

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
to all our readers, distributors, contributors and advertisers

VILLAGE DIARY

December

- 2 Parish Council meeting - Hall - 7.30pm followed by Planning Committee
- 7 Police Male Voice Choir Concert - Church - 3pm
- 7 Footpaths Group Local Walk - Hall car park - 2pm
- 14 Christmas Fayre - Abbeyfield Greensted - The Orpines - 3pm
- 17 Magic Lantern Show by Bruce Cook - History Society - Hall - 7.30pm
- 18 Nine Lessons and Carols by Candle-light - Church - 8pm
- 19 Carols round the village from 6pm
- 24 Crib Service - Church - 5pm
- 24 Midnight Communion - Church - 11.30pm
- 24 Maggie Hart - Whitney Houston Tribute - Wateringbury Club
- 25 Family Communion Service - Church - 10.30am
- 31 New Year Party Time and Traditional Night - Wateringbury Club

January

- 1 Footpaths Group Local Walk - Hall car park - 2pm
- 6 Parish Council meeting - Hall - 7.30pm followed by Planning Committee
- 21 Smuggling in Kent - History Society Talk - Hall - 7.40 for 8pm
- 30 & 31 Wateringbury Players Village Pantomime - Hall

AN IMPORTANT DATE FOR NEXT YEAR'S DIARY

VILLAGE FETE SUNDAY 7 JUNE 2015. If you can volunteer to help please contact Mike Witts - 01622 812027 or John Ibbs - 01622 813101.

CAROLS IN THE VILLAGE

On **Friday 19 December** there will be the traditional 'Carolling round the village' for Demelza Children's Hospices. We hope to visit Phoenix Drive, Leaney Road, The Brucks, Cobbs Close, Rivers Close and The Orpines. New singers including families welcome. Meet at Greensted in The Orpines at 6pm or catch up with us round the village. Bring a torch along with you. Further details from Bob Bowie (813396).

WATERINGBURY WORKING MENS' CLUB

The Committee wishes all members, their families and all villagers a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year. On **Christmas Eve we look forward to seeing Maddie Hart – a Whitney Houston Tribute** and we will be holding our usual New Year's Eve Party Time and Traditional night to welcome the New Year.

ADVERTISING IN ROSTRUM IN 2015

We are currently arranging our advertising for 2015. All existing advertisers and those who have expressed an interest in advertising should have been contacted. Anyone interested in advertising in our village magazine in 2015 who has not been contacted should contact us as soon as possible at rostrum2@hotmail.com

WAR NEWS, DECEMBER 1914

- 3rd December: Austrian army captures Serbian capital, Belgrade.
- 8th December: Battle of Falkland Islands: Royal Navy revenges defeat of Battle of Coronel.
- 16th December: German navy shells Scarborough, Whitby and Hartlepool.. Serbs retake Belgrade.
- 21st December: first German air raid on Britain.
- 25th December: unofficial Christmas truce on Western Front. Raid by Royal Navy carrier-based aircraft on Cuxhaven.

At the December meeting of the Kent Executive of the National Farmers Union, held at the Bull Hotel, Maidstone, Mr. Owen English of Manor Farm reported that 72 acres of hops had been grubbed in Wateringbury during the last 2 months. After the very good hop harvest of 1914, this was an early indication that hops and brewing, mainstays of the local economy, were to suffer during the war: government increased alcoholic duties, limited pub opening times and restricted beer strength and production. Lloyd-George declared in the next year "Drink is doing more damage in the war than all the German submarines put together".

Thomas Waghorn, a Wateringbury man serving in the Royal West Kent regiment, was arrested in Wateringbury on 12th December for desertion and remanded by Malling police court to wait a military escort and fined 2 shillings. Later in the war the arresting policeman received a reward of 5 shillings per case. Thomas was to be killed in action on the western front in November 1917 but at this time he was probably based in Chatham. The term "deserter" includes those who have overstayed their leave as well as those who have deserted in the face of the enemy. He was not the only "deserter" arrested in Wateringbury during the war and the arrest did not stop him becoming an acting sergeant by the time of his death, aged 21. Thomas was one of 5 Wateringbury "Waghorns" who served in the armed forces.

The December Parish Magazine had extracts from 9 letters from those serving in the forces, 5 from the 21 Wateringbury men serving in the navy. They include a letter from Henry Hook who was serving as "gunroom cook" along with 1,000 other men on

HMS Iron Duke, the 25,000 tonne modern battleship, the flagship of Admiral Jellicoe, Commander in Chief of the Grand Fleet. Hook describes the Grand Fleet as "patiently waiting for the German High Sea Fleet to come out of their shell" (which they only did in 1916). The Grand Fleet "waited" at its base in Scapa Flow in the Orkney Islands from where it enforced Britain's "distant blockade" of Germany. Henry was one of 6 Wateringbury "Hooks" who served.

A letter from an unidentified Wateringbury soldier serving in the BEF, published in the parish magazine in 1915, describes his Christmas: "...I went to all the trenches to see what was to be done about burying the dead men that laid between our trenches and the Germans....I am very glad Christmas is over."

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

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

Delivery thanks to Mable Turk who is retiring, after many years, from distributing Rostrum to 16 homes in Bow Road (Satis to 65). A new distributor is now needed to take over this round starting in February. If you can help please contact us 812023 or 814974.

WATERINGBURY PLAYERS PANTOMIME TICKETS

Oh yes it is.....!!! It's that time of year again and rehearsals are pushing ahead at a pace for **the Wateringbury Players' production of 'Dorothy and the Yellow Brick Road'** which takes place on **Friday 30 and Saturday 31 January 2015**. Tickets are priced £8 for the Friday evening and £10 for the Saturday evening with the matinee priced at £5 (child) and £8 (Adults).

Tickets go on sale for all the shows on **Monday 15 December** at both the Post Office and the Handy Stores. All the heroes and villains you'd expect are there and the Munchkins in particular are hard at work in preparing a show fit for a Wizard. The entire cast looks forward to welcoming you for a fun packed show.

WATERINGBURY CRICKET CLUB

We will start nets on the 10 February 2015 at Maplesdon Noakes School. It will be 8.30-9.30pm. New faces will be very welcome. If you would like more information about nets, our club or further information about when we play then please contact Abbi Vallance 07773 681677. We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

SINGERS WELCOME

New SATB choir starting in January to perform Mozart, etc in local churches. Please contact Antony le Fleming 01622 817842 antle Fleming@gmail.com

POPPY APPEAL NEWS The poppy appeal organiser would like to offer his thanks to everyone who has collected, or helped by donating or allowing the British Legion to place a poppy box on their premises. As a result of the great effort by all, the magnificent sum of £3,030 plus Gift Aid (subject to verification) has been collected for the Royal British Legion. This includes £650.80 from the Remembrance Service Church Collection and donations made for refreshments after the service. A great big thanks to you all. Larry Collins POA.

WATERINGBURY ZUMBA LADIES

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you to all the lovely ladies who join me every Monday and Tuesday evening for ZUMBA. The improvement in your fitness and dancing is fantastic! New faces are always welcome first class back 6 January 2015. No need to book, just turn up! For more info contact Tanya 07531 839159 / www.tanyashepelev.zumba.com

WAR NEWS, NOVEMBER 1914

<p>1 November: Battle of Coronel (off Chile), British naval defeat. 4/5 November: Britain declares war on Ottoman Empire. 7 November: German naval base at Tsingtao, China, captured. 9 November: German commerce raider, <i>Emden</i>, destroyed. 12 November: 1st battle of Ypres peters out, leaving both sides entrenched along Western Front in positions which do not significantly change until Spring 1918.</p>
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In November 3 families of Belgian refugees came to Wateringbury. Many of the estimated 200,000 arrived through Folkestone, before, as part of spy hysteria, being dispersed away from ports and military towns. Leney, the Wateringbury brewer, lent one of his new cottages to accommodate some. Others provided lodging in their own homes. The Wateringbury schools admitted Belgian children and hemmed petticoats for them. A fund was set up in the village to support them; by the end of 1915, it had raised £140. Some contributed to their support in kind rather than cash. The refugees brought with them stories of German atrocities.

Other strangers in the village were war wounded from Barham Court, Teston, turned into a 32 bed hospital by Colonel Warde. As with all the houses used in this way during WW1, this was a voluntary action and not a compulsory requisition. Convalescents often attended Wateringbury events and the Wateringbury doctor, Dr. Southwell-Sander, gave his services free to the wounded there.

The impact on the village of the departure of men who had volunteered was immediate. The assistant master at the Boys' School did not turn up at the start of term as he had joined the army. The organist complained that 5 out of 9 choirmen had joined the army. Organised soccer and cricket came to an end. Some village societies continued to meet, such as the Wateringbury and District Cottage Gardeners' Society and the Wateringbury Choral Society, but with all proceeds going to war charities. Even school prizes awarded at the end of term were given to war charities. Diphtheria and scarlet fever continued as the main childhood diseases: on 10th November the infants school log records laconically: "Willie Kirby was at school last Monday & died on Saturday. The children subscribed flowers for a wreath for him."

The many letters to and from the front, going through a sorting office in Regent's Park, were a priority item and soldiers on the front received frequent and rapid delivery of mail. Early in the war, letters were often published by local newspapers. One letter, dated 14 November, published in the village magazine was from Henry Shotter, serving with the BEF. He thanks the vicar for the present of socks and cigarettes. He is particularly grateful for the socks. In the Boer war each Wateringbury soldier had been sent tobacco, as most working men then either smoked a pipe or rolled their own; but loose tobacco was impractical in the trenches so now cigarettes, often in tins and with cigarette cards, came into their own.

FOOTPATHS GROUP

Our next walks are all local walks leaving the village hall car park promptly at 2pm. We are a friendly informal group and welcome new walkers so do try and join us. Put the dates in your diaries: **Sunday 7 December**, The **January** walk will be on **New Years Day** for a walk to bring in the new year and **Sunday 1 February**. Further details from 01622 812338.

November Walk On a wet and dank Autumnal afternoon I was very surprised to see nine brave villagers out for this walk, although after the first 15 minutes the rain stopped and it was dry for the rest of the walk. We walked via the Millpond and Old Road along the path by Kings Hill golf course, then through Cattering Woods and Orchards back to the start. Not much to see along the route in the way of Flora and Fauna but what we expect at this time of year.

Any suggestions for 2015 walks will be welcome. Kevin Reynolds

THE ABBEYFIELD GREENSTED CHRISTMAS BAZAAR will be taking place at Greensted, The Orpines on **Sunday 14 December, starting at 3pm.**

We have stalls selling gifts, jewellery, children's books and food, along with refreshments and entertainment. We are also running a tombola, along with our Grand Christmas Prize Draw, with some great prizes. If you want to find that perfect present or small gift come along and take a look.

The **Wateringbury Brownies** will be helping throughout the Bazaar and **are going to be singing and performing their Christmas play** for us. Everyone welcome. The more the merrier! So if you're looking for a little pre-Christmas fun and entertainment, come along and share a drink and a mince pie. This is a charitable fundraiser and all proceeds go to the Abbeyfield Wish Appeal. We look forward to seeing you there.

USED STAMPS WANTED TO SAVE LIVES

Who would ever have thought that used stamps (UK or foreign) could help save little lives? Rebecca Pullen (Nettlestead) has set herself the challenge of collecting 20 kilos of stamps by 1/1/15 which will provide enough funds to educate 10,000 pregnant women across the UK. Sounds a good idea? It was until she realised she needs to collect 110,000 stamps!!! Rebecca is a regional collector for Count The Kicks. This Charity aims to educate mums-to-be on the importance of monitoring baby movements and to seek medical advice when a change to their normal pattern occurs which can indicate a change in a baby's well-being.

Rebecca is desperate for your (and your friends, family, workplace, schools.....) used stamps. Just put them in an envelope and push through her door at 14 Bryant Close Nettlestead ME18 5EX (please do not ring the bell). If you would like further information on CTK visit www.countthekicks.org.uk Rebecca also has a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CTKRecyclingMaidstone/> or can be contacted on: rlpullen@hotmail.co.uk

NOVEMBER PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

There is a **vacancy on the parish council** caused by the recent resignation of Chris Stones. If you would like to serve the village by becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact Sue Cockburn, the Parish Clerk, who will be happy to supply further details.

Procedures Councillors approved the draft procedures prepared by Councillor Tripp for donations of seats, trees and other items to the Parish. Richard thanked his fellow councillors for their helpful suggestions. Following the buying back of 2 plots at the cemetery the procedures for the purchase of plots had also been updated.

Village Warden John Ibbs attended the meeting and gave a short report on his activities. He had asked the Borough Dog Warden to make more visits to the Playing Fields as some dog owners were still not picking up after their dogs.

Sports and Recreation Association. The work of upgrading a section of the playing fields continues; the grass seed had been sown. A new padlock had been fitted on the gate to the Drayhorse Meadow overflow car park. The wet weather had delayed the levelling of this car park.

Speedwatch. 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 a volunteer. 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.

Planning There were no local planning applications which required comments from the Council.

Litter Initiative Councillors discussed proposals by Mike Witts for a whole village initiative to pick up and tidy up in all parts of the village not just the playing fields. It was proposed that youth organisations and the school be approached to seek their active participation. T & M Council will also be contacted for assistance.

Public Discussion Time The problems of litter in the village; the apparent lack of interest by Russet Homes to maintain the shrubs and trees on the bank along Bow Road on a regular basis; the Parish's response to the draft KCC budget and the creation of official footpaths at the top of Canon Lane were all brought to the attention of the council and discussed by councillors and the public.

Photographs of boundary hedgerows which had not been cut back and which were a nuisance to pedestrians and motorists in the Pizienwell area were shown to the Council. The clerk was asked to report these properties and the Bow Road Bank to the KCC for their action.

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be on **Tuesdays 2 December and 6 January at 7.30pm in the village hall.** The support of local residents at meetings of the Council is much appreciated.

HISTORY SOCIETY

On **17 December** we will be having our Christmas Social Evening, during which, whilst we are enjoying seasonal refreshments, Bruce Cook will be entertaining us with a **'Magic Lantern Show'**. This evening will be starting at 7.30 pm instead of the usual 8.00 pm.

Our first speaker in 2015 on **21 January** is Peter Ewart who is coming along to tell us about **'Smuggling in Kent'**, which as we are aware has gone on for centuries.

Dr Ann Kneif was our speaker in October, her talk was entitled 'History of Kentish Seaside Resorts until the First World War'. The benefits from visiting the seaside can be traced back to Henry VIII, during his reign it was felt that drinking sea water (which was un-polluted then) was good for your health, and remained popular with the well-to-do until "spas" offered an alternative. During the 19th Century, going to the seaside became very popular with the general public. Queen Victoria had her own bathing machine at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight, and what was good enough for her was considered by her public to be fine for them. With the introduction of transport by rail and steam ships, visits to the seaside became very popular and easily accessible for those who could afford either a day trip or to stay in a boarding house or hotel. Piers were built to enable passengers from the ships to alight onto, and were used for 'promenading along', and eventually entertainment could be enjoyed in various forms as well. Following the Bank Holiday Act in 1871, which allowed everyone a day's holiday, a visit to the seaside became even more popular.

TESTON AND WATERINGBURY NURSERY GROUP

(Registered Charity 1044257) Admissions and enquiries: Tina Driver 07805 796353

This term will see an exciting and educational visit from a Dentist. Due to the recent media coverage regarding the high level of children's tooth decay we are delighted to announce that one of our children's parents has agreed to come in and talk to the children about her job as a Dentist. She will be talking to the children about how to look after their teeth and the importance of brushing correctly. All children will be given a leaflet, together with a shiny new toothbrush.

The children enjoy a weekly visit from the village library bus on Wednesdays, this gives them chance to choose their own books to share with their friends at Nursery.

We will be getting into the festive spirit by taking a walk with the children to Teston Church on Monday 8 December to hear the Christmas story from Rev. Jim Brown and sing some songs in the lovely surroundings. The children will be performing their Christmas Concert on Friday 19 December at the Wateringbury Village Hall for all their family and friends to come along and enjoy. If we are really lucky we may even get a visit from Father Christmas, whilst the parents can enjoy a cheeky glass of sherry and a scrummy mince pie.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. The new term will begin on **Tuesday 6 January 2015.**

FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY SCHOOL

As I write this, we are exactly a week away from the 2014 Christmas Fayre and the excitement is starting to build. Donations are coming in, decorations are being made, and posters and programmes have been designed. A big thank you to all who have helped, donated and contributed in any way as it is all very much appreciated. Thanks also to our sponsors who are Ward and Partners, Where Memories Meet and Bradleys Foods.

The events that have been held so far this term include the Christmas card project and Bag2School which were both successful and raised £248 and £180 respectively. Our next event is our Quiz and Curry Night on 27th February.

We saw the fruits of the fundraising efforts in the form of the play equipment for KS1 installed on the playground which was greatly appreciated by the children. As always, full details of everything can be found on our website which is www.fowps.org.uk

So I would just like to thank everyone for their support in 2014 and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2015.
Craig Lighthouse FOWPS Chairman (chairman@fowps.org.uk)

TO THE RESIDENTS OF WATERINGBURY

There seems to be very little support from residents to be involved with activities for helping to make Wateringbury a safer and enjoyable village for all. Here, I wish to draw your attention to Speedwatch, the Village Fete and the Parish Council.

Speedwatch, under the leadership of Charles Stroud, has been operating in the village for the past seven years, receiving much praise from the police who rated the team the best in Kent. Unfortunately Charles has resigned as co-ordinator leaving the team leaderless. We wish to thank Charles for all his time and effort. Unless a new co-ordinator comes forward before the end of January the whole operation will cease and the equipment will be offered for sale. This would be a tragedy for Wateringbury and residents safety.

Over the past two years we have all enjoyed the **village fetes**. A proposal has been made to proceed with another for 2015, organized, once again by the Sports & Recreation Association. They would appreciate some volunteers to come forward to help, as at this time they are short handed, and it is only the dedicated few doing all the work.

I also would point out that there is a **vacancy on the Parish Council**, and we would appreciate having a younger member.

So volunteers please come forward.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year; we look forward to seeing some new faces come forward.
Michael Cayzer - Chairman, Wateringbury Parish Council.

WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The autumn term has been marked by 'new-ness': new pupils, new staff, new curriculum, new dinner arrangements, new playground. It has, at times, felt overwhelmingly new! However, familiar routines and traditions have run alongside new initiatives and kept our feet on the ground.

The infants' playground now boasts new play structures. The children were clear about what they love to do - slide, climb, hang, swing - and were fully involved in choosing their favourite structures. We held worship on the playground to give thanks for the community spirit which makes such generous gifts possible.

Our kitchen and dinner hall staff began the year with some trepidation as we waited to see how the universal free school meals initiative for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 would unfold. Thankfully, due to the hard work of our catering and midday staff, the cooking and serving of meals has gone without a hitch. We are serving a freshly cooked hot meal at midday to almost 100% of our infant children.

A number of exciting class trips have taken place this term. Year 5 and 6 attended a musical production of Frankenstein as part of the Music@Malling festival. Year 5 spent a day working with an English National Ballet dancer to prepare a dance for the performance, and Year 6 took part in a musical workshop to prepare them for the sounds and textures of the piece. Year 4 spent a day at Kent Life to experience life as a Victorian child and Year 3 have walked along our local river to sketch it and learn more about its geographical features. Our younger children in Year 1 will be visiting the Tunbridge Wells Fire Station as part of their unit on Fire, and our Year 2's have been out exploring the local history and geography of Wateringbury. We hosted world-renowned poet, Brian Moses, as part of an authors in school initiative and 45 children from local schools wrote poetry with him.

The school raised over £500 for Children in Need with their day of challenges. Classes set themselves a goal – everything from spending the day 3-legged, in silence or completing a physical challenge. Children chose challenges for the teachers which were inspired and saw teachers eating lemons and lime, bobbing for apples, dancing like a penguin or hula-hooping and cartwheeling.

Christmas nativities and performances are always a highlight of December and we are looking forward to seeing our pupils take to the stage. Our traditional Carol Service will take place in church on 15 December and we'll enjoy stories and cocoa round the Christmas tree in school on 17 December. Our new drama club has been working on a pantomime which is sure to delight us too. Term 2 will end on 19 December and Term 3 starts on 6 January.

Wishing everyone a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.
Chasey Crawford Usher Headteacher

PADDOCK WOOD CHORAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CONCERT
THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS on SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER at 7.30pm
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, PADDOCK WOOD
Tickets £12, under 19 £2 from 01892 822448 or on the door

**ADVANCED NOTICE FOR YOUR DIARY
VILLAGE HALL QUIZ EVENING**

After all the recent wintery weather, could your brain cells do with a good Spring Clean? If so, now is your chance! 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.**

Tickets are now available...so if you want to join in this brain-teasing fun evening, you need a team of 6-8 people (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!

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



Plenty of Yule fun to come. The Christmas Play will be held on Tuesday 9 December in Nettlestead Village Hall and the Christmas Party on Tuesday 16 December - all parents/carers and children are very welcome.

Preschool starts back on **Tuesday 6 January 2015**.

If you would like to come and visit please ring on 01622 813120 or email us at nettlesteadandwateringbury@yahoo.com or visit our website www.nettlesteadandwateringburypreschool.co.uk
FINALLY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!

WATERINGBURY WOMENS INSTUTUTE The WI - Inspiring Women

Our November meeting featured a demonstration of Christmas floral designs by Jean Schofield. This was very popular and gave us inspiration for our seasonal decorations. Three lucky members won the arrangements in our raffle and we had time for tea, chat and the trading table.

Looking ahead to the festive season, members are planning trips with our WI District to Winchester Christmas Markets and also the Carol Service which will be held at West Farleigh this year. The December Club meeting will be a Christmas Party for members only. We'll also be enjoying lunches, a gentle walk and a scrabble and social afternoon.
Elizabeth 01622 812018 or 07977 125000 elizabethastrid@aol.com

**The Kent Police Male Voice Choir presents a
Concert of Seasonal and Non Seasonal Choral Music**

Musical Director: Martin Rendle

Accompanist: Karen Barton

Sunday 7 December at 3pm in Wateringbury Church

Tickets: Adults £10 to include programme

Children/Full Time Students £5

Further information and advance tickets: 01622 813032

Tickets also available from Wateringbury Post Office

BENEFICE MOTHERS' UNION

On Tuesday 4 December members will enjoy a Christmas lunch at the Wateringbury Hotel. On Tuesday 8 January it is the Annual General Meeting and a Social Get-together at 1pm in East Malling Church.

COFFEE BREAK

We have a really pleasant morning so do come along, it would be good to see you. We meet fortnightly on Wednesdays between 10-12.30 in the church for tea, coffee and fellowship. Everyone is most welcome. At the moment some of us are knitting Christmas decorations plus blankets for premature babies. For the dates of our December and January meetings please phone 01622 813076 Pauline and Gillian

ANNUAL PARISH ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

Wateringbury kept its promise to honour and remember our war dead. It was standing room only at the Annual Parish Service on Remembrance Sunday: our church wardens counted 160 children and 287 adults at the service. All the village uniformed organisations were represented and marched behind their flags to church. We gathered round the war memorial in the churchyard for the traditional 2 minutes silence marked by bugler Calum Graham. Wreaths were laid by The Parish Council, Rotary International, The Scouts, The Guides and The Explorers Unit. Members of the youth organisations planted individual poppy crosses in the garden of remembrance for each of the village's war dead. Others were laid by members of the congregation to commemorate someone special to them. Some of the children laid pottery poppies which they had made themselves. We should all be proud of our young people for their respectful support of this commemoration.

CHURCH SERVICES IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

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

Tuesday 2 December - 8pm - Benefice Service for Healing and Wholeness in East Malling church

Sunday 7 December - 10am Christingle *A praise service when we give Christingle Oranges with candles to everyone to remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World.*

Sunday 14 December - 10am Parish Communion

Monday 15 December - 6pm School Carol Service

Thursday 18 December - 8pm Nine Lessons & Carols by candle-light

Traditional readings and well known carols

Sunday 21 December - 8am Prayer Book Communion

10am Family Service with Nativity Play

Christmas Eve

Crib Service - 5pm *A popular all age service to tell the Story of Christmas while building our Crib. Children may come dressed in costumes if they wish*

Midnight Communion - 11.30pm *The traditional service with blessings and communion*

Christmas Day - 10.30am *A Family Communion Service when children are invited to bring along a favourite present*

Sunday 28 December Common Worship - 10am at Teston for all 3 churches in the Benefice. No service in Wateringbury.

Sunday 4 January - 10am - Matins

Tuesday 6 January - There will be a **Benefice Epiphany Service and Feast at Teston** to celebrate the Feast of Epiphany. This will begin at 6.30pm and will include a "Bring and Share Supper".

Sunday 11 January - 10am - Parish Communion

Sunday 18 January - 8am - Prayer Book Communion

10am - Family Service

Sunday 25 January 10am - Parish Communion

Tuesday 27 January 7.30pm - Evensong with choir

IN OUR JOYS AND SORROWS - FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism - We welcomed into the family of the Church on 16 November James William Dudgeon-Smith.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Many of us when researching our family trees or from recollections and reminiscences of relatives will know of loved ones who lost their lives a century ago in the First World War. If you would like to mark the centenary of a death there will be poppies and labels in the church's memorial Chapel of St George over the next four years to enable the names and details of those lost to be remembered.

ADVENT STUDY COURSE

There are still 3 sessions left of our 4 week study course leading up to Christmas entitled 'Forgiving and Forgetting' by Nick Fawcett, writer and editor of Christian literature. The remaining topics are 'Getting', 'Forgiving' and 'Forgetting'. Our groups are informal and you need not worry if you don't want to say anything but just enjoy the fellowship and

discussion. The groups meet in the church on Mondays 1, 8 and 15 December at 7.45pm for 8pm on and at 1pm on Wednesdays 3, 10 and 17 December. See you there! Worship and Mission Group

CHRISTMAS CRAFT BAZAAR

Many thanks to all who contributed in so many ways to making our annual Craft Bazaar such an enjoyable occasion. The provisional amount raised is an amazing £1,678 which is much needed to help with the day to day running expenses and upkeep of our ancient village church. Thank you to all villagers who turned up in the pouring rain to support the church and we hope that you will be able to make it again next year.

LOST PROPERTY

There are several items of lost property left in the church following the school harvest service and the Remembrance Sunday service, so please do check what is there. The items are underneath the Visitors' Book shelf. Items not claimed by Twelfth Night will be donated to charity shops.

TWELFTH NIGHT QUIZ

This year the theme is Gardens, Gardening and Gardeners. Quiz sheets still only £1 from Jan and Mike Pursey 814324. Completed quiz sheets to be returned before Twelfth Night - 6 January 2015. Proceeds to church funds.

PRIESTLY PONDERINGS parishofficeemwt@gmail.com
ONE SOLITARY LIFE

You hardly need me to remind you that it will be Christmas in a few weeks time, like it or not! Whilst I enjoy the celebratory side to Christmas, as much as most folk do, I would always encourage you all to give some thought to the "Reason behind the Season". In other words, think about Jesus and who this person was, born as the Christ Child.

Let's focus on the birth story that we celebrate in a few weeks time. Why Bethlehem? Why Palestine? Why not Rome, Paris or London? These cities were more developed and communications were established. But, no, God chose a very small insignificant village in a small corner of a barren part of the Middle East to engage with humanity through the birth of Christ. He was probably born in some kind of cave amongst livestock. Why not chose a more significant, salubrious, developed and civilised place to achieve his objectives? Perhaps a palace amongst the rich would have been more fitting for the King of Kings! We may never know for sure but simply surmise. Maybe it was something to do with humble beginnings, identifying with the poor or being at the centre of the religious world of the day.

Whatever God's reasons may have been one thing is for sure, it worked! The birth of Christ changed the world. I invite you to reflect on these words of Dr James Allan Francis in a sermon he once wrote:

19 centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race, the leader of mankind's progress.

All the armies that ever marched,
All the navies that ever sailed,
All the parliaments that ever sat,
All the Kings that ever reigned,
Put together, have not affected the life of man on earth
As much as that One Solitary Life.

Whether you are a Christian or not it is difficult to deny that Christ has shaped the world we live in like no other individual. This person's solitary life has achieved so much. So, amidst all the excitement, celebration and the eating and drinking of the Christmas season, give a little thought to the humble, poor and unusual beginnings of the "One Solitary Life" who has changed the world we live in today.

None of this stops us enjoying ourselves. On the contrary, have a happy and holy Christmas this year!
God Bless Rev Jim