

MARCH 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

It was announced that the Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling Council is coming to perform the opening ceremony of the Village Celebrations on Sunday 2 June for the granting of QE2 status to the Playing Fields.

Drayhorse Meadow There was a lengthy discussion about the merits of creating additional parking for the Playing Fields on a small area of the meadow for use up to 80 times a year. Estimates have been obtained for fencing and creation of hard standing at this location. However Vice Chairman Richard Tripp felt that the council should explore and cost out the provision of a smaller number of parking spaces within the Playing Fields and proposed 2 possible sites. Councillors voted in favour of drawing down £10,000 from the agreed loan funds to bring the electrics at the Meadow stables up to the required standard and to repair and upgrade the track down to the fields. This work is necessary to prepare the area for livery letting.

CCTV Upgrade Councillors unanimously voted to upgrade the CCTV coverage and quality in the village car park at a cost of £145.

Footpath Upgrade Councillors were pleased to learn that there were funds available this year to upgrade the footpath from Teston Bridge to Bow Bridge. It was hoped that in future years the path between Bow Bridge and Nettlestead could be improved.

Borough Councillor Simon Jessel was at the meeting and he agreed to support the council in its efforts to gain approval to sub-let Drayhorse Meadow stabling, to gain approval to use a small area of the land for over-flow car parking and in the long-standing battle to have the pollution levels at the traffic lights reduced.

February Crime Figures One theft in Fields Lane area one incident of theft and a vehicle theft recorded in Glebe Meadow area. Two incidents of assault at the Retreat Caravan Park Silve Birch Walk. Incidents of anti social behaviour were at a minimum and there were no arrests.

Allotments The invoices for this year's rents have been sent out.

Next Meeting - Tuesday 2 April at 7.30pm Members of the public are always welcome to attend the meetings which are held in the Village Hall.

APRIL 2013

VILLAGE DIARY

- 2nd April PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 7.30 pm – Village Hall
- 7th April FOOTPATHS GROUP – Meet at Mereworth School at 2.30 pm for a walk through Mereworth Woods and Swanton Valley
- W.I. – Nick Robinson – Organic Gardening
- 17th April HISTORY SOCIETY Mariana McCullen – ‘The Medieval Queens of Leeds Castle’
- 5th May FOOTPATH GROUP – Annual Bluebell Walk, meet at Village Hall at 2.30 pm
- 4th May Annual Churchyard Plant Sale and Teas
- 7th May PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 7.30 pm
- 9th May W.I. – Resolutions meeting and Annual Meeting
- 15th May HISTORY SOCIETY Wine and Buffet Evening – Boxley Abbey (Members Only)

JOIN THE ADVENTURE!

Wateringbury Guide & Scout Group offers young people from the age of 5yrs to 18yrs the opportunity to have fun and take part in adventurous activities in a safe environment, while learning invaluable life skills which could help them achieve their dreams and aspirations at school, at work (when they're older!), or in their hobbies, or even enable them to save their own or someone else's life. We currently have 9 Sections across Guides and Scouts in the Group, each with their own dedicated team of Leaders. But we have children in the village waiting to join the fun, and we need more adult helpers to allow them to do so.

"Help" comes in many varied forms - from running the occasional half-hour session on your favourite hobby, or spending half-an-hour once a month mowing the lawn, through helping at meetings once a month, helping organise a social event, or helping individuals achieve an activity badge, to ... well, as much as you care to offer! As an adult volunteer in Guiding or Scouting, you also have the opportunity to increase your skills, meet new people, try new hobbies; such experience is much sought after by prospective employers! Whatever you choose to do to help, you will be supported and offered appropriate training (which can lead to nationally-recognised qualifications), among a friendly bunch of like-minded people.

Whether you can spare an hour a term, or several hours a week, be it working with the young people or helping maintain the building and equipment, we have a role for you! Please do seriously consider offering a little of yourself to benefit our young people and help them achieve their dreams. Anyone from age 18years upwards is eligible to join the fun!

For more information, please contact Joanna on 01622 814980, or email at joanna@wateringburyscouts.org.uk

WATERINGBURY WEATHER WATCH Feb/March, 2013

The rainfall in February was a little more than that in 2012, however was still 19.4mm ($\frac{3}{4}$) less than the monthly average. Temperatures were well below average with biting cold winds and only reached double figures on 7 days.

The first half of March was also quite unpleasant with some bitter winds and 1½ inches of drifting snow. As the sun gets higher in the sky the rain should be warmer, and I do not expect any threats of hosepipe bans for a while yet.

VILLAGE PEOPLE

(Please let us have your news and tributes by 17 April for our May issue)

Ruby Wedding Congratulations to Sandra and Bob Edmunds celebrating 40 years of marriage on 28 April.

Golden Wedding Congratulations to Marie and John Hazelwood for 30 March

St George's Day Big Birthday Congratulations for 23 April to Keith Pardoe who will be 60 and **Paul Smart** who will be 70.

Milestone Birthday Congratulations for 13 April to **Nell Rubin**.

Pat Jolly's book A Snapshot of Wateringbury People is now on sale at the Post office price £6.99. Pat has been busy photographing many of the village residents and the book reflects life in the village in 2012, the Queen's Jubilee Year.

Sweet Dreams the second book by Local Author Jennifer Button is now available at the Post Office price £8.99. It is about Stella Sankey whose life is boring, magnolia coloured and repetitive. Her only escape from this monotony comes from her dreams: dreams which transport her to a wide screen Technicolor world where anything is possible, a place where she is free of the self-doubt and disappointment that dogs her waking life. Gradually Stella's dreams start to merge with reality. Life becomes a complicated web of doubt. Martina, an extremely damaged young woman, bounces her way into this vulnerable woman's home and worms her way into her affections. This manipulative, young woman will stop at nothing, even murder, to achieve her own unscrupulous ends.

WHERE MEMORIES MEET

new 9am weekday (Tues-Friday inclusive) opening time

To coincide with our new, earlier weekday opening time we are offering readers of Rostrum the following launch special:

On orders placed before 9.30am:

Any Hot Drink £1.50

or Any Hot Drink + Freshly Baked Croissant £2.50

Choose from our range of fine loose leaf & petal teas or freshly ground micro-roastery espresso coffees.

FROM CAMPING TO COMMUNITY

Everyone knows that Scouts love summer camping! But did you know that a winter camp can be just as exciting? Our own Scouts recently attended WINCAM 2013 at Belchamps in Essex and, as well as improving their complexions no end in the mud bath, were able to try their hand at anything from Caving to Zumba, and in between they could jump the leap of faith, pretend to be Tarzan on the zipwire, even learn to drive a digger.

But Scouting is not only about having fun themselves. They also give back to the community. The eagle-eyed among you who walk past the churchyard may have noticed a marked improvement around some of the old monuments at the east end. Our Scouts spent a fruitful evening clearing ivy, undergrowth, and overhanging branches, exposing the lovely tombs below for all to see, as well as helping to protect them from damage caused by the weeds and damp. And in May as part of our national Community Week, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will all be helping to build bird boxes to benefit our local wildlife, as well as using them to help raise funds to purchase an item to benefit our playing fields, in recognition of their new status as a QEII field. Do look out for us at the QEII Fields Celebration event in June.

If you're aged between 6yrs and 18yrs, boy or girl, you too can both have fun, and give something back to our own community. For more info, please contact Joanna on 01622 814980, or email at joanna@wateringburyscouts.org.uk

Joanna Fyson , GSL Wateringbury Training Advisor, Maidstone West

WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The WI - Inspiring Women

March is our Competitions meeting. We welcomed five visitors and took the opportunity to have a different format of event. We sat café style and progressed round the hall with lots of entries to admire and vote for. The considerable talents of members were on show with some lovely items. Winners in the three competition categories were:

A spring flower arrangement - Kathy Coates (Wateringbury WI Flower Arranging Cup)

A decorated item - Rita Bourlet - (The Hickman Cup)

A hand-worked pincushion - Janet Hall. This intricately worked piece will become Wateringbury's entry in the regional event.

Congratulations to our winners and all who took part, the voting was very close in some categories. In addition we had a quiz, silent auction and jam raffle. All with tea, cakes and time for fellowship with friends old and new. A very interactive afternoon, which was enjoyed by all.

Next month our speaker will be Nick Robinson talking on Organic Gardening, with refreshments and time to chat.

We are a friendly group, comprising women from Wateringbury and the surrounding villages, meeting in Wateringbury Village Hall at 2.30pm on the second Thursday of the month.

As well as the Club meeting members can also do a walk, have lunch and a scrabble/social afternoon during the month.

If you would like to come along as a guest you'll be very welcome. To talk it over please call Elizabeth on 01622812018. elizabethastrid@aol.com

WATERINGBURY FOOTPATH GROUP

Sunday 7th April, it is planned to walk through Mereworth woods and Swanton Valley.

Please note the meeting point is

Mereworth School at the later time of 2.30 pm.

Sunday 5th May, annual Bluebell walk up to Cattering and Hoath Woods to see the splendid show of spring flowers. To meet at the village hall at 2.30 pm.

For more information please call Syd on 812338

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES

The boxes this year raised just over £500. Thank you all again for your continued support, these house boxes raise over £2 million pounds each year helping towards the work of the children's society. From runaways to young carers. With grateful thanks, Maria White.

CANCER RESEARCH UK NORTH DOWNS WALK

DATE – Sunday, June 30th 2013. **START FROM** – 7.30am

VENUE – Harrietsham Village Hall, Church Road – ME17 1AP.

LAST REGISTRATION – 11am.

WEBSITE – www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk

FOR FURTHER DETAILS – Phone the North Downs Walk-line on 01622 890650

For 28 years the Rotary Club of the Weald of Kent has organised this event, which offers the option of a 3, 6 or 9 mile walk across the beautiful North Downs. On completion all walkers are given a free Ploughman's Lunch, strawberries and are entertained by a local Jazz Band.

See the website for Maps/Poster/Route Details/Registration Forms etc. all of which may be downloaded.

Walkers may retain 50% of their sponsorship money for their own charity/church/school etc. with the remainder going to CRUK.

Alternatively, walkers may register at the Hall on the day for a minimum donation of £10 per person.

To-date this Walk has raised over £420,000 for local & national charities, with over £200,000 for CRUK alone.

GRAVESHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

present CROWN IMPERIAL at Rochester Cathedral on Saturday 27th April at 7.30pm. Conducted by Alan Vincent, with orchestra and guest soloists, this will be a stirring celebration of the Coronation Jubilee, including favourites such as Handel's Zadok the Priest, Walton's Crown Imperial, Parry's I Was Glad, dance music from Britten's Gloriana and Mozart's Coronation Mass. Tickets £15 (£5 for full-time students) obtainable by telephoning 01474 816684, from members of the society, or on the door. www.graveshamcs.co.uk

WATERINGBURY FLOWER CLUB

March Meeting 21/3/13 - Steven McDonell - Light Fantastic

April Meeting 18/3/13 - Christine Nash - Strictly Flowers - also club competition Strictly Flowers

We welcomed Steven to our club from Brighton, Steven is a great competitor in all the Area competitions and can be seen at National competitions too, we were treated to a fantastic evening of modern and traditional designs and a lot of inter active banter and jokes, it is such a great night out for £3 if you are a member, we have not had Steven before and he was well worth waiting for, such a showman. I promised you the results of our Club competitions for 2012.

Novice Class - Joint 1st – Julie De Save and Susan Gransden

Intermediate - Adele Stewart-Lord

Advanced - Jean Schofield

Well done to everyone who took part, I expect big things from all members when we have our mini-show in August.

April's meeting, also a new demonstrator to us, Christine Nash from Crawley, will be entertaining us with her title Strictly Flowers, also our first club competition of 2013 for members only.

We are a fun loving, friendly club with members from all over the County, we love taking part in local competitions within the Kent area of Nafas, and many of our members belong to other groups, WI and the Guild of Church Flower Arrangers, we have many different workshops and evenings included within our membership and we also have open evenings when the public are welcome to join in, our main fund raiser is our Open Evening in October, this year we have Mr Lee Berrill from Earls Barton nr Nottingham, we also have lots of stalls for you to peruse and get some early Christmas Shopping done! Please have a look on our website for details:-

www.wateringburyflowerclub.co.uk - or Nettlestead Village Hall website where our programme is also available. We look forward to welcoming you to our club.
Jean Schofield , Chairman, Wateringbury Flower Club

WATERINGBURY VILLAGE FETE SUNDAY 2ND JUNE 2013

WATERINGBURY PLAYING FIELDS FROM 12NOON - 4PM

Joint celebrations of the 60th Anniversary of the Coronation and for the playing fields gaining Queen Elizabeth 11 Field Status, which will ensure the playing fields remain for recreation for future generations.

There will be live music, food and drink, lots of varied stalls and exhibits. Children can make and bring along their own King or Queen Crown and each will receive a small gift. There will be Kwik Cricket for parents and children. The Mayor of Tonbridge & Malling will unveil a special plaque and we might even have a flypast by a Spitfire!

Thanks go to so many people who have offered help to make this day possible.

There is a raffle, with great prizes, including a Nikon Digital Camera, a Kindle Fire & a Night at a hotel, and lots more. All the profit from the sale of raffle tickets, which will go on sale in May, will be divided between The Friends of Wateringbury Church and the Wateringbury Sports & Recreational Association.

Thanks must go to the following who have so generously donated towards the raffle

Asda	The Orchard Baker
A Councillor	A Parishioner
Cromar Nursery	The Premier Inn
The Handy Stores	The Wateringbury
Hilltop	Where Memories Meet

There will be plenty of parking available and additional toilet facilities.

If anyone, who hasn't already booked, would like to have a stall, donate a raffle prize, or would like more information, please contact the Clerk, Susan Cockburn, on 01622 817068 or email susan_jc@btinternet.com

DON'T FORGET! to sign up for Kwik Cricket - details in March Rostrum or call John Ibbs on 07717 484186 or email jibber63@hotmail.co.uk

THOUGHT

Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass
It's about learning to dance in the rain

THE FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY CHURCH

Have coffee with Friends

On Saturday 6th April at 10 a.m., we are organising our annual event to publicise the work of the Friends and to ask people in the village to become members or renew their subscriptions for the coming year. Everyone in Wateringbury is invited to come along at the church, where there will be free refreshments. Afterwards, a group of volunteers will be delivering leaflets around the village, to encourage more people to become Friends. Around 100 Wateringbury households have now joined, and we have raised more than £6,200 in our first two years. **If you are willing to help distribute a few leaflets around the village, please get in touch with the Secretary, or just turn up on the morning of the 6th April.**

New door for the church

The new glass door in the porch of St Johns was dedicated on Palm Sunday by the Rev Jim Brown. The Friends have supported this project by donating the money necessary to carry it out. The £6,000 donation was the result of two years of effort by the Friends and now the goal is to start raising more for the next project. Frances English, Secretary – 01622 812471 friends@fowc.org.uk

HISTORY SOCIETY

Our speaker in April is Mariana McCullen who works at Leeds Castle as a guide. She is coming along to tell us about the Medieval Queens associated with the castle which will possibly include one or two scandals.

Albert Granville came along in February to talk to us about his personal experiences in the operation of 'Raising the Mary Rose' from her watery grave. His talk commenced with the building of the Mary Rose, and her successful voyages before she became King Henry Eighth's flag ship in his Navy and her fateful last short voyage. Albert told us his company, which was involved in erecting oil rigs, was commissioned by Prince Charles because they had a floating crane, suitable for lifting the Mary Rose from her bed of mud in the Solent. Divers had been investigating the wreck for a number of years and had recovered many artefacts, including cannons, which are to be displayed in the museum presently being built in Portsmouth beside the building housing the remains of the Mary Rose which are still being kept moist 24 hours a day.

Albert reminded us of the monumental day, viewed on television, probably by all of us in the audience, when the crane was placed over the wreck and proceeded to lift it to the surface, whereupon it slipped to one side, a heart stopping moment for all concerned. Albert's very interesting and at times amusing talk had not only covered the history of the Mary Rose but what had happened since she was raised from the Solent, and the plans for her future.

FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL (FOWPS)

Registered charity 1038836

Wateringbury Primary School is appealing for your sacks of old clothes, shoes, bedding, towels, bags, hats and ties for its next fundraising textile collection on Thursday 18 April. Sacks should be securely tied and can be dropped off at school on 16, 17 and 18 April. It is important that the contents are kept dry. The more we collect, the more funds we will raise to buy new equipment for the school.

We hope as many parents as possible will join us for our annual Operation Ground Force event on Saturday 20 April (9am-1pm) when we'll be doing some outdoor jobs and tidying at school. The event is always very well supported and helps to foster a great team spirit within the school community.

The Friends of Wateringbury Primary School celebrated World Book Day in March by announcing that every class in the school would receive £100 to spend on new books while the children marked Red Nose Day with a 'Wear it Red' non-uniform day to raise money for Comic Relief.

URGENT - SPORTS KIT SPONSORS SOUGHT

If you or your local business would like to help Wateringbury School to fund new sports team kits this spring in return for lots of local publicity, please email chairman@fowps.org.uk as soon as possible for more details. Thank you!

Gail Isted, FOWPS Chairman

EAST MALLING SINGERS CONCERT

Saturday 13 April, 2013, at 7.30pm, in the Church of St James the Great, East Malling. We are performing the Requiems of John Rutter and Maurice Duruflé. Also, Laura van der Heijden (BBC Young Musician 2012) and Sylvia Trench will be performing music for cello and piano. Laura, who will be returning to East Malling for the third time, will also play her cello in parts of the two Requiems. In an exciting development since the publication of this year's brochure, our new music director, Ciara Considine, has arranged for a number of young musicians from Kent to play various instrumental and solo parts in the Requiems. East Malling Singers is keen to provide performing opportunities for Kent's young musicians. Tickets may be purchased or reserved through Robert Greenham, Chairman, East Malling Singers 01622 750943 boxoffice@eastmallingsingers.co.uk

TESTON & WATERINGBURY NURSERY GROUP (Registered charity 1044257)

www.testonandwateringburynursery.co.uk

Admissions and all enquiries: Amanda Vidler 07805 796353

Unfortunately, our Spring theme has not yielded the expected results (snow? What?) but never perturbed, we enjoyed many a Spring-y thing! There have been flowers, baby animals, insects & all things Welsh, to celebrate St David's Day; we made cards for our Mummies (cos we love them) & beautifully arranged flowers for our Mother's Day activity – I'm seeing future winners of the Chelsea Flower Show... Next term it'll be Mini Beasts (that's bugs...): we'll be watching our caterpillars grow (may take some time), making a bug house in our garden (I say house - mansion), going on bug-hunts (I know where there are some caterpillars) & inventing our own bugs (don't we have enough already?!). Before that, however, we have an Easter Fun Day to enjoy. Weds 3rd April 10-12.30 & free to enter. The cuddlies are back, the Easter Egg Hunt is back & yes, there'll be refreshments. Its fun, it's free & it'll wear the children out...you're welcome! Now, the exciting news: what do you get if you cross flowers (who doesn't love flowers?) with gold (who doesn't love gold?)? Well we have done just that, folks. Yes, for one day only we have none other than 7 times Chelsea Flower Show winner...CLEVE WEST! YES, *CLEVE WEST!* This gardening guru/hero – hero/guru – your choice – will be talking about all things flowery (& possibly gold medally) on Tues 2nd July. My tulips are bursting open at the sheer thought!! Tickets (& further details) available soon but until then try to keep calm & carry on – just try, that's all we ask

**WATERINGBURY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY'S
ANNUAL WINE AND BUFFET**

Will take place at Boxley Abbey – 15th May commencing 7.30 pm
Tickets £8.50 available (members only)
at the History Society meeting or from Janet on 814974

MAIDSTONE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, Registered Charity No.287986

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra, Conductor Brian Wright will perform on **Saturday 23 March 2013** commencing at 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park.. The programme consists of three works Beethoven : Overture, Leonora No. 3. Walton : Viola Concerto. Berlioz : Symphony, Harold in Italy. Concert tickets £10, £20 and £25, students with a Student card £5, Tickets for all children up to and including 18 years of age are FREE. Tickets from Membership Secretaries on 01622 735830, online at www.mso.org.uk using the booking form or direct from Mote Hall.



Church of St John the Baptist

Annual Plant Sale

Saturday 4 May 2013 10am-4pm

Superb nursery plants plus home grown stall,

St John's crafts, cards, good condition books and toys

home made cakes, cream teas and refreshments



COMIC RELIEF CAFÉ

A big thank you to all who supported the Comic Relief Café with cake donations, and all who came along to support us. Thank you also to Ros Diment for the generous donation of Fairtrade drinks and biscuits and to Hill Top Tea Shop for their donation of cakes. But most importantly, thank you to the Youth of Watch Club who baked most of the cakes and ran the Café so brilliantly in their P.J's and Onesies. Well Done. You made us so proud.

It really was a great evening, which was made even better when we realised we had raised the magnificent sum of £183:45 for Comic Relief, completely smashing our £20 target! **Well Done Watch Club you really have made a difference.**

WATCH CLUB next meets on Sunday 14 and Sunday 28 April in the Church from 5-7pm. If you are in school years 6-13 and would like to come along to the Watch Club Youth Group please contact Lisa on 01622 812661.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT THANKS

A very grateful thank you to those who took part in celebrating Fair Trade Fortnight at the church. Your very kind donations raised £75,54 for Traidcraft Exchange, a charity who work with farmers and producers in the developing countries to help them achieve the benefits of Fairtrade for the first time

and win their share of world trade thus transforming their lives. The competition to Guess the Number of Nuts in the Jar was won by Shaun Martin who guessed 698 with Alan Searle second with 747. The actual number in the jar was 718. Both winners have received Fairtrade prizes.

THOUGHTS FROM THE VICARAGE

2 The Grange, East Malling ME19 6AH

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

"HE IS NOT HERE, FOR HE IS RISEN".

Last year I was privileged to have had the chance to travel to the Holy Land on two occasions, once in January and then again in September. I had also been twice before (I am so fortunate). On each occasion I stayed in Jerusalem and visited The Garden Tomb. This is an alternative site to the place where Jesus was believed to have been buried and where he rose from the tomb. (The traditional site being the church of the Holy Sepulchre, now within the walls of the Old City). 2,000 years ago a rocky outcrop by a busy thoroughfare skirting the city of Jerusalem was a good place for a burial chamber. Many believe this may have been the site of the tomb which Joseph of Arimathea gave for Christ's burial after the crucifixion. Today the site is a beautiful and peaceful garden and the empty tomb is a reminder of a risen, living Saviour in a harsh, often uncaring, world.

On the door to the tomb itself are the words "He is not here, for he is risen". It was in a place like this (because we do not know for sure whether it was here or not) that Mary Magdalene, distraught with grief and despair, mistook the risen Jesus for the gardener. She recognised him when he called her by name. It is so amazing to think that Jesus appeared firstly to a woman who was also believed to be a sinner. This is a powerful statement, because it identifies Jesus as someone who really did die for our sins.

What relevance is this for us today. The Garden Tomb is a very pleasant garden oasis in the middle of a typical Middle Eastern City. You can get carried away with the tranquillity of the place. But did it happen there? Was this where Jesus rose from the dead? The truth is that no one knows and I want to suggest that it simply does not matter. The notice on the door to the tomb is what matters "He is not here, for he is risen".

By now Easter has been celebrated and I hope the message you have received is a simple message that "He is not here, for he is risen". It tells why a death by cruel torture that took place nearly 2,000 years ago has and will have a lasting effect on the relationship between human beings and God. Jesus literally died for us - in our place he accepted the anger and the punishment of God for our sin. If you believe this then you can know the risen Lord in a living and personal way. That is the Easter message of the empty tombAlleluia!

Rev Jim Brown

BENEFICE MOTHERS' UNION

On Thursday 4 April there will be a Quiet Afternoon at Pilsdon Community in West Malling from 1-4pm. Visitors are very welcome to come along, for more information and/or to arrange a lift please phone Barry Fisher on 01622 813206.

LENT LUNCHESES

A big thank you to Benny and Rupal Vyas at The Handy Stores who donated tea, coffee, biscuits and sugar for the Lent Lunches and to all who helped, baked the delicious cakes, bread, croutons, made

soup, donated food items and supported the lunches by their voluntary donations raising funds for the following charities:

Kenward Trust £66.79

Rainbow Trust £77,30

Maidstone Christian Care Day Centre for the Homeless £85.35

NEW CHURCH DOOR

Thanks to the generosity of The Friends of Wateringbury Church we have been able to replace the old inner door with a mainly glass porch which will bring more light into the church. The old door was adapted and used to replace the shed door which was in a sorry state.

THE ROBIN

There is an old legend which says that when Jesus hung on the cross a little bird, moved with pity at the sight of our Lord's sufferings, flew down and perched upon his head, and began to pull out from his head the thorns from his crown with its beak. As the bird did this, some of Christ's blood touched its feathers, making a bright red stain upon its breast. Since that event, that little bird and its descendants have been allowed to have bright red feathers upon their breasts, in memory of this noble deed.

It's just a story, of course, but it reminds us that acts of kindness will never be forgotten and that they will make us beautiful.

By Peter Beech first published in Redemptorist Publications Sunday Link

FROM THE REGISTERS

Holy Baptism of the family of Stephen and Natalie Wright on 17 March

Emily Violet Elizabeth, Archie David, Felix Oliver George and Pippa Rose

BENEFICE CHURCH SERVICES

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

<p>Sunday 7 April</p> <p>10am - Benefice Holy Communion Service in Wateringbury Church</p> <p>7pm Taize Service - Wateringbury - led by Bob & Becky Bowie</p>	<p>Sunday 14 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 21 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 28 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 Praise - Teston</p>
Every Monday – 2-3pm – Scout & Guide HQ, Glebe Meadow – Toddler Praise	
Tuesdays (not 1 st or 2 nd in April) – 7.30pm in Wateringbury Church – Holy Communion. Services will be on 16 th , 23 rd , and 30 th April	
Every Thursday - 9am in East Malling Church – Holy Communion	
For Baptisms, Weddings and other arrangements with the vicar. Please attend the Parish Office at the Vicarage on Wednesdays between 6.30-7.15pm	

Quiet Hour Wednesday 10 April - 8-9pm An opportunity for quiet personal prayer and reflection. Come and go as you please.

Service of Healing and Wholeness. This month the service will be in at 8pm on **Tuesday 9 April** in Teston Church and will be a communion service.

SUNDAYS COOL

By popular demand there will be Sundays Cool sessions for children during the services on 7, 14 and 28 April. We hope that children and their families will all be able to come along to the family service on 21 April. If you would like to receive regular news about Sundays Cool please e-mail your details to Becky Bowie on becky.bowie@gmail.com

ROGATION SUNDAY 5 MAY

Traditionally at Rogation we ask God's blessings on the land and the crops we grow. This Sunday we shall remember and pray for all those who live and work in our village. There will be fun and games for all to join in with as we pray and worship in the open air.. This year our service will be held at 10am in the field at the junction of Love Lane and the pear orchard footpath (by kind permission of Susan and David Walsh). Please bring your own chair or blanket to sit on. If wet we will meet as usual in the Church.