

ROSTRUM DECEMBER 2016 AND JANUARY 2017

VILLAGE DIARY

**Rostrum wishes all readers, contributors, distributors and advertisers
A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

December 2016

- 3 School Christmas Fayre** - School, 12 to 3pm
- 4 Footpaths Walk** - meet at Village Hall car park, 2pm sharp
- 6 Parish Council** - Village Hall, 7.30pm followed by planning committee
- 10 Christmas Craft Fair** - Village Hall, 9.30am to 4pm
- 10/11 Cribs, Angels and Teas** - Church, 2.30 to 4.30pm
- 13 Christmas Wreath Making Workshop** - School, (Evening)
- 14 History Society Members Christmas Social Evening** - Hall, 7.40pm
- 15 9 Lessons and Carols by Candlelight** – Church, 8pm
- 24 Crib Service** – Church, 5pm
Midnight Communion – Church, 11pm
- 25 Christmas Praise** – Church, 10am

January 2017

- 8 Footpaths Walk** - meet at Village Hall car park, 2pm
- 10 Parish Council** - Village Hall, 7.30pm followed by planning committee
(please note change of date due to Christmas holiday)
- 12 WI Talk** - Suffragettes - Village Hall, 2pm
- 18 History Society** - Talk "Kent Disasters" - Village Hall, 7.40pm
- 27/28 Pantomime (oh, yes it is)! - Sleeping Beauty** - Village Hall

February 2017

- 5 Footpaths Walk** - meet at Village Hall car park, 2pm
- 7 Parish Council** - Village Hall, 7.30pm followed by planning committee

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR AT THE VILLAGE HALL on SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER

Doors open 9.30am until 4pm

£1 entry for Adults Children free

Lots of craft stalls, teas and coffees on sale with cakes and mince pies

Grand Raffle

Come along and buy some unique gifts for friends and family

All proceeds for the upkeep of the village hall

**ANGELS AND CRIBS
AT WATERINGBURY CHURCH
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
10 AND 11 DECEMBER 2.30-4.30pm**

Visit the church to see displays of nativity sets and angels
Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and angel cakes and biscuits
Craft Stall Raffle for knitted Nativity Set

VILLAGE PEOPLE Please let us have your news and tributes by 17 January for our February magazine. Entries are free.

New Arrivals.....

Our daughter **Kirsty** and her husband **Mark Goldthorp** had a son, **Elliot Jack Charles**, on 11 September. He was born at their then home in Berkhamsted; they have since moved to Tonbridge. Hurrah! **Mike and Maggie Hoiles**.

Ted and Doreen Vincent are delighted to announce the arrival in Wales of their first great-grandson Winter Edward Bowie who was born in Pembrokeshire on 10 November weighing 7lb 14oz.

Belated Golden Wedding Congratulations to Diana and Alan Burbridge of Love Lane who married at Boughton Monchelsea Church on 19 November 1966.

Thanks - Sue Cockburn would like to thank everyone who sent messages of condolence and who attended the funeral of her husband Philip who passed away peacefully at home on the 18 October.

Syd Thomsett thanks all who contributed towards the £825 donated in memory of his wife Vera. £685 was sent to The Heart of Kent Hospice and Wateringbury Church received £135 (half of the donations made at the funeral service).

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone in the village, with special thanks to the loyal band of parishioners, including Rostrum reporters, who regularly attend our meetings. **Richard Tripp, Chairman, on behalf of the Clerk and Parish Councillors**

Penny, Pat, Nathan, De and Cathy at **The Post Office** send Season's Greetings to all readers. **Last posting dates are Tues 20 December for 2nd class post and Weds 21 December for 1st class** items. Normal opening hours will operate in the week before Christmas. Closures will be on 26 & 27 December 2016 and Mon 2 January 2017.

Benny and Rupal at The Handy Stores wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Over the holidays their revised opening times will be: 24 Dec - 6am to 7pm; Christmas day - closed; 26 & 27 Dec - 7am to 2pm; 31 Dec - 7am to 8pm; 1 & 2 January 2017 - 7am to 2pm.

Philip Cockburn FCIB, FAAI, FInstEx, FICM, FBIM **13 March 1932-18 October 2016**

Philip was born in Newbiggin-by-the-sea, Northumberland. His family came to London in 1936 with his father's work. In the South Philip's Geordie accent caused amusement. In 1940 when his school was evacuated to Cornwall, Philip's parents decided it would be better to send him to his grandparents in Wallsend near Newcastle. However when enemy action came to the area he returned to his parents' home in Brockley, South East London where he and his young sisters were fascinated by the Doodlebugs flying above them to attack London. When the family home

was severely bomb damaged Philip returned once again to Newcastle and completed his education.

At the age of 16 he went to work for Barclays Bank. At 21 he was called up for his National Service. He served in the RAF becoming a Pilot Officer flying Meteor jets. He greatly enjoyed his time in the RAF and maintained a life-long interest in WW2 and flying. In 1956 he rejoined Barclays Bank. His banking career took him to live and work in Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa. He ultimately became Corporate Finance Director and retired in 1987 after 40 years service. In retirement Philip held a variety of directorships and served the community in various roles. He was a governor of Sutton Valence and Wateringbury schools, a director of Age Concern and for several years Chairman of Wateringbury Parish Council. The village owes a debt of gratitude

for his help when plans were being made to rebuild the village hall. Philip along with his wife Sue, (Clerk to the Parish Council) fully supported the project, including the transfer of the old hall from council ownership to a new Charitable Trust, which enabled grants to be obtained.

Philip enjoyed athletics and all sport. He always gave 100% to all he did and was a man who commanded respect and was known for his integrity and fairness. He was a caring supportive husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. In his final years, as his health failed, he was cared for devotedly by his wife Sue.

FOOTPATHS GROUP WALKS

Our next walk is on Sunday 4 December out to Pizien Well for just a short walk on the level! Meet at the village hall car park at 2pm.

Next local walks are on Sunday 8 January for a walk in the woods if not too wet. And on 5 February for a river walk to Teston Bridge, conditions permitting.

I hope to lead these walks but please check with Syd (see back cover of Rostrum).

Kevin Reynolds, 01622 813763

WAR NEWS, DECEMBER 1916/JANUARY 1917

December 10 : Lloyd George replaces Asquith as prime minister
December 12 : German peace proposal
January 17 : Zimmerman telegram

December 1916 and January 1917 saw the village spared further war deaths. The vicar writes in the December parish magazine solely about "The National Mission of Repentance and Hope" with no secular content included. "Messengers" had been appointed to visit the parishes of Wateringbury, Nettlestead and Teston in early December with joint services for all three parishes, in Wateringbury for men only, in Nettlestead for women only.

In January he returns to a more usual style magazine. Because of the Mission, it had not been possible to send each serving man from Wateringbury a Christmas parcel. Instead it was to be sent with New Year's greetings, including the statement that Wateringbury was "encouraged by the reconstruction of our government". It contained a photo of the new War Shrine (see November's Rostrum) with a copy of its dedication service, together with "a little Red Book of Scriptures". Soldiers received a woollen scarf that could be folded up into a cap, and sailors a game called Biff.

The magazine contains a "Roll of Honour", a list of 252 men from the parish, parishioners' sons and sons-in-law, serving in the land forces, and 42 men in the sea forces. There is no longer information about their battalion or rank, but an asterix highlights 104 serving somewhere abroad; 19 had been wounded, some multiple times.

Amongst the "men" serving in the land forces are Elsie Blest and Ellen Keat. Elsie was the daughter of William Blest of Broomscroft, Canon Lane, who after nursing at Hayle Place V.A.D. Hospital in Tovil since its opening in October 1914, had transferred in October 1915 to one of the many war hospitals in Etaples, "a dirty, loathsome, smelly little town" (Lady Baden-Powell) near Boulogne. Ellen Keat had been the nurse of the Wateringbury and Nettlestead District Nursing Association before the war but had left to do war work.

Three broad themes in village life will be repeated throughout 1917: fear of air raids, concern for food security and the necessity of war finance. At Malling Petty Sessions two people were prosecuted for infringing, in Wateringbury, the Lights (Vehicles) Order of October 1916: one was fined 10s; the other had the case dismissed. In January 1917 the Parish Council came to life after semi-dormancy through much of 1916: the roof of the Village Lock-Up had received attention, but the walls were still in need of repair; the supply of lime (as a fertiliser) for the allotments was agreed and a government scheme to distribute seed potatoes to allotment holders was adopted, despite costs being unknown. The Leney Board decided to invest £5,000 in war loan, the first of a series of such investments. Despite the adverse impact of the war on the business, it still was capable of generating substantial amounts of cash.

PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY CHANGES

The deadline for comments on the Parliamentary Boundary changes is 5 December . Many people may not be aware how urgent the need is to review the changes, form an opinion and submit comments either for or against the changes.

Comments and information can be obtained online :www.bce2018.org.uk.

Also, comments in writing can be made to this postal address. Boundary Commission for England, 35 Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BQ

TESTON & WATERINGBURY NURSERY GROUP

As we continue with our term theme 'Colours and Shapes', we will be busy making a variety of different shaped Christmas tree decorations to hang on our Preschool Christmas tree which the children will decorate (unsupervised!!) so parents beware they may like to decorate yours at home!

We have a new addition to our Preschool, we have adopted a snow leopard called Laila from The Big Cat Sanctuary in Smarden. Laila was born in Antwerp Zoo in April 2010 and was hand reared after her mother sadly died when she was 2 months old. She transferred to Smarden in September 2011. We will keep up to date with her progress by a monthly newsletter and pictures which we will be sharing with the children, and each child will be given the opportunity to take home our cuddly Laila for a few days to take out and share their experiences with.

We will finish our term with our ever so popular Christmas concert in Wateringbury Village Hall on Wednesday 21 December for all our families and friends.

I must also mention a big thank you to Teston Farm Shop who kindly donates fresh fruit for our children's café which runs throughout the morning playtime. Our children enjoy choosing a fantastic range of seasonal fruits we receive every week.

If you are interested in joining our preschool please contact **Tina Driver** on **07805 796353** and come along for a taster session.

NEW FOOTCARE SERVICE AT THE DOCTORS SURGERY, PELICAN COURT

Age Concern Malling is starting a new foot care service at Wateringbury Surgery. The service will be held between 9.30am to 1.30pm on Fridays 16 and 23 December, 6 and 27 January, 10 February and 3, 14 and 28 March. The cost is £13 per session. To book please phone Age Concern Malling on 01732 848008 or 01732 871746.

THE WATERINGBURY PLAYERS

Many thanks to those of you that came along to our production of Godspell performed in the Church last summer. We are also delighted to announce that as a result of your support we are able to donate £600 to Wateringbury Church, and £400 to the Wateringbury School Roof Fund with an additional £200 to a school music or drama project.

Rehearsals are well underway for the next Wateringbury Players pantomime, **Sleeping Beauty** by Ben Crocker. This classic tale, complete with Prince and Princess, King and Queen, Fairies, Cats and a few surprise characters will be performed in the Village Hall on Friday 27 and Saturday 28 January 2017.

All tickets are priced at £10 with a child concession of £5 on Saturday Matinee only. They go on sale on Monday 19 December at both the Post Office and the Handy Stores. Proceeds to Homeless Care Maidstone and St John the Baptist Church Wateringbury with a donation to Rape Crisis.

We hope to see you there. email: wateringburyplayers@hotmail.co.uk

HISTORY SOCIETY

At our December meeting on the 14th we will not be having a speaker but are holding a Christmas Social Evening, during which we plan to have a quiz, drinks, mince pies and nibbles and a raffle. Visitors very welcome.

Our October speaker, Paul Oldham, came along to tell us how the "Mote Estate had affected Maidstone History". During his talk Paul took us back through the centuries to explain how the 'landed gentry' had affected and changed not only the land around Maidstone but had also altered and removed roads, to ensure their properties remained detached and exclusive. He mentioned one particular family with the surname 'Marsham', who have been remembered with a street named after them and a ward at the local hospital, together with 'King Street', re-named after King Henry VIII visited Maidstone. Paul's talk was very interesting and full of information and he ended by saying "History is all around us if only we have eyes to see it".

James Preston was our speaker in November whose talk "Malting and Malthouses", took us through the many processes of making 'barley grain' into 'malt', which turned out to be more complex than many of us realised, and we learnt that the process could also be varied to produce different types of malt. James explained the process of making malt using drawings and photographs of Malthouses, two of which had been located in Wateringbury and Nettlestead. He explained to us malt is no longer made in Kent, and many of the Malthouses have now been demolished, though some have survived and been converted to other uses although they are often mistaken for former Oasthouses. Malthouses have very small windows, and this often can be the clue to distinguishing the difference, as James showed us with some photographs of locally converted Malthouses at West Malling and Boxley.

FRIENDS OF WATERINGBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Well, what a busy start to the school year we have had. Our AGM was held at the school and we welcomed some new members to the team as well as saying fond farewells to some old friends. Fresh members with new ideas are always a welcome addition and we look forward to some new ventures and some twists to some old ones too.

We have already held some great events, a 70s quiz night to coincide with the school's 40th anniversary was compiled excellently by Craig Lightheart raising £240 for the Raise the Roof campaign. A family photoshoot was another great day hosted by Time Photography Now we are full steam ahead for our Christmas fayre which will be held on Saturday 3 December between 12 and 3pm. Entrance is free to all comers so come along and enjoy, hot festive food, the Christmas cafe, craft stalls, holistic therapies, games and of course our wonderful Santa's grotto.

We would like to thank John Evans for very generously sponsoring our Christmas fayre once again this year. If anyone wishes to donate a raffle prize please contact me on the email below.

We are also hosting a Christmas wreath making evening on 13 December. This will be a great evening of fun and craft made possible by Sarah Hudson. We need booking in advance so numbers can be provided for.

Thank you everyone for your time and generosity that makes our efforts to improve the children's learning environment so worthwhile.

Rob Brydon-Brown - 07855127415

chairman@fowps.org

WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Sue Woods came along in November to show us how to 'Print on Silk Scarves', six members took part during her demonstration and printed some very individually coloured scarves. The competition 'my favourite scarf' was won by Janet Coltham.

On 8 December our members will be enjoying their Christmas Party, 1.00 for 1.30pm (members only). During lunch we will be entertained by Margaret Watson who is coming along to play seasonal music on her harp. The competition is a small Christmas table decoration.

At our meeting on 12 January 2017, Ian Porter is our speaker and he will be telling us about 'Suffragettes', which promises to be a very interesting talk. The competition is to wear something in green/purple and white. Visitors very welcome.

For enquiries please contact elizabethastrid@aol.com

WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

As the winter winds begin to bite and rehearsals for Christmas productions commence, there's a spirit of anticipation in the air. Schools are busy places at any time of year but never more so than at Christmas. Our dedicated and fun-loving team of parents kick off the season with our popular Christmas Fayre on 3rd December from 12:00-3:00pm. Our grotto now has a well-deserved reputation and it's worth every minute of queuing. And from crafts to cakes, raffles and ribbon, there's much to enjoy. All are warmly invited and we hope to see you there.

Christmas performances take place on 6th/7th December at 2:00pm for our infants and 13th/14th December for our juniors. The school is full of the sound of songs and carols and the rustle of costumes and crêpe paper. Our traditional Carol Service takes place on 19th December at 6:00pm at St John the Baptist and we invite you to join us for carols, music by our professional brass ensemble, children's songs and readings and the chance to hear our new vicar, the Reverend Nick Williams.

Another long-standing and favourite tradition is our 'Stories Round the Christmas Tree' on 20th December. Children return to school in the early evening in cosy pyjamas, carrying pillows and blankets, and settle down around the tree for hot cocoa and Christmas stories by candlelight. It is indeed a magical evening.

November included a number of special events: our Remembrance Day service included parent governor Steve Wright who spoke movingly about his family's trip to France to visit the grave of his great-grandfather who died in the trenches in World War 1. Personal stories make the enormous loss and sacrifice real to the children and they listened intently, particularly impressed with the beautiful piece of 'trench art' that Steve brought to show.

We marked Children in Need with a day that knocked spots off as the children wore spotty-dotty accessories and raised a generous donation for less fortunate children. Fundraising efforts were sky high earlier in the month as well, as Year 5 teacher Hannah Fraser completed a sponsored skydive, jumping more than 30,000 feet and raising more than £1,000 towards our capital campaign – a new library roof, windows and refit! It's not too late to donate to our campaign. Please visit <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/wateringburycepschool> to donate online.

Term ends on Wednesday 21st December and the new spring term begins on Tuesday, 3rd January. The children, staff and governors of Wateringbury CE Primary School join me in wishing our community joy and peace this Christmas-time and may the generosity of spirit that is Christmas be in our hearts every day.

Chasey Crawford Usher – Headteacher

www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk

NOVEMBER PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The Chairman opened the meeting by extending condolences on behalf of the Parish Council to Mrs Susan Cockburn on the loss of her husband, Philip. It was agreed that a donation of £50 would be made to the Heart of Kent Hospice in memory of Philip Cockburn.

Apologies for absence were received from KCC Cllr Matthew Balfour. Cllr Catherine Moreland was also absent.

Announcements - A Finance and General Purposes Meeting is due to be held on 23 November at 7.30pm.

T & M Borough Cllr Simon Jessell advised the following:

- Funds from Central Government to the Borough would be cut in the future. This in turn would affect Parish funding and although money may be available from the Borough Council, a lot more would be expected in return. Overall in the next 4 to 5 years a reduction of 30% is anticipated.
- There is a possibility that changes will be made to Planning Committees.

Crime Report - Two reports had been extracted from the Kent Police website for July and August. Councillors agreed that more information on these crimes was needed, especially those events of a violent nature. A request is to be made to the Kent Police to this effect.

A26 - A query was raised about the changes proposed to road realignment at the junction of Pizien Well Road/A26. Further clarification is to be sought from Kent Highways.

Parliamentary constituency boundary changes - Councillors felt strongly that Wateringbury should be included in the Tonbridge & The Weald Constituency instead of the proposed move into the Chatham & Aylesford Constituency.

Draft Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Local Plan - there are no proposed new, identified development sites in Wateringbury up to 2031. However, if sites are considered justifiable and deliverable then they may be considered. Concern was expressed about additional access that may be required through the parish boundary from development on Broadwater Farm at Kings Hill.

Wateringbury Sports & Recreational Association - it had been noticed that the wall of the roofed building used by the Association may need attention.

Tonbridge & Malling Area Committee of KALC - Parish Councils may obtain funding for clearing vegetation from pathways, etc but the rate per metre is very poor. At the PPP meeting Speedwatch was discussed and it was felt that there is a lack of police involvement and support in this project. It was suggested that when the police radar van parked in the church lay-by it would be better for it to monitor the speed of traffic travelling towards Mereworth. A letter will be sent to the police to ask them to

bear this in mind in the future. It was also suggested that a camera be added to the traffic lights at the crossroads to record any vehicles jumping red lights and accelerating through that area.

Kent Community Rail Partnership - several email communications had been sent but unfortunately the address had changed, consequently responses are still awaited. An enquiry asking when the level crossing gates will be removed is to be posed to the KCRP.

Report on the Cemetery - the hedge is to be cut back.

Village Warden Report - The furniture in the play area in The Fields are in need of preserving treatment. Cllr John Evans will kindly donate the materials. It may be possible that the Community Payback Scheme will carry out the work.

Public Discussion - among the points raised by residents were:

- Compliments on the condition of the cemetery.
- The subject of training of Parish Councillors.
- Concerns about the issue of an alcohol sale licence to Red Hill Farm Estate and other proposed events to be held in that area.
- A water leak at the bottom of Bow Road/off Waterside Mews.
- In Glebe Meadow, near the lay-by there is a hole left by BT.

Planning Committee

Proposed detached single garage to front garden at 15 Red Hill - Councillors objected on the grounds of height, position and elevation of the proposed building.

Proposed orangery and garage conversion at 15 Red Hill - No objections.

Proposed garage with storage over 1 Broomscroft Cottages, 189 Canon Lane - Councillors had no objections.

Minor revision to TM/16/01989/FL to allow alteration to front rear garage and lowering of porch roof at 20 Red Hill - no objection was made.

Details of condition 5 (phasing strategy) pursuant to planning permission TM/134/01535/OAEA (mixed use development) Kings Hill Phase 3 Gibson Drive, Kings Hill - insufficient information was available to make a decision.

Next meetings The public are very welcome to attend the next meetings of the Parish Council at **7.30pm in the village hall on Tuesdays 6 December, 10 January (please note change of date) and 7 February**.

PRIESTLY PONDERINGS

parishofficeemwt@gmail.com

Rev Nick Williams
The Vicarage, 2 The Grange,
01732 843282

East Malling

Brothers and Sisters in Christ by the time you read this brief letter we will have left behind us the season the Church knows as the 'Kingdom Season' or 'All Saints to Advent' and entered into Advent. It's a curious season, its name is relatively new but it serves to make that portion of the Church year which is vitally important to all Christians and which contains many of the great festivals of remembrance that serve to remind us that we do not live our lives in solitary splendour with no sense of that which has gone before us or that which is yet to come.

The season begins with the festival of All Saints when we remember all the Saints of the Church members through baptism of the same family as us. People from whom we can draw inspiration and example, people in whom the grace of God has been powerfully at work, yet people who in some cases leave us wondering how such flawed individuals ever became Saints, until we realise that if God can work his purpose out through them and their lives then why not through each of us as well.

We remember the departed in the Commemoration of All Souls, sadly now overshadowed by the commercialisation of halloween, but properly celebrated as the time when we remember with thanksgiving all those more 'local saints'. The people who we have personally known, whose lives have touched ours; the people who gave us life or nurtured our faith, the people who will always hold a special place in our heart.

Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday invite us to a different sort of remembrance, the time when we look back and remember not only all those who have given their lives, both civilian and service personnel, in wars throughout the ages but also those who have returned damaged in some way and live with consequences of war.

The cycle ends with the festival of Christ the King which beckons us into the season of Advent, the beginning of the Church year with its own themes of judgement, repentance and of course anticipation as we await the reminder of the birth of Christ the King in the stable at Bethlehem.

The kingdom season, it seems to me, is an entirely appropriate time to have held my institution, induction and installation as the new Vicar of this benefice. Appropriate because on one hand we can look back and rejoice at the ministry of those who have gone before me as Vicars here. Without doubt many of you will have joyful memories of the times you all shared and it's right that these times should be remembered and celebrated. On the other hand we are now beginning a new time in our life as a benefice. We can look forward to new experiences, new challenges and new opportunities in the service of God. Just as no two years are exactly the same when we look back over them so the future will not be the same as the past and we may find ourselves in places we never imagined or indeed wished we could ever go. All we can do is place ourselves wholly in God's hands and ask him to make clear to us the path he would want us to walk together.

Rev Nick Williams

TWELFTH NIGHT QUIZ

This year the theme is A, B, C (all answers will start with these letters). Quiz sheets are still only £1 from Jan and Mike Pursey 814324. A good quiz to do with your Christmas visitors. Completed quiz sheets to be returned before Twelfth Night - 6 January 2017. There are prizes! Proceeds to church funds.

BENEFICE MOTHERS' UNION

The meeting on **1 December** will be in East Malling church at 1pm when Elaine Welch's topic is Christmas Decorations. On **5 January** members will enjoy a New Year lunch at The North Pole.

THE BIG CHRISTMAS CARD

For the past 11 years rather than purchasing individual Christmas cards for local friends and neighbours you are invited to write your good wishes on a single Big Christmas Card, and make a donation to a nominated charity. Over these years a substantial sum has been raised. The chosen charity this year is Save the Children's Emergency Appeal to further the charity's excellent work in caring for the welfare and wellbeing of children.

WATCH CLUB

Please Note Change of Dates and Times

Watch Club are meeting in the Church on **Sunday 4 December, 4-6pm** for our Christmas Party and again in the Church for our **Epiphany Party on Sunday 8 January, 4-6pm**. On Sunday 29 January we hope to be back in the village hall from 4-6pm We wish everyone the Blessings of Christmas and a Happy New Year - Lisa and the team

SHINING BRIGHT PARTY

We had a fantastic time at this year's Shining Bright party, 50 children joined in our Jungle Book themed party. If you ask the children who the King of the Jungle is? you are likely to get this answer, " I'll tell you....J E S U S is!, He's the king of me!, He's the king of the universe, the jungle and the sea! Thank you to all those who helped on the night and thank you to those who donated sweets, needless to say the children loved them! Thank you, Lisa

TOY AND GIFT SERVICE Many thanks to all who gave toys, vouchers and toiletries your generosity means others less fortunate in local Womens' Refuges will have a happier Christmas knowing that others care.

CHURCH CHOIR AT SWITCH ON OF NORTH POLE LIGHTS

(This year, instead of singing carols round the village you can join in the fun at the pub)

Our Church choir will once again be singing carols at the switching on of the North Pole Pub's Christmas Lights at **6.30pm on Friday 2 December**. This year, instead of singing carols round the village, you are most welcome to come along and join in with the church choir to help raise funds for Parkinson UK. Snow guaranteed!

CRAFT AND CHAT - Wednesdays - 10.30-12.30

Many are enjoying our mornings in the Church and some are reviving their crafting skills, particularly knitting and crochet. In December we will meet on **Wednesday 7 December** for Christmas nibbles. We then have a short break and meet again on **28 December for a trip to Brookside** Garden Centre to visit their delightful Christmas Grotto. If you would like a lift to Brookside please phone 01622 813076. By popular request we will meet in **January on every Wednesday** in the church vestry to cheer ourselves up in this often dreary month. For more details please phone Pauline (814673) or Gillian (813076).

TODDLERS PRAISE

After our meeting on 19 December we will take a short break. We return on Monday 9 January. All babies and pre-schoolers and their carers are welcome to come and join in the fun. We meet in the Guide and Scout HQ, Glebe Meadow 2-3pm More details from Edna (01622 812922)

LOST PROPERTY

Please check the Church Lost Property Box (on the pew near the font). There are lots of small items: any not claimed by 6 January 2017 will be found new homes.

PARISH ANNUAL ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

Many thanks to those who braved the pouring rain to tidy the church and churchyard on Saturday 12 November to prepare the church for this special service. Thankfully on Remembrance Sunday the weather was dry for the service which moved from the church to the village war memorial for the 2 minute silence and the laying of wreaths and crosses. There were 177 adults and 140 young people (representing all the village's uniformed organisations) at the service.

BENEFICE SERVICES FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Visit our website www.wateringburychurch.org.uk

First Sunday in month 8am Communion - East Malling 9.45am Family Service – East Malling 9.45am Family Service – Teston 10am Wateringbury 4 December - Christingle 1 January - Matins	Second Sunday in month 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 10am Holy Communion - Wateringbury 6.30pm Evensong - Teston
Third Sunday in month 8am Communion – Wateringbury 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 10 am Family Service – Wateringbury 6.30pm Eucharist - Teston	Fourth Sunday in month 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 10am Holy Communion – Wateringbury 6.30pm Eucharist - Teston
Sunday 29 January 10am Benefice Communion at Wateringbury	
Mondays – 2-3pm – Scout & Guide HQ, Glebe Meadow – Toddler Praise	
Pilsdon Community, 27 Water Lane, West Malling - Rev Viv Ashworth invites you to the Barn Chapel to join members of the community for a Eucharist Service every Wednesday at noon and 6pm on Sundays	
For Baptisms, Weddings and other arrangements please contact the Parish Office phone 01732 843282 email parishofficeemwt@gmail.com	

SPECIAL SERVICES IN WATERINGBURY CHURCH

Sunday 4 December 10am Christingle

A praise service when we give Christingle Oranges with candles to remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World.

Thursday 15 December 8pm 9 Lessons and Carols

A candlelit service with traditional readings and well-known carols

Sunday 18 December 10am Family Service with Nativity Play

Christmas Eve

5pm Crib Service

11pm Midnight Communion

Blessings and Communion are offered for everyone.

Christmas Day 10am Christmas Praise

A happy, informal service with carols, prayers and readings.

Benefice Service of Healing and Wholeness. The next service will be a Praise Service in **East Malling Church at 8pm on Tuesday 6 December**

Sunday 29 January Benefice Communion Service - 10am at Wateringbury