

VILLAGE DIARY

May

- 5 Elections
- 8 Footpath Group – Bluebell Walk, Village Hall 2.30 pm
- 10 Annual Parish Council Meeting 7.30 followed by Planning Committee meeting
- 12 W.I. 2. 30 Annual meeting and Resolutions
- 16 Sports and Recreation Association AGM – 8.pm – Pavilion at Main playing field
- 18 History Society – Wine & Cheese party – Village Hall
- 24 Annual Parish Meeting at Wateringbury School - 7.50
- 25 Informal Police Surgery – The Wateringbury Restaurant – noon – 1pm

June

- 7 Parish Council meeting 7.30 following by Planning Committee meeting
- 9 W.I. 2.30 I am a Tulip – What are you – Mrs. Jacqueline Aviolet

PUBS OF WATERINGBURY

The North Pole Hoorah this pub has recently been extended and is still open! At the top of Red Hill in an area originally known as The Heath the pub was built in 1826 by Richard Gibbon on land belonging to Matthias Prime Lucas of Wateringbury Place (The village still benefits from many of Prime Lucas' innovations; he built many of the ragstone walls in the village and the church vestry, beneath which is his family vault). Gibbon built a modern pub complex complete with the necessary stabling and coach-houses to attract the traveller. He purchased the freehold in November 1828 but sadly was unable to keep up the mortgage payments. In January 1836 the pub was sold to local brewer John Beale Jude and eventually through take-overs was owned by Whitbreads. From 1914 until the early 1920s the licensee was Fred Cronk who then purchased Cromar which is now run as a very successful plant nursery by his grandson Martin Cronk. The North Pole is now a freehouse owned and run by Lee and Zoe.

A date for your diary

**Tuesday 24 May at 7.30 in the School Hall
Annual Parish Council meeting**

This year the council have arranged for guests from the
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust
Graham Goddard will talk about the new Pembury Hospital

he will be accompanied by
Gillian Duffy, Operational Lead for Women and Children's Services

So come along to learn about the new hospital
and take the opportunity to ask questions

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Congratulations to **Matt and Lucie Barber** on the arrival of **Edward Craig Barber** at 9:01pm on 19 February weighing 7lb 6oz.

Well done to **Suzanne Price** who had 3 of her botanical paintings accepted for the Society of Botanical Artists recent exhibition at Westminster Central Hall in London.

ROSTRUM WELCOMES NEWS AND TRIBUTES - COPY DEADLINE 18TH OF MONTH

SPORTS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Their AGM will be held on Monday, 16th May, at 8.00 pm in the Pavilion down at the main playing field

WATERINGBURY CRICKET CLUB PRESENTS THE BIG SUMMER PARTY!!

Be part of the big Summer Party for the Village on Saturday 23rd July at the Village Hall, 7pm – 11pm.

Kick off the Summer Holidays with a big bash which includes local band

THE EXCUSE! There will be a licensed cash bar. A fantastic Fish and Chip supper is included in the ticket price.

Tickets are £20 per person and are already selling fast so don't delay, call Ian or Mel on 01732 874154 to reserve your place.

Conditions: Smart Dress, entrance with tickets only. No alcohol allowed into the event

THE FOOTPATH GROUP

On Sunday 8th May the 'Bluebell Walk' will take place, starting from Wateringbury Village Hall at 2.30 pm. sharp, a walk of about 3½ miles through local woodland.

At the present time there will be no walk in June but there will almost certainly be a walk in July and we will let you have the full details if you come along for the Bluebell Walk in May, or in the June Rostrum.

Anyone is welcome, we are a friendly unofficial group who just like to walk, we do not have anyone to lead walks regularly and would welcome volunteers willing to undertake this task for us occasionally. For more information please call 01622 812338.

HISTORY SOCIETY

Keith Ford came along in March to speak to us about the Battle of Agincourt, which of course has been well documented since it took place on 25th October 1415. Keith arrived dressed in the authentic costume of a common soldier and recounted his experiences of the battle as seen through his character's eyes, a soldier called Tom, who had been a mere lad of 12 when he had been recruited, along with his master who owned a wagon and horse, to convey supplies etc. to France.

Keith had brought along with him replica weapons, including a Long Bow, and showed us how they had been used. The English craftsmen who made the long bows from Yew, imported from Italy and Spain, were not allowed to work after sunset as good light was needed to ensure a perfect curve was achieved in the bow, and suffered severe punishment if discovered disobeying this law.

Following several weeks of marching the army arrived at the battle field suffering from the fluxes, fatigue and starvation. Through Tom we learned how the English battle line had been prepared using a fence of pike stakes behind which were the long bow archers and finally the army on horseback.

Due to the fact that the battle field had recently been ploughed and it had been raining heavily the French army struggled to gain access to the English, their armour was exceedingly heavy and their horses were unable to move on the very wet soil. The English, with their extremely efficient archers were able to bring down the initial French advance, and then move forward with maces and swords, and their armoured men on horseback.

Following their victory the English returned home. According to Tom each man had to make his own way back as best he could as no provision either in the form of money or food was made. Their arrival, as had been their departure, announced by the beating of a drum and the playing of a whistle.

WATERINGBURY REMEMBERED – A look back at the village.

If you are interested in how the village and its people looked in years gone by take a look at the website 'Wateringbury Remembered' .Started in 2008 it now has over 8000 unique visitors from all around the world, most of whom have a link with Wateringbury and its people.

School photos taken between 1919 and 1964 seem to be of great interest. Is yours there?

If you have memories you would like to share or would just like to look at the collection, take a look on line at www.wateringbury.blogspot.com

WATERINGBURY CRICKET CLUB – THANK YOU

The Club took part in the " Nat West Cricket Force" nationwide exercise on the 9 April 2011.

They combined their efforts with those of the Wateringbury Sports and Recreation Association's to complete projects to enhance the appearance and facilities at the main sports field.

Spring/Summer fertiliser was spread over the whole of the playing field (approx.14,000 sq.metres.), the pavilion and storage sheds were painted externally, and the ladies/disabled toilet in the pavilion was decorated. **THANK YOU** to members of the Cricket Club and Wateringbury 2003 Football Club for carrying out this work.

Whilst the Cricket Club worked on the cricket square and had a major spring clean of their storage cabin, local residents took part in a " Bash the Trash " exercise organized through Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, picking up litter over the whole area. **THANK YOU** for your efforts.

The refurbishment of the commemorative benches was undertaken by Joanna Fyson and Tudor Price, (Cubs and Beaver Group Leaders respectively). **THANK YOU** for your efforts.

THANK YOU to Pat Jolly for being our "Photographer" for the day, and to Raine and Abbi for providing the troops with copious amounts of tea, coffee and biscuits.

Everyone who took part on the day enjoyed the excellent weather, worked hard, had fun and agreed unanimously that the facilities we have in Wateringbury are excellent and in a great location. We must all ensure that they are maintained in a safe and excellent condition for the enjoyment of the whole Community.

Special **THANKS** are due to the following companies who gave their support in various ways:-

Wildwood Tree Care (for pruning the trees during February)

Strata Maintenance Ltd (Aylesford)

C. Brewer and Sons Ltd (Maidstone)

Collier Turf Care Ltd (Norfolk)

Mike Witts

WATERINGBURY BABY & TODDLER GROUP

What a wonderful parade of beautifully crafted Easter bonnets! To celebrate Easter, our sessions during our last week of the term included prizes for the best Easter bonnet (the competition was extremely tough this year so well done to our winners Jacob and Daniel) and an Easter egg hunt where everyone won a prize. We all had a fabulous time colouring Easter pictures and the children enjoyed all the Easter eggs they took away. I'm not sure all the eggs made their way back home before being munched!

Next term is looking as exciting as ever with the Royal wedding to look forward to. We'll be making flags to wave for this very special occasion!

If there are any parents/guardians wishing to join our friendly group, our sessions are held on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10am to 12 noon at the Wateringbury Village Hall. There is a small charge of £2 for the first child and £1 each for subsequent children over 12 months old. Adults continue to be free. We also hire out our tables/chairs and toys for birthday parties etc in the hall. If you are interested please contact Tina on 07956 004363. **THE COMMITTEE**

WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At our last meeting, "More Fun with Maths" by Mr Norman Evans not only put our brains to the test, but also left members with a maths test to solve by the time of our next meeting!

Two members from our branch attended the West Kent Federation Annual Council Meeting at the Assembly Rooms in Tunbridge Wells, which they found very interesting. The main speaker was Lady Antonia Fraser DBE, who talked about her life with the playwright Harold Pinter.

Our meeting in May will include Resolutions and voting for Committee Members.

In June we will have a talk entitled "I am a Tulip - What are you?" by Mrs Jacqueline Aviolet. That sounds fascinating.

Our Bluebell Walk is on 26th April, meeting at the Wateringbury Village Hall car park at 10.00. Kathy Coates 01622 814628

TESTON & WATERINGBURY NURSERY GROUP (Registered charity 1044257)

www.testonandwateringburynursery.co.uk

Admissions and all enquiries: Amanda Vidler 07805 796353

We started April with our Mothering Sunday flower arranging activity, which was a great success. It was good to see so many mums happily (???) allowing their children the freedom of arranging the flowers themselves, with little intervention. What talented children and what beautiful displays. The children also made baskets of sweets, as if the flowers weren't enough— we are very lucky mummies. Our Easter Fun Day was...just that! With the threat of rain ever present, we were unsure whether we'd survive the

morning without a downpour, but luck was on our side and we all had a tremendous time. The children spent their pocket money on an Easter bunny hunt, a soft toy and Easter egg tombola, 'bouncing chicks and bunnies' and a toy jumble, whilst mums, dads and grandparents spent theirs on our best-ever cake stall and tea with hot-cross buns; everybody left smiling and we feel we spread a little happiness that day! We managed to raise a lot of funds for the Nursery so a HUGE thank you to the committee for their organisation and running the stalls, but especially to all those that donated cakes, toys, clothes and their time – we are extremely grateful.

With the Royal wedding just behind us, we'll be celebrating all that is London in the new term by building Big Ben out of boxes and riding on pretend London buses...tickets please!

We have a few places available for September, so why not give us a call?

TESTON CLUB www.testonclub.co.uk

We are a small, friendly, social club set in the heart of Teston. Apart from great beer and good company, we have a comfortable lounge with large screen TV showing Sky Sports and a soon to be refurbished games room with a full-size snooker table and darts board. There are various clubs going on within the Club – Wednesday Afternoon Club, Bridge and a Book Club to name just a few. Also, there are trips out to the races at Lingfield and Sandown.

Over the next few months our entertainments are

Sat 7th May – Race Night – 8pm

Sat 18th June – Club Open Day, 1 - 5pm

Sat 25th June – 60s Dance Night with live music - 8pm

Sat 23rd July – BBQ – 12.30pm

If you would like to join Teston Club, please call in and ask the bar staff for an application form Residents and non-residents of Teston are welcome

Christian Aid Cream Teas Sunday 15 May 3-5.30pm

A chance to walk in the Good Garden Guide Garden
Jonjo the Clown will entertain children of all ages at 3.30pm

Raffle and end of day cake sale

Suggested donation for Tea £4

A chance to enjoy a delightful local afternoon out
while helping the world's poor to help themselves

Enquiries 01622 871945

BECKY NIXON, COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT WORKER from Hadlow & East Peckham Children's Centre is starting a Parent and Toddler/Baby Group in Nettlestead Village Hall to run weekly from Monday 4th April 12:30-3:30pm. It will start as quite a flexible session with toys and activities for parents and their children to get involved with but as the group grows more popular it is intended to incorporate parenting courses, a first aid class, baby massage etc.

It's completely free (the only time there may be a small charge is if we have an external company running a session such as Baby Sing and Sign and we would ask for a contribution to the fee) and we'll have qualified creche workers on hand every session to help out.

01732 359947. Becky.Nixon@kent.gov.uk

WATERINGBURY WEATHER WATCH

March was the driest month I have recorded over the last 20 years with rainfall of only 11.43mm (0.45"). This compares with an average of 42.33mm (1.67"). The next lowest in my records for March is 14mm in 1997.

The majority of the days were cloudy, dull and misty which kept the temperatures just above the average although slightly down on those recorded in 2007.

In contrast the first half of April brought us glorious, almost unbroken sunshine during the day with not rain at all. I hope this does not keep up for too long or we will be in for a summer of water shortages.

Let's hope for dry sunny days with rain at night. We deserve it after the tough weather we experienced during the last two months of last year. WWW

FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL (FOWPS)
Registered charity 1038836

We had a fabulous fun finish to Term 4 in which we raised £1,300 towards our playground equipment project through two school discos, a quiz night and a Mother's Day Shop. A big thank you to Bijou Nurseries for supporting the latter and to all the parents for their ongoing support and enthusiasm. The children have also started to make use of the wildlife area we transformed during a volunteer Operation Ground Force weekend.

We started the new term with a red, white and blue dressing up day and cake sale to mark the Royal Wedding.

Plans are also taking shape for our Summer Fête on Saturday 18 June (12 noon to 3pm). The event will have a Seaside theme and we would like to invite everyone – not just schoolchildren and their parents – to come along and join in the fun. **We are in urgent need of a donkey or donkeys suitable for giving donkey rides at the event.** If anyone can help us with this or would like to sponsor a stall, please phone Gail Isted as soon as possible on 01622 813716 or e-mail chairman@fowps.org.uk.

A big thank you to ARP Electricals (qualified electrician, tel 07985 297 207) for sponsoring our Summer Grand Draw tickets. More details of all our activities can be found on our new website at www.fowps.org.uk

The next Friends' Committee meeting takes place on Thursday 12 May at 7.30pm (Wateringbury Hotel) when we'll be finalising plans for the Summer Fête. Gail Isted Chairman Tel 01622 813716

HISTORY SOCIETY – Wine and Cheese

The venue for the History Society's annual Cheese and Wine Evening has been changed from the Blackthorn Trust Garden Room to Wateringbury Village Hall. A member of the Trust will come along to give us a talk about work of the Trust. The date remains the same, Wednesday 18th May, to commence at 7.30 pm. The price of a ticket is £6 and can be purchased by calling 814974 or 817833

NETTLESTEAD AND WATERINGBURY PRE-SCHOOL AND OUT OF SCHOOL CLUBS (Charity No.1062792)

Everyone at the Pre-school and out of school clubs hopes you have had a lovely Easter and enjoyed the Royal Wedding.

Our flowers are looking beautiful and we have been watching our tadpoles mature. Everyday something has changed either in the garden or in the tank; these are brilliant experiences for our children. We have a family of finches nesting in our eaves and it is lovely to sit and watch them go in and out with twigs and bits of grass making their nest. It is not unusual to see 3 or 4 chairs pulled up and very quiet children sitting on their chairs watching the birds going about their business.

The visit from the Discovery Bus was a great success and in more ways than one. Firstly, the children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the interior and making their own badges. The second 'discovery' was that we can get a bus/coach in and out of the car park and all the way around the village hall without any problems – well done Ralph.

It was with baited breath we watched the weather forecast for our trip to the allotment – need not have worried it was a lovely sunny day, the hottest of the year up until that point. The children packed their bags and walked all the way from the Pre-school to the Old Road allotments, they even drew a map before they left so they wouldn't get lost! For those that were spending the whole day at pre-school they also walked all the way back again – the afternoon was very peaceful!

FINALLY ON SATURDAY 14 MAY AT 2PM WE ARE HOLDING A JUMBLE SALE, BE THERE OR BE SQUARE! If you have any donations you would like collected please call on 01622 813120

Feel free to come and visit at anytime OR you can ring for more information on 01622 813120 or 07908 612887. Visit our website at www.wateringburyandnettlesteadpreschool.org.uk OR email us at

nettlesteadandwateringbury@yahoo.com We also offer Breakfast Clubs, Walking Bus and After School Clubs

GRAVESHAM CHORAL SOCIETY AND ORCHESTRA

Present Verdi's Requiem Rochester Cathedral
Saturday 7 May 2011 at 7.30pm

Tickets £15 (fulltime students £5) available by phoning 01474 816684, from members of Gravesham Choral Society, or on the door. For more information visit www.graveshamcs.co.uk

HISTORY SOCIETY – Annual outing to Westenhanger Castle

This year we have arranged a Visit to Westenhanger Castle. The date will be 19th July, rather than 20th July as shown in the programme. As usual, excellent value, the price of £21 will include coach, with a tip to the driver, coffee on arrival, and a three hour conducted tour of the Castle. It will include inside the house, and will cover the following general topics – The development of Westenhanger 1300 to 1750, Historical facts relating to the site, The phased Restoration work since 1996, Previous owners of Westenhanger and Restoration and consolidation techniques. Non members will be very welcome. Lunch can also be obtained at extremely reasonable prices, no need to pre-book, and there is picnic space also available. Ring Janet on 814974 or 817833

BAG IT AND FLAG IT!

A "Bag it and Flag it day" was held in the village on Thursday 31st March.

Many complaints had been received from residents in recent months about the problem of dog fouling on our pavements and playing fields. Dog faeces are a health hazard, particularly to young children.

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council's Dog Warden, their Environmental Officer, Borough Councillor Frances English, PCSO Dave Gilham and myself walked around the village for approximately 2 hours and an astounding 54 bags of dog waste was picked up in bright yellow bags!

Some of these bags were left on the verges to highlight problem areas in the village. The most affected areas were the path from Allington Gardens to the Glebe Meadow playing field, Glebe Meadow and Bow Road.

If anyone witnesses a dog fouling and the owner not picking up they should report it to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Dog Warden on 01732 876181 or dog.warden@tmbc.gov.uk Maureen Allen
Chair of Wateringbury Parish Council

Maidstone Mencap

Plant & Book Sale

Sat 21 May 2011 Doors Open: 2.30pm

Cobtree Hall, Mote Park School Lane off Willington St entrance

Contact: Margaret Leeds 07903 196333

APRIL 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 or e-mail Alternatively come along to the planning subcommittee meeting which is held directly after the monthly parish council meeting in the village hall on the first Tuesday of each month..

At the start of the meeting the chairman reported, with much sadness, the death of **Councillor Mo Neate**. She had served on the council since 2004 and her contribution to village life will be greatly missed. Councillors agreed to make a donation to the family's chosen charity, MacMillan Nurses, in her memory.

Internet Banking - Councillors agreed that Michael Cayzer and Richard Tripp should sign on behalf of the council when Internet banking was used.

It was agreed to rent a black and white copier for council use.

Allotments – the rents for this year were due on 1 April, five plot holders had not paid. It was agreed that the clerk should write to each one giving them until Friday 15 April to pay. There were 5 people on the waiting list and if rents were not paid by this date the plots will be offered to those on the waiting list.

Playing Fields

The problems of the rabbits at the playing fields was discussed at some length and the possible remedies which could be taken. Borough Councillor Frances English offered to ask T & M Borough Council's pest control officers for advice. Rate relief had been applied for the pavilion as the zero rating system ceased in March. The insurance claim with Zurich for the damage to the pavilion was still outstanding. Councillors agreed to a tree being planted at the fields in memory of Mr Farrell.

Parish Partnership Panel Councillor Talbert attended a recent meeting and drew the council's attention to the following:

Kent Police were reducing its workforce by 500 police officers and 1000 civilian staff. Areas were being reorganised and for the first time Watlingbury would be in the same area as Maidstone.

Queen Elizabeth 2 Fields challenge. The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge, headed by its Patron Prince William, is a programme to protect 2012 outdoor recreational spaces in communities all across the country as a permanent living legacy of the Queen's diamond jubilee and the London Olympics. There is a website qe2fields.com giving full details. Councillors agreed to look into the scheme in relation to open spaces in the village

Borough Councillor Frances English reported on matters of local interest:

Report continued over page / . . .

APRIL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING CONCLUDED

Bag & Flag Scheme - The scheme is run to alert local communities to the problem of dog mess. On 1 April Frances, Maureen Allen, chair of the parish council, the Borough Dog Warden and the Environmental Health Officer spent some time in the village bagging up and then flagging the positions of the excrement found. Every road visited had dog mess. 59 separate instances were flagged and this did not include mess which could not be bagged as it was flattened into the pavement. Frances was quite shocked at the extent of the problem and hoped that all dog owners would act more responsibly and pick up after their animals. It would be helpful if residents reported owners who failed to do so to the dog warden.

As yet there was no date for the Drayhorse Meadow appeal to be heard.

There was to be a public meeting at East Malling Research station on 14 April to hear opinions on the planning application for poly tunnels by Hugh Lowe Farms.

Frances finally reported that she would not be standing for re-election at the elections on 5 May.

At the public open forum the following points were made:

The secretary of the Friends of Watlingbury Church thanked the council and the general public for their support of the Friends at its recent launch.

Councillors were thanked for their hard work for the village over the past term of office.

Borough Councillor Frances English was also thanked for her hard work and dedication over the past 4 years.

Planning The following planning applications were discussed:

Listed building application for roof light and internal alterations to loft area at Unit K Red Hill Farm – no objection

Rebalancing of crown of Cork Oak Tree and reduction in height of 4 evergreen trees within boundary hedge at White Cottage, Tonbridge Road – decision left to Tree Officer

Formation of five grass pitches, changing facilities, car parking and access plus artificial grass pitch with associated lighting and fencing at land at Heath Farm, north of Teston Road, Watlingbury. No objections provided no access of any kind into Watlingbury, access should be via Kings Hill to comply with guarantees previously given to the council re Kings Hill related developments.

Due to the elections on Thursday 5 May the parish council meeting for May will be a week later than usual and will be on Tuesday 10 May at 7.30pm in the village hall when the new council will meet for the first time. (As there were less than 9 nomination papers submitted there will not be an election for the parish council).

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings.

FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY CHURCH

www.fowc.org.uk

The Chairman and Committee of Friends of Watlingbury Church (FOWC) would like to thank all members of our community who have worked so hard to deliver such a magnificent launch of the Friends on 26th March 2011 in St John the Baptist Church, Watlingbury.

The Launch was supported by the Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling, Cllr Mrs Sue Murray, the Bishop of Rochester, The Right Revd James Langstaff, Kent County Councillor, Cllr Richard Long, Borough Councillor for the Ward of Watlingbury, Cllr Mrs Frances English, Parish Chairman, Cllr Mrs Maureen

Allen, Rural Dean, Reverend Jim Brown (also President of FOWC), and approximately 100 local people.

Just after 10am the Friends was launched with the Mayor pressing the 'go' button on the website www.fowc.org.uk and the Bishop setting off a peal of celebratory bells. During the launch speeches, a commissioned painting by Elizabeth Harbour (resident of the village) was presented to the President, signed by all of those who had helped to bring the Friends into being. This was followed by a distribution of Chairman's letter and flyer to all households in Wateringbury.

Since launching the Friends has received donations of over £1400, which is a fantastic start to this new and important village project. **A very big thank you to all those who have contributed so generously to this small charity so far.** Please help us to raise funds for the repair and structural needs of our church and churchyard and in doing so support the work of the Church of England in our community. Further donations continue to be extremely welcome! **To become a Friend go to www.fowc.org.uk** Any queries please contact the Secretary on (01622) 812471

BENEFICE MOTHERS' UNION

The next two meetings of the group will be on Thursday 5 May when a visit to the Blackthorne Trust has been organised and on Thursday 2 June when Dawn Page will give a talk on The Slave Trade at 1pm in Wateringbury church. All welcome.

FUN WITH FAITH

The club for primary school-aged children meets on Saturday 21 May in the village hall between 11.30am – 1.30pm. The cost is £2 per child and includes lunch. For further details please phone 817098.

THOUGHTS FROM THE VICARAGE

2 The Grange, East Malling ME19 6AH

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

It seems, this year, like Easter is taking a backseat to the Royal Wedding which takes place a few days after Easter Sunday. By the time you read this article you would have witnessed, I'm sure, an amazing spectacle of Pomp, Ceremony and Intimacy as the couple make their vows to one another before God at Westminster Abbey. It seems, quite rightly, to have captured the Nation's interest, and well beyond, as Millions will be watching the televised event worldwide. I am delighted for them both and, along with you all, I wish them much happiness and much of God's blessings for the future.

Whilst, over the past few decades, we have witnessed a number of Royal Weddings this is quite special because it is likely that they shall, at some point in the future, succeed to the throne and become our King and Queen. So this is an important moment of history in the making, and I am sure you didn't miss it.

For me personally I shall be interested in a number of different perspectives associated with this particular occasion. I will watch the service and follow it all with interest thinking through the liturgy and how it has been compiled and celebrated (hope to gain a few ideas as well!). I shall also be thinking about the role of the family's involved. The Windsors, The Spencers and the Middletons. The family is a very important dimension of marriage. It is true that our Royals will be very well looked after throughout their officially led lives but I am sure, however, they will be grateful for the role that their families will be playing in their future (who can ever forget the forthright words delivered by William's uncle, Charles Spencer, at his mothers funeral). Some years ago, following Diana's death, I spent some time at Althrop with Charles Spencer and became acutely aware of how important their family roots and commitments are. In my view, William and Kate are not privileged because they are Royals but because they have families who love them!

This is all happening when the Church of England is promoting marriage up and down the country. We have been attending Wedding Fairs, producing impressive material and advertising the benefits of a church wedding through various media. It could be that the experience of watching such an occasion on the television will lead people into thinking more seriously about the values of such a commitment in their lives too and feel that they would wish to make a similar commitment before God, surrounded by their families. I do hope so.

And so I am sure that the magnificence of 29th April 2011 will go down in history as a wonderful occasion when our future King and Queen were joined together in Holy Matrimony. But more fundamentally their wedding will be magnificent because they will be joined together by God through that special liturgy of the marriage service and also surrounded by the love of their families. That is what is so special and that is the same for everyone who embarks upon their married life. We, as a church and as a nation, pray for William and Kate and look forward to the future with much anticipation and excitement but we also pray for all who are about to embark upon an equally important event in their lives too. May God bless them all!

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 15-21 MAY

Working with the world's poorest communities, Christian Aid invests in things that multiply and provide benefits for years to come – helping people to improve their own lives, whatever their race or religion. £3 could pay for a mosquito net to protect families from malaria, which kills one child every 45 seconds in Africa.

£12 could pay for an emergency radio, saving the lives of whole communities by letting them know when storms are coming.

£30 could provide 1,000 tree saplings in Kenya, turning parched earth into fertile land.

Please give as much as you can this Christian Aid Week to the village house to house collection. If you would like to help please ring Gillian Sessions on 01622 813076.

SUMMER FILM NIGHTS

This summer, in place of the talks which have been organised over past years, we shall be viewing 3 very different films, but all based on our faith as Christians, enabling us to reflect on the many ways in which we can serve, including laughter and pain! So put the dates in your diaries **Thursdays 23 June, 7 and 21 July** all at 7.30pm in East Malling Church. Watch out for more details in June's Rostrum.

**Patronal Celebration at the Church of St John the Baptist
on Saturday 25th June 10.30 am - 5 pm and
Sunday 26th June 2pm - 5 pm**

Floral Displays and an opportunity to dedicate a rose/flower
in memory of a loved one. Vases and dedication cards will be provided.

Refreshments, Cream Teas, Home Made Cakes

Further information 01622 813032.

You are invited to

MUSIC FOR A SPRING EVENING

**A CONCERT BY KENT CHAMBER CHOIR – conductor Alan Vincent
on SATURDAY 21 MAY at 7.30pm in Wateringbury Church**

Tickets £10 (£5 for children and students)
available from The Post Office or 01622 813032
to include programme and interval nibbles.
Wine not included but available for a donation.

The choir is well-known for its fine performances
and will sing music to please all tastes.

They will be joined by gifted young tenor soloist William Morgan
and organist Geoffrey Lester.

BENEFICE CHURCH SERVICES – MAY 2011

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

Sunday 1 May 8am Holy Communion – Teston 9.45am Family Service – East Malling 9.45am Family Service - Teston 10am Mattins – Wateringbury	Sunday 8 May 8am Holy Communion – East Malling 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 10am Holy Communion - Wateringbury 6.30pm Evensong - Teston
Sunday 15 May 8am Holy Communion – Wateringbury 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 10 am Family Service – Wateringbury 6.30pm Eucharist - Teston	Sunday 22 May 8am Holy Communion – East Malling 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 10am Holy Communion – Wateringbury 6.30pm Holy Communion - Teston
Sunday 29 May – 10am - Benefice Eucharist – East Malling	
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 – Diary Dates

29 May – Benefice Service at 10am in East Malling so no service in Wateringbury on that day. If you would like a lift please phone 812148

26 June - Patronal Festival

3 July - at 10am A special service to mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible

Quiet Hour – the monthly opportunity to spend time in quiet prayer and meditation or light a votive candle will be between 8-9pm on **Wednesdays 11 May and 8 June.**

Service of Healing and Wholeness. The next services will be at 8pm on

Tuesday 3 May in Wateringbury for a Communion and **Tuesday 7 June** for a Meditation Service in East Malling.

SUNDAYS COOL

Meets in the Church Vestry during the morning service at 10am on Sundays **8 and 22 May.** All children welcome, under 4s should bring an adult along.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

21 March Sophie Grace Trowell
 Noah Walter Gabriel Glasscote

