

Welcome to the May edition of Rostrum

VILLAGE DIARY

May

- 5** **Footpaths Walk** – 2.30pm – Village Hall
7 **Parish Council Meeting** - 7.30pm – Hall upper room
10 **Free Coffee Morning** – 10.30am-11.30am - Hall
back room
11 **Junior Football Festival** - 9am-5.30pm - Fields
13 **Footpaths Walk** – 10am - Village Hall
18 **School Art Exhibition** – 10am-2pm - Church
19 **Village Market** - 10.30am-1pm – Hall and car park
20 **Sports & Recreation Association AGM** – 7.30pm -
Hall
21 **Annual Parish Council Meeting** - 7.30pm – Hall
upper room

- 25** **Annual Plant Sale**– 10am-1pm – Churchyard

June

- 2** **Footpaths Walk** – 2.30pm – Village Hall
4 **Parish Council Meeting** - 7.30pm - Hall upper room
6 **Village Celebrations DDay80** – Fields - 6.30pm-
9.30pm
16 **Village Market** - 10.30am-1pm – Hall and car park
19 **History of Kent in less than 100 Objects**
History Society Talk – 8pm - Hall

Wateringbury Sports and Recreation Association will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Monday 20th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall (Upper Room)

Any local residents welcome to attend

The WRSA is a registered charity formed to look after the playing fields which are owned by the Parish Council. We have volunteers from sports associations but really need representatives who use the facilities for non-sport reasons, so if you walk your dog, take children to the play facilities or just enjoy quiet time to admire the amazing views across the Medway valley please come along and let the Trustees/Committee have your thoughts on the Fields and the facilities.

Dday80 Village Celebrations – 6th June at the Playing Fields

Our preparations to mark the 80th Anniversary of D Day are now complete and tickets are on sale at the Handy Stores and Post Office for the fish and chips element of the evening. Tickets are £10 each. It is National Fish and Chips day, and what better way to celebrate the 6th June event than to come down to the playing fields, enjoy the live music of the East Peckham Brass Band, eat your pre-ordered fish and chips, maybe have a drink from the beer tent, and watch the lighting of the beacon at 9.15pm. There will be thousands of beacons being lit up and down the country in commemoration. There will be toilet facilities provided by the parish council too. The fish and chip van will only cater for the quantity of tickets bought in advance so it is important to get your tickets in advance. There might even be a flypast by a Spitfire!

Sarah Hudson

LOST IN SWING – AN EVENING WITH LES BLACKBURN SATURDAY 25TH MAY IN NETTLESTEAD VILLAGE HALL 8PM 'TIL LATE

£5 PER TICKET from Railway pub or 07762 610467 Bring your
own drinks

All proceeds to Save Nettlestead Village Hall

**WATERINGBURY C OF E PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

ART EXHIBITION

Every pupil at Wateringbury C of E Primary School will be showing their work in an

**Art Exhibition to be held in
St John the Baptist Church,
Wateringbury
on Saturday 18th May 2024
10.00am to 2.00pm**

A short 'Service of Celebration' will then be held involving some pupils, and will include the presentation of prizes donated by the Church. Prizes will be given for the best three Key Stage exhibits and the overall winner. Refreshments will be available on the day.

**Please come along and support your local
Primary School**

**ANNUAL PLANT
SALE**

Saturday 25th May

in the Churchyard

10am to 1pm

**Beautiful plants to fill your
garden with colour –**

bedding plants, perennials,

and vegetables

**COFFEE BREAK - 8th, 22nd May
and 5th June**

Do come along to the church between 10.30am and 12.30pm and enjoy tea, coffee and home-made cake and get to know others who live in our village. This is a friendly, informal group who welcome new members. Suggested donation £1.

VILLAGE PEOPLE Please let us have your news and tributes by 17th May for our June magazine. Entries are free. Email www.rostrum2@hotmail.com or phone 01622 812566

RIP

Colin Smith

(21st September 1944 to 16 March 2024)

Most in the village will be familiar with Colin though few knew his name. He was often seen walking around the district with his distinctive gait and flat cap, or riding his bike around the village or miles and miles away. In the last 6 months of his life failing health meant he could no longer ride his beloved bike but he still walked to the shops every day. Colin was born in Mereworth and moved with his parents in about 1950 to a farm cottage in Canon Lane where he lived until the last few days of his life. Colin was 'a special person' who found communication with others difficult. He lived a very, very simple life making little demands on the planet's resources. He died in Maidstone Hospital as he had lived - quietly and undemandingly. We have lost a unique character who added flavour to village life. Colin's funeral took place on 23rd April 2024 at Vinters Park Crematorium.

Diane Mary Hayes, (nee Shippey)

(31st October 1947 to 28th March 2024)

Diane was born in Maidstone, on 'Halloween 1947' and lived with her family in Glebe Meadow. Diane was the eldest child of seven children born to Eileen and Thomas Shippey. She attended Wateringbury Primary School, (then in Red Hill) and during her formative years was seen all around Wateringbury, whether it was delivering the daily newspaper, walking villagers' dogs, baby sitting or singing in the choir at St John the Baptist Church. She was also an active member the local Girls' Brigade. Diane worked at Whitbread's Phoenix Brewery in Bow Road. Although Diane lived most of her married life in Teston she was at heart still a Wateringbury girl with deep Wateringbury roots. In 2015 Diane suffered with sepsis and whilst in Pembury Hospital suffered the more serious sepsis shock when all of her vital organs shut down and very nearly died. Diane was treated in the hospital's Intensive Care Unit before spending three months recovering on a Ward. Diane was extremely grateful for the care given to her by the doctors and nurses who saved her life although she never fully recovered and there after her diminished energy levels caused her to limit her activities. Diane will be well known to villagers and residents as for 25 years she assisted me with Teston Tours adventures which we organised together. Diane's funeral takes place at St John the Baptist Church, Wateringbury, on Thursday 9th May 2024, at 11.30am. Along with our family and friends, I would be very pleased to see you at Diane's funeral and afterwards at the Wake. Thank you. *Alan.*

Diane requested family flowers only. Those who wish may donate to either the Heart of Kent Hospice or the Salvation Army, via The Family Funeral Service, 6 Marlborough Parade, Beverley Road, Barming, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 9JN.

HADLOW BOWLS CLUB

After a dreary, wet winter, Hadlow bowls club is now open for play. We welcome anyone who would like to try their hand at outdoor bowls. **We are having an Open Afternoon on Sunday 26th May in School Lane, Hadlow.** If you wish to have a go before then or want more information please contact Dave on 07780 704697 or email isted.hadlow@hotmail.com or Brian on 01732 850013.

APRIL PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Frances Fielding in the absence of Sarah Hudson.

Allotments

New contracts for the coming year have been sent out. Three allotmenters had decided not to renew their leases so there are now opportunities to rent these plots. Contact the Parish Clerk for details of size of plots and annual rent (07860 721924 email clerk@wateringburypc.org.uk). The water tap needs to be repaired and the spoil heap near the entrance gates removed.

Cemetery

The tree work had been completed and a new tree planted. The spoil heap is in the process of being removed. Once this work has been done the proposal to create a Memorial Garden can be reinstated. At the open forum it was suggested that some of this space could be used to remember pre-natal deaths.

CCTV

It was unanimously agreed to upgrade the cameras at the village hall. Those on the exterior of the building will be maintained by the Parish Council and monitored by the Parish Clerk. These cameras will monitor the Village Car Park and the Cross Roads junction. The internal ones will continue to be monitored by a village hall representative.

DDay80 Celebrations

The beacon has been ordered. Tickets for the Fish and Chip suppers are now on sale from The Handy Stores and The Post Office. The clerk was asked to investigate the cost of providing portable toilets.

Highways Improvement Plan

KCC asked for more details of items listed in the village's plan to substantiate requests which have been made. Councillors agreed to request an on-site meeting with KCC in June when the Parish Council Highways subcommittee membership will be known. (All subcommittee members on the Parish Council for the year to May 2025 will be elected at the Annual Parish Meeting on 21st May).

Playing Fields

The track from Fields Lane is in a poor state. It was decided to place this on a recurring repair schedule since it needs attention every 2-3 years. The clerk was asked to obtain 3 quotes for the necessary work. Statutory Electrical Tests at the pavilion have been arranged.

Planning Applications

Councillors had no objections to the application by Green King at The Wateringbury Hotel for the installation of replacement signs to include
1 x post mounted pictorial sign, 1 x set of sign written house name letters,
1 x double sided post mounted welcome sign, 1 x transom sign
and
1 x lantern.

Councillors left the following decisions regarding Conservation Area applications to the Borough Tree Officer: holly trees in the churchyard removal of some stems and reduction in height for others and reduction in crown of multi stemmed yew in front garden of 6 Redhouse Gardens.

Planning Training Course

Councillor Michael Wells reported on a day course organised by Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) he had

attended and found both informative and useful. It was strongly recommended by the Planning Consultant delivering the course that parish councils set up Neighbourhood Plans. T & M BC are apparently not in favour of such plans and this caused lots of discussion at the course.

Speed Watch

During March, due to adverse weather conditions, only 11 one hour sessions took place during which time 7751 vehicles passed the observers of which 324 were exceeding the 30mph limit. 62 letters were sent to repeat offenders of which 2 were hand delivered by police officers, 13 letters were sent to those travelling in excess of 45 mph and 3 vehicle details have been passed to officers for further action.

Observations included 2 vehicles driven without valid road tax, 3 without a valid MOT and one without either road tax or MOT. The Speed Watch Team were aware of one instance in the month when the police camera van was in action in the village. The worst incidence of speeding was on A26 when a car was travelling west bound at Lodge Close at 50mph

Sports and Recreation Association

Discussions took place regarding the work/responsibilities of the Charity and that of the Parish Council who own the land and the preparation of an up-to-date lease. The AGM has been arranged for 20th May when the officers for the coming year will be elected.

Next meetings of the Parish Council

In May there are two meetings of the Council. The usual one on the first Tuesday of the month on **Tuesday 7th May** and the **Annual Meeting on Tuesday 21st May** at which the Chair and Vice Chair for the year are elected by secret ballot and membership of sub-committees decided for the coming year. Both meetings take place at **7.30pm in the village hall upper room**. Members of the public are welcome to attend both meetings.

WATERINGBURY WI

It was with sadness that Rostrum reported the closure after 104 years of Wateringbury WI. Over its history the WI has contributed much to village life. It is thanks to the WI that Wateringbury has its village sign which was designed and gifted to the village in November 1980 to mark its 60th anniversary. To mark its centenary in 2020 an oak tree was planted at the Playing Fields.

The WI is a forward-thinking national organisation which runs national campaigns, voted by its members nationwide, to improve national life. This year's resolution is about dental care. In addition to a monthly meeting with guest speakers or demonstrators many WIs hold monthly walks, have book clubs, craft groups, drama groups or choirs. The local federation office at Pembury also organises a variety of activities and day courses.

Councillor Sarah Hudson did put out a Facebook message asking if any village ladies would be **interested in re-forming the WI with evening meetings**. Let's hope that our WI will rise once again. If the WI is re-started within 3 years then its cash resources, now held by the regional office, will be released for local use. A WI officer will also support those interested in taking on the three roles which every WI must have – chair, secretary and treasurer. If you are interested in taking on any of these roles or joining as a member email fedsec@wkwfi.org.uk. Please also email Sarah Hudson (sarah.hudson@tmbs.gov.uk)

LOOK AFTER YOURSELF – WELLBEING HINTS AND TIPS

Plan and track your self care habits.

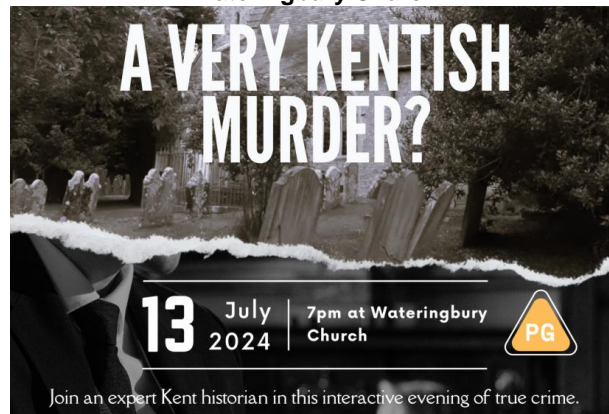
I try to keep myself on track with my self care habits in a weekly tracker to record the things I try to do each day. For me that usually includes getting outside, doing something physical, doing something meditative and getting good sleep. I track these each day in my diary in a little grid for the week (see example below) so I can tick them off each day. It's easy to drop things if you don't have a moment of focus, especially when life gets frenetic. These things have become common in the kind of organisational planners people use for work, but I think they are good for anyone. So if you have fallen off or away from those laudable January plans that you made. Perhaps you have been fasting recently, or maybe not so much. Whatever the case, carve out a moment to make your plan for you.

Bob Bowie

Habit tracker ✓ each day when achieved

Aim	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun

BOOK THE DATE - Saturday 13th July – 7pm – Wateringbury Church



After listening to the evidence from the original trial the audience becomes the jury and decides was the prime suspect guilty or not guilty?

Tickets £7 per person or £25 for family of 4 from Post Office or Handy Stores Or go to thehistorybureau.co.uk/wateringbury

WATERINGBURY FLOWER CLUB

Our April meeting was with the wonderful Robin White - a workshop entitled Twists and Turns. Members enjoyed a workshop with a difference using a supermarket bunch and twisting flat rattan into all sorts of shapes and incorporating flowers into the design - 25 members produced a different array of designs which were all different using the same materials.

On 22nd May in East Malling Institute we have the very talented Iris Shaw with her demonstration "From the back of the Shed!" Also in June our club is 55yrs old and members will be celebrating with a dinner at West Malling Golf Club with two guests of honour Margaret Cowell our longest serving member and Cecelia Sleaf the current Kent Floral Art Chairman. *Jean Schofield For WFC*

LET'S GET TONBRIDGE AND MALLING DIGITAL PROJECT

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council have granted Kent County Council's Digital Inclusion & Capabilities Service, known as **Digital Kent**, funding to deliver digital support to their residents. The project can provide gifted laptops and digital skills development sessions to eligible residents within the borough. To find out more information and apply for this scheme, **please visit this website-** [Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council | Digital Inclusion & Capabilities | Digital Kent](#)

Jake Huggett Senior Project Officer ☎ 03000 416 279

WATERINGBURY GUIDES

As I write this, we are preparing to restart guides after the Easter holidays. The programme for the term is almost complete and offers a raft of challenging activities as girls prove they can do anything. We'll try paddle boarding and canoeing at Mote Park, quad bikes or go karts and body zorbing at Lower Grange Farm and hi ropes and dino golf at Mote Park.

We have also planned some activities to help us look after our mental health as well as learning how to pitch lightweight tents and do some outdoor cooking at Mereworth Scout site. Closer to home we hope to do wide games in the orchard, and build sedan chairs to race round an obstacle course. We have a trip to the cinema to watch Inside Out 2 and will be helping at West Peckham village fete with the teas stall.

Daisy and Emma are very close to completing the top guide award – the Guide Gold Award having been presented with their bronze and silver awards earlier in the year. We'll work out how we can celebrate this wonderful achievement shortly as they have both worked hard on their badges and skills building.

We are off to camp at Chigwell Row over the May bank holiday and the girls have requested abseiling, crate building challenge, zip line and water zorbs. Ah well, at least they'll sleep well! A weekend trip on a canal boat for the older girls is booked for July and we are planning menus and activities for that too.

We are full again but if your daughter would like to join our waiting list, you can contact me on 01622 815416 or email to wateringburyguides@hotmail.com
Sheena Stewart and team.

NEWS FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH HUDSON

Our next **coffee morning** at the village hall is on **Friday 10th May from 10.30am to 11.30am**. We meet in the small downstairs room, and eat delicious cakes and scones with tea or coffee and have a chat. Everyone is welcome to join us, and if you have any issue you want to raise with me, then please do pop along.

The **Community Fridge** is still running every Tuesday evening at Mereworth Village Hall at 6pm. You just need a bag for life and £5, and grab some lovely fresh food, and a few other bargains whilst reducing landfill.

We will be meeting at the Village Hall car park at **1pm on Saturday 25th May to clean up all the summer planters in the car park and along the A26, and plant them up with summer bedding plants**. If you can spare an hour or two to help me, then please do let me know on sarah.hudson@tmbc.gov.uk. You will just need a pair of gardening gloves and a trowel. The plants have all been purchased.

WATERINGBURY SCOUT GROUP

The winter months are behind us now and our sections are getting out more and thinking about our environment. Our youngest section, the Beaver Scouts, have been thinking about the smallest creatures in our neighbourhoods and have been using tools to make bug hotels which will go into the HQ garden.

Cub Scouts will be tidying and re-planting the small gardens they take care of in the churchyard which, as a pack, they've been doing for a number of years.

The Scouts have been out around the village litter picking, ridding our village of unwanted rubbish and creating a better environment for everyone.

Nicola - Cub Team Leader

HISTORY SOCIETY

Our next meeting is our annual Simply Cheese and Wine evening on 22nd May in a member's garden. It is a ticket only event (£7 a ticket). Members who did not purchase their tickets at our April meeting should contact 01622 812148 before 14th May.

We have been fortunate to have two gifted speakers in recent months. In March Bob Ogle spoke about Biggin Hill Air Station and in April, a change from the advertised speaker, Simon Ginnaw told us some of the fascinating history Mote Park and its wildlife.

On 19th June our speaker season ends with an entertaining evening when Martin Crowther will tell us The History of Kent in less than 100 objects. The talk starts at 8.10pm as at 8pm we have our AGM. And yes we really can get through the statutory business in ten minutes. This meeting is in the village hall. Visitors welcome at £5 (cash please).

Christine Byron

PLANNING APPLICATION FOR 1300 HOMES

East Malling Trust have recently submitted a planning application to build 1300 homes on its agricultural land between Hermitage Lane and Kiln Barn Road Ditton. Residents are invited to let T & M Borough Council know their thoughts on the implications that such a large number of new homes may have on traffic levels, medical and educational facilities, water provision and sewage disposal, etc. The email address is planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk reference 24/00372/PA

WATERINGBURY FOOTPATHS GROUP

I was unable to do the Sunday walk last month; many thanks to Dave who took over. The route crossed Bow Bridge and turned immediately up the steep footpath parallel to Bow Hill to Bowhill Oast. At the top we turned left and walked along Hunt Street to Tutsham, where we turned down the lane to Tutsham Hall and continued down over the cattle grid, past an old pill box to the road which goes over Teston Bridge. Taking the permissive footpath parallel to the road, we avoided most of the traffic that was approaching or leaving the bridge. We crossed the river on Teston Bridge and took the public footpath through the country park and by the river back to Bow Bridge.

On the steep footpath uphill from Bow Bridge we kept stopping to catch our breath and admire the views behind us as well as a variety of animals. There was a donkey and horses in the field we walked through, about 10 emus (or maybe they were rheas) in an adjacent field and newborn lambs the other side of the hedge.

In May we expect to continue to enjoy the spring flowers. I hope some bluebells (which are already looking

lovely as I write this) will last for our walks. We will be leaving the village hall at:

- 2.30pm on Sunday 5th May
- 10.00am on Monday 13th May
- 2.30pm on Sunday 2nd June

Everyone is always welcome! Please contact me if you want any more information.

Lisa Dean 077 5953 9032

WATERINGBURY FOOTBALL CLUB

On Saturday 11th May, Wateringbury FC are holding our 6th Junior Football Festival. This is one of the biggest events that is hosted in the village each year. With 106 teams taking part through the day covering both girls and boys and age groups spanning from under 8's through to under 18's, we are expecting another bumper day. A huge amount of effort and organising has gone into arranging the festival and we are expecting over 2000 players, parents, friends and supporters.

As well as the fantastic entertainment the children will be providing on the pitches, there will be food, drink, ice cream and even a candy floss stall available. Why not come along to the playing fields to support the fantastic talent we have in the Wateringbury Teams. It still brings back great memories seeing our under 8 girls win the cup last year. What a moment for those youngsters!

The fun starts at 9am and goes through until 5:30pm. Hopefully see you there.

Tony Garrett

VILLAGE MARKET – THIRD SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

In Village Hall between 10.30am and 1pm

A reminder to all Rostrum readers that the Wateringbury Village Market takes place on the 3rd Sunday of each month in the village hall. 19th May, 16th June,

21st July and 18th August, etc. We regularly have at least 25 sellers with a wide range of products: Fudge, Pickles, Fresh Meat, Local Juices, Jewellery, Beauty, Bespoke Wood items, Cards, Felt Figures and Pictures, Candles, Bags, Crochet and Knitted items, Fabric and Embroidered Gifts, Resin Art, Decoupage, Antiques, Charity stalls for Brain Tumour Research and British Heart Foundation. Refreshments are available at competitive prices. Dave our 'meat man' also cooks on site bacon or sausage baps - again competitively priced. Come and support your local village market - pop in and see if you can be tempted with any of the above. *Sue Collins*

NETTLESTEAD AND WATERINGBURY PRE-SCHOOL

The children were excited about coming back after the Easter break to share their adventures with staff and the other children. This term we will continue with exploring Spring and watching all the seeds we have planted grow. When stronger we will move the plants outdoors where the children can help to look after them.

Before the half term with the children, we explored life cycles and the children watched as the tiny caterpillars we got grew bigger and finally turned into chrysalis. The children shared with one another what they thought would happen next and while linking the story of the 'Very Hungry Caterpillar'. The children got to see the chrysalis open and tiny Painted Lady butterflies emerge and helped to look after the new butterflies until they were eventually strong enough to fly off by themselves. More recently we have had a couple of ducks that waddle up to the setting during the day, the children have enjoyed watching them come up quacking to the setting gates and have had some food ready to feed them. *Nisha Reed*

GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

We recently set up a camera trap in our garden and were pleased to confirm our suspicions that an adult hedgehog is visiting nightly (along with a fox and our cat!). Hedgehogs eat slugs and other

garden invertebrates and are generally a friend to gardeners so if you want to encourage them, it's important to try and ensure that they can move freely between yours and adjacent gardens.

We now, finally, have tadpoles in our pond. Ours are all toad tadpoles which are less likely to be eaten by predators as they are slightly poisonous although last Spring a grass snake devoured quite a few! Apparently, their digestive systems can cope with them and although I was disappointed to lose so many, it was exciting to see this beautiful reptile swimming through the water. Grass snakes are completely harmless and often lay their eggs in compost heaps in early Summer with the young snakes emerging in August. On warm days, before water lilies cover the surface, our pond often suffers from algae growth. I try to remove it when this happens, taking care not to fish out the tadpoles and leaving anything that I remove at the side of the pond to allow any pondlife to crawl back in. Recently, this resulted in a rather grotesque looking dragonfly larvae emerging out of the algae and slowly dragging itself back into the pond. Dragonfly larvae are carnivores and live for up to five years in the pond feeding on smaller pondlife, finally climbing up clear of the water to shed their outer shell and fly off. If you do have a pond, it is therefore important to incorporate some vertical aquatic plants such as water irises to facilitate this and it's fascinating to watch. *Pauline Knutton*

TESTON AND WATERINGBURY PRESCHOOL

As we approach another term we look towards warmer days and the starting of summer. Our focus book this term is *Little Turtle and the Sea* by Becky Davies and Jennie Poh. A beautiful picture book that teaches young children about the dangers of plastic in the seas and oceans while providing them with a story that is full of heart. This story is perfect for reading aloud as the children hear the rhythm and sounds of the ocean as we travel with little Turtle.

We will be making our very own 'little sea Turtle' using various craft materials to decorate them. Listening to sounds of the sea for relaxation, along with sounds of different sea creatures. We will be making our very own interactive sea scene throughout this term. Drawing and colouring coral reefs, turtles and sea creatures to add to them. We will be creating a water scene in our outdoor area, using shells, pebbles, sea creatures and plastics.

Also, our outdoor area will provide a safe place to run, skip and jump. We encourage a love of books in our cosy book tent which will include titles to enhance our learning of our oceans and seas and the creatures that live there. This area provides a quiet, peaceful location for the children to share stories and books with their friends. We so enjoy learning at our Preschool, there's no time to lose; off we go!

If you would like your child to be part of our amazing preschool 'family' please contact us to book a visit.
testonpreschooladmissions@gmail.com tandwgroup@gmail.com
Tina Driver Tel: 07805 796353 See us on Facebook too.

TOM TUGENDHAT MP

I am determined to make sure our community remains a great place to live, while also making sure that we have better services and value for money. It is a privilege to serve Wateringbury and since 2015 I have always fought the corner of everyone locally, to ensure we have better services and value for money. To help me in doing that it is always important that I know your views on what can be improved in Wateringbury. To allow me to be able to do this I am running a survey which has, and still is, being delivered across our community to randomly selected households. However, that doesn't stop those of you who haven't received one from letting me know what you think. You can find a link to the survey on my website www.tomtugendhat.org.uk, or if you don't have access to the internet or a computer, please do still let me know your thoughts on what you think my priorities need to be. You can write to me or call my office via the information below. No matter how detailed, please do take the time to let me know what you think so that I can continue to best represent all of your interests, the more responses the better, so please do share this with your family and neighbours.

REV GARY WRITES

The Rectory, 72 The Street, Mereworth ME18 5NA
gary.rev@outlook.com ☎ 01622 813178

NEW PERSPECTIVES

The 6th of May will mark the first anniversary of the coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla. How time has flown and much has happened in that time. In this first year of our King's reign there has been news that left us fearing for his health and for the health of his daughter-in-law the Princess of Wales. But life goes on and the members of our Royal family continue to be an example to us of perseverance and dutiful service in the face of personal difficulties. It's not only the Royals who set us such good examples. We probably all know of people and families just like us whose determination to press on with life in the face of ill health and life-changing events is inspirational. Perhaps, amidst all the big news headlines about the war-torn parts of our world and other places of great unrest such as Haiti you've managed to pick up on some of the much 'smaller' and personal stories of individuals and families in those places who are showing tremendous courage and determination to get on with life in the face of horrendous circumstances. Such people and the troubles they face never fail to move us and perhaps give us a better perspective on our own situation and troubles – 'There's always someone worse off than you' I often hear people stoically affirm.

For me one of the great attractions of Jesus Christ is that he came to lift up our hearts to God our creator. When our hearts go out to those who suffer it gives us a fresh perspective on our own troubles and I think when a human heart is lifted up to the source and sustainer of its being a new perspective is gained on what human life is all about and that even suffering itself has a part to play in it. I think this is why Jesus himself suffered so horribly before he left this world and went back to the Father in heaven. He sympathises with us in all our weakness and troubles and that is essential if we are to be moved to start believing in him as a trustworthy guide and companion through life. He went back to the Father and was crowned King of kings and Lord of lords showing us that going back to God is the journey we should all take. Many Christians celebrate this on Ascension Day which is on the 9th of May this year. Perhaps you might like to attend an Ascension Day service in one of the churches in our area.
God bless.

Rev Gary Townsend,
Rector of Mereworth, Watlingbury and West Peckham.

WATERINGBURY CHURCH SERVICES IN MAY

[Benefice website](http://www.mwwpchurches.org) www.mwwpchurches.org

All Sunday Services start at 10am.
Refreshments are served after these services. Do
stay for fellowship if you can.

Saturday 4th May 3-5pm Messy Church

(for children and their carers) –
Bible Story, Action Songs, Prayer time, lots of crafts
and ending with afternoon tea. All welcome

Sunday 5th May –Matins led by Barry Fisher

This is a traditional service using the beautiful words of
Cranmer's Prayer Book

Sunday 12th May

Holy Communion led by Rev Gary

Messy Church on Sunday meets in the vestry during this service

Pentecost Sunday 19th - 10am - All Age Worship

A less formal service with an address from Kate Millar
Pentecost or Whit Sunday is considered to be the Birthday of the Church when the Power of the Holy Spirit was sent to Jesus Disciples

Sunday 26th - Holy Communion led by Rev Gary

Saturday 1st June - 3-5pm Messy Church

Sunday 2nd June - Morning Praise with Barry Fisher

Refresh Benefice Services in Mereworth Church at 5pm May 5th, 12th and 26th

For those who enjoy less formal worship.

On **Sunday 19th May** to celebrate Pentecost Refresh

will be going to the **Churches Together in Malling Pentecost Praise Service at 4pm in West Malling Baptist Church.** Do go along if you can

Ascension Day Thursday 9th May Benefice

Communion Service at 7.30pm in St Dunstan's Church, West Peckham.

IN OUR SORROWS -

Funeral From the Parish Registers

11th April - James Barry Skinner