



**Rostrum wishes all readers
A Merry Christmas and
A Happy, Peaceful New Year.**

Thank you to all our contributors and advertisers for their help in 2022 and to our street distributors for delivering the magazines promptly to their neighbours.

(Special thanks to Watlington School children for their drawings especially Olivia in Foxglove Class for our cover picture and Lottie in Clover Class for our inside picture)

VILLAGE DIARY

December

- 4 Footpaths Walk** – Hall car park – 2pm
- 6 Parish Council Meeting** – Hall -7.30pm followed by Planning Committee
- 10 Cribs and Angels** – Church – 10.30am-4pm
- 11 Switch on of lights and carols** – Cross Roads – 4pm
- 12 Footpaths Walk** – Hall car park – 10am
- 15 Nine Lessons & Carols by Candlelight** – Church - 8pm
- 18 Community Market** – Hall – 11am-1pm
- 21 Social Evening with music Quiz** – Hist Soc – 7.45pm

January

- 1 Footpaths Walk** – Hall car park – 2pm
- 6 Footpaths Walk** – Hall car park – 10am
- 10 Parish Council Meeting** – Hall -7.30pm followed by Planning Committee (note week later than usual)
- 10 & 11 Open mornings at school** – appointments needed
- 12 Scandals of Kent & Sussex** – WI talk – Hall – 2pm
- 15 Community Market** – Hall – 11am-1pm
- 18 Mad Musicians & Crazy Dancers** – Hist Soc – 7.45 for 8

February

- 3 & 4 Jack and Beanstalk village Panto** – Hall
- 5 Footpaths Walk** – Hall car park – 2pm

COMMUNITY FRIDGE

The community Fridge will now be held every Tuesday evening 6-7pm in Jubilee Hall, East Peckham. Go to the green door taking with you a bag for life and £5. *Sarah Hudson*

VILLAGE PEOPLE *Please let us have your news and tributes by 17 January for our February 2023 magazine. Entries are free. Email*

www.rostrum2@hotmail.com or phone 01622 812566

First time Grandparent congratulations to Becky Hunt on the arrival on 30th September of Scott Michael Henderson who weighed in at 7lbs 6oz. And of course to parents Craig and Louise.

Rostrum sends sincere thanks to Sue Cockburn and Alan Hayes who have made significant contributions to village life on their retirement.

Sue Cockburn retired on 30th November having served as Parish Clerk for 25 years. So thank you Sue on behalf of all village residents for your dedication and hard work behind the scenes to keep the wheels of local democracy turning. Best wishes for a well deserved retirement.

Alan Hayes of Teston Tours

Many Rostrum readers have enjoyed outings and holidays which have been organised by Alan over the years, so Thank You Alan (and Diane) for all the happiness you have created through your voluntary running of Teston Tours. We hope you will enjoy the time your retirement will bring to have new adventures together. **Best Wishes to Emma and Clive Bates** of Scotland and Bates Coaches who are going to organise trips for us to enjoy.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all residents.

We thank you all for your support in 2022 and hope that in 2023 many of you will come along to Parish Council meetings and be motivated to join us in gifting time to support local initiatives to enhance our village community.

Patrick Gregson on behalf of all Parish Councillors

EASY TO POST CHRISTMAS GIFTS WITH A WATERINGBURY LINK

Wateringbury Tea Towels - £4.50

Wateringbury Notelets - £3.50

Lest We Forget (WW2 Wateringbury) - £5

Wateringbury in the 1950s - £5

Short biographies of men on School and

Village WWI memorials - £3 each

A History of Wateringbury to 1086 (33 A5 pages) - £3.

Tutsham Oil Mill (59 A5 pages) - £5

A Walk around Wateringbury (38 A5 pages) - £3

(Also good for walking off the Christmas Turkey over-indulgence)

The Wateringbury Regattas, 1864-1873 (56 A4 pages) - £5

Wateringbury and World War One (89 A4 pages) - £5.

The History Society also has these books at £3.50

Wateringbury People and Places Volumes 1 and 2

About Wateringbury and More About Wateringbury

Email your order enquiries to rostrum2@hotmail.com and we will pass them on to the appropriate organisation.

UKRAINE APPEAL

I help collect items for Ukraine- both refugees who have fled their country (there is a hub in Tunbridge Wells) and those remaining in Ukraine as well as the many animals abandoned due to the war. Winter in Ukraine is bitter and warm clothes and blankets are desperately needed to help residents who have suffered and attempt to continue living in their war torn country.

Items desperately needed are food - cereals, tinned food, pasta, rice, soup, long life milk, etc; medical items (even partly used ointments and creams); bandages, toiletries, sanitary products, nappies etc.

Items for animals needed urgently too – cat and dog food, dog coats, flea treatments, collars, leads, blankets etc.

Men's clothing and boots for the Ukraine soldiers.

Shoe boxes are made up for children so any small items - pencils, soft toys, balls, cars, figures, balloons, hair accessories and products, soaps etc.

Household items - kitchen utensils as well as bedding and towels. Articulated lorries regularly travel to Ukraine so

you can be assured any donations will reach those in need.
Please message me if you can offer any of the above or have
any queries.
Sue Collins svmcollins@live.co.uk or Facebook or Next Door

HISTORY SOCIETY

Wednesday 21st December – Social Evening with a free glass of wine or fruit juice and nibbles, a music quiz to enjoy and a chance to browse some of the items in the History Society archive including newly donated items. Starts at 7.45pm.

Wednesday 18th January – Mad Musicians and Crazy Dancers a return visit of popular speaker Alan Haines whose talk is bound to include some music from times past to enjoy. Free tea or coffee from 7.45pm talk starts at 8pm.

Both meetings are held in Wateringbury Village Hall. Visitors are always welcome at £5 an evening or join the Society for £15 for the year to June 2023. Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ADVERTISING IN ROSTRUM IN 2023

We are in the process of arranging our advertising support for Rostrum in 2023. We thank all 2022 advertisers for their support which has allowed the magazine to be distributed free within the village. All should have been contacted inviting them to renew their adverts. Any businesses interested in advertising in Rostrum in 2023 please let us know (rostrum2@hotmail.com) so we can provide details of our circulation plus our advertising rates for 2023.

SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE WATERINGBURY PLAYERS

Panto season is creeping up and we are well into rehearsals for our **2023 Panto - JACK AND THE BEANSTALK**. The panto will be performed at Wateringbury Village Hall on the evenings of.....

Friday 3rd February and Saturday 4th February 2023 plus a Saturday matinee. Tickets will be on sale from Saturday 10th December at Wateringbury Post Office and The Handy Store - Cash Only. All tickets £11. Child concession tickets available for matinee only £6 (16 and under)

Friday 4th February 7.30pm (doors open 7.00pm)

Saturday 5th February Matinee 2pm (doors open 1.30pm)

Saturday 5th February 7.30pm (doors open 7.00pm)

Look forward to seeing you all there.

WATERINGBURY FOOTPATH GROUP

Season's Greetings from the Walkers!

In the Village People section of the November edition of Rostrum, there was an article about Syd Thompsett. Missing from the long list of his village activities, was that Syd was the founder of the Footpath Group over 50 years ago! He wanted to ensure that villagers walked the public footpaths in the area, thereby keeping them open and enabling us all to enjoy lovely local walks whenever we want. He continues to follow our walk reports in Rostrum even though he's moved to be closer to his family. The Group owes him a big debt.

These days I usually organise two walks each month, one on the first Sunday afternoon in the month and the other on a weekday morning of my choosing. This enables people who are busy either at the weekend or during the week to have a chance to come on a walk with us. I usually reckon that we'll take the same route for both walks in the month.

The plan for the next couple of months is that walks will be leaving the village hall at:
2pm on Sunday 4th December

10am on Monday 12th December
2pm on New Year's Day (Sunday 1st January)
10am on Friday 6th January
2pm on Sunday 5th February
Everyone is welcome! Please contact me if you want more information or want to be kept updated about our plans.
Lisa Dean 077 5953 9032

EAST MALLING SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

At 7.30pm on 10th December at East Malling church (near the King and Queen pub) there will be East Malling Singers' traditional Christmas concert. It will include a variety of new and old works as well as an opportunity to sing your favourite carols and to enjoy hot mince pies and mulled wine during the interval. Tickets are £12 (school children free) and are available from Sue Greenham on 01622 750943, from boxoffice@eastmallingsingers.co.uk or on the door (in past years the Christmas concert has sold out in advance)

NEWS FROM BOROUGH & KCC COUNCILLOR SARAH HUDSON

The Boundary Commission for England published new revised proposals for constituencies across the country and opens a final month-long consultation, giving the public a last opportunity to send in their views. The Commission has taken into consideration over 45,000 comments sent in by the public during the previous two stages of public consultation, and has changed nearly half of its initial proposals based on this feedback. A third and final consultation on the new map of revised constituency proposals is open now until 5 December. The public are invited to view and comment on the new map at www.bcereviews.org.uk.

The Commission is undertaking an independent review of all constituencies in England as requested by Parliament. The number of electors within each constituency currently varies widely due to population changes since the last boundary review. The 2023 Boundary Review will rebalance the number of electors each MP represents, resulting in significant change to the existing constituency map. As part of the review, the number of constituencies in England will increase from 533 to 543. After this final consultation has closed on 5 December, the Commission will analyse the responses and form its final recommendations. These will be submitted to Parliament by 1 July 2023.

The reason for asking you to comment is that it is suggested that Watlingbury be moved into Maidstone & Malling Constituency, and removed from Tonbridge & Malling Constituency. So we would have a new MP at the next election. What are your thoughts? Nettlestead is also moving, so would not be in the same constituency still. Please take the opportunity to voice your thoughts, although the window is short.

Our Christmas Lights switch on with carols is on Sunday 11th December at 4pm. Please do join us for a short while, when we will be switching on the lights and getting in the spirit with mulled wine on sale too – thanks to Redhill Wines.

Wishing you all a very, merry Christmas, and a peaceful New Year.

I have a dedicated Facebook page now, where I post useful and, hopefully interesting, information so please follow me at <https://www.facebook.com/CllrSarahHudson>

WI

At our November meeting we enjoyed an excellent talk by Chris Stewart on Hops and Hop Picking in Kent. Although less common than it was once this plant is still grown in 50

locations in the U.K. and when it was grown extensively it was a very valuable crop for the grower. Our next meeting on 12th December will be a Christmas celebration tea with various activities. This is a members only meeting. The competition is for a Christmas Crown using any medium.

On 12th January we will welcome Chris MacCooley to talk on Scandals of Kent and Sussex. Visitors will be welcome at this meeting.

GUIDES

This term we have welcomed some new guides moving up from brownies as well as finally being able to take some of those on our waiting list who haven't previously been a brownie. We're busy sorting out the patrols and during Parliament Week we held proper elections using a ballot box for patrol leaders and deputies.

Continuing our theme of making the most of the outdoors, we've been to Comp Wood camp site to do some outdoor cooking on a fairly wet and windy night but the weather was pretty kind to us while we were there, and there were some fabulous jacket potatoes cooked in the embers of the fire as well as some superb garlic bread. It's also traditional to cook summores on an open fire – these are toasted marshmallows squashed between two chocolate biscuits – delicious but not great for the waistline. We've been bowling in Maidstone and are hoping to go to Gravity Trampoline centre for our last meeting before Christmas. We've had a meditation evening which was lovely and relaxing and we are planning a penny hike in Kings Hill. The basic principle here is to toss a coin, and heads is one way and tails the other at a junction and see where you end up. We're (naturally) hoping we end up at or near an eatery!

We were very proud of the turnout at the Remembrance Service at the church, and the colour parties did a very good job. Emily read out part of the names of the fallen and we were delighted with all the compliments she received. Christmas crafts and a Guiding only viewing of the new Matilda Mighty Movie round off the term.

We're already looking at 2023 with a camp pencilled in, and a canal boat trip also on the cards. Hopefully we'll get a sleepover in and maybe a night hike too. If your daughter would like to join Rainbows (5-7), brownies (7-10) or guides (10-15) do please contact me or register her details on the Girlguiding website and one of us will contact you. You can contact me on 01622 815416 or email to sheenastewartx3@gmail.com. Sheena Stewart and team. 1st Watlington Guides

WATERINGBURY FLOWER CLUB

Our December meeting will be a Christmas workshop by Iris Shaw and Jean Schofield. Members will make straw rings with a Christmas theme, decorated with birch twigs and baubles, fresh flowers and other Christmassy items along with a star - again decorated with tinsel, baubles and orange slices, cinnamon and other items. In January we are having a demonstration and then February is our AGM - this will be held again with a small demonstration, drinks and nibbles to plan the year ahead and inform members of the booked programme for 2023.

New members are welcome anytime, why not come as a visitor and see if it's for you, we are a friendly bunch, tuition is always available from more experienced members at our workshops. Happy Festive Season for all of us and a flowery new year. *Jean Schofield*

WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learning, growing, achieving...our journey together with God.

As I write this, the autumn term is coming to an end and what a busy term it has been! By the time of reading we will have performed our KS1 nativity to parents, the children at school and preschool, and even the mayor! Our KS2 children will have sung beautifully (if rehearsals are anything to go by!) in their carol service which is back at the church for the first time since covid.

In November, we had our Bonfire Night organised by the Friends of Wateringbury Primary School (FOWPS). It was wonderful to see so many members of the village and our school community together and the rain held off for the evening. All reception, year 1 and year 2 pupils went to Hever Castle to learn about Henry VIII. Our year 6 children completed their Bikeability training in which they learned to ride their bikes safely on the road. We hope that they demonstrate their sensible riding around the village.

Our head boy and girl accompanied me to the village service of remembrance in November and laid a wreath from the school. It was wonderful to see so many Wateringbury pupils at the church and I was very proud to see how beautifully behaved and respectful they were.

We will be hold two more Open Morning Tours on Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th January both at 10am. Please contact the office if you would like to book a place.

We are always looking for volunteers either in the classrooms or with developing our outdoor environment. If you think you have some spare time or great ideas, please contact us – we would love to hear from you!

Debbie Johnson – Headteacher

www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk

GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

Our weather seems to be veering from one extreme to the other at present and this is resulting in some bizarre results. Geraniums are still flowering and looking better than they did in the Summer, whilst snowdrops have been seen flowering near the millpond! Our wildlife is equally confused but we must expect a cold snap at some point and there are things we can do to assist them in preparation.

Now is a good time to clean out bird-boxes that may be used for roosting by birds for protection in the Winter months and then, hopefully, they will return in the Spring to build their nests.

Putting food out for the birds now will help them to identify where it can be regularly found when the weather turns colder and may encourage different species to those we usually see. I particularly enjoy watching the parties of long tailed tits that descend onto my feeders when food is scarce elsewhere and then roost huddled together for warmth in nearby trees.

Other species may just join us for the Winter; these may include; snipe, woodcock, siskins and redpolls or even the rare and very beautiful, tiny firecrest. I've only ever seen one! Apparently, even some of the blackbirds that seem common in our gardens may actually have travelled here from Norway to spend a warmer Winter!

If you have a pond, it's worth putting a net over it to stop leaves blowing in and then decaying, which can reduce oxygen levels. Small amounts of leaves can be added to compost bins, whereas larger amounts are better mowed up and then stored in plastic sacks or other containers where they'll turn into leaf-mould to be used sometime next year as a mulch.

PADDOCK WOOD CHORAL SOCIETY

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday 10th December at 7.30pm

In St. Andrew's Church, Paddock Wood

There will be well known and not so well known carols, some with audience participation. We're delighted that the creative and versatile sackbut/trombone ensemble Beyond the Bell will be joining us as guest performers, playing music spanning the centuries!

Tickets are now available via the website:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/paddockwood>

via e-mail: tickets@paddockwood-choral.org.uk,

from the box office telephone: 01892 834814 or on the door.

We are also looking for members of all voice parts to join us. No auditions are required. We rehearse on a Tuesday evening from 7.45pm to 9.30pm in St. Andrew's Church, Paddock Wood. For further information please look on our website www.paddockwood-choral.org.uk or contact the Chairman at: chairman@paddockwood-choral.org.uk"

TESTON & WATERINGBURY PRE-SCHOOL

Inspiring young minds to grow and shine

We have been very busy with our book The Tree that's Meant to Be. We have been learning all about the seasons, nature, how things grow; we have included in our preschool reading corner books to compliment this. We are so lucky to have a beautiful large garden with trees; the children have seen the magic of autumn; how the leaves change and fall. We have collected leaves and used these in our artworks. We have also made Rangoli patterns, pumpkin painting, leaf printing, snowflake making, firework pictures and we are now planting Broad Bean Seeds; for the children to nurture and grow.

Our lending library is proving very popular with our children and parents, the children really do enjoy choosing their books and will often let me know when their library day is! We will be making Christmas decorations for our Christmas tree and decorating our preschool for the festive season. This we all enjoy immensely, especially our children. We have been rehearsing for our Christmas Concert which will take place in the last week of term.

From all of us at Teston and Wateringbury Preschool we wish you a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!! Thank You to: Farmers Farm Shop, Teston Stores and the Village Hall Committee.

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.

NOVEMBER PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

New CCTV Cameras at Playing Fields have been installed and give good quality images covering the Sports Pavilion and all the fields. More signs will be placed at the fields warning of the CCTV operations.

KCC and T&M Councillor Sarah Hudson reported on local matters including:

Traffic calming measures on A26 - a few snagging items were outstanding including the 40 signs on the road and 40 road signs.

Bollards had been put in place to stop parking on KCC amenity land.

Telecommunication Mast at the Cross Roads - the necessary planning permission to paint the mast has now been received.

Local Plan consultations - a well attended meeting had been held in the village hall to outline the process. 291 possible development sites had been received in the Borough. About 80% of these will be rejected as they do not meet the necessary criteria. The remaining 20% will be studied in detail and the final outcome of the consultations is expected next summer.

Village Christmas Tree - a large tree will be in place at the

junction of Bow Road and A26 and **the lights will be**

switched on at 4pm on 11th December. Sarah hopes

residents will come and sing some carols. **Play**

equipment at Playing Fields - councillors agreed to accept quotes from Playdale and Safeplay for the repair of various items of equipment. An official resolution was passed to allow

councillor Francis Fielding to act on its behalf and sign grant application forms. The Parish Council also needs to demonstrate that residents agree there is a need for new play equipment. An app will be set up to allow for an on-line survey to be completed.

Traffic matters - Speeding in the village envelope is still a major cause for concern. The police have attended several times with their speed safety camera van to monitor traffic speeds in the village and the Speed Watch team will continue with their monitoring sessions.

Planning Councillors had no objections to replacement of existing white softwood single glazed windows with new white softwood double glazed windows at Watermill Cottage, 7 Love Lane. –The application at Millmeadow House, 22 Mill Lane – erection of 14 solar modules - they left the decision to the Conservation Officer.

Retirement of Clerk Sue's final meeting will be on 15th November at the Finance meeting to discuss 2023/24's budget. However at the end of the general meeting several residents thanked her for all she has done for the village over the last 25 years.

Next Meetings to which members of the public are very welcome are **Tuesdays 6th December and 10th January** (note 2nd Tuesday) in the upper room of the village hall at 7.30pm.

Approved minutes of council meetings will appear on the Parish Council website www.wateringbury.pc.org.uk in due course

Copy of the Council's response to T&M Local Plan Consultation **Regulation 18 Local Plan – Consultation**

Wateringbury Parish Council objects to the development of all sites proposed in the local plan.

The objections should prevent all sites being considered as they all adversely impact most or all of the following:

- **Degradation of the Green Belt** and Green Wedges that surround the village. Breaching, removing or altering would result in the village merging with surrounding villages/local authority and remove and disrupt the identity of Wateringbury as a Village.
- The previous local plan stipulated that **no further development would occur in or around Wateringbury until 2030** due to the significant impacts on **air quality and pollution**. Subsequent investigations and reports now emphasise the impacts on human health even more so and we request the local plan continues to stipulate no development for a period of ten years or until such time that pollution is brought under control by effective traffic management.
- The traffic through Wateringbury **cross roads is already over capacity (at 24% capacity)** with further capacity increases projected with development already approved in neighbouring local authorities. Whilst TMBC continues to refuse to instigate a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – an ineffective S106 system is being exploited by developers. The residents of Wateringbury continue to see no local improvements as a consequence or in mitigation of development. The proposed further additions to the local plan would total nearly 3000 homes – quadrupling the size of Wateringbury Village. An already overburdened infrastructure would collapse - the local primary school and Doctors surgery are already at capacity.
- Any proposed expansion of Kings Hill such as the proposed 59699, continues to threaten Wateringbury Village with secondary access routes – leading traffic off Kings Hill – directly into the Wateringbury Village centre. Whilst these may allow developers to meet statutory requirements for Emergency Vehicle access – they will **disproportionately effect the surrounding areas**. For this reason Kings Hill has

clearly reached its geographical limit and further expansion should be refused and green wedges maintained / installed around its surrounds thus protecting 'Landscapes of Local value'

- Site number 59655 is within the Wateringbury Parish and would only have access via Teston and Ketrudge Lane – it is inappropriately/incorrectly listed as 'Kings Hill.'

For and on behalf of Wateringbury Parish Council – Planning Committee. As agreed in minutes dated 01st November 2022 **Mr P Gregson - Chairman**

DEVELOPMENTS IN WATERINGBURY

Like many of you I have submitted my opinion about the effects of possible housing developments in the Wateringbury area. I think it important to coordinate the way we respond to these proposals in the medium and long term. If you are like minded please contact me so that we can correspond and coordinate our efforts. Happy to be contacted by your preferred means. Dave Mitchelmore, 13 Tonbridge Road d.t.mitchelmore@gmail.com 07799 433874 / 01622 812391

REV GARY WRITES

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

The Light that Shines in the Darkness

Hard to believe we are already in December! We have a range of Christmas services lined up for Wateringbury, West Peckham and Mereworth. Details are available on the enclosed Christmas Card and our website: mwwpchurches.org.

Christingle services, crib services and services of Nine Lessons and Carols are probably the most popular in many churches. These are attended for all sorts of reasons but I've always thought the sense of cosiness, the stirring of childhood memories and the pleasure of singing well-known words all hold a great attraction for many people – they certainly do for me. Central to all Christmas services is the good news that light has come into the world with the birth of Jesus Christ. As John says in his Gospel:

No-one has ever seen God, but the One and Only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made him known. (John 1:18).

With the birth of Jesus there need be no more wondering about whether God exists, what He is like and what He thinks of us. With the birth of Jesus Christ, we are left in no doubt that God is with us, for us, on our side and there for each one of us. The light has come and it shines in the darkness.

For this reason, candlelight plays an important part in all church services but especially those at Christmas. But as you sit in the church and look at the candles I wonder if you would dare open up yourself to let the light that is Jesus shine into you? The Christmas services, with their carols and readings from the Bible, are designed as an aid to dispel the darkness that is within each of us. We shall not come to experience for ourselves all the truth and grace of Jesus until such time as we are prepared to have the darkness cast out of us. Jesus, who came to save His people from their sins, begins that work of salvation in each one of us when we accept His command to repent and believe the Good News. Perhaps this Christmas you might like to pray using the following verse of a much-loved carol:

*O Holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us we pray,
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born in us today.*

Wishing you all a very happy and blessed Christmas and New Year.

*Rev Gary Townsend Priest-in-Charge of Mereworth,
Wateringbury and West Peckham*

WATERINGBURY CHURCH SERVICES

SJB Church web site: www.wateringburychurch.org.uk

Benefice website www.mwwwpchurches.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)

We hope you can join us this Christmas.

In these Covid times at Communion Services the priest dips the wafers into the wine and gives one to each communicant.

Saturday 3rd Dec 3-5pm Messy Church (for young families)
Bible Story, Action Songs, Prayer time, lots of crafts ending with afternoon tea. Children will be making nativity scenes in shoe boxes to take home.

Sunday 4th Dec - 10am – Morning Praise led by
Barry Fisher

Sunday 11th Dec – 10am - Holy Communion with Rev Gary
Townsend

Tuesday 13 December - 2pm - Wateringbury School Carol Service *Our school celebrates the Christmas message.*

Thursday 15th December - 8pm –

Nine Lessons & Carols by Candlelight

led by Rev Gary *A candlelit service with traditional readings and carols.*

Sunday 18th December - 10am - All Age Worship

A less formal service that will include a Christingle celebration and members of Messy Church will present a Nativity tableau

Saturday 24th December - Christmas Eve

5pm - Crib Service led by Barry Fisher

A service for all ages where young children can help to fill our stable with the traditional visitors. Well-known carols for all to sing.

11pm - Midnight Communion led by Canon Brian Stevenson
A service that brings us into Christmas Day with Blessings and Communion

Christmas Day - 10am - Family Communion led by Rev Gary
Townsend

A less formal Communion and Blessings service. Children are invited to bring a favourite gift.

Wednesday 28th December - 10am – in Mereworth Church
Benefice Communion Service for Holy Innocents' Day led
by Rev Gary

SERVICES IN JANUARY 2023

1st January 2023 – 10am – Matins led by Barry Fisher

Saturday 7th January – 3-5pm - Messy Church

8th January – 10am - Holy Communion with Rev Gary

15th January – 10am - All Age Worship

22nd January – 10am – Holy Communion with Rev Gary

29th January – 10am – Benefice Holy Communion in
Wateringbury

This will be the only morning service in the benefice as Mereworth, Wateringbury and West Peckham worship together

REFLECT Benefice Services in Mereworth Church at 5pm
on

4th and 11th December, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th January. 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.

RING FOR THE KING

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.

Why stop at just ringing for the Coronation? We ring for services and special occasions and anniversaries. Other towers will always welcome a ringer who "just happens to be passing" and drops in for a ring, be it for a service or on a practice night. The Kent County Association of Change Ringers also arrange various ringing events.

So please call the above number to get involved with this traditional activity.

COFFEE BREAK

10.30-12.30 on Wednesdays December 14th and January 4th, 11th (at Brookside), 18th and 25th

We have one meeting in December and since many find January a dull month we will be meeting four times in January. Crafts are optional, many just come along for the company. We have a really pleasant morning meeting in the social area at the church, so do come along. On 11th January we shall be meeting for our annual trip to Brookside Garden Centre if you would like a lift please phone Gillian (01622 813076).

Thank you to all who supported our **MacMillan Coffee morning** on 2nd November, it was great to see so many people. An amazing **£300 was raised** for this charity which helps so many

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. *Gillian*

The Church of St John the Baptist remains at the heart of village life, and of course forms part of the Benefice with Mereworth and West Peckham, led by Rev'd Gary Townsend. We are blessed with a wonderful team who continue to ensure that we maintain services and other activities to enhance the life of our community, and we would like to thank them all. If you have not yet come to one of our events or services, please see those listed in Rostrum – we would love to welcome you. **We wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas, and every blessing in 2023.**

Peter Bond and Liz Gummer, Churchwardens

**ANGELS AND CRIBS
AT WATERINGBURY CHURCH
SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER
10.30am-4pm**

Pause for a while to enjoy:

Displays of Cribs, Nativity figures and Angels
of all shapes and sizes.

Drawings by children from our school for the
2022 Church Christmas card on display.

Light a Candle in Remembrance of a Loved One.

Leave a prayer on the Prayer Angel.

Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and angel cake.

All in the beautiful setting of the parish church.

**MESSY CHURCH 3rd DECEMBER and
7th JANUARY - 3-5pm**

We always end with afternoon tea

On 3rd December we will be focusing on the events of the First Christmas and making nativity scenes in shoe boxes.

On Saturday 8th January we are going to hear about the visit of the Wise Men and **celebrate our fifth birthday**. Young children and their carers are invited. Do come along you will be very welcome.

Ruth Dunn (01622 812342)

Twelfth Night Quiz still only £1 - this year's theme is Winter and Spring

From Jan Pursey ☎ 01622 814324. A family quiz to do with your Christmas Visitors. Completed quiz sheets to be returned before 12th Night – 6th January. Proceeds to church funds.

Rev Gary Townsend and the Worship Team at

Wateringbury Church pray that the Spirit of Christmas may bring you Peace and the Expectation of Christmas give you
Hope and Joy

CHRISTMAS CRAFT BAZAAR THANKS to all who came along to the Bazaar on 19th November and to all the stall holders and helpers. An amazing £1,275.37p was raised to help with the day to day running costs of our ancient village church.

FROM THE REGISTERS

**11th November – Burial of Ashes –
Geoffrey and Barbara Smith**