

## ROSTRUM MAY 2015

### VILLAGE DIARY

#### MAY

- 1      **Wateringbury Colts FC v Eccles - Aford Awards Benevolent Cup Final** - Gallagher Stadium Maidstone - kick-off 7.30pm
- 3      **Footpaths Group Annual Bluebell walk** - Hall car park - 2.30pm
- 7      **Election Day - National Government, T & M and Parish Council**
- 9      **Marsh Warblers** - short concert then light lunch - Church - Noon
- 12     **Annual Parish Council Meeting** - Hall - 7.30pm - followed by a                      meeting of the Planning Committee (re-scheduled due to elections)
- 16     **Plant Sale** - Churchyard - 10am - 4pm
- 19     **Annual Parish Meeting** - Hall - 7.30pm a chance to meet your new Parish Councillors on an informal basis
- 20     **History Society Buffet & Wine Evening** - Hall - 7.30pm
- 30     **Ron & Ash** - Wateringbury Club

#### JUNE

- 2      **Parish Council Meeting** - Hall - 7.30pm - followed by a meeting of                      the Planning Committee
- 7      **VILLAGE FETE** - Playing Fields - Noon to 5pm
- 17     **History Society AGM and talk by Chris Jupp – ‘Queen’s Own Royal West Kent Regiment’** - Hall - 7.40pm

#### DIARY DATE - 1 AUGUST - ABBEYFIELD GREENSTED

##### SUMMER FETE 2.30-4.30 pm

to book a stall please contact Sam Ryan on 01622 813106

#### WATERINGBURY VILLAGE FETE - SUNDAY 7 JUNE

With this month's edition of Rostrum you will have received your bright yellow Village Fete Programme listing all the great events for the day. Please fill in your details on the back of the programme and bring it to the fete to enter the "Village Fete Programme Draw". **You may be the lucky winner!!** A huge thank you to all the sponsors who have supported the programme.

We have only a very few pitches for stalls left so, if you want to participate, you need to **HURRY UP AND BOOK NOW!!!** Please phone John Ibbs on 01622 813101 or Mike Witts on 01622 812027.

We still need volunteers to man the free car park and help to erect stalls on the day. If you can help, for even an hour, please contact either John Ibbs or Mike Witts. **Please come and join us on the day and make it a wonderful occasion.**

**VILLAGE PEOPLE** *Please let us have your news and tributes for our June issue by 17 May. There is no charge for entries.*

**Congratulations to Barry and Linda Cann** on becoming first time grand-parents with the arrival on 8 March of Edith Rachel who weighed in at 8lb 10oz in Sheffield and to parents Oliver and Alyson.

**90th Birthday Congratulations to Betty Vince** for 27 April.

**Please is there anyone who can help me** to find a wonderful couple who came to my aid just before Christmas? I was bleeding a radiator, which I have done on several occasions, when it suddenly spurted out, and I could not stop it. In sheer panic I ran down to the road and flagged down a car with a couple in who kindly stopped and came to my rescue. He was wonderful; he not only stopped the water, he rung out all the towels for me. I never got their names; but believe they came from Waterringbury. I would very much like to contact them; I have been asking all the time if anyone had heard of anyone being flagged down in the middle of the road in Redhill by a frantic woman! I hope there is someone out there who has heard my unusual story and who knows who my helpers are so that I am able to say a proper thank you. Please contact via Rostrum Editors 01622 814974.

**Congratulations to Waterringbury Colts FC** our Saturday men's team. They have reached the **final of the Aford Awards Benevolent Cup** Group A, for the second season in a row. The team would really appreciate as much support as possible on the night and if the game is half as exciting as last season's final, when the lads lost 7-6 on penalties, you are assured of a great night.

Greg Ivey, Manager and John Ibbs, Coach, have both been involved in the Waterringbury Football Club for many years, both coaching junior teams until the boys were old enough for adult football. The Colts have been formed from a nucleus of Waterringbury boys and it is testament to the spirit, discipline and friendship that the team is a genuine Village set-up.  
**The Final is on Friday 1 May 2015, 7.30pm kick off** against Eccles FC at the **Gallagher Stadium, Maidstone**. Hope to see you there!!!

New publications

### **WATERINGBURY IN THE 1950s**

Life and Times in the first years of the Queen's Reign

#### **LEST WE FORGET – Waterringbury in WW2 5th Edition**

Wartime life and how we marked the 50th and 60th anniversaries of 1945

*Both £5 each from the Post Office and sold in aid of Church Funds*

#### **WAR NEWS, APRIL 1915**

April 8<sup>th</sup>: Turkey starts deportation of Armenians, resulting over 2 years in 1.5 million Armenian deaths.  
14<sup>th</sup>: British victory results in retention of Basra (now in Iraq).  
22<sup>nd</sup>: start of 2nd battle of Ypres: Germans' first use of poison gas.  
25th: Allied troops land on Gallipoli Peninsular, Turkey.

Life in the forces took Waterringbury men not just to France and Belgium, but also to Turkey and its empire in what is now Iraq. On 25<sup>th</sup> April 1915, after various preliminary naval actions in the preceding months, allied troops landed in Gallipoli for what proved to be a disastrous, bloody campaign. Of the 24 Waterringbury men in the navy in 1915, five served in the Gallipoli naval campaign. Four had joined up before the war. They were between 23 and 37 years old, predominantly from working families. The ships they served on were not the cream of the navy.

Two men were from one Pizienwell family with 9 children. **Albert Curd** had joined the navy in 1910. He was a stoker on the battleship, H.M.S. Agamemnon, part of a complement of 800 men. In Feb 1915 Agamemnon joined the Dardanelles squadron. As a stoker of a coal-powered ship, Albert had a dirty, hot, strenuous job (his chest measurement increased by 4 inches), but he was well protected in the boiler room. Agamemnon supported the landings on the Gallipoli peninsular, taking many hits; and stayed in Eastern Mediterranean until the end of the war, although Albert himself moved to a series of other ships in 1916.

**Earle Curd** joined the navy a year after his brother Albert, in 1911. After a number of ships he was in 1915 serving as an assistant steward in H.M.S. Prince Edward, an old packet steamer requisitioned for the war by the navy and which acted as an anti-submarine vessel in the Gallipoli campaign.

**Frederick Mace** from Latters Buildings in Old Road, enrolled in the navy in 1908. His younger brother George enrolled 3 years later, and in April 1915 was on H.M.S. Lancaster, just back from the West Indies and did not go to Gallipoli. Frederick was a stoker from July 1914 until April 1916 on H.M.S. Implacable, an old battleship, which was sent to Lemnos in the Aegean in March 1915 and covered the main Gallipoli landings on 25<sup>th</sup> April.

**William Weller** from Red Hill, had joined up in 1896 and in 1915 was serving on the armoured cruiser H.M.S. Bacchante, part of a crew of 725. Bacchante was engaged in many operations providing fire support for troops during the main Gallipoli actions.

**Stanley Baker** from North Pole cottages, enrolled in 1914 after the war had started, was a gunner in the Royal Marine Artillery serving from May 1915 on H.M.S. Inflexible, a battleship which was frequently hit in the Gallipoli campaign.

Despite the navy losing 5 battleships in this campaign, mainly to mines, these Wateringbury ship-based men all survived. Those in the army and marines were not so fortunate.  
Terry Bird

## TESTON & WATERINGBURY NURSERY GROUP

Firstly can I just express my thanks to our committee and everyone who attended our Easter fun day where we raised over £230 to go towards a new computer for the children. Everyone was pleased to see Shaun the baby lamb who kept us busy jumping out of his pen much to the children's amusement. As well as meeting the lamb children were richly entertained by the Easter egg hunt, tombola, marble run, frisbie game, guess the weight of the cake, biscuit decorating, and animal collage.

This term we are concentrating on Mathematics, looking at shapes, puzzles, testing things that float or sink, measuring and weighing different things including us grown ups! Not a great idea after all those Easter eggs! We also have new visitors to the preschool this term with our live caterpillars, the children will be learning about their life cycles and counting the days until they turn into butterflies. Hand printed butterfly pictures are always popular with the children so parents beware of mucky hands! If you are interested in joining our preschool please contact Tina Driver on 07805 796353 and come along for a taster session.

## HISTORY SOCIETY

On 20 May we will be holding our Buffet and Wine Evening, which this year is taking place in Wateringbury Village Hall, to start at 7.30 pm. Visitors very welcome, to pay £6 at the door.

Geoff Hutchinson came along in March to tell us about the life of Rudyard Kipling. Geoff took on the character of Rudyard Kipling, complete with pipe and black moustache, and proceeded to relate his life story. He was born in Bombay, India, in 1865 and named Joseph Rudyard Kipling, but was always called Rudyard, after, it appears his parents spent a very enjoyable holiday at Rudyard Lake. When he was six, Rudyard and his sister were sent to Southsea to be educated, where unfortunately he was not allowed to read and was severely punished if found doing so. It was six years before he saw his mother again and ten years before he returned to India, by which time he was an avid writer of both poetry and stories. In 1892 he married Carrie, who was an American, and in 1899 they decided to go to Vermont in America, it was during their voyage that he and his children contracted Whooping Cough, which took him many months to get over and from which unfortunately his daughter Josephine died. Rudyard said that not a day went by when he did not think of Josephine. The family returned to England and bought Bateman's in Sussex in 1902. His son John, with Rudyard's help, joined the Irish Guards in 1915, in order to serve in WWI, where he was to meet his death. Rudyard, together with King George V, of whom he became a close friend, became involved in the erection of the Imperial War Graves. Rudyard Kipling died in 1936 and Bateman's was left to his remaining daughter Elsie, who unfortunately had no children, and on her death the house became a National Trust property.

**WATERINGBURY CLUB** By popular demand **Ron and Ash** will be back to entertain members and visitors on **Saturday 30 May**.

## Opportunities to get involved and give your feedback...

**Maidstone and  
Tunbridge Wells**  
NHS Trust



Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells hospitals jointly provide acute stroke care and rehabilitation for patients from West Kent and North East Sussex. Reviews have shown that similar to many other hospitals, locally and nationally, we can greatly improve stroke outcomes for our patients and reduce long-term disability. Our hospital clinicians and GP leads are currently developing higher standards of care for every patient we see. It is our aim to ensure all patients have access to dedicated stroke teams and treatment 24 hours a day, seven

days a week.

We are involving our patients, the public and healthcare professionals in this important work over the coming months, using their knowledge and experience to help us build better stroke services. You can find out more about this online at [www.mtw.nhs.uk](http://www.mtw.nhs.uk) If you would like us to send you more information, or want to share your views and experiences with us on stroke care, to help shape these important improvements, you can:

Email us at: [mtw-tr.myhealthcare@nhs.net](mailto:mtw-tr.myhealthcare@nhs.net)

Write to us for free at:

Freeport RTKS – AKZZ - UCZZ, Stroke Services, Room 118

Service Centre, Maidstone Hospital, Hermitage Lane, Maidstone ME16 9QQ

If you would like to speak to someone anonymously, you can contact Healthwatch Kent by telephone: 0808 801 0102 or

email: [info@healthwatchkent.co.uk](mailto:info@healthwatchkent.co.uk)

**Dr Jim Milton, Clinical Lead for Stroke Services**

## **WATERINGBURY FOOTPATH GROUP**

The April walk attracted 10 villagers for this early spring walk, walking down to the river we went along to Nettlestead Church where some went in to admire there. Continuing we travelled along Gibbs Hill to Rock Farm, then on to the path over The Wateringbury Stream on to Old Road before retuning via the Millpond to the Village Hall.

Next walk **3 May**, is our **Annual Bluebell walk** to Cattering Wood starting from the Village Hall at 2:30pm There should be a good show, I have already spotted some in Hoath Wood. More details from 01622 812338. Kevin Reynolds

## **FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY SCHOOL**

As I write this we are in the midst of our Easter holiday and although our sights are firmly set on the activities planned for the summer, it is worthwhile providing an update on a couple of events since the last Rostrum. The Mothers' Day shop was a success raising the sum of £212 with a big thank you to Bijou Nurseries who supplied the very colourful primroses. The last day of term saw the annual Easter Egg hunt which was enjoyed by all and a big thank you to all of the volunteers who helped in making this and the Mothers' Day shop a success.

Our next events are a school disco on 22 May and the Golf day on 12 June, (if you haven't expressed an interest yet but wish to attend, please let us know). There are some great prizes including the star prize of a four-ball voucher for the Wimereux Golf Club including ferry travel over to France. The course details can be viewed at [www.golf-wimereux.com](http://www.golf-wimereux.com). As always, details can be found on our website on <http://www.fowps.org.uk/>  
Craig Lightheart FOWPS Chairman

## **CRICKET CLUB FIXTURES**

Here are our home fixtures for the beginning of the season. All matches are played at Fields Lane. If you would like to play or join the club then please contact the club captain, Richard Benjamin, on 07739 814080.

Saturday 2 May	14:00	Tonbridge Foresters CC
Saturday 9 May	14:00	Gills Green CC
Saturday 16 May	14:00	Teston CC .
Sunday 24 May	14:00	Penshurst Park CC
Saturday 30 May	14:00	Stone CC

## **WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE - THE WI - INSPIRING WOMEN**

At our April Club meeting Pat Mortlock from the National Trust gave an excellent talk on Ightham Mote. Impressive knowledge of her subject combined with enthusiastic delivery kept us all enthralled.

We have two very excited members! Janet Chittenden and Carolyn Wren won places in the ballot to attend the WI Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 2 June. We look forward to seeing photos and hearing news.

Following the pattern of the WI year, our Annual Meeting is held on 14 May. It will include debating the 2015 National Federation of Women's Institutes Resolution: **Failing to care - Assessment of need in long term care.** 'This meeting calls on HM government to remove the distinction between nursing care and personal care in the assessment of the needs on individuals, in order to advance health and wellbeing'. We will also hold elections for all positions within our Institute. On a lighter note, there will be a Silent Auction, please can members bring items. Thank you. For further information contact Elizabeth on 01622 812018 or elizabethastrid@aol.com

## **APRIL PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

**Bash the Trash** An encouraging number of volunteers had come forward to help tidy the village on 11 and 12 April. The village school children had responded magnificently to the Anti Litter Poster competition sponsored by the Sports & Recreation Association. (see separate article)

**Cemetery** Councillors are considering lowering or removing the hedge along the boundary of the cemetery car park and Tonbridge Road in an effort to deter fly tipping. The chestnut fencing would remain. Another incident had recently occurred when a large amount of garden waste was dumped.

**Crime Report** During March 2 sheds were broken into in Old Road and garden equipment stolen. 2 leaf blowers and a hedge trimmer were stolen from a vehicle parked in Hanbury Close. An arrest was made following an incident in Pizien Well Road when a rock was thrown through a window.

**Drayhorse Meadow** A refund of £318.23 had been received from T & M Borough Council in respect of rates when the stable facilities had been without a tenant. Councillor David Marks was thanked for his efforts in obtaining the refund.

**KCC Councillor Matthew Balfour** was questioned about the flood prevention plans for the River Medway and assured Councillors that Wateringbury's problems and needs would not be overshadowed by other villages.

**Internal Audit** Colin Hanley will shortly carry out an inspection of the accounts.

**Planning** The Council had no objections to the following applications:

Details of contract for demolition work and obscure window pursuant to conditions 4 and 8 of planning permission TM/14/02496 (part demolition of existing dwelling and construction of new dwelling to form a three bedroom attached residential dwelling) at 39 Old Road

First floor rear dormer extension at 47 Old Road

Listed Building Application: Restoration of previous pointing back to a lime mortar with a brush flush finish at Wateringbury Place, 50 Canon Lane

**Village Fete 7 June** plans were progressing well. More volunteers are needed to help with the free car park.

This was the last meeting of the present council before the elections on 7 May. The council were thanked for all their efforts over the past 4 years and Dennis Stones, who will not be seeking another term of office, was particularly thanked for all his hard work and support of village activities such as speed watch.

Due to the elections the next meeting of the new Parish Council will be on **Tuesday 12 May**. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting. Then on **Tuesday 19 May** there will be the Annual Parish Meeting - your chance to meet the Parish Councillors on an informal basis. Both meetings **at 7.30pm** in the **Village Hall**.

## **GOOD NEWS!**

I know we all love a bit of good news so we were keen to share our good news. Following our recent appeal for new leaders to come forward for 1<sup>st</sup> Wateringbury Brownies - our Thursday unit, we are delighted to say that Tracey Brydon-Brown has offered to run the unit. Tracey is a former brownie of the unit, and strongly feels, like we do, that the unit must not be allowed to close and the girls in the village suffer due to a lack of brownie places.

We have two ladies who are prepared to help Tracey on alternate weeks but if you would also be interested in helping either as another uniformed leader or a casual helper, please do let us know. There are plenty of girls waiting to join, and you can make a real difference.

Alternatively perhaps you would consider helping with our Rainbow unit? Sadly one of the leaders has had to give up for family reasons, and so we are in need of another helper to run this unit. Rainbows have strict adult to children ratios and unless we can find another leader shortly, we may have to put the waiting list on hold until we can get some more leaders.

Many rainbow leaders have joined the unit when their daughter started as a means of getting their daughter into the unit, and then moved on when their daughter has gone to brownies. This would mean being a leader for around two years – is this something you could commit to? It's a one hour meeting early on Friday evening in term-time only.

Please do give it serious thought – we are talking about an hour or so on a Friday evening during term-time for some fun and laughter as well as perhaps trying something new.

Whether you are an adult offering to help, or enquiring about a place for your daughter in either unit, please contact Lesley Barker 07856 291121 or Tracey Brydon-Brown on 01622 814929.

## **WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

We are looking forward to a busy Summer Term and will be wishing our Year 6 and Year 2 pupils all the very best as they take their keystage SATs. Wateringbury's examination results are on an upward trend and we are determined to continue this progress of excellent teaching and learning. We also have the Summer Fete and Sports Day to look forward to, as well as the Year 6 residential trip in June – this year to the Isle of Wight!

Our Spring Term closed with many highlights including school trips to London, Chartwell, Tyland Barn, Sevenoaks School for the Science Fair and Maidstone Museum. Year 5 spent the term working on *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and delighted the school, parents and governors with their outstanding performance. The script was entirely written by the class and the children performed with confidence and poise, sang with gusto and demonstrated an impressive commitment to dramatic excellence. Shakespeare will continue to be part of our Upper School curriculum.

Our annual Musical Evening on 31 March was a huge success with over 40 children performing on instruments and vocally. The school is proud of its musical history and this evening highlighted our commitment to bring the enjoyment of music-making to as many pupils as possible. There are a number of ensemble groups, led by teachers and pupils, including String Club, Djembe Drumming, Senior Choir, Infant Choir, Flute Choir and Brass Ensemble. Even some of our infant children performed on their class instrument, the ocarina!

The term finished with a beautiful Easter service in St John's Church, officiated by the Reverend Jim Brown but very much led by the children. The children sang the Easter Story in their class groups with biblical readings woven throughout, read by Year 6 pupils. The school's Jesus and Me club closed the service with their prayers for love and hope for the world.

Term 5 ends on 22 May and we return for Term 6 on 1 June.

Chasey Crawford Usher, Headteacher [www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk](http://www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk)

## **WATERINGBURY SPORTS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION**

**A HUGE THANK YOU** to all the people who took part in the “Monster Bash the Trash“ exercise on Saturday 11 April, working in the pouring rain, picking up litter across the whole village. Wateringbury has never looked cleaner!

At the recent Wateringbury School Assembly, where eight prizes were awarded to pupils for the best anti-litter posters, the whole school were asked for examples of “selfish people”. One small boy put his hand up and said “People who drop litter”.

**Please, please don't be selfish. Either bin your litter or take it home. Remember it is YOUR rubbish!**

### **ANTI-LITTER POSTERS**

The children at Wateringbury School were asked to take part in a competition to design anti-litter posters for the village. They did these out of school time and the response was amazing. There were initially 3 prizes to be awarded each of a £25 Waterstones Book Token. The Parish Council had the unenviable task of picking the winners. They, and everyone involved, were very impressed by the work and effort put in by the children and found it so difficult to choose 3 winners so decided to choose 8! At the school assembly on the 31 March the prizes, kindly donated by the Wateringbury Sports & Recreational Association, were presented to the children by the Mayor of Tonbridge & Malling, Cllr Mrs Sasha Luck. Also present were Mike Cayzer, Chairman of the Parish Council, Mike Witts from the Sports Association and Tamsin Ritchie, Environmental Projects Officer of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council who kindly brought along some goodies for the children.

The prize winners were:

<b>Chloe Lighthouse</b>	<b>Barnaby Brown</b>	<b>Tom Gross</b>
<b>Emma Sewell</b>	<b>Alice Branca</b>	<b>James Parr</b>
<b>Samuel and Millie McCreath</b> (shared)		<b>Lois Philips</b>

The winning posters were enlarged and laminated and you will have seen them on display around the village to coincide with the ‘Bash the Trash’ weekend of 11 and 12 April. Thanks must go to the Headteacher Mrs Crawford-Usher and all the staff for the warm welcome they extended to the Mayor and visitors to the school on the 31 March. To all the children who made such a great effort - Well done!! Sue Cockburn, Parish Clerk

### **NETTLESTEAD AND WATERINGBURY PRE-SCHOOL & CLUBS**

*[www.nettlesteadandwateringbury.co.uk](http://www.nettlesteadandwateringbury.co.uk)*

On the last day of term, 1 April, the pre-school took a trip down to Paddock Wood Library on the train. The children were so excited by all the animals they could see flashing past their windows and by the elevator at Paddock Wood station which the children loved. We set up a library account so the children could take their favourite books back to pre-school. We had a singalong, special rainbow cakes and we had brought our own storyteller who finished the visit with a wonderful rendition of ‘Freddy and the Fairy’ complete with approximately 20 props, an amazing story with puppets, crowns and a wand! The children were beautifully behaved for the entire trip and we are all very proud of them. I would like to say thank you to all the parents who came - you were also brilliant, hopefully see you on our next trip too! Looking forward to the new term to see where we will go next!

If you wish to come along and join our fun then please ring: 01622 813120  
email: [nettlesteadandwateringbury@yahoo.com](mailto:nettlesteadandwateringbury@yahoo.com)



## ANNUAL PLANT SALE

**Saturday 16 May**

**10am and 4pm**

**in the Churchyard**

An ideal opportunity to purchase plants  
for your flower beds, pots and vegetable gardens

### **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10-15 May 2015 MOOOVE OVER POVERTY**

Please be as generous as you can for the annual house to house collection in the village. Christian Aid helps the poorest peoples of the world, regardless of creed or culture, to work to improve their lives. A few pounds goes a long way in developing countries where women are often held in low regard, especially those without husbands. However amazing changes are happening, thanks to Christian Aid. Here are 2 stories from Ethiopia:

In Adi's community Christian Aid is working to provide the poorest women with a cow. This gives them a voice in their community meetings and means that they have status and power for the first time. It might sound unusual to us, but giving a woman a cow can transform her situation. Adi doesn't just have a regular source of income from the milk and butter; she's also got more status and respect from other people. Now she can start to use her power to improve things for everyone in her community.

Loko's choice in life is simple: 'If I can't collect firewood, my children will die.' Four times a week, in a remote corner of Ethiopia, Loko makes a back-breaking eight-hour trip to gather wood and carry it back to sell. It's a task she dreads, but she steels herself to do it because if she doesn't her children will starve. She prays to God as she walks. 'I ask him to change my life and lead us out of this,' she says. Just £5 could give Loko a loan to start her own business buying and selling tea and coffee, freeing her from her desperate task and allowing her to spend more time caring for her family.

If you would like to help with this year's collection please phone Gillian on 01622 813076.

**PRIESTLY PONDERINGS [parishofficeemwt@gmail.com](mailto:parishofficeemwt@gmail.com)**

**WHO SHOULD YOU VOTE FOR?**



It's only a few days away and you will be called upon to vote for a new Government. Who will you vote for and why? The current election campaign is much the same as I have ever experienced in my lifetime. All the usual political sound bites. It's all about our Nation, our economy, our health service, our education system and so on. But I want to focus on what our nation might be doing for the "common good" and not just about ourselves looking inwardly. Despite the fact that the church is encouraged to contribute to the political debate more actively, I have to disappoint you because I shan't be advising you which party to vote for!

It seems strange to me that we continually ignore the fact that there is a side effect to globalisation, i.e. that problems that once would have stayed local now have far reaching effects worldwide. For example, a bank lending too much money in one country can now affect the world economy and not just their own nation. But we still operate as a nation as if no other country is affected by our decisions or problems etc. We tend to ignore the issues that affect us all as a species of humanity, Climate Change, Human Rights, Demographics, Terrorism and Pandemics, Human Slavery, Species Loss and much more. We make little or no progress to solving such issues because we are not organised to do so. We operate as a number of nations in just the same way as we did 2 or 300 years ago, organised in to 200 or so individual states. It's all wrong because we end up looking inwards. These worldwide issues need our attention but you are unlikely to hear them debated during the current election campaign. I can't find these issues in any of the major parties' manifestos. It's no good simply blaming the politicians either because they are responding to what we tell them we need. We tell them we need more wealth, more prosperity, faster economic growth, a better health system, etc.

It needs to change so that countries can work together to solve the really serious problems we face. So perhaps we could start by asking our politicians when they knock on our doors what their manifesto says about global issues and the "Common Good" and not just the domestic matters that we are so familiar with. It might take them by surprise but it needs to happen!

Jesus was a tough political commentator. He taught us not simply to concern ourselves with being rich, having a big house or a well paid job. Jesus would want to know how his nation would help other nations for the benefit of others. So I ask, What does my country do to contribute toward the common good? What does my country do to help other countries and address the global issues which concern us all. We cannot live in isolation from such issues. I want to be a part of a country that is actively "Good", which is not the opposite to bad but the opposite to selfishness. So when we meet our politicians on the doorstep please ask them "What is it that can make our country "Good"?"

We can change the world by being "Good". I really do want to live in a "Good" country and I hope you do too!

Revd Jim Brown

**The Marsh Warblers**  
present a short informal concert of  
West Gallery music  
while performing in Georgian period costume  
**Saturday 9 May at Noon at the church**  
Concert followed by a light lunch  
of a sandwich, cake, tea or coffee.  
Tickets at £5 in aid of church funds  
from the Post Office or 01622 813032

**COFFEE BREAK Wednesdays - 13 and 27 May - 10.30-12.30**

Do go along to the church and enjoy tea, coffee and home-made cake as well as the opportunity to do a variety of crafts if you wish. Everyone is most welcome. Pauline and Gillian

**THE WATCH CLUB Sunday 10 May**

The Club is for young people aged 10 and over and meets in the Village Hall from 5-7pm. The next meetings are on 10 May and 14 and 28 June. For more details phone Lisa 07950 852899

**BENEFICE MOTHERS' UNION** - Meetings start at 1pm

**On 7 May** members will be going to Pilsdon in West Malling for an Afternoon of Reflection. **On 4 June** in East Malling Church a former head teacher of our school, **Richard Arnold**, will be giving a talk on the work of the Salvation Army. Visitors very welcome.

**SUNDAY 10 MAY 10 – YALDING BEEKEEPERS HONEY BEE FAYRE**

At Riverdale Field, Benover Road, Yalding, ME18 6ES. A fun and educational event for all the family. Wide variety of stalls, auction and a program of timed bee-themed activities including something for everyone. Free entry and on-site parking. Food and refreshments available. Open 10.30am to 4.30pm. Auction starts at 2.30pm. Entry forms to enter bees or equipment into the auction can be obtained in advance by emailing: [beefayre@yaldingbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:beefayre@yaldingbeekeepers.co.uk)

## BENEFICE SERVICES

Visit our website [www.wateringburychurch.org.uk](http://www.wateringburychurch.org.uk)

<p><b>Sunday 3 May</b></p> <p>8am Communion - East Malling</p> <p>9.45am Family Service – East Malling</p> <p>9.45am Family Service – Teston</p> <p><b>10am Morning Praise – Wateringbury</b></p>	<p><b>Sunday 10 May</b></p> <p>9.45am Eucharist – East Malling</p> <p><b>10am Holy Communion - Wateringbury</b></p> <p>6.30pm Evening Praise - Teston</p>
<p><b>Sunday 17 May</b></p> <p><b>8am Communion – Wateringbury</b></p> <p>9.45am Eucharist – East Malling</p> <p><b>10 am Family .Service – Wateringbury</b></p> <p>6.30pm Eucharist - Teston</p>	<p><b>Sunday 24 May Pentecost</b></p> <p>9.45am Eucharist – East Malling</p> <p><b>10am Holy Communion – Wateringbury</b></p> <p>6.30pm Eucharist - Teston</p>
<p><b>Sunday 31 May - Benefice Holy Communion - East Malling</b></p> <p>(No service in Wateringbury)</p>	
<p>Every Monday – 2-3pm – Scout &amp; 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

**Ascension Day 14 May** There is a Malling Deanery Ascension Day service on 14 May at 8pm in Birling Church

**Benefice Service for Healing and Wholeness 8pm on Tuesday 2 June** in East Malling

## **SUNDAY'S COOL**

On the 2nd and 4th Sundays in the month young people are invited to go along to the Vestry at 10am for their own activities while the morning service is being held. On the 3rd Sunday we hope children and their families will come along to the 10am Family Service.

## **IN OUR JOYS - FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS**

**Baptism** - We welcomed into the family of the Church on

29 March Isabelle May Harrison and Holly Charlotte Harrison

**Marriage** - We wish joy and happiness to

Alexander Gasson and Amalia Houlton (28 March)