

**Welcome to the March edition of
Wateringbury Village Magazine**

VILLAGE DIARY

MARCH

- 5 Footpaths walk** – meet outside Hall – 2pm
7 Parish Council Meeting – Hall -7.30pm
followed by Planning Committee
8 Coffee Break – Church – 10.30am-12.30pm
11 Sewing Bee plus Craft - Hall-- 9.30pm-1pm
11 Curry & Quiz Night – 7 for 7.30pm - School
15 Footpaths walk – meet outside Hall – 10am
**15 Behind the Scenes at the Museum – History
Soc talk** – Hall – 7.40 for 8pm
22 Coffee Break – Church – 10.30am-12.30pm
26 Jazz Advocates Concert – Hall – 2-4.30pm

APRIL

- 2 Footpaths walk** – meet outside Hall – 2.30pm
4 Parish Council Meeting – Hall - 7.30pm
followed by Planning Committee
5 Coffee Break – Church – 10.30am-12.30pm
**8 Easter Fun With Faith Activities for primary
school children** – Church - 9.30am-12.30pm

**CHARITY CONCERT FOR MULTIPLE
SCLEROSIS**

BY 'JAZZ ADVOCATES'

**Sunday, 26th March, 2pm to 4.30pm at the Village
Hall.**

£5 per ticket available from Wateringbury Post Office,
'Memories' Café, Hicks Estate Agents, The Ramblers Rest
or call 01622 290207. Bring your own drinks and nibbles

KING CHARLES CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

Sadly, only 2 people turned up to our public meeting
last month, so despite having a licence to close Glebe
Meadow/Allington Gardens and hold a street party and £1000
to spend, **there will not be any celebrations on Sunday 7th
May, unless someone wants to help organise it.** Please do
get in touch if you want to help. sarah.hudson@tmbc.gov.uk

VILLAGE PEOPLE *Please let us have your news and
tributes by 17 March for our April magazine. Entries
are free.*

Email www.rostrum2@hotmail.com or phone 01622
812023

RIP Peter Richard Cayzer 19 July 1947 – 13 January 2023

Peter was born in Braintree, Essex and his early years
were spent on the family farm. However the catastrophic floods
of 1953 polluted the land so the farm was no longer viable. The
family moved to Ramsgate and in the late 1950s came to
Wateringbury having purchased Station Garage and petrol
pumps at the top of Bow Road. In the early years the family
lived in the flat above the car showroom. Peter was
mechanically minded and sometimes skipped school to help his
father. He spent the majority of his working life in the family
garage where his ability with engines helped to grow the
business. Upon the sale of the Station Garage Peter joined
Maidstone Mazda. In 1969 Peter met Hilary Waters (whose
father owned the Handy Stores) and they were married in June

1971. Peter's interests in life were his family, motors, boats and DIY. His love of boating led him to join Medway Cruising Club and he became its Rear Commodore. In retirement he was diagnosed with Parkinsons then in May 2017 re-diagnosed with PSP. He and Hilary faced its challenges with great courage and fortitude. Peter will be remembered for his strong work ethic, kindness, thoughtfulness and practical jokes. Rostrum sends its condolences to Hilary, Simon, Alison and their families.

Thank you to Wateringbury Players for once again entertaining those lucky enough to be able to go along to performances of Jack and the Beanstalk. The proceeds from the production will be shared between the Wateringbury Church, Wateringbury School and Crossroads Care

DANDELION TIME is a children and families charity set in rural West Farleigh, offering help to children with challenging emotional issues, often resulting from trauma, violence, grief or serious health problems in the family. Our approach is family based and creates opportunities for new beginnings and improved relationships. We recognise the importance of being in a peaceful natural environment, absorbing children in calming hands-on activities. Children grow in confidence, resilience and achieve long lasting changes in their lives as a result of coming to Dandelion Time.

We rely enormously on our fabulous community of volunteers and are always looking for new members of the team. We have a number of roles ranging from working alongside the family session caseworkers or caring for our animals to supporting our site team with DIY and other projects.

If you have some spare time and would like to support the wonderful work of Dandelion Time, please visit our website for more details www.dandeliontime.org.uk and use the volunteer online form to sign up.

VILLAGE HALL CURRENT ACTIVITIES

We are fortunate to have such a splendid hall with lots of different activities to be enjoyed. Do go along and enjoy yourself:

Phonics Time Monday 11-12pm
rebeccatrowell1@hotmail.com

Lyengar Yoga Monday 1-2pm Wendy Newell
yoga@rothiemay.com

Happy Feet Dance Academy Monday 4.10-8.40pm
staceyrafer@sky.com

Parish Council Meeting 1st Tuesday of the Month
clerk@wateringbury.org.uk

Zumba Tuesday 7-9pm *tanyagrafham@yahoo.com*

Children singing Tuesday 10-11am Tracey's
Tunestraceymusicstudio@hotmail.com

History Society 3rd. Wednesday of the month 01622 812023
wateringburylhsociety@gmail.com

Baby & Toddlers Wednesday 10-12pm
wateringburytoddlergroup@gmail.com

60+ Fitness Wednesday 1-2pm
carol.welfare@moveitorloseit.co.uk

Footcare Wednesday 10-1 pm (Every 6 wks)
eileen8855@outlook.com

Dance Exercise Wednesday 6-7pm Swing
Trainlouisehiew@yahoo.com

Pilates Thursday morning 9:45 – 10:45
nicolawignall@hotmail.com

Badminton Club Thursday 7.30-9.30pm
roddersmoodley@gmail.com

Woman's Institute 2nd Thursday of the month 01622

813341 thewi.org.uk

Body conditioning Friday 10-11am

tanyagrafham@yahoo.com

Kent Acting Studios Saturday morning Tudor Price

07899982392 www.kentactingstudio.co.uk

Sewing Bee 2nd Saturday of month 9:30-1pm

vsharp399@btinternet.com

Community Market 3rd Sunday of month 10-2pm

07484 630199 simon.farmersmarket@gmail.com

Wateringbury Players Annual panto

pluswateringburyplayers@hotmail.co.uk

If none of the above is for you think about joining us in looking after our splendid village hall.

Contact Mike Hoiles mikejhoiles@aol.com 07956396985.

HISTORY SOCIETY –

Ever wondered how museums store their treasures and decide what to display? Well come along to

Wateringbury Village Hall 7.40 for 8pm on 15th

March and you may find out when Museum Curator

Martin Crowther tells us what goes on **Behind the**

Scenes at the Museum. Visitors welcome £5. Free Tea or Coffee for all.

ROSTRUM'S VILLAGE AMENITIES FUND

Rostrum makes grants to individuals and organisations which will help enhance the amenities of the village. Last year, 2022, it contributed £972 in four grants, including two small grants to Wateringbury Local History Society and the Church's Flower Festival. Obviously to do so depends on the continuing support of its advertisers, Rostrum's sole source of income. Our readers' support of our advertisers is appreciated.

The fund made a grant to the owner of the Mill Pond to enable her to erect a sign by the pond about the wildlife seen on the pond. The sign was made by a family run, Yalding based, firm, JB Signs Ltd, who deal with site, vehicle and shop front signage. It was put up by Wateringbury resident, Steve, a family member. The owner of the pond is to be congratulated on her stewardship since she acquired the pond from a non-resident owner some years ago. A photo of the sign and pond is on the front cover of this edition.

A grant was also made to Wateringbury School to help finance their new web-site. The old site was user unfriendly. The new website, amongst other improvements, helps you make a virtual tour of the school.

The fund is open for applications to contribute to specific projects which benefit the village. These could be in the areas of education, youth or senior services, heritage, worship, environment and sport, but others will be considered. It is unlikely that any individual grant would exceed £750. Applications should be made in writing to rostrum2@hotmail.com describing the project in no more than 250 words; on the basis of this initial proposal further specific information may be requested. **Proposals should be received by 31st March for decision shortly afterwards.** Terry Bird

APPEAL FOR UKRAINE AND TURKEY:

Unfortunately the need for donations to be sent to **Ukraine** continues and we now hope to help Turkey since the devastating earthquakes. For Ukraine: needed right now - girls & boys (age 3-17) items - key rings, fidget toys, pencils, individually wrapped sweets, biscuits, lollipops, cereals, toiletries etc. These items will be put in shoeboxes for children still living in Ukraine. Baby items, sanitary items etc are still essential needs. Also desperately needed are items for the animals in Ukraine: animal feed and medication; any unused dog, cat, small animal medication or if your

pet no longer likes the food provided, please donate. Bandages, pain relief, flea & worm treatments, medication for stress, pet carriers, baskets, bedding, pet cages, etc.

For Turkey: Urgently needed are new clothes, nearly new shoes, boots etc. Blankets, animal & human dried & canned food, nappies, wipes, bottles, dummies etc. - all must be new. The reason items should be new is that although this is a terrible disaster it is not ongoing & will be resolved unlike the war in Ukraine. Only a limited number of lorries are going so need to be filled with good quality items.

Please mark donations for either Ukraine or Turkey. Many thanks. Any questions please message me:
svmcollins@live.co.uk Next Door, Messenger or Facebook

A REMINDER FROM KCC AND T & M COUNCILLOR SARAH HUDSON

From May 2023 individuals who wish to vote in person, including those acting as a proxy on behalf of another individual, will be required to produce an accepted form of photographic ID to vote.

The following documents, including expired versions, will be accepted as long as the photo is a good enough likeness:

- A passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, a European Economic Area (EEA) state or a Commonwealth country
- Photographic driver's licence (full or provisional) issued by the UK, Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state
- EEA photographic ID card
- UK Biometric Residence Permit
- An identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (PASS card)
- A blue badge
- Oyster 60+ card
- A concessionary travel pass funded by HM Government or local authority, such as KCC.

A GIFT OFFERING SKILLS FOR LIFE

Almost without exception, people who own and run a car think that they are a 'good driver'. And then we get out there on the road and notice all the 'bad drivers' around. Since 1956 there has been an organisation that offers the opportunity for all drivers to improve their driving to an 'Advanced' standard. Nowadays it is known as **IAM RoadSmart**. They offer driver training and assessments throughout the country based around IPSCA – the System of Car Control.

IAM RoadSmart operates mainly through local charity groups of volunteers, all of whom have taken their own advanced test as well as additional training and a qualification as an 'Observer' to deliver that training to others. Observers may also carry out basic driving assessments for members of the public. Drivers may enrol in an 'Advanced Driver' course to go on to take the advanced test. There are also 'Advanced Rider' courses run through similar local motorcycle groups. And there is a no-test 'Young Driver Assessment' available too.

In 2022 the IAM RoadSmart test may be 'passed' or the candidate may achieve a higher standard named 'F1rst'. Having passed the test, one becomes a member of IAM RoadSmart. There is then an option to go on to train for and acquire a 'Masters' standard and this may also be simply 'passed' or achieved with 'Distinction'. The latter is the highest level of driving that is available to the civilian population.

Anyway, wherever you are in your driving lifetime there is something for you. The local group is Kent Group Advanced Motorists (KGAM) formed in 1978. They run courses at two Kent centres which run on Sunday mornings: the western one is at Grove Green to the north east of Maidstone. For those who have other commitments on Sunday mornings there is an alternative course offering too. If you want to know more about KGAM, they have a website (www.kentiam.org.uk) where the contact is Terry Nunn, email: associates@kentiam.org.uk. And if you know someone who you think

might benefit for improving their driving then why not buy them a 'train and test' package for Christmas or a Birthday? *Robert Phillips*

TESTON AND WATERINGBURY PRESCHOOL **Inspiring young minds to grow and shine**

Why choose Teston and Wateringbury Preschool for your child?

We are a small independent preschool with exceptionally high standards. We are based within the village of Teston. At our preschool we treat our children as individuals and involve the parents at every step.

We also offer:

- Six qualified staff with approx. 126 years combined childcare experience
- All staff are Paediatric First Aid trained
- Employ a Keyworker system, supporting each child and first point of contact for parents
- Sound Knowledge of Special Educational Needs
- Sound Knowledge of Safeguarding
- Small group phonics sessions for our rising fives
- Individual behaviour/sleep advice and support
- In house lending library
- Large safe all-weather garden

Not only do we nurture and support our children; we also nurture and support our parents and each other. We are an incredibly strong team who enjoy working and growing together and we believe this is an important model for our children. We are passionate about what we do. Helping children to feel safe, valued and in turn reach their full potential.

If you would like your child to be part of this amazing preschool family please contact:

testonpreschooladmissions@gmail.com tandwngroup@gmail.com

Tina Driver Tel: 07805796353 See us on Facebook too.

WATERINGBURY FLOWER CLUB

Our club AGM took place on the 15th February with a good turnout of members who enjoyed a mini demonstration entitled "Love is in the Air" given by Iris Shaw, Pat White and Jean Schofield - the theme was a bit of a hoot as we missed Valentines Day but was enjoyed by members. Our new officers for 2023 are Chairman Iris Shaw, Treasurer Karen Hargreaves and Secretary Jean Schofield.

We had an enjoyable evening and members enjoyed the mini demonstration helped by bread, cheese and a glass of wine. All the flower arrangements went into the raffle along with other items and was enjoyed by all those who attended.

Our programme for 2023 starts on the 15th March with Gaenor Circus, Area Demonstrator from Sussex, with her title "Through the Ages". Our membership fee has not increased this year and will be £40 - we have a varied programme of events from demonstrations to workshops and garden visits in the better months. We are a friendly club and welcome all levels of arrangers from beginners to advanced. Our members will be getting ready for the Kent Area Show at Detling 27th - 29th May. Why not come and give us a try? Visitors are always welcome.

Jean Schofield for WFC

WATERINGBURY TODDLER GROUP

We are a friendly group that welcomes all parents, carers, grandparents, childminders etc with children from 0 - 5. We run every Wednesday 10.00-12.00 during school term time in the village hall. The cost is £2.50 for the first child and adult and then £1 for every additional child. The large hall is set up with lots of toys for free play, a craft session is included and then snack and drink for the children. We finish with a music session and lots of footballs. Adult's drinks and biscuits are also included.

We also have a baby area for younger children.

Like our Facebook Page (Wateringbury Toddler Group) for any important information/messages.

FIRST WATERINGBURY GUIDES

Guides started back after Christmas and they gave us their ideas for what they'd like to do this term. We had a 'Guides get Gobby' evening and a 'Lets Connect' evening as well as understanding that 'It's the way that you say it' sometimes. We went to Wateringbury Players pantomime to see Jack and the Beanstalk and then 18 of us stayed in the village hall for a sleepover.

We played the Chocolate game with much hilarity and Tangerine tussle before coming up with some ideas and requests for the summer term which we try to spend outside as much as possible. We finally got to sleep sometime after 1.00 and were up around 7.30 for eggy bread and some more fun activities before going home.

After half term we have a pancake party, a visit to Ninja Warrior at Chatham (Google it – it looks great fun!) a Mother's Day treat evening, an escape room/murder mystery evening and a Quiz night.

We do now have some spaces in guides so if you have a daughter between 10-14 that would be interested in joining us, do please contact me. We welcome visitors for a taster evening to see if they like it first and Guiding does help find new friends, learn leadership skills, enjoy the out of doors and much, much more.

You can contact me on 01622 815416 or email to

sheenastewartx3@gmail.com.

Sheena Stewart and team. 1st Wateringbury Guides

WATERINGBURY FOOTPATH GROUP

We welcomed new people on our walks last month. Both walks had perfect weather, our route wasn't muddy and we had great walking enjoyed by a large turnout. Our route took us up towards Kings Hill and down beside the golf course. Some of us enjoyed it so much we added a loop into Pizien Well and back via the waterfall, while others took the more direct way back along Old Road. Our next walks will be leaving the village hall at:

2pm on Sunday 5th March

10am on Wednesday 15th March

2.30pm on Sunday 2nd April (the clocks will have changed so we'll start later)

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

Lisa Dean 077 5953 9032

WATERINGBURY'S TWO WAR MEMORIALS

Wateringbury has two WWI memorials. The village memorial in the Chapel of St George in the church, and the old school memorial which now hangs in the church vestry. The school memorial has five tall panels, the centre of which is the Roll of Honour for pupils who gave their lives, whilst the two tall panels either side names pupils who served in the war but returned home.

To commemorate the centenary of the start of WWI in 1914, I compiled two A5 booklets for Wateringbury church, with a short military and family biography of each man who is commemorated on one or both of Wateringbury's war memorials.

For the 2018 celebrations to mark the end of WWI, I compiled a book which not only included men who gave their lives, but also all the 213 men who served in the war but returned home.

Unfortunately, there is far less available information for returning servicemen than for those who gave their lives, and though I have short personal details and the force in which they served for the majority of those who came home, I haven't completed my project for all men, as information just isn't available. If you think you are able to help, please go to www.wateringbury-revisited.net/wwi.html for further information.

Many thanks, *Dail Whiting*

NETTLESTEAD AND WATERINGBURY PRE-SCHOOL

We have had a great term and can't believe it's half term already. The children had great spur of the moment visit from the police this term, and had the opportunity to explore their police car and try on the uniform. One child got taught how to use the speeding camera... Watch out!!

The children have been busy gardening and making the setting look pretty, planting flowers outside and also making bird feeders. We are very lucky with our environment and the children could hang these on the trees opposite our setting, then sit back and watch the birds with their binoculars.

We have been creating cards to give to our loved ones and talking about our feelings. Who we love and why. Saying who our friends are and why we like them. The children are so caring and loving towards each other. This will be added to our positive wall display. 'I like B because she plays with me'. 'A is my best friend because he shares'.

Recruitment: we are looking for a Level 3 Childcare practitioner to join our busy and growing team. If this is something that would interest you then we would love to hear from you. Please contact: enquiries@nwps.org.uk

WI – Inspiring Women

At our February meeting we enjoyed another excellent talk from Melanie Gibson Barton. This time Melanie talked on the history of the Teddy Bear and supported the story with excellent photographs. The competition was won by Margaret and Gillian.

The March meeting is Competition Day and for members only. The entries are for Hickman Cup - design a greetings card. Flower Cup - Spring arrangement using any medium. Freda Robbins Plate - Tray Bake of your choice (pre-cut.)

Margaret Malsher

FEBRUARY PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

As the chairman was unwell the meeting was chaired by Michael Wells, vice chairman.

Borough and KCC – Sarah Hudson reported that, since no additional Central Government support was available, difficult decisions to balance the budgets of both Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and Kent County Council will have to be made at meetings to be held later in the month.

Sarah had applied to the National Lottery for funding to help the village celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. Later in the month Sarah has called a public meeting to discuss possible ways to mark the occasion.

KCC have made available 300 sapling trees and Sarah suggested that the lower play area at the Playing Fields which is being decommissioned would be a suitable place to plant the saplings to create a small wooded area.

Cemetery – the necessary legal procedures have now been completed to finalise the purchase of the cemetery car park which is now owned by the Parish.

Christmas decorations - the Clerk was asked to contact KCC to investigate the steps needed to gain permission for Christmas Lights to be fixed to some lamp posts.

Crime – no crimes were shown on the police web-site for the past month. The CCTV at the Playing Fields which was vandalised has now been repaired and is fully operational.

Policy document updates – Standing Orders and Finance Regulations– these procedures, with one amendment on each, were approved. The Council's Communications procedures will be revised by the clerk and discussed at the March meeting.

Village Maintenance – Following discussions on the quotes obtained to cut the grass at the Playing Fields, Cemetery, etc in the village. It was decided to appoint Three Counties Contracting. The sports clubs would like the cut grass to be collected rather than left on the ground and this was agreed and will be part of the new contract.

Trees The Clerk was asked to arrange for the necessary professionals to inspect the condition of all trees on Council owned

land and to report the findings back with suggested actions needed.

Grant Applications for new play equipment - Councillor Fielding was delighted to announce that a £8,700 grant had been received from the National Lottery Community Fund to help with the cost of new play equipment. A larger grant application has also been made to FCC Community Fund and the outcome will be known in March. The Council wish to provide play equipment for younger children and also to have more all ability equipment to widen access and enjoyment possibilities so that all children can enjoy a good play experience.

Extension of Green Belt to protect the green wedges between Kings Hill and adjoining villages. Councillors agreed to support steps being taken by various bodies to achieve this extension.

Planning Applications - The following applications were considered:

8 Upper Mill – Front extensions, conversion of garage, internal alterations and remodelling works. *No objections if neighbours concerns are addressed*

The White Cottage, 171 Tonbridge Road – *No objections provided Listed Building Officer's concerns are taken into account*

Claremont House, 200 Tonbridge Road – Conversion of loft space into one residential unit, including alterations to the roof, inclusion of 5 skylights, one velux window and 7 arched dormer windows *Councillors object to this application and support all neighbour concerns*

90 Bow Road – Single storey side and rear extension *No objections*

Public Discussion The chairman welcomed Matt Boughton leader of T & M Borough Council who had come along to the meeting as a member of the public. He spoke of his hope that central government will pass the law, currently at the consultation stage, which will mean that Borough Councils can challenge the new house building targets set by Central Government and which local councils are at present required to meet. T & M consider that its present targets are excessive and would welcome the chance to appeal them.

A resident drew Council's attention to car parking at Fields Lane at weekends which he considered to be hazardous.

The next meeting of the Council will be in the village hall upper room on Tuesday 7th March at 7.30pm. Members of the public are very welcome. *Approved minutes of council meetings will appear on the Parish Council website www.wateringbury.pc.org.uk in due course*

WATERINGBURY PARISH COUNCIL'S FINANCES AND PRECEPT 2023-24

Parish councils are generally the most un-bureaucratic and cost-effective kind of local authority. They raise most of the income from a precept, a tax that is collected on its behalf by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council. Wateringbury currently has 2,249 residents according to the 2021 census.

The parish council decides annually what the precept should be. It does this by setting a budget that forecasts the expected expenditure and income for the year (April to March). Councillors then decide what the precept needs to be, to cover anticipated expenditure considering inflation and other factors. This coming year there is a need to increase the precept to cover these increases, some of which have been caused by global events. Our electricity charges and other utility services will increase along with insurance, maintaining the fields, play equipment and repairs such as CCTV damage.

The Parish council will continue to ensure that it always gets value for money and is held accountable and monitored in many ways, including internal and external audits. Our aim is to provide the best possible service at the best price, while continuing to implement village improvements. **Cllr Patrick Gregson (Chairman)**

REV GARY WRITES

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

Little Pennies and New Beginnings.

Last month in Mereworth church we held a *Penny Party*. This was a follow-on from the Christingle Services we held back in December. Children and adults were sent away from the Christingle services each with a little money box and an invitation to return on the 5th of February for a *Penny Party* where all the money that had been collected in the money boxes would be added up.

The children played games in the church for which they collected points. At the end the points were added up and there were prizes for the winners. We had some party food and the big penny count-up to see how much each child had collected. The amounts were entered onto a certificate and each child was given their own printed and signed certificate stating how much they had raised for *The Children's Society*. There was a lovely atmosphere and everyone who came along enjoyed it very much. I look forward to doing this again this Christmas and New Year. The total amount collected at the *Penny Party* was £66.33 and with the £121.25 collected at the Christingle Service in West Peckham the total we were able to send to *The Children's Society* was £187.58.

This little event together with the Christingle Services that preceded it was made possible by the generosity of people in the churches who gave money for the materials, others who helped run the events and Little Waitrose on Kings Hill which donated all the oranges. A nice little sum of money was raised and a lot of fun for children and adults was had along the way. It was a new venture and like the pennies collected it's a small thing really. But I hope it can grow and that this will become a main event in our Churches' calendar.

Thinking of small beginnings just a reminder that our Lent Courses have only just begun and there's still time to join if you want to. You'll find details on the church website: mwwpchurches.org

The course is called '*Sycamore*' because a little man called Zacchaeus climbed a Sycamore tree to get a better look at Jesus; he ended up being confronted by Jesus with the result he made a fresh start in life free of all his greed and lust for wealth. The course aims to give us a better view of Jesus and the opportunity to make a fresh start with God. Gary Townsend.

Rector of Mereworth, Wateringbury and West Peckham

WATERINGBURY CHURCH - SERVICES IN MARCH

Benefice website www.mwwpchurches.org

Church Face Book Page: fb.me/wateringburychurch

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

All Sunday morning services start at 10am

Saturday 4th March – 3-5pm - Messy Church There will be craft activities, a short bible story and prayer times and we always end with afternoon tea.

Sunday 5th March – Prayer Book Matins led by Barry Fisher

A traditional service using the beautiful words written by Cranmer for the 1662 Prayer Book with hymns led by our choir.

Sunday 12th March - Holy Communion led by Rev Gary

A Communion service with easy to follow service booklet. Messy Church on Sunday (for all children) meets in the Vestry during the service.

Mothering Sunday 19th March – All Age Worship

An informal service led by Becky, Ruth and Kate. Our customary posies of flowers will be given to the ladies in the congregation.

Sunday 26th March - Holy Communion Service led by Rev Gary

A Communion service with easy to follow service booklet.

We hope you will be able to join us. Refreshments are served after our 10am services so do stay for a chat if you can

REFRESH Benefice Services in Mereworth Church at 5pm on 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th March. For those who enjoy less formal worship. Young people attend for the first 30 minutes then go to The Rectory for social time. Adults remain to worship for about another 15 minutes.

WEEKLY ZOOM BENEFICE BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Mondays at 7.30pm for about an hour

Rev Gary Townsend invites you to join him for bible study. To join please email gary.rev@outlook.com for the link to the meeting.

SPRING CRAFT FAIR IN MEREWORTH CHURCH
Saturday 18th March - 11.30am-2pm
Interesting Stalls
Delicious Refreshments, Raffle and Cake Stall

COFFEE BREAK - 8th and 22nd March and 5th April
10.30am-12.30pm in church

Do come along and enjoy home-made cake, tea and coffee and the opportunity to meet and chat in the lovely village church.

Some of the members are re-kindling their knitting skills and knitting 8 inch squares to be made into blankets. Others just enjoy the company.

Thank you to all who came along on 8th February to the White Elephant Coffee Break, it was good to see so many new faces. An amazing £240.20p was raised and divided equally between the Anthony Nolan Charity and church running costs.

MESSY CHURCH Saturday 4th March – 3-5pm

Young children and their carers are invited to come along for a fun, activity based, afternoon which will end with afternoon tea for all.

LENT COURSE - Wednesdays 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th March & 5th April

You are invited to come along to our 2023 Lent Course. Meetings will be in the Church and are on Wednesdays from 7.30-9pm. The video sessions are from 'Sycamore'. Each evening consists of a talk from the presenter, Father Stephen Wang, with discussion questions inserted so that the video will be paused at intervals for group discussion/reflection. The subjects for the sessions are: 1 The existence of God; 2 Who is Jesus; 3 The Holy Spirit and the Church; 4 The gift of faith; 5 Finding true freedom and 6 The meaning of Love.

Each evening is "stand alone" so even if you can only come to one or two evenings you will still be able to enjoy them. Please don't be shy, if you do not wish to contribute to discussions, just want to listen and silently reflect, you will be most welcome to do so.

Alastair Byron (01622 812023) and Barry Fisher (01622 813206)

NATIONAL FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 27 Feb - 12 March

Look for the Fairtrade mark on your purchases. It means that the producers and farmers get a fair price for their labours. The major supermarkets now embrace Fairtrade which means that the work of the original driver for Fairtrade - Tradecraft PLC has ceased to trade so our church Fairtrade stall, which has been run after services for about 25 years will draw to a close once the present stock has been sold.

EASTER FUN WITH FAITH

SATURDAY 8th APRIL - 9.30am – 12.30pm

Calling all primary school aged children in Wateringbury village. Join us to help celebrate and hear the Easter story. A morning filled with fun, songs and craft activities at St John the Baptist church; suggested donation £2 per child. Parent and/or older sibling helpers always welcome. Booking is essential because of numbers: see www.wateringburychurch.org.uk for form or email easterfun@wateringburychurch.org.uk

Look forward to hearing from you. *Debbie Bond*

LOOK AFTER YOURSELF – WELLBEING HINTS AND TIPS

Don't just do something. Sit there and notice...

A common problem is when we develop circular thoughts that spin endlessly, repeating the same sequence in your head. It could be a problem you have to solve, or a negative experience you had which you can't shake out. This sort of circular thinking can take up a huge amount of our headspace and it stops us noticing what is around us right now. We start to live inside the problems of the past or the future.

This is an exercise that is intended to help you focus and attend to something here and now.

1. Get a small pebble, no bigger than your finger nail, or a raisin.
2. Hold it in the centre of your hand and feel its slight weight.
3. Notice whether it feels cool or warm.
4. Notice its colour, its texture.
5. Trace your finger around its surface edges noticing whether they are rough or smooth.
6. Gently role it around the palm of your hand so you can feel every side of it.

Repeat this once or twice over. The rule is to stay focussed on all of the elements of the small object you have chosen. You

could get a few small objects and go through them one at a time. By focussing on a physical object with form, shape and size, you are trying to get your brain to disengage with circular thinking and focus on the object.

Bob Bowie

Take part in celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III in May 2023 by ringing the bells at St John the Baptist Church, Wateringbury. *Interested in ringing the bells for this special occasion? Please call 07756 799372 for further information.*

Tuition is available if you have never rung bells before or refresher sessions for those who may not have rung for a while. You don't need to be musical or religious to ring the bells.

Bell ringing is fun, provides a gentle workout both physically and mentally and is a great social activity.

**Jumble Sale
Saturday 4th March Teston
Village Hall & Churchyard
2.30pm
Grab yourself a bargain
Proceeds in aid of Teston church**