

ROSTRUM FEBRUARY 2015

WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE FOR 2015

Thank You to all this year's advertisers for their support which enables Rostrum to be delivered free to every home in the village ten times a year. Thank You also to our street distributors who aim to deliver Rostrum to you before the start of each month. Last, but by no means least, Thank You to Tony Gosby for our cover sketches which this year will be of local village war memorials.

Items for the magazine - articles, news from local organisations and items for the Village People page are always welcome. Please send your copy by 17th of the month. Christine, Janet and Ted

VILLAGE DIARY

FEBRUARY

- 1 **Local Footpaths Walk** - leaving Hall Car park sharp at 2pm
- 3 **Parish Council Meeting** then Planning Committee - Hall - 7.30pm
- 12 **Simple Indian Cookery** - WI - Hall - 2.30pm
- 18 **Kent and the Sea** talk - History Society - Hall - 7.40 for 8pm
- 27 **Quiz and Curry Night** - Friends of Wateringbury School - School

MARCH

- 1 **Local Footpaths Walk** - leaving Hall Car park sharp at 2pm
- 3 **Parish Council Meeting** then Planning Committee - Hall - 7.30pm
- 12 **Annual Competitions Social Afternoon** - WI - Hall - 2.30pm
- 14 **Village Hall Quiz Night** - Hall - 7 for 7.30pm
- 18 **Talk on Rudyard Kipling** - History Society - Hall - 7.40 for 8pm

APRIL

- 7 **Parish Council Meeting** then Planning Committee - Hall - 7.30pm
- 11/12 **Village Bash the Trash weekend** to clean up the village -
Volunteer with your neighbours to tidy up an area important to you.

UNWANTED BYCYCLES

Thank you for the wonderful response to the request for unwanted bicycles. With our total of over a dozen, which were refurbished and sold, it has now pushed sales to over £5,000 which will go to benefit patients in Maidstone Hospital. If anyone is having a post Christmas clear-out, **any unwanted bikes would still be welcomed and collected. Tel: Bluey's Bikes on 07711760677.**

Thanks again. Mike Williams League of Friends, Maidstone Hospital

VILLAGE PEOPLE *Please let us have your news and tributes by 17 February for our March magazine*

The whole village was saddened by the death in December of **Rita Cracknell**, following a motor accident. Rita lived in Mill Lane with her husband Graham, and was much loved by her neighbours and all who knew her. We first met in 1969 when my family business acquired the well known Maidstone Fashion Store of Blake and Son Ltd at the top of the High Street, where Rita was the doyenne of the Fashion Floor. We became neighbours when Jane and I moved to the village in 1987, and have been friends ever since. Both Rita and Graham were keen members of the Wateringbury Local History Society and of the Friends of Wateringbury Church, and although Rita suffered from poor eyesight in recent years, she continued to play Bridge with a local group. We send our condolences to Graham, and to their son Nick and his family. EFB

It is with great sadness we report the death of **Susan Thornton** on 20 November 2014 just 13 months after the loss of her husband Rodney. Sue had worked for a local farmer while the children were growing up and as a secretary at AMG in Wateringbury. In recent years she had been a significant support to Rodney in the, 'Back Office', of the business. She was quiet and shy with a close circle of friends, enjoying her garden and puzzles

while overlooking the Medway Valley. Sue will be greatly missed by her family, friends and neighbours. Our condolences go to the children Sandra and Chris.

Alf Nicholls passed away just before Christmas. Alf moved from South London in the 1960s and worked at the local brewery until its closure, and then at ICI in Yalding until his retirement. He was a long time member and supporter of the Wateringbury Working Men's Club, a committee member and Chairman. He will be sadly missed by his wife, Cyn, his family and his club colleagues and friends.

Wedding Congratulations to Oliver Newick and Sarah Canning who married on **23 December** in Mereworth church, which was between the grooms' Wateringbury and the bride's West Peckham home villages! Mr & Mrs Newick plan to live in Sevenoaks. Oliver's Boorman relatives, all expert ringers, many of whom have given years of service to Wateringbury Tower, took over the Mereworth Bell tower to ring for the Wedding.

Thank you and Welcome to new volunteer distributor for the top of Bow Road, **Liz Farndon**.

Well done to James Scott, a 19 year old resident of Wateringbury, who saved a man's life on New Year's Eve. James was walking across the bridge in Maidstone with 5 of his friends when he heard someone call for help from the river below. James saw a man in the water clinging to the arch. He immediately organised 2 of his friends to ring 999 and wait on the bridge for the emergency services to arrive, then he and his other friends went down to the river bank and threw the man a life buoy and hauled him to safety.

3 PIECE SUITE in good condition - free of charge - you collect- reluctant disposal due to down-sizing. Details from 01622 813175.

WATERINGBURY WORKING MEN'S CLUB ran two extremely successful events on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, and the Committee are now in the course of planning a programme of events for the coming year. New members are always welcome, do come along and give us a try.

FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY SCHOOL

I am writing this at a time when Christmas and New Year seem like a distant memory and the last Rostrum article seems such a long while ago. The **Christmas Fayre** was both successful and well attended, raising a profit of over **£3,000**. A big thank you to all who contributed in any way.

As we turn to 2015 we will shortly be finalising our plans for the events of the year. So far in the diary we have a **quiz and curry night on Friday, 27 February** and our **annual golf day** is scheduled for **Friday, 12 June** (for further details of both events, please see the website or email the chairman at chairman@fowps.org.uk). Both of these events are in addition to our film night and Mother's and Father's Day shops. We look forward to working with as many people as possible to ensure a successful 2015! As usual up to date information can be found on our website which is <http://www.fowps.org.uk/>. Craig Lighthouse

TESTON & WATERINGBURY NURSERY

A special thanks to Pedro the guide dog who was very well behaved when he visited us with Paul at the end of January. The children enjoyed welcoming them both to the Nursery and were very interested in learning how Pedro helped his owner.

This term is a very exciting one where we are teaching the children all about the different Seasons and weather conditions. The children have already been talking about snow and how many Olaf's they will build in our large Nursery garden (carrots at the ready!) Indoors in the warm we will be making weather mobiles, a Season tree, planting runner beans and making shredded wheat bird nests, which if you are lucky, you may see a few Easter eggs tucked inside.

We have the ever popular children's discovery bus joining us in Teston on 9 March where the children can explore the bus and learn about being kind to the environment and kind to ourselves by keeping fit and eating healthily. Also in the coming weeks we have our Mothers' Day activity and a visit to the local fire station which is popular with staff as well as the children (I think it's the uniforms!).

And finally our committee are already busy at work sourcing Easter Eggs for our very popular Easter fun day during the Easter Holidays. More details to follow in the next issue.

WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE The WI - Inspiring Women

This month's Club Meeting is on 12 February at 2.30pm in Wateringbury Village Hall. when the topic is Simple

Indian Cookery with Sue Hollings. Why not come along as a visitor? Our club is known for its friendliness and you will receive a warm welcome.

Elizabeth - 01622 812018 or 07977 125000. elizabetha@aol.com

VILLAGE HALL QUIZ EVENING

Our very popular annual Quiz Evening is to be held on

SATURDAY 14 MARCH 2015 at WATERINGBURY VILLAGE HALL

Doors Open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start.

So please let us know if you want to join in this brain-teasing fun evening. You need a team of 6-8, (or if you want to come on your own, we will happily match you up with others to make up a team). As usual, there will be prizes for the winners... and losers... as well as a great raffle! Please bring your own food and drink, (although tea and coffee will be available in the interval). The price is £8 per person, (collected on the night) and proceeds will be used to help maintain and equip our lovely Village Hall. To book a table...or a place...please ring **Phil Rex** on **01622 814483** or email **annerex@btinternet.com** We look forward to seeing you there!

WATERINGBURY CRICKET CLUB

We have the dates for the new season which will start as an **away match** at Kingshill CC on **26 April**. Our home matches will start again in May due to the revamp of the fields. **Practice nets** take place on Tuesdays as of the **10 February** at Maplestone Noakes School at 8.30pm. All are welcome to come and participate. There will be a Works Party for **pitch prep** on **22 March**. This is our chance to get the pitch ready for the start of the season. Everyone is welcome to come and help and also to meet the club members. If you would like to play for your local team then please contact our Club Captain, Richard, on 07739814080. You can also message us on our Wateringbury Cricket Club Facebook page. We hope to see you in the 2015 season.

WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk

Happy New Year everyone! More than 65 children have danced their way into 2015 after joining our two new after school dance clubs. It is wonderful to have such a wide range of sports and arts clubs to offer the children. We have more than trebled the number of clubs available, ranging from strings (cello and violin), batik, gardening and drama to chess, board games, skipping, sewing and a full range of sports.

We always encourage children to take an active part in other areas of school life. In January some of our Year 6 girls organised a Cake Sale to raise money for the Multiple Sclerosis Society while others have been offering to play their instruments to open our Friday Celebration Assemblies. Some braved the cold, damp weather and armed themselves with binoculars to take part in the RSPB's Big Schools' Birdwatch in our playground too. Our children are busy, productive, imaginative and generous.

This term we are continuing to hold our Curriculum Focus events. More than 70 parents/carers went back to the classroom to see how maths is taught in school today and how they can best support their children's learning. In February we will continue the series with a Curriculum Focus on e-Safety and on reading. Events like these highlight the importance of building strong relationships between school and home. The school will also be taking part in Safer Internet Day on 10 February, with children learning about the wonders of the internet and how to use it safely and wisely. Term 3 ends on 13 February and Term 4 begins on 24 February.

Chasey Crawford Usher Headteacher

WATERINGBURY FOOTPATH GROUP

Ten villagers met for the December walk, which because of the very muddy condition of the paths, was mainly on quiet lanes, going via the Mill Pond and Rock Farm out to Gibbs Hill, then Old Road back to the start.

The New Year's Day walk attracted 15 walkers, this one I changed to take a look at the proposed new path from the top of Canon Lane through Cattering Wood with a new path leading into Kings Hill to Bancroft Lane.

Next walks **1 February** meet at Village Hall 2:00 for a 3½ mile local walk.

1 March meet at Village Hall 2:00 for a 3½ mile local walk.

More details from 01622 812338 Kevin Reynolds

WATERINGBURY SPORTS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION WORK FORCE WEEK END

WSRA are planning to hold this year's "**WORK FORCE**" weekend on the **11 and 12 April 2015**. So that the playing fields, which are a facility shared by the whole village, look their best for the Village Summer Fete on the 7 June. WSRA propose to carry out the following list of works:-

- ✓ Paint the pavilion externally and repair brickwork to the steps/wall leading from the pavilion.
- ✓ Paint the storage cabins.
- ✓ Clean and treat all the commemorative benches down at the playing field.
- ✓ Prepare two areas of the playing field and sow "Pictorial Meadows Classic Annual Mix" flower seeds.
- ✓ Remove the existing QE II commemorative plaque and install its replacement.
- ✓ The pruning of the trees around the playing field and disposal of branches etc will be carried out under the Parish Council contract.

In addition to all these works WSRA, in conjunction with the Parish Council, plan to carry out a

"MONSTER BASH THE TRASH" litter pick across the whole village.

The necessary equipment for the litter pick will be provided by TMBC.

Refreshments for all volunteers will be provided. **Please come forward and volunteer to help, even if it is for only an hour. It is a great opportunity to meet new friends and put something back into your village.**

Please contact Mike Witts 01622 812027 or John Ibbs 01622 813101.

NETTLESTEAD AND WATERINGBURY PRE-SCHOOL & CLUBS

Well, haven't we all been busy. Our first week back and we have been enjoying lovely treasure hunts in the woods. We all went looking for surprises; hidden dinosaurs, blocks, hanging widgets and camouflaged animals. The dinosaur was the most difficult to find as he kept very still and was the same colour as the tree! Once we had collected our treasures we did tally charts to see how many toys we had found and amazingly our children were able to add 5 to 4 and knew that it equalled 9. These activities have enabled us to use our writing and recording skills and our discussion skills whilst exploring our letters. If you wish to come along and join our fun then please ring: 01622 813120

email: nettlesteadandwateringbury@yahoo.com

or visit: www.nettlesteadandwateringbury.co.uk

HISTORY SOCIETY

Our speaker on **18 February** is Sarah Palmer who is coming along to tell us about "**Kent and the Sea**".

In November we were told about 'The Huguenots of Kent', by Norman Hopkins. The Huguenots arrived in Kent from Holland and Belgium during the 15th century, bringing with them their many different trades, particularly weaving, and their religious belief. Establishing themselves in Canterbury and Rochester, they gradually moved up through England and in Derby produced quality porcelain under the now famous name of 'Crown Derby'. Norman told us that many of the hymns that we still sing today were written by the Huguenots, particularly "All people that on Earth do dwell" and although their wish for freedom of worship was not always granted, through hard work, thrift and self-discipline and without violence, they survived. Norman also mentioned that if we were to look back through our family history we would most likely find we have Huguenot connections.

Bruce Cook came along in December to present a 'Magic Lantern Show', during our Social Evening. Bruce was using his Great Grandfather's equipment which had first been used in the late 1800s, and read from the notes written by him to describe the images shown. As well as still pictures, Bruce showed moving slides and explained to us how the images were made. Bruce's family moved from London to Sandgate around 1900 to escape the smog, and many of the slides shown were of local disasters that had occurred on the East Kent Coast. A very interesting and different evening to end our meetings in 2014, and we look forward to being further entertained in 2015.

**PADDOCK WOOD CHORAL SOCIETY SINGS HAYDN
SATURDAY 21 MARCH IN ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH PW AT 7.30PM**

Four professional soloists will join the choir - Rebecca Mitchell, [soprano], Harriet Webb, [mezzo soprano], Gary Marriott, [tenor] and Michael White, [baritone]. Together with the Henham Chamber Orchestra, Plus Sophie Westbrooke, finalist of the BBC Young Musician Competition 2014, who will play the Sammartini Recorder Concerto, a Baroque piece which reveals the unique contribution of this early instrument. The concert is the

Society's 35th Spring Concert and promises to be a concert of great quality and enjoyment. Tickets £12 [£2 under 19] from Box Office 01892 822448 or Email: spring15@paddockwood-choral.org.uk

1ST WATERINGBURY BROWNIES NEED MORE HELPERS

1st Wateringbury Brownies has been in existence since around 1952 and for at least 20 years was the only group in the village for girls. In 1976 guides were started, then 2nd Wateringbury Brownies, 2nd Wateringbury Guides, Rainbows and more recently Senior Section. The units have all been very successful and all are full with lengthy waiting lists.

Sadly Anna Harper has had to give up 1st Wateringbury Brownies as she has taken on a new teaching role in Sheppey. Sensibly she has moved to be much nearer her school and so the journey to brownies plus the amount of evening work that she now has makes it impossible for her to carry on with the unit.

Anna had a number of helpers both uniformed and non-uniformed as well as a couple of very good young leaders. However, at the present time none of them are in a position to come every week and so we need your help. The good news is that the days of one person taking on all the responsibility of running a unit have long gone – we have joint leaders for Wednesday brownies, and also joint District Commissioners as well as a team of leaders at cubs. We are looking for a team of ladies to take on this long established brownie unit.

There is lots of support from the current helpers, existing guiders from other units, and the scout and guide family group. We also have someone who is prepared to do the accounts and assist with the admin.

The roles will be a great asset on any job CV and you will be able to record:

- Planning and organisation skills
- Communication skills
- Holding a position of responsibility
- Teamwork

Being a brownie leader will give you the opportunity to do things you would never be able to do anywhere else. Our leaders have abseiled, sailed, camped, canoed, gone down a zip wire, in fact, you name it, they've had the opportunity. In addition you can be sure of friends for life and lots of fun and laughter.

We offer all the training and support you need and help with uniform costs if you choose to go down this route. You will need a DBS (CRB) check but we arrange and pay for this and it's another thing to go on your CV!

Please do give this serious thought – we really don't want to close a unit that has been in existence for 62 years and there will not be scope for the girls to move to other units as they are full so they will have to give up brownies. We don't want to do that, the girls don't want to do that, and we are sure you don't want us to have to do that either. We would like to set up a rota of parents and guiders from other units to take us up to Easter to give us some time to see what we can organise, but if we don't have a team in place by then, with a heavy heart we will have to close the unit.

Please don't allow this to happen.

If you think you can help us form a team, then please contact any of the following:

Tina Tuton 07790 428663 or Lesley Barker 07856 291121

JANUARY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Crime Report Kent police said that there were no reported crimes in the village in December.

Budget for 2015/16 Councillors approved the budget for 2015/16 which showed a small increase in the precept to reflect the cost of the overflow car park for the playing fields on land at Drayhorse Meadow.

Thanks Councillor and Mrs Michael Wells were thanked by the Chairman for their hard work in clearing the ivy and tidying the area at the junction of Pizienwell and Tonbridge Road.

Borough Councillor Simon Jessel was at the meeting and reported on matters of local interest and was asked to look into the progress of the proposed landscaping buffer at the top of Canon Lane and a tree with a preservation order in Red Hill.

Highways and Transportation Items from the agenda for a forthcoming area Highways committee meeting were discussed with Charles Stroud who represents the council at this meeting. The

chairman thanked Charles and his small speedwatch team for their work. Charles said that on average 25-30 vehicles were found to be speeding in any speedwatch monitoring hour.

Planning The council had no objections to the application for a single storey extension at 101 Red Hill (TM/14/04225/FL).

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on **Tuesday 3 February at 7.30pm** in the ground floor meeting room of the Village Hall.

HELP TO MAKE OUR VILLAGE SAFER

Residents who value the work done by the Speedwatch volunteers in slowing down traffic in the village are asked to show their support for the work by becoming volunteers. Volunteers do not need to commit to a specific time each month. They simply need to let the co-ordinator know their availability in response to his emails. Details from 01622 817068.

EAST FARLEIGH GARDNERS CLUB

On Thursday 26 February at 7.30 for 7.45 pm start in the Old School Hall, Laurie Manser, a retired gardener, returns with a second instalment of his life as a Garden Boy. Members £1, Non-members £3 Home made cakes and hot drinks will be on sale.

DECEMBER PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

KCC Councillor Matt Balfour updated the council on matters of local interest. He answered questions from councillors and public about the recent Government announcement to provide funding for flood defences at Yalding and any possible impact on Watlington; his support for the Council's desire to have some tracks at the top of Canon Lane recognised as footpaths; and the recent publicity leaflets delivered to households to encourage more plastic bottle recycling. Having given his report he then left the meeting.

Police Matters For the fourth consecutive month there was no crime report from the police. The village is still awaiting the appointment of a PCSO. The chairman reported that Police Speed vans had been seen in the village recently. At the public open forum it was suggested that the Clerk write to the Police Commissioner expressing the village's dissatisfaction at the support it was receiving from the police.

Sports and Recreation Association Mike Witts reported that the Association had agreed to mastermind the organisation of **the Village Fete** which would be held on **Sunday 7 June**. Councillors expressed their appreciation to the association and agreed to underwrite the set-up and entertainment expenses to a maximum of £1,000. Mike expressed the hope that all organisations and societies in the village will support the fete by having a stall. Any money raised on the stalls will be kept by the individual organisations. Regular monthly meetings will be held in the village hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. He hoped volunteers would attend these meetings to assist the Association's small committee.

Speedwatch the council were delighted to learn that Charles Stroud had reconsidered his decision to resign and would stay in post for a further 3 months to allow time for a new co-ordinator to be found. They thanked him for all his hardwork.

T & M Borough Councillor Simon Jessel told the council that following the enquiry a further 672 homes would be built at Kings Hill. The Malling Road near its junction at Kent Street will be widened and the work will take about 18 months. Due to Central Government funding cuts the Borough Council have to make further savings of £1.5 million.

Planning Applications Councillors had no objection to application TM/14/03618FL for construction of a single storey extension to master bedroom to form en-suite bathroom at 18 Upper Mill. As long as the conservation officer is satisfied and the council's recommendations for working hours and obstruction were adopted the council had no objections to TM/14/03713/LB Listed Building Application for internal alterations and repairs at 159 Pizien Well Road. Councillors objected to TM/14/03388/FL to reposition garden fence at 17 Leney Road. It was felt moving the fence would be a fundamental change to the estate layout and spoil the original ethos and design of the development. It would also be a visual impairment and a potential danger for traffic.

WAR NEWS, JANUARY 1915

<p>January 2nd: Russian offensive in Carpathians. 18th: British defeat in German East Africa. 19th: first Zeppelin bombing raids on UK kill 4 23rd: revolt in Nyasaland (Malawi) against British rule. 24th: naval Battle of Dogger Bank. 26th: Ottomans attack Suez Canal; British victory.</p>

Wateringbury has had a long association with the Royal Navy. William Latter from Wateringbury, as a boy aged 15, was at the Battle of Trafalgar - Charles Middleton, Lord Barham from Teston, was First Sea Lord at the time. Matthias Lucas, who bought Wateringbury Place in the 1820s, established the *River Fencibles* in 1803 and organised Nelson's funeral procession on the Thames; he maintained a life-long association with the navy. After WW2 Wateringbury could boast two admirals as residents.

Henry Brocklebank, son of the owner of Wateringbury Place, was the first on the vicar's 1915 list of 28 men in the navy. We have detailed information about him as his daughter published a book on his war service after his death in 1957. Henry was a long serving naval officer, who in January 1915 was put in command of H.M.S. Changuinola, a banana boat with a crew of 217, requisitioned from Fyffes by the navy and armed with 6 inch guns.

Changuinola spent the majority of the war enforcing the blockade of Germany as part of the Tenth Cruiser Squadron of 24 ships. They were protected by the Grand Fleet in Scapa Flow. In previous wars Britain had enforced close blockades of enemy ports. Now, because of the new dangers from mines and submarines, it was a distant blockade across the 200 mile gap between the Shetlands and Norway. During 1915, steaming 70,000 miles and only spending 94 nights in port, Changuinola stopped 159 neutral ships for inspection (by sending an armed boarding party) to see if they were carrying contraband cargo, and sent 50 into port at Kirkwall with a prize crew. It was often cold work in heavy seas, dangerous when attempting to board a reluctant neutral and requiring considerable diplomacy. The blockade was successful in cutting Germany off from her normal imports of food and raw materials, causing her considerable hardship by early 1916. In 1919 Henry was made C.B.E.

In the village petty crime continued. In January 1915 a case of shop breaking at Wateringbury with the theft of 2s.10 ½ d. and cigarettes was brought before Malling magistrates, resulting in a youth, George Wells, being put under the supervision of a Probation Officer.

The Parish Council meeting in January 1915 ordered the Clerk to write to the County Surveyor about the reconstruction and kerbing of the footpath by the Church, but he was slapped down by the Surveyor's reply saying that the County Council has "decided to curtail... expenditure on improvement works of this character during the continuance of the war." The Parish Council only met twice more in 1915, considering only formal matters such as appointments and accounts. Terry Bird

For more details see the web-site of Wateringbury Local History Society.
(<https://www.sites.google.com/site/wateringburylocalhistory/>).

CHURCH THANKS

At our Annual Christingle Service thanks to the generosity of the congregation about **£150** was collected to aid the work of The Children's Society. Our thanks go to Teston Farm Shop who kindly donated the 100 oranges used to make the Christingles.

Carol Singing The Church Choir and supporters together with church organist Hilary, on keyboard, led the carol singing at the North Pole Christmas Lights Switch-On on Friday 5 December and thanks to the generosity of those at the festivities **£98** was collected for Lymphoma Research. The amount raised for Demelza Childrens' Hospices from the Carols around the village has not yet been notified by the charity.

Big Christmas Card which is signed instead of giving individual cards to local friends raised the magnificent sum of **£571.20** which has now been forwarded to this year's chosen charity. To this figure the charity will be able to add **£103.75** in Gift Aid, making a grand total of **£674.95**. A huge thank you to everyone for such generosity which recognises the wonderful work carried out by the Medecins sans Frontieres doctors and nurses in fighting Ebola.. *Ted and Jane*

Church Christmas Decorations Thank you to all who donated in memory of loved ones to the Christmas Flowers, to Bijou Nursery for donating the handsome Christmas Tree and to those who used their talents to make our church look so beautiful.

Concert A huge thank-you to the members of Kent Police Male Voice Choir; and to the members of the Kent Schools Recorder Orchestra for their very entertaining and professional performance in early December which a large audience appreciated and enjoyed. Many thanks to all who helped and supported this event which raised the magnificent sum of **£933** after expenses for church funds.

TODDLERS PRAISE

Rev Jim Brown and his helpers invite Toddlers to bring their Mum, Dad or Carer to the Scout and Guide H.Q. Glebe Meadow, Wateringbury on **Mondays 2pm - 3pm** (except Bank Holidays) for an hour of fun. Enjoy songs with actions, marching, story time, prayer, puppets, parachute game,

banners and musical instruments. The hour concludes with an opportunity for a chat during biscuits, squash, cup of tea and in time for those who collect older siblings from school. You can be sure of a very warm welcome and there is no charge.

PRIESTLY PONDERINGS parishofficeemwt@gmail.com

LOVE BINDS US TOGETHER

I don't spend much time watching TV but one programme I really enjoy is 24hrs A&E. The programme is a documentary following a 24 hour period in a London hospital A&E department. I really enjoy watching the varying responses by the patients and family and friends. It is quite fascinating insight in to people's lives. They often express themselves with no inhibitions and, when faced with tragedy or trauma, folk tend to demonstrate their love for one another quite freely. The programme actually begins with words from a consultant and he explains that if people do face death then how much nicer it is for people to use the words "I Love You" as their final words. The programme tends to illustrate the very best of human behaviour and restores my faith in people. It can be touching and so very emotional.

Conversely, events recorded on our TV screens covering the most bizarre and tragic terrorist attack in Paris can have the opposite effect. The perpetrators of those utterly inexplicable crimes were evil! I can't begin to understand how religion can ever be a part of their actions and it is a huge insult to the millions of peace loving Moslems throughout the world to suggest that it is. It is for this reason that France declared war on the terrorists and not Islam. Knowing that these terrorist attacks are not about religion, we have to reach a point where we stop blaming Islam. Ironically, terrorism is actually an act against the very religion they claim to believe in. It's an acknowledgement, on the part of the terrorist, that the religion and its teachings aren't enough to convince people to follow it.

I look forward to the day when an act of terrorism by self-proclaimed Muslims will be universally dismissed as nothing more than a criminal attack of a thuggish political organisation. For me, religion—no matter which one—is ultimately about people wanting to live humble, moral lives that create a harmonious community and promote tolerance, friendship and, most importantly, love with all people. If God is involved it can be nothing less!

Let's return to my favourite TV programme. Unlike some of the patients in 24hrs A&E, the victims of the terrorist attacks in Paris had no opportunity to say their final words "I Love You" to their loved ones. Their lives were extinguished at the pull of a trigger without their family surrounding them with their love. All religions, including Islam, promote the aim to love one another. If we love one another then we will remain united when we face an attack by any evil. Love will bind us together.

Revd Jim Brown

MOTHERS' UNION BENEFICE OF EAST MALLING, WATERINGBURY AND TESTON

The Mothers' Union fellowship group meets from 1pm - 2.30pm on the first Thursday of each month. The meetings rotate around the Benefice at one of the three churches. Anyone is welcome to come along, men, women married or single. We meet once a month for fellowship, refreshments, an interesting talk on various topics and we do some fundraising to support the international charity of "Mothers' Union". Please see www.mothersunion.org for more information. Our vision is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships. We aim to demonstrate the Christian faith in action by the transformation of communities worldwide through the nurture of the family in its many forms and help those whose family life has met with adversity. More details from Frances Selman on 07913 866095 or Liz Allen on 01622 813515

TWELTH NIGHT QUIZ ANSWERS AND WINNERS

Congratulations to the winner (62 ½ out of possible 72) Ros Hann; and two second place winners – Clara Wilson-Green and Barbara Uden, both with 62 points. The quiz raised £171 for church funds, thanks to all who bought a quiz sheet.

1 Application of Dock Leaves 2 They are both Rose Growers 3 Sir Francis Drake in 1586; Raleigh & Harriot in 1587(accept either one) 4 Belladonna – aka Deadly Nightshade 5 Strawberry 6 They're all gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society 7 The Herbs 8 Christmas Rose (Helleborus Niger), Weeping Willow (Salix Babylonica), Swiss Cheese Plant (Monstera Deliciosa), Spider Plant (Chlorophyllum), Tea (Camellia Sinensis), Sage (Salvia) 9 Brian 10 Sigmund Freud 11 Percy Thrower 12 Tom Hart-Dyke 13 Broadview Gardens, Hadlow 14 Mary Magdalene 15 Turkey 16 1895 17 1,000 Sq feet (a) 18 A Date, a Grain of Wheat and a sprig of Myrtle 19 Alan Titchmarsh 20 Red (Cardinalis), Yellow (Flavidus), Purple (Purpurea), Green (Viridus), Blue (Cyaneus), Snow White (Niveus) 6 possible points. 21 Lily ALLEN, Nigella LAWSON, Basil HUME /FAWLTY (accept either), Rowan AKINSON or WILLIAMS (accept either), Poppy DELEVINGE, Prunella SCALES, Veronica LAKE, Hyacinth BUCKET 8 possible points 22 Good Friday 23 Flax 24 Hydroponics 25 They're all Grapefruit 26 2 to 3 year intervals 27 Three weeks 28 Lettuce (Arctic King), Beetroot (Detroit), Carrot (Early Horn), Cucumber (Telegraph), Brussels Sprout (Goldmine), Potato (Desiree) 6 possible points. 29 1959 30 Smooth side down 31 Lightening and/or Witches (accept either) 32 Reverend Adam Buddle 33 Bill Deedes (accept Sir William Deedes) 34 Marigolds 35 Rice 36 They are all Poisonous 37 Flower of Kent 38 J.M. Barrie 39 65 feet 40 Watering plants from beneath them 41 They are all members of the Pea family 42 Salvias 43 All are Sunflowers 44 Lilies of the field 45 Helen Yemm 46 Sir Humphrey Repton 47 On the roof 48 Landscape architect Ralph Hancock 49 Lancelot 50 "It has great capabilities"

LEFT IN CHURCH OVER CHRISTMAS BROWN LEATHER JACKET

To claim please contact Church Wardens (phone numbers on cover)

BENEFACTIVE SERVICES

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

<p>Sunday 1 February - Candlemas</p> <p>8am Communion - East Malling</p> <p>9.45am Family Service – East Malling</p> <p>9.45am Family Service – Teston</p> <p>10am Morning Praise – Wateringbury</p>	<p>Sunday 8 February</p> <p>9.45am Eucharist – East Malling</p> <p>10am Holy Communion - Wateringbury</p> <p>6.30pm Evensong - Teston</p>
<p>Sunday 15 February</p> <p>8am 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 February - 1st in Lent</p> <p>9.45am Eucharist – East Malling</p> <p>10am Holy Communion – Wateringbury</p> <p>6.30pm Eucharist - Teston</p>
<p>Every Monday – 2-3pm – Scout & Guide HQ, Glebe Meadow – Toddler Praise</p>	
<p>Every Thursday - 9am in East Malling Church – Holy Communion</p>	
<p>Pilsdon Community, 27 Water Lane, West Malling - Rev Pam Rink invites you to the Barn Chapel to join members of the community for a Eucharist Service every Wednesday at noon and 6pm on Sundays</p>	
<p>For Baptisms, Weddings and other arrangements with the vicar please attend the Parish Office at the Vicarage on Wednesdays 6.30-7.15pm</p>	

Special Services in February

Tuesday 3rd - Service of Healing and Wholeness. This month the service will be in **Wateringbury Church at .8pm..**

Ash Wednesday 18th - Holy Communion with Ashing

9am East Malling and 7.30pm Teston

Tuesday 24th - Evensong with the Choir - Wateringbury - 7.30pm

IN OUR JOYS AND SORROWS - FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Wedding Blessings - We wish joy and happiness to

Stuart and Tracy Vincent of Canada (21 December)

Guillaume Perret and Jo Severn who live on the Island of Raiatea nr Tahiti. (French Polynesian) (27 December)

LENT GOUPS all starting week commencing 23 February

This year the Benefice are following the Lent study course "Challenging Poverty" produced by Rochester Diocese

Mondays - Wateringbury at St John the Baptist Church, 7.45 for 8pm.

Tuesdays - Teston at South Cottage, Malling Road at 8pm

Wednesdays - Wateringbury at St John the Baptist Church at 1pm

East Malling Wednesdays at 6 Reeves Court, 8pm and Thursdays at noon