

Welcome to the October Village Magazine

VILLAGE DIARY

October

5 Parish Council Meeting – Hall - 7.30pm then
Planning Committee

11, 12, 13 Open Mornings - School – 10am-Noon
(Booking essential)

14 VIP Protection talk to WI - Hall – 2pm

17 Community Market – Hall Car Park - Noon –
2pm

18 AGM Teston & W'bury Pre-school – Teston Hall
- 7pm

November

2 Parish Council Meeting – Hall - 7.30pm then
Planning Committee

13 Voices Across A20 – Concert – Church - 7.30pm

14 Annual Parish Open Air Act of Remembrance –
- Churchyard 10.30am

16 Council Finance & General Purposes Meeting –
Hall – 7.30pm

SPEED REDUCTION – HAVE YOUR SAY

There is a public consultation underway regarding the reduction in speed limit along the A26 from Pizien Well Road to Manor Farm. Please take the time to sign up and add your support to this, if you can at www.lets-talk.kent.gov.uk, and select A26 Tonbridge Road, Wateringbury. **The consultation closes on**

11 October at 2pm Thank You *Sarah Hudson*

RBL ANNUAL POPPY APPEAL COLLECTION - VOLUNTEERS WANTED

I am starting to plan for this year's collections for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Funds are still very much needed to support those who have served our country in the forces. It's a good way to catch up with your neighbours by collecting in your street so if you feel able to visit your neighbours please contact me. I am also planning to have a collection table outside the village hall on Saturdays 6th and 13th November and would appreciate help on these mornings for an hour or so. Any help you can give will be much appreciated. My number is 07867 975508. Or email larry.collins@hotmail.co.uk
Thank you. *Larry*

Local Job Opportunity - Site Manager for Wateringbury School - someone to look after our school and staff. As Rostrum goes to print the Job Spec is being drawn up, so watch out for more details or register an interest by emailing office@wateringbury.kent.sch.uk

VILLAGE PEOPLE *Please let us have your news and tributes by 17 October for our November magazine. Entries are free. Email www.rostrum2@hotmail.com or phone 01622 812023*

Wedding Congratulations Mike and Kay are delighted to announce the marriage of their son **Richard Williams** and **Dr Laura Hindley** at Chelsea Registry Office on Friday 27th August. The happy couple are living in Greenwich.

Golden Wedding Best Wishes to Ray and Gillian Sessions who were married on 4 September 1971 in Tolworth, Surrey.

Thanks and Best Wishes to Linda Cann, who has distributed the Rostrum for many years as she makes a downsizing move to Kings Hill.

A New Distributor is now needed to take over the distribution of Rostrum from 262 Tonbridge Road to the corner with Red Hill. If you can help please email rostrum2@hotmail.com

Farewell Presentation to Benny and Rupal Vyas

On Sunday 29th August at 4pm thankful customers gathered outside The Handy Stores, in Bow Road to support Councillor Sarah Hudson as she presented Benny and Rupal with an original painting of The Mill Pond by local artist Thomas Best-Shaw, John Lewis Vouchers for £400 and a farewell card signed by many residents.

WI

Our next meeting will be at **2pm on Thursday 14th October** in the village hall for a talk by Rod Leeming entitled Shh- It's a Secret - VIP Protection. The competition is open to ideas and artefacts related to secrets, VIP's, protection or security.

Our first Village Hall meeting for many months went well with an excellent speaker, archivist Alison Cable, telling us about the work of the Rochester Bridge Trust. After the destruction of the Roman bridge in Rochester in 1381 local landowners initiated the building of a new crossing which was completed in 1391. Local parishes which benefited from the construction made financial contributions to maintenance overseen by two elected wardens. This arrangement was later formalised as Rochester Bridge Trust. The maintenance of the current Rochester Bridge is still its responsibility. Over many years the Trust have given grants to other Medway crossings including the new Bow Bridge in the 1915.

TESTON AND WATERINGBURY PRESCHOOL

A big thank you to our parents for sharing the amazing photos of their child's first day at big school. It's wonderful to hear they have all settled well. We continue to explore our book 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy when we will be making rockets and stars for our display board, eating moon space snacks, and smashing moon rocks. Our other activities include making galaxy playdoh, moon sand and painting with shaving foam; it could get messy this term!

To help with our fundraising, we have a **'bags to school' collection on Friday 8th October at 9.00am. Please bring your bags of unwanted clothes, shoes, belts, and handbags to the village hall from Monday 4th October.** All monies raised will go towards craft material for the children.

And finally, we will be holding our **annual general meeting** in the hall this year. It will take place on **Monday 18th October at 7.00pm.** All parents are welcome.

If you are interested in joining our pre-school, please contact Tina Driver on 07805 796353 or email on tandwngroup@gmail.com

WATERINGBURY SCOUT GROUP

Scouting is youth shaped where the youth members have a say in how their scouting is shaped such as what type of activities they take part in. So from the youngest members right up to the oldest they get together to decide on the things they'd like to do.

In Beavers this is called a "log chew" and in the other sections it's called a forum.

During the Cub pack forum last term the Cubs came up with some original ideas and the leaders are trying their best to include them into our programme.

These ideas included: climbing, kayaking, hiking, cooking, campfire, cycling and an escape room.

Well, this is what we've arranged so far. Climbing is booked for later this term in Maidstone where the pack has been before and had a super time. Hiking has already been done in the summer term. Whilst on the hike they came across our young leaders checking the group tents and decided to stay and help them put all the tents up. Who knew so much fun could be had by putting up tents! Cooking was done last month and we made and ate sweetcorn fritters. We held a campfire locally and learnt how to light a fire, toasted some marshmallows and sang some campfire songs. One of our last meetings in the summer term was a cycling expedition to Teston and back along the riverbank where there was plenty of mud at times! At Christmas we had a themed online escape room where we had puzzles to solve at each

stage to progress onwards and eventually help Santa.

We also had kayaking booked at the end of last term but the torrential rain and storm put paid to that but we will revisit that idea when the seasons allow.

The Cubs came up with many more ideas which the leadership team are eager to implement; they keep us on our toes!

Nicola Plane - Cub Scout Leader

WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Thank you all for making me feel so welcome in my first few weeks as headteacher of Wateringbury CE Primary School. I have really enjoyed getting to know the children, parents, staff and volunteers who make up our school community. It is a fabulous place to learn and work!

The start of the school year has been an even bigger event than usual. It is always exciting to see the children return after the summer and to welcome our new pupils but to have them all back together after the last eighteen months of disruption is a real treat. I am truly impressed with how well the children have settled back to learning together, playing together and worshipping together.

We celebrated the end of our first full week (and the eleven plus) with the annual Wateringbury Walk. The weather was kind to us and the whole school enjoyed strolling along the river to Teston where picnics were shared and lots of fun games were played. We even managed to tiptoe past the man who was fishing – no mean feat with 150 children!

The focus for our worship this term has been one of our school values: love. We have thought about who loves us and how we can show others that they are loved. This is perfect preparation for our Harvest Festival which will be on 4th October at the church. We are hoping to collect a lot of donations that can be shared amongst the community and show others that we are thinking of them.

Although our new children have only just joined, we are already thinking about next year and are delighted to be able to hold open mornings this year.

We will be opening the school for tours on Monday 11th, Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th October from 10am – 12pm so that parents of preschool children can come and see the fabulous learning environment of our school. Please call the school office to book a place – we can't wait to show you around.

Debbie Johnson – Headteacher
www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk

GREETINGS FROM THE WATERINGBURY PLAYERS

I'm late, I'm late! For a very important date . . . Oh no you're not !!

We hope you are all keeping safe and well. With Panto season fast approaching, we wanted to let you know what The Players have organised for the season. We are planning on bringing you a production of **"Alice in Wonderland "in March 2022**. The dates are Friday 18th March and Saturday 19th March in the village hall. It will be a fun filled show with all the usual characters. Keep a look out for details in the new year.

We look forward to seeing you all then.

GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

Well, we do seem to have experiencing a bit of an Indian Summer, which may have confused any wildlife that was preparing for hibernation. Some Bumble Bees have already started their winter sleep but there are still other species, particularly Carder Bees (the one that look like they've got a lion's mane) buzzing around the garden on the search for Autumn flowers.

This is the time of the year when we all start cutting back flowers and shrubs and generally tidying up. Try not to be too tidy and leave some flower heads on. These will provide food for wildlife in the winter and can also look quite beautiful when sparkled with rain drops or frost. Insects can hibernate in any stems that are hollow and a small pile of thicker cuttings and logs in a shady corner will provide a home for beetles, frogs and toads and maybe even hedgehogs, bearing in mind the annual warning to check for inhabitants before lighting any bonfires!

Whilst contemplating the coming of Winter, it's nice to look forward to next Spring by buying bulbs which can be planted this month. Crocuses are a particularly good choice as they flower early and provide any emerging bees with much needed pollen and nectar.

The main attraction in my garden for the remaining flying insects is the ivy, which is buzzing with life, particularly on a sunny day. The flowers maybe insignificant but they are a vital food source at this time of year and also attract Holly Blue butterflies (so called because the caterpillars feed on Holly) as well as being particularly beautiful, this butterfly is the symbol for Kent Wildlife Trust.

Pauline Knutton

LIFE SAVERS - REAL LIFE STORY

Recently, in this magazine, I placed an article on the location of your nearest defibrillator in the village. This is just one tool in the life-saving tool box. Another, is the abdominal thrust method, known as the Heimlich Manoeuvre. Each year many people die from choking from an object that obstructs their airway and causes suffocation. Choking is a leading cause for unintentional death.

Recently I witnessed a real life and near death incident. We were at a pre-wedding dinner with family and friends on the eve of the big day. Suddenly one of our party started to choke. After a few ineffectual slaps to the back, it could be seen that he was fighting for his breath and indeed his life as he had something lodged in his windpipe.

A French waiter saw a member of our party attempting the Heimlich Manoeuvre without success and took over the abdominal thrusts. From behind, he clasped his hands round his torso. One hand he turned into a fist with his thumb knuckle pointing into the chest just above the navel and below the rib cage and he cupped this fist with the other hand. He then with a tight clasp round the chest, with force, continued to do abdominal thrusts. I was close by and was violently smashing between his shoulder blades at the same time. After what seemed a lifetime a piece of steak shot out of his mouth like a projectile.

I have subsequently learned that the NHS suggest that you should do five abdominal thrusts followed by five forceful backslaps and repeat till obstruction is cleared. Anyway, all's well that ends well and a life was saved and he went on to get married the next day! *Mike Williams*

TOM TUGENDHAT MP

I am proud of our communities. Over hundreds of years we have welcomed those in need from around Europe and the world. Kent, as the frontline of the kingdom, has been on the frontline of ideas and support too. Today, we're offering support to a different group of people in need – those fleeing persecution in Afghanistan.

We have all seen the collapse of a country that many of us had invested so much in supporting. We have seen the opportunities of so many torn away, and sadly, we have heard how those who stood with us in building the new nation now find themselves hunted by a vicious regime. I know of friends and co-workers, diplomats and aid workers who have been left behind or have gone missing.

The evacuation operation conducted by brave members of our armed forces has been one of the largest ever. Thanks to this effort, over 13,000 people

have found sanctuary in our country. Not all are coming to Kent but I am sure we will do our bit to help those who helped us. Across the UK, the Afghan Relocation Scheme has been rolled out and I'm am very proud that our borough council is taking part.

Tonbridge and Malling will be working alongside private landlords to find accommodation for those fleeing Afghanistan. If you are a landlord and wish to assist in offering help I would encourage you to get in contact with the council officers in Kings Hill to discuss what you can do to help. Our evacuation effort is still not over, and with many still stranded, fearing for their lives, any offer to help is greatly welcomed by me and everyone else who served in Afghanistan.

NETTLESTEAD AND WATERINGBURY PRESCHOOL (NWPS) AND OUT OF SCHOOLS' CLUB

We'd like to welcome all our new and returning families back into the setting after the summer break. We have had a record number of new children starting preschool this year, including a high number of two-year olds. They have been absolute superstars and settled in with very few tears, engaging in play and getting to know the other children and staff.

Our holiday club was well attended this year. Children enjoyed a range of indoor and outdoor activities, including a trip to the local park to play on the zip wire.

If you are interested in any of the services the setting offers, please do not hesitate to contact us. *Childcare, Education and Out of School Clubs, including holiday club.*
01622 813120, enquiries@nwps.org.uk ,
<https://nwpreschool.org.uk/>

WATERINGBURY FOOTPATH GROUP

Our next walks will be on Sunday 3rd October, leaving the Village Hall at 2.30pm and again on Monday 11th October, leaving at 10am. Everyone is welcome! Please contact me for more information.

Last month we walked northwards on footpaths from the village to the North Pole, then into Oaken Wood and across East Malling Heath. Our furthest point northwards was Sweets Lane, where there are good views of the North Downs. The route was largely through woodland where some paths were narrow and well shaded under the trees. From the Village Hall we had set off along the Tonbridge Road and turned up the footpath opposite Love Lane. In the woods I pointed out the distinctive newly re-painted and labelled tall white posts marking an oil pipeline. They are very useful if you get lost in these woods – follow the posts

downhill and you'll get back to Wateringbury! A sign at the start of the footpath on the Tonbridge Road informs us that this route was part of the Pluto Pipeline, so I call the footpath 'Pluto'. I was asked "Why was the pipeline called Pluto?". I knew it was an acronym, but had to look it up. The answer is 'Pipe Line Under The Ocean', it was used to supply oil for the allied invasion after D-Day. The route through Kent to Dungeness and under the English Channel to France was operational from October 1944 and the markers show that at least our part of it is still in use as a pipeline.

Lisa Dean 07759 539032

1ST WATERINGBURY GUIDES

We've started back the new term with six new guides with another four to start later in the term. At that point the unit will be full with a waiting list as well. If you think your daughter might like to try guides, please don't leave it until she is ten. You can add her to the waiting list now on the Girlguiding website.

We started back the new term with another trip to Lower Grange Farm and this time did archery, fencing and geocaching – a sort of electronic treasure hunt made harder by the dark. We're also meeting in the pear orchard for a wide game or two – Capture the Flag is the favourite but it would work much better if the girls could firstly keep quiet, and secondly learn how to stalk! Other things in the programme include climbing, street food cooking, fire lighting challenges and a visit to an escape room.

We're gearing up to take part in Challenge Invicta which is a county wide guiding activity involving walking, challenges and tasks to score points. Wateringbury guides have done well in the past winning it on more than one occasion but of course it wasn't run last year so we'll have to see how we get on. Fingers crossed for kind weather.

We're already forward planning for 2022 and hope that we can run a canal boat trip, a camp and an indoor holiday but we are very short of leaders and really need some help either for these trips or the weekly meetings. If you're interested in helping even on an irregular basis do please contact me as I'm sure we can work something out. You can call me on 01622 815416 or email to sheenastewartx3@gmail.com. Where else can you enjoy the out of doors and have this much fun?
Sheena Stewart

TONBRIDGE & MALLING COUNCIL NEWS FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR SARAH HUDSON

As we stumble on with this poor service from our contractor, Urbaser, I am going to try to answer some of the regular questions I am asked by residents.

1. Why can't the Council do something?

The contract with Urbaser was signed by the West Kent Waste Partnership, which includes Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells. Therefore T&M cannot negotiate or seek any changes alone, changes must be agreed by both councils. There could be severe financial penalties if TMBC acted alone, possibly running into millions. Therefore, negotiations are long, difficult and protracted. Until both councils reach agreement on what action must be taken, we are going to have to manage the process as best we can.

2. Can we get a refund for the suspension of the Garden Waste Service?

I have pushed for this, but in reality the service costs £40 a year (or £3.33 a month). If we end up with three month suspension the refund would therefore be less than £10, but the cost of administering this would be more than the amount refunded. TMBC are instead extending the service free of charge when things get "back to normal" and are considering alternative arrangements such as skips in strategic locations for residents to take their garden waste while the problems continue.

3. Can't Urbaser alternate between recycling one week and garden waste the next?

Again, this seems like a sensible solution, but upon investigation it is not possible. Only 30% of residents pay for the Garden Waste collection and there are only six crews allocated to this across T&M and TW (they do TW one week and T&M the next). Because of staffing shortages, these six crews have been removed from garden waste and reallocated to household waste and recycling. Taking them off household waste and recycling would mean six "rounds" a day would not be covered, so approximately 3,000 houses a day would not have their bin emptied.

4. Isn't the HGV driver shortage just an excuse for poor service?

In hindsight I don't think Urbaser addressed the issue fast enough and had they paid a higher wage rate, perhaps they would not have had so many drivers leave. However, they are now offering the highest pay rate in Kent and new drivers are being recruited. In truth driving a bin lorry up and down narrow lanes in rural Kent isn't an attractive or easy job, and with so many driver vacancies elsewhere, retaining staff is difficult. So, yes - I do think it could have been handled better, but the shortage is genuine and is now affecting many sectors of the economy (hence no petrol at Cobham Services on the M25, no milkshakes at McDonalds and so many empty shelves in supermarkets).

Sorry I cannot bring you better news, but I will continue pushing for the full restoration of services at the earliest opportunity, including the bulky freighter service.

SEPTEMBER PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The Council met in person, as required, in the Village Hall for its September meeting.

As the Chairman was recovering from Covid, the meeting was ably chaired by Patrick Gregson, the vice chair.

Announcements – The Finance and General Purposes committee meets in the hall on 16th November at 7.30pm to discuss the first draft of next year's budget.

Borough and KCC Councillor Sarah Hudson reported that **KCC** were considering what should be their priorities? There were no easy decisions. KCC were consulting with the general public to gauge opinion about maintaining a booking system for Tovil and all of its Household Recycling Tips. Asked if the booking system had caused an increase in fly tipping she replied that there had been a rise in illegal tipping. She urged residents to take care when employing contactors to remove rubbish for them. Check their recycling permit. Take a photo of the permit, the operatives and their vehicle, make a note of the registration number. Sadly, many operators who claim to be legitimately registered were not and simply fly tipped. If any fly tipped items can be traced back to an individual it is that person who has to pay the fine and not the operator who had done the fly tipping. If the resident has photographic evidence this can help police track down the culprits.

The proposal to reduce the speed limit on the A26 between Pizien Well Road and the village gateway near Bijou Nursery from 60mph to 40 mph will shortly go out for public consultation.

Regarding T & M - Cllr Matt Boughton was elected in July to lead the Council. He brings a fresh pair of eyes to help the council to think laterally and do things differently to enable them to maintain services in the light of reduced revenue streams. For instance hiring out Tonbridge Castle as a Wedding Venue.

Sarah organised the village farewell gift to the Vyvas family as they leave Wateringbury after running the Handy Stores for the last 16 years. An original oil painting by Thomas Best-Shaw of the Mill Pond, £400 in John Lewis Vouchers and a farewell card were presented to Benny and Rupal on 29th August outside the Store where a crowd of well-wishers had gathered to show their appreciation for all Benny had done for the village.

Crime-there was only one crime showing on the police e-watch website which was on 7th August when a bin was set on fire at the playing fields. At the public forum a resident expressed extreme disappointment at the lack of police support for the village when incidents

were reported. It was disappointing that our present local Police Community Support Officer had not been available to attend one Council meeting.

New cheque signatory. It was agreed that Councillor Geraint Owen should become an authorised signatory for the PC bank account.

Speedwatch Volunteer teams continue to monitor traffic speeds in the village. Sadly far too many drivers exceed the speed limit. Councillors agreed with the Speed Watch Co-ordinator that to share the monitoring equipment with Nettlestead Council was not practical since it would limit the times when our volunteers could hold sessions and be an added burden on the Co-ordinator. Since Teston do not use their equipment at the moment, it was suggested that Nettlestead Council could arrange to borrow this.

Play Equipment Councillor Richard Tripp outlined a written report drawn up with Cllr Fielding and Cllr Owen about the lower play area which was for younger children. The equipment would come to the end of its life in a relatively short space of time. It was thought wise for Council to consider all options for this piece of land. One suggestion was to create an under 5s play area adjacent to the main play area (with the agreement of the Sports and Recreation Association) and to use the present under 5s area for another purpose. Some suggestions being a tennis court, wild flower meadow, community orchard, adult exercise equipment to name but a few. The problem would be funding such schemes. Suggestions from residents would be sought.

At the **Public Forum** the following matters were raised:

The village hall wall which had been repaired following being damaged by a car was in need of further attention from the contractor who made the repairs.

Overgrown vegetation was obscuring the beacons at the zebra crossing by the school.

Evidence of drug dealing at the Playing Fields.

Planning Applications Councillors had no objections to the application for the addition of an open porch and rendering to the exterior of the original house at 187 Tonbridge Road.

The **Next Meeting** of the Parish Council will be on **Tuesday 5th October at 7.30pm** in the Upper Room of the Village Hall.

KCC NEWS FROM OUR COUNCILLOR SARAH HUDSON

Kent County Council has announced that it will resume taking unaccompanied asylum seeker children into its care, but at the same time warned that the current levels of arrivals meant it would be unlikely to

be able to accommodate all of them. There are currently around 300 minors being looked after, in the County. We are in very advanced discussions with the Home Office to develop a long-term sustainable solution to this issue.

At a recent meeting of the Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee we learnt that there had been a 73% reduction in carbon emissions in Kent in the last 10 years, and that as a result KCC had been nominated for an award.

I am really pleased to have been able to support the funding of another defibrillator at the western end of the village, near the Church, having been approached by the PCC.

Covid Recovery Fund: this is a one-off fund of £6,000 which I can award to any group or organisation which needs a financial boost to help them recover from the consequences of Covid and the lockdown. This money must be allocated by 31 December or it falls back into the general KCC pot, so if you run a community group or project please apply as soon as possible. Please contact me at sarah.hudson@kent.gov.uk for further information, or if you have a project that needs some funding.

REV GARY WRITES

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

I love the autumn. I love the colours, the chilly freshness of the air and the odours - especially first thing in the morning when the mist seems to bring out the scent of the soil and the robins are twittering away. I love the sight of chrysanthemums and dahlias in the gardens and the taste of apples! For as long as I can remember these sights, sounds, odours and tastes have been a joy to me each year.

And then comes Halloween! I really do 'feel' the darkness of it. I think it started getting worse for me as Trick-or-Treating became popular - when I was a boy there was no such thing, only apple-bobbing and stories about witches and ghosts which were designed to scare us but not inspire us to mischief!

At this time of the year I always take the opportunity through school assemblies to give the children a bit of teaching about Halloween and Trick-or-Treating. My aim is not to spoil their fun but to keep them safe and think about being kind to other people. My main concern is that children who go out Trick-or-Treating do not know who's behind the door they are knocking on. It may be someone who understands the fun, likes children and happily gives them some sweets. Or it may be someone who's old and nervous about opening the door when it's dark. Again, it might be that someone very bad lives in that house who could be a

danger to children. Lastly, the children do not know what's been going on in that house recently – illness, bereavement, family breakdown, loss of a pet. Who knows? And therein lies the danger. The children are, in a sense, venturing into the unknown – darkness.

So, I encourage the children to go out with grown-ups and only call on the houses of people they know and who, ideally, have been tipped off by the parents in advance that they will be coming round. If the grown-ups take control and organise this activity it will be safer for all.

But I go one step further in my advice to the children and I encourage them to celebrate light and goodness rather than scary things and tricking people. There is so much beauty in autumn and so much for which to thank God with the ingathering of harvest. This is a season for giving thanks to God our Father for *'all good gifts around us, sent from heaven above.'* So, away with the darkness – let's have fun with the light!

With this approach I start to feel a bit happier about Halloween – one always does when one knows there is a way of combating darkness. But will you join me in the fight? If you are a parent, I hope what I've said here has inspired you to encourage your children to have fun at Halloween but in a way that is safe and that celebrates the goodness of God. After all, it is his goodness and power that is so clearly seen all around us in this beautiful season of autumn – there are no tricks in what God creates but an abundance of beauty, joy and delight. *Gary Townsend*

WATERINGBURY CHURCH - SERVICES IN OCTOBER

[SJB Church web site: www.wateringburychurch.org.uk](http://www.wateringburychurch.org.uk)

[Church Face Book Page: fb.me/wateringburychurch](https://www.facebook.com/wateringburychurch)

[Friends of SJB Church web site www.fowc.org.uk](http://www.fowc.org.uk)

Services in Church

2nd October -3-5pm - Messy Church

3rd October - 10am – Harvest Praise with Barry Fisher

4th October – 9am – School Harvest Celebration

10th October - 10am – Communion led by Canon
Brian Stevenson

17th October - 10am - All Age Worship

12.30pm - Baptism led by Rev Gary

24th October - 10am – Communion with Rev Gary

31st October - 10am – **Benefice Service in West
Peckham Church led by Canon Brian Stevenson**

7th November – 10am - Matins led by Barry Fisher with guest speaker Mr Michael Cooper from The Church Army

Some of those attending our services wish/need to social distance so to allow us to meet their requests we ask that those hoping to attend a service notify their wish by emailing before 2pm on the prior Saturday to office@wateringburychurch.org.uk / 01622 813852.

**PARISH ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE SERVICE
Sunday 14th November at 10.30-11.05 (approx)**

This is a very well attended service as our village youth organisations parade to church to remember all who gave their lives in the service of our country. In these Covid times it would be impossible to have over 300 people in the church building while maintaining safe distancing for those who are vulnerable. So this year our service will be an **Open Air Service** in the Churchyard and will be led by Rev Gary Townsend.

**VOICES ACROSS THE A20 CONCERT
7.30PM on 13th NOVEMBER 2021
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, WATERINGBURY**
Brighten up November and attend this concert of traditional and modern Folk music sung by members of the combined choirs of Wateringbury and Snodland churches and Wateringbury Players. £5 entry on the door: proceeds to support church funds.

Hoorah Messy Church and Coffee and Crafters are Back Do join them

Messy Church

Saturdays 2nd October and 6th November

Messy Church is back on the first Saturday afternoon in each month from 3-5pm. Time for young families to relax and enjoy bible stories, songs and crafts and we always end with afternoon tea. For more details contact Ruth 01622 812342

Coffee and Crafters Morning

Wednesday 13th October - 10.30am-12.30pm

We are delighted to be able to resume our get-togethers in the church social area. We have tried to keep in touch with our 'regulars' during the pandemic and over the summer we have met in Sheena's delightful garden. But now we feel confident to meet back in the church and invite you to come along for coffee and homemade cake and a chat (suggested £1 donation). Some of our members knit, crochet or have other hobbies which they bring along. Others just enjoy the refreshments and watch in admiration. Others watch and learn new skills. So don't be shy – give us a try, wear a mask or face shield if you wish. We hope to see you soon
Pauline (01622 814673) and Gillian (01622 813076)

**In Our Joys and Sorrows –
From The Parish Registers**

Baptisms – Edith Anne Louisa Davis (*5th Sept*)
Angharad-Elizabeth Maria Watts and
Harriet Morell Watts (*15th September*)
Wedding – Ryan Hugh Smyth and
Emma Rose Collinson (*25th June*)
Interment of Ashes – Ted and **Doreen Vincent**
(*20th July*)

WHERE HAVE ALL THE BRIANS GONE?

Now that the lockdown has finished the churches are returning to normal. Wedding bells have been heard from both all our churches and baptisms have been taking place at last all over the place. It is as if a logjam has been broken. In fact there has been such a surge of these celebrations there are not enough full time clergy to take them and the retired have been called to the altar and font. So I have baptised and married this summer. When you take these services you have to remember Christian names and get them right. I led a Golden Wedding anniversary service where the bridegroom was a happy 75 year old Brian and a week later took a wedding at All Saints Maidstone where the proud father of the bride was a smiling 55 year old Brian. Their names made me think. I have never christened anyone with the name of Brian - not as a first or second or third Christian name. My son Edward is not a Brian and all my grandchildren are girls. I cannot recall marrying any Brians though my memory is not good about 1971 when I began to solemnise weddings. I have to conclude that there are no young Brians about. The last Brian to whose wedding I was invited was to a Rev Brian's in Zimbabwe in 2002. I had stayed in 1999 with Brian in his curate's hut out in the parched plains where it took nearly an hour to run a bath. He was keen to marry his sweetheart in Malawi but had little money to pay for the occasion. I gave him £20 towards it - this was a large sum in Zimbabwean terms and I was pleased to receive a wedding invitation in due course though I was unable to attend.

The only time I have found that there were too many Brians was once when I boarded a BA flight to Belfast at Heathrow to find someone sitting in the seat allocated to me on my boarding card. I told the man, older than me that he was in the wrong seat. He said that he wasn't and showed me his card K4: Brian Stevenson. He had the same name as me! Actually it worked to my advantage since I had to be upgraded so I was pleased the other Brian had been early. In 2015 I was astounded to read that The Thames Valley Police force wanted to change the name of their fine 6 foot steed Brian. The Force said it was too sissy for a powerful horse and should be called Hercules or Caesar. The resulting outcry made the Police do a U-turn and retain the name Brian - sissy indeed! In Irish it means fearless.

So which Brian do I look up to? Is it Brian Blessed the actor, a bit noisy; or Brian Jones of The Rolling Stones, I am more of a Mozart man; or Brian Clough of football fame, a tricky temperament; or Brian Cox the broadcaster cum scientist, keen on heights and vast spaces. My favourite among those would be Brian Cox

A - he is younger than me. But apart from the tennis brothers Bryan and Bryan, the Brian I really liked when I was growing up was Brian Johnston the cricket commentator. Sadly he died suddenly in 1994 aged 81 but he had a most interesting life. His family had coffee plantations in Brazil and he worked there in the 1930s until he caught a disease which rendered him paralysed and he had to come back to the UK in time to recover for the war where he was awarded the MC. After the war he joined the BBC outside broadcasting and particularly developed Test Match Special from 1970 until 1993. He was a cheery presence and liked absurdity such as the cakes that were sent to the commentators and also the famous giggling between him and 'Aggers' when Botham failed to get his leg over the bails. He was a great worker for charity, particularly the blind and his funeral in Westminster Abbey was full to bursting with the main tribute coming from the Prime Minister John Major. Johnners was a real gentleman.

So I wait patiently for a Brian at the font but will a Boris or a Keir or a Nicola get there first?

Canon Brian Stevenson

