

## MAY 2018 VILLAGE DIARY

<b>MAY</b>			
<b>1</b>	Parish Council Meeting followed by planning committee	Village Hall	7.30pm
<b>5</b>	Canterbury Cathedral Choristers Concert	Church	7pm
<b>6</b>	Footpaths Walk	Village Car Park	2.30pm
<b>10</b>	WI AGM and Cream Tea	Village Hall	2pm
<b>11</b>	Pre-School Quiz Night	Teston Hall	Evening
<b>15</b>	Parish Council Annual Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
<b>20</b>	Talk on Morgan Cars	Manor Farm	2pm
<b>26</b>	Plant Sale	Church	10-4pm
<b>JUNE</b>			
<b>3</b>	Footpaths Walk	Car Park	2.30pm
<b>5</b>	Parish Council Meeting followed by planning committee	Village Hall	7.30pm
<b>23</b>	Songs from the Shows Concert	Church	7.30pm
<b>30</b>	Friends of School Summer Party	School	4-7pm

### Canterbury Cathedral Choristers in Concert on Saturday 5 May at 7pm at the Church

Adults £10 Accompanied Children £2. Tickets from PO Tonbridge Road and Handy Store, Bow Road or from 01622 299713.

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FOWC presents a talk on Morgan Cars

Sunday 20 May 2018 (2pm – 4pm)

Manor Farm, Wateringbury, ME18 5PP

The Friends of Wateringbury Church invite you to come along and learn all about **Morgan Cars** at an event hosted by **Brands Hatch Morgan**. There will be an opportunity to view the cars, ask questions to true Morgan experts and have a chance to **win a ride in a Morgan**. Refreshments will be available and a selection of children's games. All proceeds support the maintenance of, improvements to and preservation of the Church and churchyard.

Gates open at 1.30pm. Advance and on the day tickets. £5 for adults with children U16 free with an accompanying adult. For tickets and enquiries please email [ed.mellor@ipsos.com](mailto:ed.mellor@ipsos.com)

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

### REV DONALD BISH

It was with sadness that I learned of Donald's death after a short illness at the age of 91. It was a privilege to serve alongside him as one of the Church Wardens at St John the Baptist for part of his 13 years (1979 -1992) at the helm of the Benefice (as it then had been created) of Teston, West Farleigh and Wateringbury.

A late ordinand (having been an RAF pilot and senior manager in industry) he achieved much for the parish during that time on its journey of development, establishing the choir and most importantly removing the front rows of pews which literally were beneath the pulpit (enabling a good view of the parson's nose so to speak). He replaced them with staging and we can now reflect on how significant that has been in the church's life encouraging community use for concerts, Watringbury Players productions, talks and countless fund raising events like the Christmas Bazaar. I don't know what kind of a hold he had over Archdeacon Richard Mason at the time but an Archdeacon's Certificate authorising the work (rare as hen's teeth) was granted.

He was indefatigable in his service to the church and bringing the good news of the gospel to all levels of the community against the background of his wife Truda's ill health, who predeceased him. May they both now rest in peace in God's nearer presence. *Barry Fisher*

**A Memorial Service** is being held on **23 May at 1.30pm** in **St Nicholas Church, Allington** to which all are invited.

**Thank you** to those who put Presidents Donald Trump and Jong Un Kim into our village stocks on April Fools Day. The joke was enjoyed by lots of passers by. Who should go into the village stocks on First April next year?

**Target Football Academy** will be holding a **Summer Coaching Camp for the school holidays, they will run on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10am-3pm at the Watringbury Fields for 7-11 year olds.** Both boys and girls are welcome. Any parent wishing to register their child please contact Dennis 07523-619856 or targetfootballacademy@yahoo.com for further details.

## **ANNUAL PLANT SALE**

**Saturday 26 May**

**10am to 4pm**

**at the Church**

**Beautiful top quality plants to**

**fill your garden with colour**

### **APRIL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES**

**Allotments** Two of the vacant plots at the Old Road allotments had been taken. There was one remaining vacant plot. Most of the 17 allotment holders had paid this year's rental; reminders would be sent for the 3 who had not yet paid.

**Car Park** A meeting had been held with officers from T & M Borough Council who owned the car park. Councillors discussed possible scenarios for managing the car park. Councillors had consulted with local business on the subject of parking in the village. If T & M decide to charge for parking at all their car parks there is little the Parish

Council can do. Any plans for major changes to the terms for using the village car park will be the subject of a public consultation process to give local residents and business an opportunity to have their say.

**County Councillor's Report** Councillor Balfour reported that additional funding had been made available from Central Government to repair the County's roads. It was not nearly enough, but it was a step in the right direction. KCC preferred to resurface roads but this was not possible due to budget restraints. They used local contractors to repair potholes as it was felt they took greater pride in doing quality repairs.

KCC had been able to balance its budget this year, further cuts will have to be made.

**Crime Report** taken from the Kent police website showed 9 reported crimes in January 1 burglary, 1 theft, 1 vehicle crime, 2 anti social behaviour, 2 public order, 2 criminal damage arson. Our local PCSO Wendy Stanley was at the meeting and was asked about the criminal damage arson crimes. She had made enquiries and no-one seemed able to give any details of arson. She gave details of more recent crimes: a burglary with entry by a kitchen door when jewellery was stolen, burglary at Where Memories Meet when silver items were stolen, and a youth attempting to access a property which was being renovated. Wendy also wished to alert the public to 2 door-to-door scams which were currently being practised. Householders being told lead needed replacing on house roofs and householders being told that caller needed access to loft space to assess energy losses relating to a Government scheme.

**Dog Fouling** on the track down to the fields and on the fields themselves had been discussed at last month's Public Open Forum. Councillor Stephen Tickner had investigated the cost of a Dog Poo Bag dispenser (£79) and metal sign (£40). The cost of 800 bio degradable bags would be £23. Councillors agreed to buy and install one dispenser initially, to see if this would help resolve the problem.

**Flood Group** It was reported that the Group would remain in existence primarily to monitor progress towards agreed objectives. Maidstone MP Helen Grant had been very supportive of the Group.

**Playing Fields** Councillor Tickner reported that the AGM of the Sports and Recreation Association was due to take place in April and he would attend as the Council's representative.

**Pollution Monitoring Equipment** It was hoped that the equipment would be installed shortly at the Cross Roads. T & M Borough Council were awaiting the start of its new financial year (April) in order to have the funding available to finance the installation costs of about £2,500.

**Speed Watch** The chairman thanked the small local team for their work during the past month which had resulted in 352 Observations of speeding vehicles which generated, 49 letters to repeat (twice or more) offenders, one of which was hand delivered, 18 letters had to be sent to high end offenders (45+ mph in a 30 mph zone), one of which was hand delivered. The observations also highlighted 5 vehicles being driven without Road Tax and/or MOT. The "highlights" of the month were a minibus being driven along Tonbridge Road, in a westerly direction, past Lodge Close, at a speed of 60mph, and a motorbike observed approaching the traffic lights at 67mph, past our position outside number 22 Red Hill

**Signal Box** It was agreed to contact Nettlestead Parish Council (as the box was in their parish) to suggest the parishes worked together to approach the Railway authorities regarding the care of the box when the automatic barriers were installed.

**Street Lighting** The company who were presently contracted to repair the street lights owned by the Parish Council had not responded to any requests to make the necessary repairs, they had also broken their contract by not invoicing the council since last August. The clerk was asked to contact adjoining parish councils to see who repaired their street lights in an attempt to find a reliable contractor.

**Planning** Councillors had no objections to plans for a loft conversion at 41 Bow Road.

Possible breaches of planning laws on green belt land, part of which came under T & M BC and part under Maidstone BC, were discussed. After debating the problems incurred Councillors decided if necessary to write to the Chief Executive of T & M to formally register their discontent at the apparent failure of T & M planning officers to liaise with Maidstone BC who had offered to deal with the matter, or to take any actions themselves.

**Open Forum** At the public open forum the feasibility of the plans for extra traffic lanes at the cross roads and the possibility of parking charges at the village car park were discussed.

**Next meetings** The public are very welcome to attend the next general meeting of the Parish Council at **7.30pm in the village hall on Tuesday 1 May and the Annual Meeting on Tuesday 15 May.** This meeting gives residents the chance to meet with our Parish councillors and to talk over any matters of local concern in an informal setting.

**Maidstone Mencap Plants, Books & Cakes Sale**

**Sat 12 May, 2.30pm, Cobtree Hall, Willington St, ME15 8EB**

Donations received with thanks Contact: Lesley 01622 892433

## **DANDELION TIME MAY FAIR**

**Saturday 12 May 12-3pm**

Elmscroft, Charlton Lane, West Farleigh, ME15 0NY

BBQ and Tea Rooms, Tours of the grounds to enjoy the beautiful gardens and see some wonderful animals.

It's a great family fun afternoon, where everyone can try their hand at various craft activities, play traditional games, plant stall, coconut shy and special guests Mike's Donkeys

## **VALENCE SCHOOL CLASSIC CAR SHOW**

*Westerham Road, Westerham TN15 1QN*

**Sunday 13 May 9am-4pm**

**Adults £4 Family Ticket 2 x 2 £12**

**Car Sprint \* Classic and Vintage Car Show \* BBQ and Bar \* Stalls \* Car Jumble and entertainment too.**

*It's a great day out for families and car enthusiasts alike, with money raised going straight back into the special school to pay for what the children need*

## **The John Briggs Lecture 2018**

**Sponsored by the Friends of Kent Churches**

**Sunday 24 June 2018 at 3pm**

**St. Mary the Virgin, Nettlestead**

**Followed by buffet tea in Nettlestead Place**

This is an open invitation to all who are interested in hearing about the History of Stained Glass by Leonie Seliger from Canterbury Cathedral and the History of Nettlestead Church Glass by the Rector, Rev Anthony Carr. **Tickets £10 each**, cheques payable to Nettlestead Church, from: Mrs M Allen, Tagmar, Hale Street Farm, East Peckham, TN12 5JB. Please enclose an SAE. Special dietary requirements should be notified when ordering your tickets.

## **SHEENA'S JAMS AND MARMALADES AND GORDON'S PRESERVES**

Following the recent refurbishment of the Post Office we were offered the opportunity to sell our produce in the store which we gladly accepted. This has turned out to be far more successful than we had ever imagined and it has been great to receive such good feedback about our products. Unfortunately this has caused us an unanticipated problem in that to provide sufficient stock we would need to gear up our produce considerably. This would move it from being what is fundamentally a hobby into a business and we would then need to meet all the business rules such as having a stainless steel kitchen and being able to state on the labels exactly the percentage of fruit, sugar etc was in the finished item.

As we have only recently moved into the village and just got a new kitchen, replacing it doesn't seem like a good idea and all the other requirements are beyond what we really want to do. So it is with great sadness and reluctance that we have had to remove our produce from the Post Office which is a great shame as it was so successful. We would like to thank Nathan and his team for offering us the opportunity and wish them continued success with their venture. Do please continue to support them. As we are now living in the village, customers are very welcome to contact us direct at [sheenaandgordonjams@gmail.com](mailto:sheenaandgordonjams@gmail.com). We can let you know our current stock and arrange a convenient time for you to collect it from our house.

## **LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Our members' wine and buffet evening will be held on Wednesday 16 May at a Watlington venue.

On **Wednesday 25 July our annual outing** will be to **Parham House and Gardens, Pulborough, West Sussex**. The cost per person is £45 to include coach travel, entry to house and gardens, a guided tour and tea/coffee on arrival. **Non members welcome** to join our coach trip. To book a place phone 01622 812148.

Our speaker on the 21 March was Frank Turner on the wreck of the Liberty Ship, US Richard Montgomery. There are still explosives on board the ship as it was considered too expensive to remove. In 1940 it had cost £96,000 to remove 3,000 tons of explosives.

## WAR NEWS MAY 1918

- |              |                                                                                 |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>May 9</b> | British naval raid on Ostend, Belgium.                                          |
| <b>18</b>    | First RAF air raids on German towns.                                            |
| <b>27</b>    | Start of Third Battle of Aisne which takes Germans to within 35 miles of Paris. |

Watlington suffered three war fatalities on the Western Front in May. This was despite the relative lull in fighting before the start of the German offensive on the River Aisne at the end of the month.



**Albert Rogers** was wounded on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and died the following day in a Casualty Clearing Station. Born in Watlington but later living in Maidstone, he had been one of 10 children. He had emigrated to Australia by himself, aged 19, just before the start of the war. It was a six week journey from Liverpool to Adelaide on the White Star Line's ship, *Irishman*. He joined up as a volunteer in Australia and was in the 48<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Australian Infantry. Australia, given its population, provided a large number of men to allied forces and suffered a high mortality rate. Albert's battalion fought in the Somme and he is buried at a small cemetery in Vignacourt, a Somme village some 25 miles west of Albert.

**Percy Adams** was killed on 16<sup>th</sup> May. He came from a family of 9 children and lived in Latter's Buildings on Old Road. Four of his brothers served in the war and his elder brother, Frederick, had been killed on the Somme in 1916. Percy is described as a "carter" in the 1911 census. He married a Watlington girl, Ellen Kirby in Watlington Church soon after the outbreak of war, on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1914. He was possibly a late conscript as he does not appear on the vicar's January 1917 list of serving parishioners. He was in the Royal Garrison Artillery and is buried in the Gwalia cemetery, near Ypres in Belgium.

**Benjamin Stevens** died of wounds 26<sup>th</sup> May. He came originally from Offham but after his father died he and his mother moved to Springdale Terrace, Nettlestead. He worked as a farm labourer. Initially he was rejected by the army on medical grounds. The vicar included him on a list he published of those who had been medically rejected, an attempt to protect them from the attentions of ladies who handed out white feathers. He was in the Grenadier Guards who, in 1918, were located in the Somme area of France. He is buried at a small village called Gezaincourt, the site of several Casualty Clearing Stations.

The Girls' School Log in May 1918 makes interesting reading. On 1<sup>st</sup> May there is a detailed description of the crowning of Lorna Bannister as the May Queen. Empire Day was celebrated on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Two girls, falsely pretending they had a qualifying job, had obtained certificates exempting them from attending school. The parents were prosecuted and fined. Two girls were excluded from school for having dirty hair, one returning before any improvement had been achieved. Terry Bird  
For more details see <https://www.sites.google.com/site/watlingtonlocalhistory/>.

## FOOTPATHS GROUP

**Next Walks 6 May** A river walk meet at village hall 2.30pm

**3 June** Meet Village Hall 2.30pm for our annual Bluebell walk

Our April walk was slightly adjusted because of the conditions underfoot due to the amount of rain which had fallen. So as the river had burst its banks, instead of my planned river walk we had a road walk to Love Lane then via the Millpond to Old Road and Wistaria Cottage passing Flite Wood, (not long before the Nightingales return here) and Kings Hill golf course to Canon Lane then following the path at the edge of Cattering Wood back to the start. A few wild spring flowers beginning to show and it looks like the Bluebell will be good too. KFR 01622 813763

### **WATERINGBURY CLUB**

Wish you had a wide screen TV to watch sport on? Well the Wateringbury Club has and members can enjoy watching sport in good company. The Annual cost of membership for men and women is only £10 which is great value for money. New members are always welcome. The Club is tucked away in its own building with an entrance on the Tonbridge Road about 25 yards from the traffic lights. Opening hours are: Monday 7-11pm, Tuesday Closed, Wednesday and Thursday 4-11pm, Friday 1.30-11pm, Saturday Noon- 11pm, Sunday Noon – 7pm.

### **WATERINGBURY FLOWER CLUB**

Our old friend Robin White with his title "The Link is Green" is our guest demonstrator at The Institute Hall, East Malling on Wednesday 16 May 7 for 7.45pm. Why not come along as a guest and try us out, we are a friendly bunch. *Jean Schofield*

### **BABY & TODDLER GROUP**

As usual we are enjoying our sessions at our toddler group. Our term ended with our Easter celebrations. The children made Easter cards, followed by a Easter hat competition, some of which were spectacular. We finished with our Easter egg hunt, where the children had to find and count the bunnies around the hall. At each session we have lots of toys to play with, there are craft and singing sessions and snack time. If you are interested in joining us, we meet every Wednesday and Friday morning during term time between 10am and Noon. The cost is £2 for the first child and £1 for any others, this includes snacks for the children and tea/coffee or the adults. For more information please contact Linda on 01732 522 437.

### **WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Summer term always arrives with heaps of warm sunshine, fiercely contested den building, informal gymnastic routines and friendly football matches on the field - and the trials and tribulations of national examinations. Our Year 1 pupils will be taking the phonics screening test, our Year 2 pupils will be demonstrating their proficiency in maths, reading and writing and our Year 6 pupils will be sitting their SATs which mark the end of their primary school years. The results of these examinations are pored over by our teaching staff to determine what we're teaching well (as measured by these particular tests) and any areas we need to address. What the tests don't measure are also enormously important: a child's determination and resilience, a capacity for leadership, acts of kindness and generosity, talent for sport, ability with music, art and drama, teamwork and outdoor adventurousness. At Wateringbury, we firmly believe in nurturing all of these.

Our annual Spring Concert is always a highlight of Term 5, with more than 40 children performing solos, in ensembles or as part of the school orchestra or choir. Music at Wateringbury continues to grow and enriches both our school and our pupils' lives. As always, we marked St George's Day with our annual flagpole assembly with uniformed groups proudly on parade.

In line with schools and businesses across the country, we are preparing for compliance with the new General Data Protection Regulations which is a time-consuming but important set of tasks and safeguards to complete.

Term 5 ends on Friday 25th May and our final term of the year commences on 4th June - when our Year 6 class will embark on their week-long residential trip to the Isle of Wight.

*Chasey Crawford Usher – Headteacher* [www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk](http://www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk)

### **SUMMER PARTY - SAT 30 JUNE - ALL WELCOME - FREE ENTRY**

Friends of Wateringbury Primary School are pleased to announce that we will be holding our first Summer Party on Saturday 30 June. Entrance is free and everyone is welcome between 4pm and 7pm. The event will be held at Wateringbury School and will include a barbecue, music, inflatables, games, activities, face painting and more. Please note that some items are chargeable on the day so please bring cash along with you. We hope that this will be a fun, informal afternoon

attracting pupils, families and our village as a whole. As always, our events are run by a team of volunteers. If you would like to be involved or can pledge any help on the day please e-mail [chairman@fowps.org.uk](mailto:chairman@fowps.org.uk) We hope to see you there!

## **PILATES at WATERINGBURY VILLAGE HALL**

### **EVERY MONDAY**

To book go online [www.charliespilates.com](http://www.charliespilates.com) or call 07887 364922

### **WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

The Annual General Meeting of Wateringbury WI will be held on **10 May**, during which we will have our usual business meeting and will vote for and confirm our officers and committee members for the coming year. Following the business meeting we will be having a Cream Tea and holding a Silent Auction.

On 14 June, Andy Thomas is returning to give another of his talks 'Unexplained Mysteries', a talk which will no doubt provide a few unexpected surprises. The competition is an 'Unusual Object', and books and items on the trading table will be available to buy during the social time following Andy's talk. Visitors very welcome.

Our April speaker, Pat Mortlock, told us about the mothers and wives who were the 'Supporters' of the Kings of the early Tudor period, which included Margaret Beaufort and Catherine Parr. Support from the ladies was vital for the early Tudor Kings, who often came to the throne at a very young age and needed advice and help to ensure royal etiquette was followed and a suitable marriage was made, hopefully to produce a male heir. Pat's talk was both humorous and interesting and gave us an idea of what happened behind the scenes during Tudor times. Our competition of 'an example of lace' was won by Sandy Parker, who had brought along a fan and book containing lace items made by her mother.

### **TESTON AND WATERINGBURY PRE SCHOOL**

We continue with our termly theme talking about the different seasons with the children, where they will be making butterfly pictures and making a hungry caterpillar display to decorate our wall in the hall. We will be welcoming our very own hungry caterpillars to enable the children to see them grow into beautiful butterflies before releasing them into our garden. I wonder what names the children will give them this year!

We will also be inviting our parents and grandparents in to our café where the children will be able to serve homemade scones, biscuits and soft drinks and with the money they make they will be able to buy an ice-cream when Roy's Ices visits us in week 6.

And finally a day to put in your diaries, we will be hosting a **quiz night in Teston Village Hall on Friday 11 May at 7pm** in aid of Teston Preschool. All are welcome, £10 per head including a sausage and chip supper. To book a table, ideally 6-8 people, please contact Tina Driver on 07805 796353.

### **WATERINGBURY CHURCH SERVICES IN MAY**

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

*Church Face Book Page:* [fb.me/wateringburychurch](https://fb.me/wateringburychurch)

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

**Saturday 5 May Messy Church 3-5pm**

Messy Churches are found all around the world and are for all ages, though mostly attended by families with young children. There will be craft activities, short bible story and prayer times and ours will always end with afternoon tea. Do give it a try.

### **Sunday 6 May 10am Eucharist**

A Communion service based on the Church of England Common Worship Service Book. Rev Nick Williams always prepares a service sheet so its easy to follow. Sundays Cool (for all children) meets in the Vestry during this Service.

### **Sunday 13 May 10am Morning Praise**

An informal service led this month by Barry Fisher and

Pauline Welsh. Secondary Division for those at Secondary School meets for discussion (and a second breakfast) in the Vestry.

**Sunday 20 May – Pentecost** (Whitsun) is regarded as the birthday of the church when we celebrate God sending his Holy Spirit (His Power) to His followers.

### **8.30pm Prayer Book Said Communion**

A quiet service using the beautiful words written by Cranmer in 1662. Rev Nick also gives a short address.

### **10am Family Service**

An all age informal service led by the Sundays Cool team with well known hymns.

### **Sunday 27 May – Trinity Sunday 10am Eucharist**

The choir leads our singing of hymns which are usually lively and easy to sing. Sundays Cool meets in the Vestry.

**Refreshments** are served after all our 10am services so do stay for a chat if you can.

**Toddlers Praise Mondays 2-3pm** in the Guide & Scout HQ, Glebe Meadow Pre-schoolers are invited to bring along their carers for an hour of fun with a bible story, singing, prayers and refreshments.



## **SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE**

### **Sunday 20 May 7pm SOS in East Malling Church**

A service for those who appreciate a less formal style of worship.

### **Every Thursday 9am Communion in East Malling Church**

## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 13-19 MAY**

This year we are invited to Stand Together with Christian Aid, For Dignity, For Equality, For Justice. Poverty robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive. But together we have the power to transform lives. A house-to-house collection is planned again for this year. So please be as generous as you can. If you are able to volunteer to deliver and/or collect envelopes from a street in the village this would be very helpful. Support and guidance is available for new volunteers. Please contact Becky Bowie on 01622 813396 or [becky.bowie@gmail.com](mailto:becky.bowie@gmail.com).

## **EASTER FUN WITH FAITH ON SATURDAY 31 MARCH**

Rev Nick opened the event and the children were keen to make a start. Our regular activities are always a great hit; getting their hands dirty with soil and planting a pansy to creating their own Easter garden, trying not to get too much icing on their fingers when decorating their cakes and gingerbread shaped Easter egg.

Our plain cross is now adorned in beautiful colours of craft materials, different shapes and sizes of flowers. It does look wonderful. The church always has a calm buzz and excitement around the place and after two hours of fun the children gathered for some prize giving of chocolate eggs and sweeties! Parents were greeted with smiling faces and were quickly laden with all the morning's creations.

A huge Thank You to my fantastic band of helpers especially the helpful young helpers and all who donated chocolate eggs. A Special Thank You to the children for making the morning so pleasurable. Your behaviour was impeccable and it was a joy to have you. If you would like to see some photos please look at the church website. The next Easter Fun with Faith will be Saturday 20 April 2019. Look forward to seeing you next year.

*Debbie Bond*

### **COFFEE BREAK – Wednesdays 2, 16 and 30 May**

Do go along to the church between **10.30-12.30** and enjoy coffee, delicious cake and chat. Some also are reviving their interest in knitting and needlepoint and Eddie is making a rug. For several years some have been making poppies, using various methods, which will be used for the **Carpet of Poppies weekend in the Church on 2, 3 and 4 November** to mark the Centenary of the End of the Great War. Save the date!

### **BENEFACTRESS' UNION 3 May at 1pm**

This month the meeting is in **Wateringbury Church**. when Julia Jamieson will talk about the work of The Mothers Union. All welcome.

### **IN OUR SORROWS - FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS**

**Memorial Service 23 March** - We extend our deepest sympathy to the loved ones of **Doreen Herbert** 27/2/1929-14/3/2018

### **INSPIRING NEWS!**

You don't need to be too eagle-eyed to spot that work is now underway on our spire to replace the shingles. We are enormously grateful to everyone who has helped us thus far – however we are still a little short of the total sum needed, so if you feel able to support us further please do so, either by a cash donation (cheques made payable to "Wateringbury PCC") or by supporting one or more of our forthcoming events – details of which are elsewhere in Rostrum. For more information please contact either of our churchwardens. THANK YOU.

**Voices Across the A20 sing Songs from the Shows**

**including Fiddler on the Roof, Godspell, Joseph and more**

**at the Church of St John the Baptist Wateringbury**

**Saturday 23rd June at 7.30pm Tickets £7 under 16s £5**

**PRIESTLY PONDERINGS** Rev Nick Williams

The Vicarage, 2 The Grange,

East Malling

parishofficeemwt@gmail.com

01732 843282

I hope and trust that you all had a happy and joyous Easter and that in the busyness of everyday life you managed to find some time to be with your family and friends. It was a pleasure to meet those of you I hadn't met before at some of the Easter services that took place across the benefice.

It was particularly good to see those who dragged themselves out of bed to make the dawn service on Easter day, it is a service that seems to get more popular every year and is always a delight to lead with its symbolism that stretches back into the early history of the Church.

In church terms however Easter still has a while to go as strictly speaking it doesn't finish until the Feast of Pentecost, sometimes called Whit Sunday, which this year is on 20 May so you still have plenty of time to enjoy the Easter eggs you may have left over. This year during the period from Ascension Day (10 May) to Pentecost we will be taking part in the Archbishop of Canterbury's 'Thy Kingdom Come' initiative. In this Churches throughout the world will pray for the places in which they live and the people who live there (you can find out more about it at <https://www.thykingdomcome.global>), certainly looking around me at the world I can't think of a better time for prayer.

In this benefice there will be special services of morning and evening prayer held throughout the period so keep a look out for the posters that will tell you what's happening where and when. If you can't join us but have a particular request for prayer at this time then please email your requests to the parish office on [parishofficeemwt@gmail.com](mailto:parishofficeemwt@gmail.com) and I will make sure that your prayer requests are included in the offices as they are said.

In conclusion I hope you will all enjoy the remainder of Easter and wish you every blessing.

Yours in Christ

Rev Nick Williams