

ROSTRUM APRIL 2012

VILLAGE DIARY

April

1st FOOTPATH WALK Meet V.H. car park 2.30 pm sharp

3rd PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7.30 pm followed immediately by meeting of Planning Committee – Village Hall

12th W.I. 2.30 pm Village Hall

18th HISTORY SOCIETY – Bronwen Sadler – The Great Flood of 1953 – Village Hall 7.40

28th THE AMAZING QUILTER – 2.pm Village Hall

May

1st ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL meeting followed immediately by meeting of Planning Committee – 7.30 pm

6th ANNUAL BLUEBELL WALK – Meet V.H. car park 2.30 pm

10th W.I. Annual meeting with Resolutions and Silent Auction – members only

16th COMMUNITY RAIL IN THE MEDWAY VALLEY – presentation by Mr. Ian Paterson – 7.30 pm upstairs room in Village Hall

16th HISTORY SOCIETY – Annual Outing to Chapel Down Winery and Guided tour of Tenterden – cost £21

June Parish Council will take place on 6th June – change of date due to Diamond Jubilee Bank Holiday on 5th followed by meeting of Planning Committee

THE YALDING AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION proudly announces its first annual Honey Bee Fayre and Auction – due to be held on Sunday 13th May 2012, in Yalding, Kent. An auction has been held on the site in Yalding for beekeepers for many years, but this is the first year we are extending the invitation to families, and anyone else who would like to come along and learn more about these fascinating insects!

There will be live bee demonstrations, where we open up real hives to show you their inner workings, an observation hive where you can meet the queen up-close-and-personal! We'll have lots of interesting information around too – we guarantee you'll leave having learnt something! There will be food and drink available throughout the day, a barbeque, ice cream van, face painting, a raffle. Come and make your very own solitary bee house, or take home a great book all about bees – books available to suit all ages! Lots of stalls too!

Come along and visit us! Sunday 13th May 2012 – 10am to 4:30pm – Riverdale Field, Yalding, Kent, ME18 6ES. Entry is completely free to anyone and everyone!

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Wedding Congratulations to Adam Williams (Tonbridge Road) and Dr Fiona Gutiez Cochrane who married on 3 March at High Rocks -Tunbridge Wells. The happy couple live in Balham and work in London. They honeymooned in New York.

Birthday congratulations to William English who will be celebrating his half century on 5 April.

From the family of Margaret Anne Marfell (nee Cronk) 1939 – 2012.

It is with great sadness that we announce that Maggie, lately of Hop Garden Farm Teston has died aged 73. Maggie passed away suddenly at home in East Farleigh on 9th March. Many local people and friends supported her during her quest to keep “The Farm” going, but she unfortunately lost her fight to stay at the property. She was nonetheless very grateful for the help and kind words from many in the villages and Wateringbury and Teston.

Edwin Boorman 3 November 1935 to 14 March 2012. Many residents will be sorry to learn of the death of Edwin who lived with his family for many years at Red Hill Farm. He was Kent Messenger Group President and worked tirelessly for many Kent charities and causes. In 1997-8 he was High Sheriff of Kent. The Queen honoured him with an OBE for his long service to the Royal British Legion.

LIFEBOATS

The House to House collection in Wateringbury during February 2012 raised a wonderful total of £317.02. (There are no branch expenses) Very many thanks to all our collectors and those who gave so generously.

The money raised will go direct to RNLI To Help Save Lives At Sea
E J Corfe Chairman, West Malling Branch

LONDON MARATHON

Kate Cronk is running in this year’s London Marathon to help raise funds for the Neuro Foundation. This charity helps those affected by neurofibromatosis. She is looking for sponsors and would be grateful if you feel you can help. Donations can be made via Virgin money giving.

News next month on how Kate get

**STEP BACK IN TIME EASTER 1892
FROM THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF MAY 1892**

The Easter of this year will long be remembered for the heavy fall of snow on Easter Eve, April 16th. In many places the snow lay 12 to 14 inches deep in the roads and made them impassable, causing a great disappointment to many who were not able to get to their Parish Church for their Easter Communion or Evening Service. It also prevented the Church being as fully decorated as usual with wild flowers. Notwithstanding there were sufficient flowers kindly sent by friends, especially Arum

Lilies, to make the Church look bright for the great Festival, and the services were well attended.

On Easter Monday the *Boys' Brigade* met for a Company Drill in the grounds of Wateringbury Place to which they were kindly invited by Col. and Mrs. Davies. After Drill the Company were entertained to a sumptuous Tea in the House, and were allowed to roam over the grounds and play games till dusk. The chief game was the un-Easter-like one of a snowballing match. A quantity of the parents and school children accompanied the lads to the grounds, and a very happy afternoon was spent, everybody being made heartily welcome by Col. and Mrs. Davies.

DIAMOND JUBILEE SNOWDROPS

In early March, thanks to the generosity of snowdrop supplier Sir John Wells of Mereworth, about 1250+ single and double snowdrops, instead of the ordered 1000, were planted around the village to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. They were planted on the Tonbridge Road at the entrance to the cemetery car park, the green at the junction with Canon Lane, the green close to the Festival Gardens by the traffic lights, and on both sides of the road at intervals to the village boundary close to The Orpines. In Bow Road they were planted at the entrance to the car park, the green by The Wardens track and in Phoenix Drive on the bank close to the side entrance to the school. The last planting area was in the vicinity of the Mill Pond at the end of Mill Lane. Thanks to the volunteers who helped with the planting. The bulbs will probably take a year or two to fully establish themselves but hopefully they will remind us all of the service and dedication of Queen Elizabeth II. They flower in the earliest part of the year when often life is a bit gloomy, they are often crushed by ice and snow, yet miraculously when the snow melts they are still there, their dainty flowers still bringing us joy. Unexpected harshness has not broken them.

THE AMAZING QUILTER Saturday 28th April 2pm

Wateringbury Millennium Village Hall

Tickets £2 including refreshments

To book your tickets please contact:

Barbara Cordrey 01622 813738 or email bcordrey44@hotmail.com

WATERINGBURY FLOWER CLUB Guest Demonstrator - Angela Hyde - The Planets

We welcomed Angie to our club, Angie from the Sussex area has been an area demonstrator since 2008, fairly new in flower arranging circles. Angie entranced us with her interpretation of the Planets - reds and orange for Mars, blue and green for Earth and gold etc for Saturn, little Venus was a charm with large pink phalanopsis orchids draped in the design. A very clever interpretation on a theme. Angela is also Area Secretary for Sussex and a much involved arranger for her local Church with first cutting dibs on the Vicars Garden! I think everyone enjoyed her witty banter and although our heating had packed up in the hall, everyone stuck around for 6 lucky winners who each took one of her designs home for £1 raffle ticket, bargain!

Next month our meeting is on the 19th April and is Trisha Bashford an excellent demonstrator with her title Floral Fantasies - it is also our first Club competition of 2012, so I look forward to a big turnout entries. We welcomed 3 new members to our club last night, and look forward to welcoming many more, we are a friendly club,

always have a well stocked plant stall, and sundries stall and lots of good tea/coffee and biccies. Jean Schofield Chairman WFC

**FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL (FOWPS)
(Registered charity 1038836)**

At the time of going to print we were looking forward to our next school discos on the last day of term, Friday 30 March. Thank you to Lee Harman at Sounds Alive Disco (Tel 07788 447 7391) for being our DJ.

We hope as many parents as possible will join us for our second Operation Ground Force event on Saturday 21 April (from 9am onwards) when we'll be tidying up some areas at school including the wildlife area and shed storage area. This event was a great success last year and really brought the school community together.

One of our dads, Ciron Phillips, is taking part in the Elveden Tear Jerker Triathlon in Norfolk on 27 May to raise money for FOWPS. It's called 'Tear Jerker' as Elveden is a major onion growing area. If you'd like to sponsor Ciron please email ciron.phillips@astrazeneca.com. The triathlon comprises a 750m open water swim, 25km cross-country cycle and a 5km run.

We are hoping to find a local company to sponsor our Summer Grand Draw in return for the company name on each ticket. Sponsorship of £75 covers our printing costs. Email Gail Isted for more details - chairman@fowps.org.uk

Our Olympic-themed Summer Fete will take place on Saturday 14 July. If any local organisations would like to book a pitch at the event, please contact us as soon as possible. Gail Isted FOWPS Chairman

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

Wow, what an exciting month it's been! We're receiving a cheque for £295 from the Waitrose Community Matters Scheme - thank you to everybody who voted for us, your support is greatly appreciated. The Discovery Bus paid a visit, much to the children's delight, & as always was just the best fun you can have as a 3 or 4 year old (even a 34 year old...yes, we spotted the staff there!). Pancakes were made, flipped, & slathered in, well, anything that was slatherable, frankly & the woolly sheep that the children made were so life-like, we called Little Bo Peep. Our Mother's day activity saw a record number of mums decorating fabric bags with their little ones (I think it was the promise of biscuits that swayed it...) - all I can say is, move over Cath Kidston! Outside, a brand new green house has been built, adding more excitement to our garden, which will soon be filled with beautiful...plants, I suppose. Lastly, with Easter fast-approaching, the children have put on their best smiles to be photographed for cards & are already counting the days 'til our Easter Fun Day arrives (you have too? That's sweet!). It's Weds 4th April 10-12.30, with a Bunny Hunt, refreshments & Hot Cross buns, biscuit decorating &...wait for it...a Cuddle Corner with REAL bunnies – it's almost too much fun for one day & it's FREE entry

Mr Gordon Diment from Watringbury is our latest 100 Club winner – congratulations.

WATERINGBURY BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Our children have their hats on ... hip hip hip hooray! What a wonderful array of Easter bonnets we had at our special Easter Eggstravaganza! A big well done to everyone who took part and those that made the marvellous bunny masks, Easter cards and Easter baskets on the weeks running up to our parties (just right for putting in all the eggs found from our Easter bunny hunt!). What a fabulous finish to a very busy term.

We start back again on 18th April for more painting, gluing and growing cress to put in the yummy sandwiches we're going to be making in a few weeks. It's all go! More next month about our Diamond Jubilee "Street Parties" coming up at the end of May; wear your crown and wave your flag! You don't have one? Better come along and we'll show you how to make one fit for a Queen!

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 Watringbury 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. 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 usual number - 07506 735137. THE COMMITTEE

COME AND TRY BOWLS

Bowls truly is a sport for all - all ages, both sexes and all abilities, taking just a short time to learn but a life time to master. It is not a sport just for the 'silver brigade' but because it is a sport of hand and eye co-ordination everyone competes on a level footing. In fact in line with most sports the earlier people start the easier and quicker they become competent at it. It is also a very social, enjoyable and fun sport (and frustrating) where players can play as individuals and part of a team.

Why not have a try. PADDOCK WOOD BOWLS CLUB is holding an OPEN 'TASTER' DAY on SATURDAY 21st APRIL from 12 noon until 4.00pm. No need to book, just turn up with a pair of flat shoes, trainers are ideal and the club will supply the rest - even a cup of tea. If you cannot make the open day either come up on a Monday, 2pm to 4pm, or a Friday 5.30 pm until 7.30 pm alternatively telephone Barry - 01892 832747 or Sandra 01892 837565. You will find us in the sports field, behind Putlands Sports Centre, just follow the path to the left. We look forward to welcoming you.

BLACKTHORN NEWS

Easter is just around the corner as Blackthorn Trust prepares for our Fundraising Spring Fair. We will be joined for our open-air farmers' market by an eclectic mix of stall holders selling local produce. This will take place on 28th April from 11.30am-

230pm and as usual the Garden, greenhouse, Café and Cabin will also be open. Not to be missed!

We are also pleased to be able to announce the community screening of an exciting new film documenting the plight of the bee population and showing what we can do to help our clever little insect friends. 'Queen of the Sun' is being shown in the Garden Room on 19th April at 7.30pm. The film's producers are touring the UK currently trying to raise awareness of this worrying situation. Anyone with an interest in supporting your local community with a means to helping the planet will be interested in what message the bees have for us. We ask for a donation of about £3 per person.

Our Herb Workshop has been very busy these last couple of weeks, bottling up some Blackthorn Blossom Massage Oil and St. John's Wort Massage Oil for use in the Medical Centre, filtering our own Lemon Verbena Oil and making a new batch of Chilli Oil to sell. The workshop has also provided dried chillies for the Bakery to use in Chilli and Cheese bread!

In the kitchen, after some batches of tasty Parsnip bread, the fresh soups are still laden with flavoursome vegetables like the popular Pumpkin and Parsnip Soup (vegan and gluten-free). Just a reminder that Soup of the Day is available to take away!

Why not come and visit the cafe soon, we are open Monday to Friday 9.30am-3.30pm. We look forward to welcoming you! www.blackthorn.org.uk

2ND WATERINGBURY BROWNIES

WOW what a start to 2012! We have already had our first class in zumba, made rocky road cakes for Valentines day, made Olympic torches and created our own cosmetics! If that wasn't enough to keep the brownies busy, we are off to Hastings in March to visit the Sealife Centre and hopefully weather permitting, lunch on the beach! The brownies have gained their First Aid badges and had great fun in putting themselves in the recovery position and then had to bandage wounded arms and legs. The Brownies have finished their Friends to Animals badge after holding a 'bring your pet to brownies' week, which despite the leaders fear, turned out to be a very well organised event! The range of pets was vast, dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, and tortoises, the girls were very involved in learning about the animals and all managed to hold/stroke the pets and no pet escaped! We took the brownies to watch Little Red Riding Hood and a great time was had by all, especially as some of our brownies were in the panto. We are all looking forward to the start of Spring and our annual bluebell walk in the woods – magical! Little Owl – Chris Fisher

WATERINGBURY FOOTPATH GROUP

The next walk is on Sunday 1st April. Meet in the Village Hall Car Park at 2.30 pm (sharp), for a local walk of approximately three and half miles. The walk is being led by Kevin Reynolds who is very knowledgeable on countryside matters and all are welcome to join us for a pleasant walk on our local footpaths.

For your Diary. The walk in May is on Sunday 6th, again starting from the Car Park at 2.30 pm, and will include the usual bluebell wood.

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

What a lovely beginning to Term 4. All the children, from the 7.30am starters at breakfast club right through to the 6 pm finishes for afterschool club, have been exploring and digging in the woods. It is lovely to get out in the early morning and smell the fresh clean air, climb trees and wave to the ever cheerful train drivers. It sounds lovely as we walk to school chattering about what we have done before school and what we plan to do after school. We still have to wrap up warm, but how healthy everyone is beginning to look.

We hope that all families get as much joy from the Mother's Day gifts as we got from making them – please remember to water them. No prizes for guessing what the gift was!

We are looking forward to our Easter Event on Saturday 31 March at Nettlestead Village Hall and look forward to you all joining us from 1pm until 3pm. There will be lots of new stalls to tempt you, an easter egg hunt and easter bonnet parade.

Finally I would like to say a huge CONGRATULATIONS to all the Staff who have passed their level 3 qualification, bringing our total number of trained staff to 10. **HOLIDAY CLUBS** are on offer during the Easter break, For more information give us a call on 01622 813120 or email; nettlesteadandwateringbury@yahoo.com OR visit us at nawps.org

WATERINGBURY WORKING MEN'S CLUB

Part-time bar person required. Please ring the Club 01622 812167 during opening hours for details

Opening hours :

Monday, Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday - 6.00 pm - 11.pm

Friday 4.00 pm - 11 pm

Saturday 12noon - 11 pm

Sunday 12noon – 7.00 pm

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. Non-members without tickets, will not be allowed entry on the night. During the day there will be a family BBQ

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

Free wi-fi is now available at the club, so come and enjoy a quiet pint, and bring your laptop!

HISTORY SOCIETY

Our April Speaker is Bronwen M Sadler who is coming to tell us about the Great Flood of 1953 of which she had personal experience and 'survived'. Bronwen's talk is illustrated and we are looking forward to being held spellbound (Bronwen's words) by the awfulness of it all. As well as giving talks and lectures, Bronwen is a very active member of the Kent History Federation, presently in the position of Hon. Secretary.

Sheila Boyd came along in February to tell us about Queen Victoria's Dreadful Uncles, the sons of King George III and Queen Charlotte. Victoria was the daughter of Edward, the fourth son, who became the Duke of Kent, and who died a year after Victoria was born. She was raised by her very protective mother, who shielded her from the scandals caused by the uncles, both at home and abroad. Sheila gave us an insight into the lives led by George, Frederick, William, Edward, Ernest, Augustus and Adolphus. Although King George III tried to ensure each of his sons lead a 'respectable' life, with the exception of Adolphus, they all failed and managed to get into very severe debt the equivalent of millions of pounds today. Unfortunately very few of the legitimate children born to these sons survived beyond childhood, apart from the two daughters born to Adolphus, Augusta and Mary, who later became the mother of Queen Mary. At least 56 illegitimate children are known to have been born from relationships formed by the 'Uncles'. Her talk was very interesting, informative and humorous, and she finished by saying that we have a lot to thank Queen Victoria for in giving us a pinnacle of respectable values. Visit the history society site on <https://sites.google.com/site/wateringburylocalhhistory/>, for further information.

16th May - Annual Outing to Chapel Down Winery in the morning with conducted tour around Tenterden in the afternoon – tickets £21 – Janet 814974 or 817833

THE ORCHARD BAKER – Delicious Cakes and Desserts made freshly to order. Orders taken for Easter. Gifts can be packaged in a box with ribbon. All Cakes & Desserts can be collected or are delivered free within 3 miles of Watlington. Contact Jane – 07970839753 – jane@theorchardbaker.co.uk View my range: www.theorchardbaker.co.uk

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.

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.

WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our Social Afternoon included members bringing along their artificial flower arrangements for judging. The joint winners were Stroma and Rita, members from Teston, who will each keep the Flower Cup for six months.

The Hickman Cup competition this year was to see who could produce the 'best decorated stone'! It was won by Lillie, one of our long-standing members, who decorated a stone with melon seeds to produce an amazing representation of a hedgehog. Very clever - well done Lillie, and all those who took part.

Kathy Coates 01622 814618

GRAVESHAM CHORAL SOCIETY present their Spring Concert at Rochester Cathedral on Saturday 28th April at 7.30pm. Conducted by Alan Vincent, with orchestra and soloists, the performance will be of Finzi's cheery ode For St Cecilia, followed by Elgar's wonderful Enigma Variations and his choral work The Music Makers, in which you can hear traces of Nimrod and other Elgar refrains. Tickets are priced at £15 (£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

MARCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Cemetery – It was agreed to accept the estimate from Wildwood Tree Care to tidy up the trees in the cemetery.

February Crime Report The following crimes were reported

A holdall was stolen from an insecure vehicle parked in Old Road. A vehicle parked in the village hall car park had its door bent in order to gain entry. Nothing was stolen but £500 of damage was done to the door. The incident was captured on CCTV which will be used as evidence by the police. The theft of lead from the village hall roof. This was an ongoing issue nationwide due to the high scrap value.

The chairman reported that PCSO Dave Gilham will no longer cover the Wateringbury area. In future PCSO Philip Harrison will cover the village.

Playing Fields Mike Witts reported on the work at the playing fields to improve the ground. He also proposed that two areas around memorial trees at the fields should be planted with wildflowers to encourage insects and butterflies. The council supported this suggestion.

Council Land The question of access to the council's small piece of land close to Station House was discussed in some detail. KCC Councillor Richard Long offered to help the council find out the ownership of certain parcels of land in the vicinity of the council's land.

Highways Committee Charles Stroud agreed to represent the Parish Council at the next Highways meeting in Borough Green.

Borough Councillor Simon Jessel in reply to a question from the chairman said that discussions were still in progress about the T & M rates.

County Councillor Richard Long said that KCC were proposing to save £100 million so that there would not be an increase in rates bills.

He had asked the KCC's new highways manager to look again at the management of traffic on the A26. The proposal for a pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of the church had been rejected.

Planning The council had no objections to the renewal of the agreed planning permission relating to Abbeyfield Greensted in The Orpines.

The general public are welcome to attend the next meeting of the council at 7.30pm on Tuesday 3 April in the Village Hall

ANNUAL CHURCHYARD PLANT SALE

Saturday 5 May 10am to 4pm

Superb quality nursery plants plus home grown stall

St John's crafts, good condition books, toys stall,

home made cakes, cream teas and refreshments

For further information please contact 01622 813032

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 Watringbury 1952 to present

Jubilee Cake Raffle

Monday 4 June 2-4pm

Churchyard Fete with stalls, children's craft activities

Musicians Tony Pepper on guitar and Peter White keyboards Jubilee guided walk round the
village

organised by the History Society with printed booklet

Walks at 2.30 and 3.30pm

Tuesday 5 June

Afternoon music by **Harpist Carys Hughes**

Evening Service of Thanksgiving

“HOLY DUSTERS”

One of the teams of “Holy Dusters” who clean the church on a rota basis has sadly had to resign due to personal circumstances and we are therefore looking for two willing people (male or female) to form a replacement team as soon as possible. Please contact Hilary on 01622 814305 for more information.

THOUGHTS FROM THE VICARAGE

2 The Grange, East Malling ME19 6AH

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

This year, more so than most, I do feel that the Church needs to ensure that people are aware of the message of Easter, the great feast day in the Church calendar, in fact the most important day of the year for Christians throughout the world. I thought I might deviate from the usual format of my message and remind everyone of some simple facts about Easter. We often relate to Easter because of it providing a long week-end with two bank holidays and chocolate Easter eggs but perhaps we ought to think about it in more depth. Those who follow other faiths rarely need reminding of the facts behind their feast days! Here are some simple facts of the Christian faith in relation to Easter:

- a. Easter is the oldest and the most important Christian Festival, the celebration of the death and coming to life again of Jesus Christ. For Christians, the dawn of Easter Sunday, with its message of new life, is the high point of the Christian year.
- b. Easter is the story of Jesus' last days in Jerusalem before his death. The Easter story includes Maundy Thursday (the Last Supper leading to the Eucharist), Good Friday (the day on which Jesus was crucified) and Easter Day (the day on which Jesus came back to life).
- c. Pagan traditions give us the English word "Easter" which comes from the word "Eostre". The Anglo-Saxon word for April was "Eostre-monath" (the month of openings). However, it should be remembered that Christians celebrated the resurrection of Christ long before the word "Easter" was used, and the word they used for the celebration was "Pascha", which is derived from, and linked to, the Jewish festival of Passover.
- d. Easter is what we call a moveable feast because its date changes every year. The date of Easter is the first Sunday after the full moon following the northern hemisphere's Vernal Equinox. Ecclesiastically, the equinox is reckoned to be on March 21 (even though the equinox occurs, astronomically speaking, on March 20 in most years), and the "Full Moon" is not necessarily the astronomically correct date. The date of Easter therefore varies between March 22 and April 25.

Knowing the facts may be one thing but to experience the truth is often another. No human actually saw Jesus rise but human beings who knew the Lord Jesus did testify the tomb was vacated and they saw the Christ who arose in post resurrection appearances. We should declare that Christ has risen with all confidence and assurance in the validity of His rising. In a year when Christianity has been under the spotlight perhaps our Easter celebrations have become all the more important to celebrate. Come and join me! Revd Jim Brown

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING - 17 April at 8pm

This is the Annual General Meeting of the Church and will be held in the church on Tuesday 17 April. Each organisation within the church makes an annual report to let everyone know what they have been doing and of plans for the future. These will be available on the church website www.wateringburychurch.org.uk to read and download if you wish. If you do not have access to a computer and need a printed copy please let the churchwarden known.

BENEFICE MOTHERS' UNION

The next two meetings will be:

Thursday 12 April when members and visitors meet at 12.30pm at Spadework, Offham for lunch and a talk on the work of the organisation.

Thursday 3 May when the meeting will be at the usual time of 1pm in Wateringbury Church when Julie Gayler will talk on the work of Martha's Trust.

Don't be put off by the name, the Union welcomes all, (including men) to its meetings. For more details please contact the secretary on 01622 814305.

WHOLENESS AND HEALING

At these monthly benefice services there will be an opportunity, should you wish, to receive prayer for yourself or on behalf of another, with the laying on of hands. In this simple action the love of God is channelled by the power of the Holy Spirit. We open ourselves to allow Him to work in our lives. The services rotate round the Benefice, all are at 8pm and the format alternates between Taizé, Praise, Eucharist and Meditation. Due to Holy Week Services there will not be a service in April. On **1 May** the service will be a Eucharist in **Wateringbury Church**.

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION – ROAD CLOSURE - 1 APRIL 9.30-10am

A Road Closure Order has been obtained from Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council to cover the closure of Tonbridge Road for a short period on Sunday 1st April whilst the annual Palm Sunday procession from the Village Hall to the Church is taking place. Tonbridge Road will be closed from 9.30am until about 10.00am on 1st April from the traffic lights in the centre of the village, westwards to the junction with Old Road. .Owing to the short duration of the closure there is no suitable alternative route.

Thank you for your patience and sorry for any inconvenience caused. **EDDIE SCARLIN**, Churchwarden.

BENEFICE CHURCH SERVICES

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

<p>Palm Sunday - 1 April</p> <p>8am Holy Communion – Teston</p> <p>9.45am Family Service – East Malling</p> <p>9.45am Family Service – Teston</p> <p>10am Family Communion - Wateringbury</p>	<p>Easter Sunday - 8 April</p> <p>8am Holy Communion – East Malling</p> <p>9.45am Eucharist – East Malling</p> <p>10am Holy Communion - Wateringbury</p> <p>6.30pm Evening Prayer - Teston</p>
<p>Sunday 15 April</p> <p>8am Holy Communion – Wateringbury</p> <p>9.45am Eucharist – East Malling</p> <p>10 am Family Service – Wateringbury</p> <p>6.30pm Eucharist - Teston</p>	<p>Sunday 22 April</p> <p>8am Holy Communion – East Malling</p> <p>9.45am Eucharist – East Malling</p> <p>10am Holy Communion – Wateringbury</p> <p>6.30pm Holy Communion - Teston</p>
<p>Sunday 29 April – Benefice Service 10am in Wateringbury Church</p>	
<p>Every Monday – 2-3pm – Scout & Guide HQ, Glebe Meadow – Toddler Praise</p>	
<p>Tuesdays (not 1st in month) – 7.30pm in Wateringbury Church – Holy Communion</p>	
<p>Every Thursday - 9am in East Malling Church – Holy Communion</p>	

PALM SUNDAY - 1 April we are having 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 – Monday 2, Tuesday 3 and Wednesday 4 April

During Holy Week the Benefice are presenting "Before the Cock Crows" A play focusing on the denials of Peter written by Dennis Rink especially to celebrate our 10th Anniversary Holy Week.. . Monday in Teston, Tuesday in East Malling and Wednesday in Wateringbury. All at 8pm.

MAUNDY THURSDAY 8pm at St James the Great, East Malling. Holy Communion followed by Feet Washing and Vigil until midnight.

GOOD FRIDAY – 6 April – 2-3pm At the Foot of the Cross led by Rev Alan Searle in Wateringbury

2pm in East Malling Solemn Liturgy 8pm in Teston At the Foot of the Cross.

EASTER SATURDAY Saturday 7 April

Easter Project 9.30am- Noon A morning of Easter crafts and fun activities for Primary School age children. Further information and booking from Debbie Bond 01622 814793.

Easter Vigil - At Pilsdon, Water Lane, West Malling at 7.30pm

Quiet Hour Wednesday 11 April and 9 May – 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. Please note there will not be a service in April.

Celebration of Ministry. As part of the tenth anniversary of the Benefice of East Malling, Teston and Wateringbury the work of those involved with **Youth and Children** will be celebrated on **15 April** at the Family Service