our Council Meetings with prayers. So keep up your prayers because that is a good start!

Revd Jim Brown

LUNCHES FOR LENT

A warm welcome awaits you at the Church of St John the Baptist Tonbridge Road **on Wednesdays 29th February and the 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th March 12.30 - 2pm**. Why not pop in for a chat over soup and bread or cheese tomato and bread with tea coffee or squash. Cheese sandwiches and small cakes available for children. Everyone welcome, voluntary donations invited for local charities Cobtree Hall Playschool for special needs children, Leybourne Grange Riding School for the Disabled and Wateringbury Primary School for a shaded area in the infant playground. On the fifth Wednesday the Lent Lunch will take part in Bowl Over Poverty for Christian Aid. Transport available if needed, locally. Further information please contact 01622 813032.

FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY CHURCH

Extraordinary General Meeting of the Friends

There will be an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Friends of the Church of St John The Baptist, Wateringbury at 11 a.m. on 3rd March 2012 at the church, when a proposed new Constitution for The Friends will be considered and approved if thought fit, as well as the appointment of Trustees. We need to revise our Constitution to bring it into line with the requirements of the Charity Commission and HM Revenue and Customs. It is important that as many people attend so that they can have a say in this important matter. All Friends of 18 years of age and over are eligible to vote and should bring their membership card. Should you have any questions about the EGM, please contact the Secretary at the address below.

2012 Annual Membership Drive - 31st March - come along!

On Saturday 31st March, we are organising a short event to publicise and celebrate the work of the Friends and to ask people to become members, or if they are already members, to renew for 2012/13. Please come and join us for refreshments, friendship and music at 10am at the Church. In our first year, more than 100 Wateringbury households joined the Friends and we have raised more than £4,000 to provide funds for the church of St John the Baptist to maintain, repair and improve the building. Since our launch in March last year, we organised the successful Harvest Fayre at the village school in September, when more than 200 people enjoyed themselves at a traditional country fete.

Wanting to build on our success, we will be delivering leaflets around the village that morning to encourage more people to become a Friend. If you are willing to distribute a few leaflets, please get in touch with the Secretary so that we can allocate houses near you for you to deliver. Thank you. Frances English on 01622 812471 or at friends@fowc.org.uk

DIARY DATE CHURCHYARD ANNUAL PLANT SALE SATURDAY 5 MAY 10am-4pm

BENEFICE CHURCH SERVICES

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

Sunday 4 March 8am Holy Communion – Teston 9.45am Family Service – East Malling 9.45am Family Service – Teston 10am Morning Praise – Wateringbury	Sunday 11 March 8am Holy Communion – East Malling 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 10am Holy Communion - Wateringbury 6.30pm Evening Praise- Teston
Mothering Sunday 18 March 8am Holy Communion – Wateringbury 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 10 am Family Service – Wateringbury 3.30pm Mothering Sunday - Teston	Sunday 25 March Summer time begins 8am Holy Communion – East Malling 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 10am Holy Communion – Wateringbury 6.30pm Eucharist - 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	

Mothering Sunday - 18 March At the family service Rev Jim Brown will be giving thanks for Mothers and the Mother figures in our lives. Ladies in the congregation will receive a small posy beautifully made by Rosemary Skinner of Bijou Nurseries, and Hilary Cayzer.

Palm Sunday - 1 April we are hoping to have our annual parade leaving from the car park at 9.30am. A rescue donkey has come to live in the village and will either lead the parade or be at the church to greet us. At 10am Rev Alan Searle will lead a Family Communion Service.

Stainer's Crucifixion will be sung by members of the Benefice Choirs at 6pm in East Malling Church.

Holy Week – 2, 3 and 4 April

During Holy Week the Benefice are presenting "Before the Cock Crows" written by Dennis Rink. A drama concerning a dialogue with those characters surrounding Peter's Denial before the Crucifixion of Jesus. Monday in Teston, Tuesday in East Malling and Wednesday in Wateringbury. All at 8pm.

Good Friday – 6 April – 2-3pm At the Foot of the Cross led by Rev Alan Searle.

Sundays Cool will meet in the vestry at 10am during the Church Services on **Sundays 11 and 25 March**. All children welcome, those under 4 are asked to bring an adult along.

Quiet Hour Wednesday 7 March and 11 April – 8-9pm. Come and go as you please, time for quiet prayer and reflection or to light a votive candle.

Service of Healing and Wholeness. On **6 March** there will be a Taize service at 8pm in East Malling Church. Please note there will not be a service in April.