

# ROSTRUM WATERINGBURY VILLAGE MAGAZINE

## SUMMER ISSUE FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2013

### . VILLAGE DIARY

#### July

- 2 Parish Council Meeting – Hall – 7.30pm
- 7 Footpaths Group Walk along Medway to Teston – Hall – 2.30pm
- 11 WI talk Improve your Health – Hall – 2.30pm
- 11/12/13 Toad of Toad Hall – Church - 7pm
- 15 Friends of Wateringbury Church AGM – Church – 8pm
- 17 History Society Annual Outing to Firle Place Sussex
- 18 Flower Club – Nettlestead Hall – 7.30pm

#### August

*Please note no meetings of History Society or Parish Council this month*

#### **Cream Teas at the Church Every Thursday afternoon in August**

- 4 Footpaths Group Walk meet at West Peckham Church at 2.30pm for a walk out to Roydon Hall
- 16 Flower Club Mini Show – Nettlestead Hall – 7.30pm

#### September

- 1 Footpaths Group Walk meet Linton Church Car Park at 2.30pm for a walk along Greensand Ridge to Boughton Church
- 3 Parish Council Meeting – Hall – 7.30pm
- 18 Bob Ogley – Doodle Bugs and Rockets – History Soc – Hall – 7.40

### **VILLAGE PEOPLE** *Please let us have your news and tributes for our September magazine by 17 August.*

**Special Milestone Birthday Congratulations** for 7 July to **Phil DeKnopp** and to husband Gerry whose birthday is on 27 July.

**Star of Maidstone Award Winner** not only did Mike Pursey celebrate his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday last month he was also named as a Star of Maidstone for his outstanding contribution to the Maidstone Community. Well done Mike, we are glad you live in Wateringbury.

**Thank you** to the Parish Council for instigating and sponsoring the village fete on 2 June. **Special Thanks to** Parish Clerk Sue Cockburn and Mike Witts for all their hard work to make the fete such an enjoyable time for all.

**Congratulations** to St John's Batters who won the Kwik Cricket competition at the Celebration Fete on 2 June

### **.VILLAGE FETE - 2 JUNE - JOINT CELEBRATION OF THE 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE CORONATION AND QUEEN ELIZABETH FIELD STATUS.**

What a great day! The weather was kind to us and the turnout was tremendous.

The Mayor of Tonbridge & Malling, Cllr Howard Rogers, unveiled the special plaque to commemorate the playing fields being granted Queen Elizabeth II Field status. He was assisted by James Neate, who was an Olympic Torch bearer last year and brought along his torch which some children were

lucky enough to hold (and not a lot of people can say they have held an Olympic Torch!), together with James Hall a gymnast who returned from the Youth Olympics in Australia with two individual gold medals and a silver and bronze team medal which he proudly wore.

Grateful thanks go to all those who worked so hard over the previous nine months to put the day together, and especially to the Wateringbury Sports & Recreational Association for organising the siting of stalls, exhibits, and the races (great fun!) -and to the Cricket Club for the Kwik cricket and the BBQ. The event has highlighted what a wonderful facility the village has in the playing fields.

The results of the raffle were 1st Prize (Nikon Camera) Sarah Griffiths - 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize (Kindle Fire) Pat Jolly - 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize (£50 M&S voucher) Gill Hampshire. All remaining raffle prizes were claimed. The day raised a total of £1001.20 which will be divided equally between the Friends of Wateringbury Church (Reg. Charity No.1151983) and The Wateringbury Sports & Recreational Association (Reg. Charity No. 281212).

Of course the day would not have been such a success without you, our villagers, and those from outside that came along to support the fete. It has been rewarding for all those involved to have so many people say what a lovely day it was, and can we do it again next year!

Thank you from the Parish Council

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

Our Club meeting was exciting in an unusual way, as we decided to try to form a choir. There was considerable interest in this plan, so we hope it will be successful.

Our speaker this month was David Wood, a Beekeeper. He gave a fascinating talk telling us about different kinds of bees, their development and the challenges bees are facing at the moment from predators, mites and infection. If anyone would like to know more or is interested in keeping bees themselves, the following website is helpful: [www.britishbee.org.uk](http://www.britishbee.org.uk)

The AGM at Cardiff proved to be a very interesting event. We travelled on WI coaches, stopping in Bath on the way and Newbury coming back. West Kent were fortunate to be staying at the magnificent Celtic Lodge, where the Ryder Cup had been held in 2010. On the Saturday morning we drove into Cardiff to join the massed groups of WIs from all over the country, always particularly inspiring when the anthems, both English and Welsh, are sung. All four resolutions were passed, with heated debate relating to the decline of our high streets. William Shawcross from the Charity Commission, Griff Rhys Jones on preserving our high streets and John Humphrys responding to questions off-the-cuff were all memorable in different ways. We returned home tired but uplifted, proud of being members of the largest women's voluntary organisation in the country, and very satisfied with the content and organisation of the weekend.

If this range of activities interests you, why not come along to a club meeting as a visitor to learn more? Our next meeting is on Thursday 11 July when our speaker will be Fran Bennett – 'Improve and maintain your health and balance with Qigong'. For enquiries, please call 01622 812018. [elizabethastrid@aol.com](mailto:elizabethastrid@aol.com)

### **WEST FARLEIGH FLOWER FESTIVAL & OPEN GARDENS 20/21 JULY**

All Saints Church, West Farleigh and the Farleighs WI. are holding a Flower Festival in the church with the theme of 'Weddings,' from 11.00 to 4.30 on Saturday and Sunday 20 and 21 July. Tea and cakes will be on sale and our organist, Bob Caudwell, will be entertaining visitors with a varied selection of wedding themed music in the afternoons. In addition on Sunday 21 July several gardens in the Farleighs, including those of Smiths Hall, will be open to the public. The cost of visiting the church only will be £2.00, including a cup of tea, and for a combined ticket for the Gardens and the church £7.50.

## CRICKET CLUB

Thank you to everyone who supported the cricket club at the QEII day. A special thanks to Mike and Sue Witts for all their hard work and to all the members of the club that turned out to run a very good afternoon of cricket and a fantastic BBQ.

**Summer Fixtures** Do something typically English this summer - go along and watch your village cricket team at its wonderfully located ground at the Playing Field, Fields Lane. A great way to spend a summer afternoon.

### JULY

All home matches start at 2pm.

Sunday 7th	Detling
Saturday 13th	Tonbridge YMCA
Saturday 20th	Northfleet
Sunday 28th	Chelsfield Exiles

### AUGUST

Sunday 4th	Telston & Mereworth
Sunday 11th	Borstal Sun 2nd XI
Saturday 17th	Sandhurst
Sunday 25th	EEM

## WATERINGBURY SPORTS & RECREATION ASSOCIATION (WRSA) JULY 2013 UPDATE

The Association manages and maintains the village playing fields and facilities on behalf of the Parish Council. Many of you who attended the Village Fete on 2 June would have learned about the work we do and the plans we have to continue the improvements of the facilities. With this in mind we are looking to increase the number on the Association's Committee. If you use the fields in any capacity, dog walker, sportsman/woman or taking children to the play parks then you will have an interest in how the facilities are managed. If you are interested in joining the committee and would like more details of the work we do please contact John Ibbs on 01622 813101 and I will be pleased to speak with you.

Finally, the Association have agreed to look at the Village Fete on an annual basis, so even if you cannot commit to being a full committee member, we are looking to set up a sub-committee, purely for the organisation and delivery of the fete. Again, please call John Ibbs to find out more details.

**John Ibbs** - Chairman, WRSA

## FOOTPATHS GROUP WALKS

**Sunday 7 July** – To meet at the Village Hall at 2.30pm for a local walk of about 4 miles along the Medway to Teston Country Park, up to Teston Church, along Livesey Street, and back to the village via Redhill Farm.

**Sunday 4 August** – To meet at West Peckham Church at 2.30 pm. This is a requested walk of about 3½ miles starting from the Church out to Roydon Hall, taking in the old East Peckham Church along the way, following Weald Way and finally returning along the Greensand Way.

**Sunday 1 September** – Starting from Linton Church car park at 2.30 pm. A shorter walk going along the Greensand Ridge to Boughton Church to view the Weald and Deer Park, and then going down Church Hill.

Why not come along and make an effort to join us on one of our walks to enjoy the Kentish countryside. For more information please call Syd on 01622 812338.

## **FLOWER CLUB**

**July 18 A Few of my Favourite Things** - this is the first possible demonstration of our local girl Sue Thompson. Sue from Paddock Wood club and a member of Wateringbury too is also our West Kent Area representative for Kent Area Flower Clubs. We also have another new member Iris Shaw from Hadlow and Wateringbury; together they sit their area demonstrator test on the 30 July; we wish them both the very best in their exam. Several members from Wateringbury are going along on the day to support them. This year our Kent County Show club entry is being carried out by Anne Davis and Susan Gransden, the title is Garden of England, we wish them both very best wishes, and hopefully the weather will be kinder than last year.

On **16 August** we are holding a **Mini Show - Floramania** - guests welcome. Enjoy the Summer weather and try to come along to our events. **Jean Schofield**, Chairman WFC

## **PILATES CLASS**

A new class for Pilates is being held in the village hall on Mondays at 4.15pm. For more details phone Laura on 07736 849486.

## **FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL** REG CHARITY 1038836

In June we celebrated Father's Day by organising a Father's Day shop in school. Our second annual FOWPS Golf Day raised more than £1,200.

Weather permitting the school Sports Day will be held on 3 July and the academic year ends on 24 July. We would like to take this opportunity to wish our Year 6 leavers all the best as they begin their next adventure in secondary school education and to thank their families for all their support during their time at Wateringbury Primary School.

The Friends of Wateringbury Primary School, which is a registered charity, is overwhelmed by the support we continue to receive from parents, children, school staff and governors and the wider community. Local company sponsors make a massive difference to our fundraising every year and we would like to thank them for all their support throughout the year. We always try to repay sponsors with lots of positive publicity.

If you or your business want to support our activities in any way from September, please contact Chairman Gail Isted, Tel 01622 813716 or email [chairman@fowps.org.uk](mailto:chairman@fowps.org.uk). Keep up-to-date on our news via our website at [www.fowps.org.uk](http://www.fowps.org.uk) **Gail Isted**

## **THE FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY CHURCH** REG CHARITY NO 1151983

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MONDAY 15 JULY 2013 AT 8PM**

The Friends of Wateringbury Church Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Monday 15 July 2013 at St John the Baptist Church, Wateringbury at 8pm. Members and public are all welcome.

The AGM will review the Financial Statements for the period to 31 March 2013 and, if considered fit, approve and elect/re-elect trustees to the Board. If you are interested in becoming a trustee, please submit your name to the Secretary with a proposer and seconder by Monday midnight 08 July 2013. At the AGM, only members of FOWC will be eligible to vote, so please bring along your membership card/identification. As the AGM is the FOWC's formal annual public meeting, members are encouraged to submit written questions in advance by Monday midnight 08 July. **Frances English** – Secretary - 01622 812471 [friends@fowc.org.uk](mailto:friends@fowc.org.uk) [www.friends@fowc.org.uk](http://www.friends@fowc.org.uk)

**TESTON & WATERINGBURY NURSERY GROUP (Registered charity 1044257)**  
**[www.testonandwateringburynursery.co.uk](http://www.testonandwateringburynursery.co.uk)**

Last few weeks of term – where has it gone? What's that they say about time flying? Before we start with all the fun at pre-school, did you see us at the Wateringbury Village Fete? Wow, what a day! The umpteen stalls we had raised an unbelievable £380! What fun we had, and I don't think you did too badly yourselves. Well done and thank you.

Meanwhile, in other news...Whilst we dreamed of warm, balmy days by the sea this term, we faced cold, windy days in the country! Still, we managed to make beautiful pictures with coloured sand and talk about holidays. We've had treasure hunts in the sand, with Pirate maps (no Pirates were harmed in the making of the maps) and made holiday diaries (no holidays were harmed ... doesn't quite work, does it!!). We've made fishy puppets (a little harsh, they weren't that bad!), our own ice creams (never too cold) and colourful cards for our beloved Daddies (and boy, they are beloved!); we also treated our Daddies to another Father's Day activity. This year we made pen and pencil holders and I think it's fair to say...they held pens and pencils. Our leavers prepared for big school by taking part in mini PE sessions, getting themselves changed and folding their clothes, whilst we prepared for saying farewell by doing just that with our beautiful butterflies, who, themselves are leaving for ... bug school (apologies, sincere apologies!). Amidst all these farewells, we'll be saying a few 'hellos' when our new teachers come to visit us and we'll be flexing our muscles in anticipation of Sports Day – where do we find the time?! See you all next year!!  
**Amanda Vidler 07805 796353**

## **SMILE PLEASE**

Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the flu,  
When someone smiled at me today I started smiling too,  
I walked around the corner and someone saw me grin,  
When he smiled I realised I had passed it on to him.  
I thought about the smile and then realised its worth,  
A single smile like mine could travel round the earth.  
So if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected,  
Start an epidemic and get the world infected.

## **EAST MALLING SINGERS CONCERT**

The Singers' next concert will be at 7.30pm in East Malling Church on Saturday 13 July under their conductor Ciara Considine. Nick Bland will be at the organ. Tickets cost £10, £8 concessions and accompanied children free from 01622 750943 or [boxoffice@eastmallingsingers.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@eastmallingsingers.co.uk)

## **HISTORY SOCIETY**

There is no meeting in August but we start our new programme on 18 September with the return of a popular speaker with the History Society, Bob Ogley, whose talk will be about Doodle Bugs and Rockets.

In May the History Society held their Buffet and Wine Evening at Boxley Abbey, where our hosts James Best Shaw and his wife made us all very welcome. Following a short talk about the ruins and grounds by James, which took place in the recently re-roofed 11<sup>th</sup> century Grade I Listed Barn, members either went for a walk around the ruins or went into the house where they were able to enjoy the wine and food laid on by the committee. On 2 June the History Society had a stall at the fete in the QEII field, where we spent a very enjoyable day talking to people about the maps on display, and our booklets that we had for sale, an occasion where people from the village could all get together and experience one of the assets of Wateringbury village.

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

### **OUT OF SCHOOLS CLUB**

Exciting, exciting, exciting lots of lovely things happening at the pre-school and clubs this term. We have had a basket ball hoop installed and I have to say an early morning game of basketball, even if my team did lose, sets you up for the day! Our caterpillars arrived safe and snug and are growing and growing and growing we just cannot wait until they turn into beautiful butterflies. Yet again our wonderful families have donated their time and energies to making the children's environment a better more challenging place to come and learn. Over the half term break Lee Packham, from Banner Property Services, installed fabulous new notice boards which the children have happily filled with colourful caterpillar and butterfly pictures – can you see a common thread here yet! Finally, we will be offering exciting activities during the summer holidays. Pond dipping, dance classes with a professional dance teacher, pottery painting together with clay activities, film making including story boards, scripts, costumes and a premier showing of the final production supported by Richard Bass professional photographer and film maker. To round off the break we will be cooking and baking and offering a marquee experience for the whole village on 30 August in the afternoon. If you would like to book your child into any of our activities please contact us on the number/email below. Come and visit us at the rear of Nettlestead Village Hall, contact us on 01622 813120; email [nettlesteadandwateringbury@yahoo.com](mailto:nettlesteadandwateringbury@yahoo.com)

## **NEW VILLAGE STOCKS AT WATERINGBURY**

If you live in the village, you will have seen that a new set of Stocks has been installed on a spare piece of grass between the entrance to the village car park and the Lock-Up in Bow Road. These are a replica of the Stocks which originally stood on the same site, and had probably done so for over 500 years. We know about the earlier stocks from George Newman, son of John Newman, a former Head Gardener to Matthias Prime Lucas who at one time owned Wateringbury Place. George born in 1835, revisited Wateringbury in 1901, and recalled the village which he had known as a youth in the 1840's. His recollections were gathered together by Dail Whiting and republished in 2002 under the title "Wateringbury Revisited". In this volume George wrote: "... there is a village smithy, and close by it used to stand the village cage or lock-up, and an ancient pair of stocks. .... Of both cage and stocks, like their misguided occupants, nothing remains but a memory." This is not quite true as the Reverend Grenville Mairis Livett, who was Vicar of Wateringbury at the time, had asked in 1896 the then Parish Clerk Henry Harris for a history of the lock-up. With his reply the Clerk enclosed a sketch of both the lock-up and the stocks. This sketch is shown on page 22 of Dail Whiting's edition of 2002, and it is this sketch which was used as a template by the designer of the present Stocks.

The new Stocks were designed and made in English oak at Cranbrook in Kent, by Mounts Hill Woodcraft and Design Ltd., and installed on site by Chris Chaplin Property Maintenance of Old Road, Wateringbury. Both contractors liaised with each other to produce the desired result, which is a tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the Diamond Jubilee of her Coronation. The royal crown and the date 2013 are incised on the upper horizontal rail of the Stocks, and the name of the village in 3" uppercase Roman letters on the lower rail. The new Stocks have been erected on land owned by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council with its gracious permission, without cost either to it or to the Parish Council. The new Stocks are a gift to the village and to the Parish Council, the entire cost having been paid by the members of Wateringbury Local History Society, and by the Village Amenities Fund of ROSTRUM, the parish magazine. A ceremony is being arranged at which the Chairman of the Local History Society, Terry Bird, will formally present the Stocks to the Chairman of the Parish Council. Stocks have been part of English life at least since Saxon days. A statute of 1351 made it law for every township to provide a set of stocks. A later statute of 1405 ordered every Manor to provide and maintain a set of stocks, and this would certainly have included Wateringbury. So far as is known, this statute has never been repealed, and so the provision of the new Stocks enables the present Parish Council to comply with this law. Rogues, vagabonds and drunkards were stocked in mediaeval times, and a later statute made it legal for those caught swearing to be confined in the stocks for an hour, if they could not pay the fine of twelve pence (5p today). Village stocks gradually fell out of use in Kent after the formation of the Kent County Constabulary in 1857, with its first headquarters in Maidstone at Wren's Cross. This led to the construction of new police stations equipped with police cells for holding offenders, and the Queen's Peace was no longer largely a Parish responsibility.

EFB 16th June 2013

### **JUNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

*The planning committee would appreciate the opinions of parishioners in relation to planning applications prior to its meeting to help formulate the response to T & M. Please send comments to the Parish Clerk, Redhill Cottage, Redhill. Alternatively come along to the planning subcommittee meeting which follows the monthly general meeting*

At the start of the meeting Mr David Marks was co-opted on to the council.

**The Village Fete** held on 2 June was reviewed. Everyone considered that the Fete had been a great success which had been well supported by local organisations who had stalls and residents who enjoyed a delightful summer afternoon. The Chairman thanked all councillors and volunteers who had supported the event. Special thanks were extended to Parish Clerk Sue Cockburn, Mike Witts and Dennis Stones for all their hard work co-ordinating the event and preparing the field. After the grass was cut on the Friday prior to the Fete the grass clippings needed to be raked up by hand and this took Mike and Sue Witts all day on Saturday. Pat Jolly, who had been asked to photograph the event showed her photos to the meeting.

**Village Stocks** are now in place next to the village lock-up at the entrance to the car park in Bow Road. The village name and a crown and 2013 have been carved into the oak to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Queen's Coronation. The chairman thanked the History Society and Rostrum magazine for donating the funds and Ted Bates for initiating the idea to re-install the stocks in their ancient position in the village.

**Crime Report** a written report had been received. Problems encountered were vehicles causing obstruction in Glebe Meadow, illegal fishing in the Mill Pond and theft of lead in Canon Lane. Patrols of the cemetery are being carried out following reports of intruders late in the evening.

**Speedwatch** continued on a regular basis and letters had been sent out by the police to offenders.

**Potential Building Land** A survey to find more building land for new homes had been carried out. The good news is that none had been identified in the village. The bad news is that land in Teston

and Barming had been identified with a potential to build more than 960 homes and if these were built this would increase traffic through the village using the A26.

**The next meeting** of the Parish Council, to which residents will be very welcome, is on **Tuesday 2 July at 7.30pm** in the village hall. There will be no meeting in August.

### **SPIRITUAL SONGS - Thursday 4 July - 8pm - East Malling Church**

The final free evening in the 2013 Summer Talks Series will be given by the Music Group from the BART group of churches who lead music in a more contemporary style of worship. All welcome.

### **SUMMER TEA TIME OPPORTUNITIES IN THE BENEFICE**

Back by popular demand Thursdays in August at Wateringbury Church 2-4pm Cream teas and more of those delicious home-made cakes. So put the dates in your diary. Thursdays 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 August.

Every Sunday in July and August teas will be served in East Malling Church between 3-5pm

Tea at Three will be served every Tuesday in July and August in Teston Church between 2-4pm. Special Tea at Threes on 17 July and 21 August.

### **TESTON CHURCH FLOWER FESTIVAL 24-26 AUGUST**

Your annual opportunity to enjoy beautiful flowers in Teston Church.

The Wateringbury Players and children from  
Wateringbury C E Primary School are looking forward to performing

**Wind in the Willows adapted by Alan Bennett**

**At 7pm (doors open 6.30pm) in Wateringbury Church on**



**Thursday 11 July, Friday 12 July and Saturday 13 July**

Join Badger, Toad, Ratty, Mole and the other animals and cast to explore the gentle Riverbank and try to win back Toad Hall from the Wildwooders. How will a horse-drawn barge, a steam engine and caravan help the rascally Toad with his adventures and escape capture from his pursuers? Not to mention his escapades in the rather swishy car. Poop Poop!

Tickets are now on sale at the Post Office and The Handy Stores, priced at £8 for all three performances. For the Thursday performance only there is a £5 concession ticket for children (up to 16 years) and Senior Citizens. Proceeds to local charities. We look forward to seeing you there Celia Pocock email [wateringburyplayers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wateringburyplayers@hotmail.co.uk)

## THOUGHTS FROM THE VICARAGE

2 The Grange, East Malling ME19 6AH

e-mail [jamesbrown.brown21@gmail.com](mailto:jamesbrown.brown21@gmail.com) - Benefice office ☎ 01732 843282

### DOGMATIC THEOLOGY

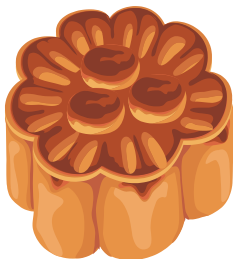
It was all rather sudden. One day I was playing with our dogs in a local field and the next day my wife and I had to make that awful decision and invite the vet to put Coco out of her suffering and pain. My Chocolate Lab, Coco, was loved by many. Since we lost her, and knowing that we were devastated by the experience, we have received many expressions of sympathy and regret. I have been very surprised by this. I had not realised that so many people shared and understood my relationship with a dog! It seems, however, that many of you do and it has got me thinking. What is it all about?

A Priest in Canada has produced an amazing account of his studies into such matters and he calls this "Dogmatic Theology". He relates his experiences of his own dog and applies it all to his understanding of our faith in God. He states "Dogmatic theology helps to explain some of the harder to answer questions in faith such as mortality, grief and eternal life". There is insufficient space in this letter to explain everything about Dogmatic Theology but what is clear is that there is something rather uncanny about the love we have for our four-legged friends and that they have for us. One of my friends telephoned me to share in my grief and actually said to me "This love between man and dog is Uncanny Love". In other words it surpasses the normal. But there is so much more to dogs' contributions to our lives. Another friend, a teacher, spoke of how dogs are being used as therapy for people who are suffering from some disorders or other conditions where, it seems, a dog can offer something humans cannot, a special kind of relationship. I am already very aware that dogs can support people who are blind, have hearing difficulties (including my daughter) or mental or physical handicaps. Dogs can search for things that humans or machines cannot detect and there are even dogs trained to detect the imminence of an epileptic fit. Difficult to imagine all of this!

Who was it that said "A dog is man's best friend"? I have no idea but I do know I will miss Coco's tail bashing against the radiator for all to hear throughout the entire house, or barking to alert us to the fact that the doorbell has just been rung. . I will miss talking to her and, whilst she never replied herself, she gave the appearance that she listened and understood all that I had said. She taught me to enjoy the simple things in life - a walk through the bluebell woods or how much fun rolling in the snow can be! Perhaps more seriously she taught me about friendship, selflessness and loyalty. John Grogan wrote a marvellous book called "Marley and Me" and in it he said "A dog has no use for fancy cars, big homes, or designer clothes. A stick will do just fine. A dog doesn't care if you're rich or poor, clever or dull, smart or dumb. Give him your heart and he'll give you his." How many people can you say that about? How many people can make you feel rare and pure and special? How many people can make you feel extraordinary?"

I do apologise if I am guilty of being self-indulgent in my writings and I do appreciate that not everyone likes dogs or will agree with my experiences or views. I also understand that other animals can have an equal effect on their owners and create that special relationship. I once said something awful to my daughter-in-law, following the loss of her dog, but this was before I had dogs myself. I said "Don't worry it's *just* a dog". Maybe that's it, maybe it's not *just* a dog but that I *just* didn't understand. I still don't quite understand all of this. But "Dogmatic Theology" is helping!

Revd Jim Brown



Cream Teas and

Why not pop in  
visit



Home Made Cakes.

for a chat and

your beautiful and historic village church.

A warm welcome awaits you on

Thursdays 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 August 2-4pm

Further information please contact 01622 817974

**WATCH CLUB**

Watch meets on Sunday 14 July, 5-7pm in the Church. We will have events running during the Summer Holidays, for more details please contact Lisa on 07959 852899. The Group welcomes children in school years 6-13.

**THANKS - BUT NO THANKS!**

The church was very pleased with the response to its Christmas appeal for clothing for the homeless in Maidstone and thank everyone for their support. . The collection was a special one off appeal and the church does not collect clothing throughout the year for the homeless or any other cause. Since January, on several occasions, large black bags of clothing have been left in the church porch and this causes problems. We would therefore respectfully request that unwanted items are donated to charity shops or placed in the recycling bins at local supermarkets.

**FROM THE REGISTERS**

**Baptisms by Rev Jim Brown**

12 May Bobby Christopher Ladbrooke  
 9 June Oliver Jack Tate-Sartain  
 Charlie George Killick

**Funerals**

25 March Eileen Taylor  
 22 May Patricia Ann Berriman

**BENEFICE CHURCH JULY AND AUGUST SERVICES**

*Visit our website for full details [www.wateringburychurch.org.uk](http://www.wateringburychurch.org.uk)*

<p><b>First Sunday</b></p> <p>8am Holy Communion – Teston</p> <p>9.45am Family Service – East Malling</p> <p>9.45am Family Service – Teston</p> <p><b>10am Matins/Morning Praise – Wateringbury</b></p> <p><b>7pm Taize Service - July in East Malling August in Wateringbury - led by Bob and Becky Bowie</b></p>	<p><b>Second Sunday</b></p> <p>8am Holy Communion – East Malling</p> <p>9.45am Eucharist – East Malling</p> <p><b>10am Holy Communion - Wateringbury</b></p> <p>6.30pm Evening Prayer - Teston</p>
<p><b>Third Sunday</b></p> <p>8am Holy Communion – Wateringbury</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>Fourth Sunday</b></p> <p>8am Holy Communion – East Malling</p> <p>9.45am Eucharist – East Malling</p> <p><b>10am Holy Communion – Wateringbury</b></p> <p>6.30pm Evening Praise - Teston</p>
<p>Every Monday – 2-3pm – Scout &amp; Guide HQ, Glebe Meadow – Toddler Praise</p>	
<p>Tuesdays (not 1<sup>st</sup> in month) – 7.30pm in Wateringbury Church – Holy Communion</p>	

Every Thursday - 9am in East Malling Church – Holy Communion
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For Baptisms, Weddings and other arrangements with the vicar please attend the Parish Office at the Vicarage on Wednesdays 6.30-7.15pm
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**Quiet Hours Wednesdays 10 July and 14 August** between 8-9pm in Wateringbury Church. Come and go as you please, a time for private prayer and contemplation.

**Services of Healing and Wholeness at 8pm**

2 July in Teston Church - Praise

6 August in Wateringbury – Eucharist

3 September in East Malling – Meditation

**TODDLER PRAISE** continues for an hour each Monday between 2-3pm in the Scout and Guide HQ in Glebe Meadow. throughout July and August, except Bank Holiday Monday. It is great fun for all pre-schoolers and their carers who can enjoy songs, marching, stories, prayers and refreshments.

**SUNDAYS COOL** continues throughout the summer meeting on July 14 and 28 and August 11 and 25 at 10am.. The children go into the vestry at the start of the church service and return to show the congregation what they have been doing before the last hymn. There will be Family Services on 21 July and 18 August and we hope the children and their families will come and enjoy informal worship.