

## Welcome to the May issue of Wateringbury Village Magazine

### VILLAGE DIARY

#### MAY

- 2** **Parish Council meeting** – Hall - 7.30pm followed by Planning Committee
- 3** **Coffee Break** – Church – 10.30am-12.30pm
- 4** **Local Elections** voting at Village Hall
- 6** **Coronation of King Charles III** live on big screen TV – Church from 10.30am
- 7** **Footpaths walk** – meet outside Hall – 2.30pm
- 7** **Free Jazz concert** - Medway Wharf Marina from 2-4pm
- 10** **Footpaths walk** – meet outside Hall – 10am
- 13** **Wateringbury FC's** - Football Festival from 9.30am
- 17** **History Society** - Members' Wine and cheese evening
- 21** **Community Market** – Hall and Car Park – 11am-1pm
- 27** **Annual Plant Sale** – Churchyard - 10am-1pm

#### JUNE

- 4** **Footpaths walk** – meet outside Hall – 2.30pm
- 6** **Parish Council meeting** - Hall - 7.30pm followed by Planning Committee
- 11** **Village Fete** – Playing Fields – 12.30-5pm
- 21** **Victorian Street Life - History Soc talk** – Village Hall – 8 pm

### **The Wateringbury Summer Fete will be held on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June - 12.30 - 17.00, at the Wateringbury Playing Fields.**

The committee is working hard to make it a really fun event for the whole village. There will be a fun dog show, bouncy castle, face-painting, a band, as well as lots of stalls to browse! If you are interested in having a pitch, or would like to sponsor the event, please contact the committee on [wateringburyfetecommittee@gmail.com](mailto:wateringburyfetecommittee@gmail.com). Additionally, we are in need of raffle prizes, as well as volunteers to help on the day, so please do get in touch if you are able to help or donate anything. Sarah Tucker

**Free jazz concert** to celebrate King Charles' Coronation on the 7th May from 2-4 pm inside Medway Wharf Marina, Bow Bridge, Wateringbury, tel: 07736990485 . Please bring a chair.

#### **Defibrillator at Wateringbury rail station**

There is a defibrillator on the platform at Wateringbury station. It is accessible at all hours as there are no platform entry barriers. It is just to the left of the shelter that is next to the gap in the fence from the car park.

**VILLAGE PEOPLE** *Please let us have your news and tributes by 17<sup>th</sup> May for our June magazine. Entries are free*  
Email [www.rostrum2@hotmail.com](mailto:www.rostrum2@hotmail.com)

#### **RIP**

##### **TED BATES: 3 February 1930 – 10 March 2023**

Ted was semi-retired when he and Jane, his wife, moved to Wateringbury. In 2022, at the age of 92, he and Jane moved to a nursing home in Hawkhurst. Toward the end of that year, he was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease, after which his physical health declined rapidly. Despite this, he remained mentally agile, completing *The Times* Sudoku until a few weeks before his death.

During his 35 years residency in Wateringbury, Ted was an active contributor to community events and organisations. His interests included archaeology, history, theatre, travel, sailing and motorboating. He was Chairman of the Wateringbury History Society

and Treasurer of Rostrum. Both he and Jane were active members of the Play Reading Group.

During his working life, he was Chairman of a department store family business, Edward Bates Ltd., of Chatham, as part of a fourth generation. He became Chairman of the Medway Chamber of Commerce. As a Governor at The Medway Arts College, (known now as The University for the Creative Arts), students were able to exhibit their skills helping with shop window displays at the department store.

Ted enjoyed sketching, was a member of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS), known now as The Arts Society, and regularly attended Art Exhibitions. Anyone visiting his and Jane's home would have noticed walls covered in pictures.

He always found time to connect with people from different walks of life. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace while in his early thirties, and was involved in the funding, building, and commissioning of the Wisdom Hospice in Rochester. Other charitable connections were as diverse as Reprieve, RNLI, The British Red Cross, and Azalea (a charity helping people exit sex trafficking).

An early childhood illness (Tuberculosis), meant he spent much of his teenage years in hospitals. The discovery of antibiotics aided his recovery. Thereafter he was especially grateful to the medical professionals, giving his time to fundraise for hospital equipment. He was also on many committees promoting community good, including setting up a MIND fund raising group in Rochester, he as the initial Chairman and Jane as Secretary.

Ted and Jane regularly attended Saint John the Baptist Church in Wateringbury. Over the years, Ted led intercessions, helped with Alpha courses and where able participated with church maintenance. His faith and service were central to his life.

He will be missed by many, and not forgotten.

Vicky Puttock, Daughter

*Rostrum owes Ted a debt of gratitude. He was our treasurer for many years and a careful steward of resources. He initiated our Amenities Fund which allowed us to support local projects like the blue plaques, school library, church tower re-shingling and youth organisations.*

*Ted's vision and hard work, when he was chair of The History Society, led to the Village Stocks being re-instated next to the village lock-up.*

## **UKRAINE APPEAL CONTINUED ....**

The awful war in Ukraine continues, making people and animals homeless and driving hundreds out of their homes and even their country.

Thanks to all those villagers who have been exceptionally generous with donations. I assure you every single item is used; sent direct to Ukraine or the Hub in Tunbridge Wells or stock for their charity shop now open in Victoria Place, Tunbridge Wells.

We are particularly desperate for: hygiene medical products; long life food (tins etc.); animal food (dry and tins); flea and worming treatments and any animal items i.e. bedding, coats, leads, collars.

We're still sending warm clothing as well as spring clothing - not forgetting shoes, boots and children's wear.

Sam in Barming has made over 1,200 shoe boxes for children (and is continuing to do so!). These bring smiles to the faces of children still living in war torn areas and who have lost everything. Small items to fit in boxes for children up to age 16 are particularly needed.

Please continue to sort out your cupboards and clear your wardrobes ready for spring! Remember Ukrainians do not, and will not, have that luxury, for some time.

So many of you have been exceptionally generous (you know who you are!). But this horrendous war continues so please drop any and everything off to me. We can never have too much.

Any queries, please message me: Facebook; Messenger; email: [svmcollins@live.co.uk](mailto:svmcollins@live.co.uk) Thank you. Sue Collins

## **WATERINGBURY FLOWER CLUB**

In April our area demonstrator Helga Cukure from Canterbury club demonstrated her arrangements "From my drinks Cabinet". A very unusual title and a wonderful and inspirational demonstration gave us a burst of colour for spring. Members enjoyed the varied and colourful designs and a rush of extra raffle tickets were bought. Some lucky members went home with her lovely designs.

May is our workshop with the talented Graham King making various collars for use on containers - members are so looking forward to it.

*Jean Schofield Secretary WFC*

## **HISTORY SOCIETY**

Members and visitors have enjoyed interesting talks over the past months. May is our Members' Wine and Cheese evening at a local garden with a short talk by Terry Bird on interesting nearby properties.

At our meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> June the topic will be Victorian London Street Life and the speaker is Delia Taylor. It is also the Society's AGM, this formal process takes about 10 minutes so the talk will start at 8.15pm. It is the time when our chair and committee are elected and we are looking for volunteers to help in the coming year.

## **TESTON AND WATERINGBURY PRESCHOOL**

We have had another busy month in our preschool, although the weather has been gloomy and wet, we have still managed to get into our large garden and with Astro turf there's no muddy shoes!

The children have also enjoyed our soft play equipment. This encourages turn taking and motor development; children can crawl, step, climb and roll and it is heaps of fun.

We have also been very creative making Ladybird biscuits, Ladybird collages, Ladybird pebbles; all linked with our book "What the Ladybird Heard". We have also made Easter cards, decorated Easter pictures and played 'find the chick'. A very special visitor came to our preschool; the Easter Bunny popped in to say 'hello'! We had some very excited children.

We have also enjoyed our Yoga sessions. They improve balance, strength, endurance and aerobic capacity; while being calming and mindful.

In our role play area this month we have had a Police Station and an Easter kitchen.

The children took home a special treat for Easter. Mrs Lomas made a beautiful, yummy cupcake for each child, decorated with Bunnies and Chicks.

We now look forward to the next month and the exciting things to come. We'll tell you next time.

If you would like your child to be part of this amazing preschool 'family' we have limited places left for September so please be quick to avoid disappointment. Book your visit as soon as possible, details below:

[testonpreschooladmissions@gmail.com](mailto:testonpreschooladmissions@gmail.com) [tandwngroup@gmail.com](mailto:tandwngroup@gmail.com)  
Tina Driver 07805796353 See us on Facebook too.

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## **WATERINGBURY FOOTBALL CLUB**

Wateringbury FC are holding our 5th Football Festival on Saturday 13th May. The day promises to be great fun and we are hosting tournaments for girls and boys across numerous age groups. The day 'kicks off' at 9:30am and we start with the under 8 girls, under 9 boys, under 11 boys, under 12 boys and under 16 boys. The afternoon session begins at 2:30pm, when the under 9 girls, under 10 boys, under 12 girls, under 14 boys and under 18 boys take the stage. Since the introduction of the girls' academy into the club in November 2020, our membership numbers have boosted to over 200 children, of which over 40 are girl members.

We are very proud of our club and the talented children we have playing and representing the village each weekend. If you are free on the 13th please come along to the park and support the children. Whilst you are watching, perhaps even buy a cuppa and a bacon roll, to support the club funds. If you would like more information about the festival or the football club in general, please contact Tony Garrett 07890 053921, [tony@wateringburyfc.co.uk](mailto:tony@wateringburyfc.co.uk)

#### **DUKE OF KENT LODGE - FREEMASONS**

Wateringbury FC would like to express huge thanks to the Duke of Kent lodge for their generosity and kindness, for donating a cheque from the proceeds of their stall from last year's Wateringbury village fete. The much needed money will go towards next season's new equipment and kit for the children

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

**Announcements** – the vice chair Michael Wells announced the resignation, with immediate effect, of Chairman Patrick Gregson. For the April and May council meetings Councillor Wells was elected to chair the meetings and Frances Fielding elected to act as vice chair. It was explained that after the Council meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> May all councillors stand down as their 4 year term of office has come to an end. Along with all other T & M parish councils a new council will be formed. Wateringbury can have 9 parish councillors. If 9 or less eligible people put their names forward to serve on the parish council they will automatically become Parish Councillors for a term of 4 years. If more than 9 people put their names forward then an election will take place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May.

**Allotments** 4 plot holders had given up their allotments. 2 of these vacancies are being filled by those on the waiting list. **There are 2 vacant plots at the Old Road Allotments** offering the opportunity to grow your own fruit and veg in the peace of the allotments. To learn more please contact the Parish Clerk Steve on 07860 721924 or email [clerk@wateringburypc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@wateringburypc.org.uk)

**Crime Report** – the police web site showed there had been 6 violent or sexual crimes, 1 anti-social behaviour, 1 bike theft and 1 other theft. On 25<sup>th</sup> March several cars were stolen from a yard.

**Borough and County Councillor Sarah Hudson** reported that KCC had received promises of funding from central government over the next 3 years to help protect the local bus network and transport to schools. Some of this funding will be used to subsidise school bus passes so the cost for the school year 2023/24 will remain the same as this year. 14,000 potholes had been repaired and 68 sq metres had been patched. £6m had been received from central government for road repairs.

**Roads** – Councillors were disappointed with KCC's responses to its roads action plan. KCC appears to have withdrawn its support for the 20mph limit in Bow Road which had been previously agreed. Councillor Hudson and the Parish Council will seek to have this decision reversed and the limit implemented.

Problems with cars jumping the lights- KCC are prepared to fund 2 cameras to monitor the junction and the Parish Council agreed to fund 2 more cameras so that all directions would be surveyed.

**CCTV at Fields** - It was agreed to fund 2 more static cameras and for all 4 cameras to be protected by cages to prevent a reoccurrence of damage by vandals. Another litter bin had been overturned and set on fire. The clerk was asked to investigate replacing litter bins with fireproof ones.

**Enhanced DB checks** are needed for the parish clerk and the 2 village wardens at a cost of £50 per person. It was agreed that these should be carried out.

**Speed Watch** - the village co-ordinator David Merry gave a report to the council on various equipment which may be available to purchase to help record the number of vehicles speeding through the village.

### **Planning Applications**

The application to convert the loft space at Claremont House, Tonbridge Road into a residential unit has been refused by T & M.

Councillors had no objections and will be guided by the Listed Buildings Officer to plans at Oakenwood Cottage, 243 Red Hill for a ground floor rear extension and associated internal alterations, installation of first floor shower room and rooflight to the rear, dormer window to the rear and demolition of existing garage structure and erection of replacement double garage. Replace section of the boundary wall to north.

Councillors could not comment on application TM/23/00648/FL at former Cromar Nursery as the documents were not available on the T & M website and hard copies of plans are no longer sent out to Parish Councils.

**Next meeting** will be held in the Upper Room of the village hall on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 7.30pm. Members of the public are very welcome.

*Approved minutes of council meetings will appear on the Parish Council website [www.wateringburypc.org.uk](http://www.wateringburypc.org.uk) in due course*

### **Wateringbury Parish Councillors 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023-2027**

Along with nearly all T & M Parish councils there is no need for an election on 4<sup>th</sup> May for Parish Councillors. Wateringbury is allowed 9 parish councillors and 9 eligible people put their names forward to serve our community as parish councillors so the election is uncontested. Our councillors will be: Kamal Dave, Bob Edmunds, Frances Fielding, Sarah Hudson, Stuart Mathieson, Geraint Owen, Linda Simons, Mandy Thwaites and Michael Wells.

**Thank you from the Jazz Advocates** to everyone who came along to their Charity Jazz Concert in the village hall on 26<sup>th</sup> March. An amazing £800 was raised for the MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Charity

### **FROM OUR MP TOM TUGENDHAT**

The coronation of a new King is a moment of celebration. Only a few of us remember the last time this happened but all of us know we're ready for a fresh start. After swearing to serve our Late Queen as a soldier and an MP, I will always be an Elizabethan at heart, but seeing King Charles take the throne will be a moment of great joy for many in our community.

For me it will be a moment when we remember what makes us a blessed nation. In the United Kingdom, we have been lucky to have two things that make us safer and happier - a ruler who serves, and confidence in the future. The King, and his mother Queen Elizabeth, have helped to give us that as symbols of continuity in a changing world.

It has been an honour to be a part of the preparation for the day in my role as Security Minister. I'm sure that this will be a generation defining moment in our history and I am sure that for many of us the celebrations will mark an important moment in our lives. Many events around our towns and villages will bring people together and I hope to see as many of you as possible.

The Coronation reminds us how special this country is, and how our communities across the UK can come together to celebrate

and share stories. I know it is a day that I will never forget, and I'm sure you won't either.

Amongst all the excitement, I look forward to seeing many of you out and about in our community over the coming weeks and months. I am truly lucky to represent everybody across Tonbridge & Malling.

## **WATERINGBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL**

What a busy time we have been having in our school in the spring terms! Although the weather has not yet been too springlike, we have been making plans for developing our outdoor area. The children have been inspired by our Christian value of forgiveness this term and have come up some beautiful designs for a forgiveness garden of our own. Thanks to a generous community grant from South East Water and the expert fundraising skills of FOWPS (Friends of Wateringbury Primary School) we will also be able to develop our wildlife garden and ponds. Please contact us if you have any expertise in landscaping and would like to help.

In the classrooms, children have been learning about space (including an exciting visit from an astrodome), making healthy food, finding out about the geography of North America, playing handball, learning about India and developing portrait drawing skills. On top of all this phenomenal learning there have been so many opportunities for exciting activities. Our pupils were involved in some amazing performances: Year 5 wrote and expertly performed their own version of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* having been inspired by their visit to The Globe theatre. Years 3 and 4 treated us to a fabulous musical performance of 'The Selfish Giant' with brave soloists and beautiful costumes. Years 5 and 6 enjoyed being part of the eight thousand strong Young Voices choir at the O<sub>2</sub> Arena. Year 4 have been to the National Gallery and KS1 were visited by some amazing animals and were very brave holding snakes and lizards.

If you would like to join our school or are interested in volunteering, please contact the school office. We would love to welcome you to our school.

Debbie Johnson (Headteacher).

Website: [www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk](http://www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk) Phone: 01622 812199

## **FOOTPATH GROUP**

Our two walks in April both took the same route in fine weather, which probably encouraged the good turnout. It was lovely to see so many people enjoying the countryside while having a good chat and meeting new people. I hadn't had a chance to check how muddy the footpaths had got after recent rain, so I chose a route that was a combination of good footpaths and our lovely quiet local lanes. We followed Mill Lane from the pond to The Roundels and on along footpaths to the bottom of Gibbs Hill. Turning up the hill we took a detour via Rock Farm, continuing to climb and, as so often, heard and then saw skylarks high above us. From the top of Gibbs Hill we walked down through Pizien Well, along the way we enjoyed fine views, admired some beautiful spring gardens and even found some early bluebells flowering. Next month I'm hoping our route will include more bluebell woods as they should be at their best in early May.

Our next walks will be leaving the village hall at:

2.30pm on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May,      10.00am on Wednesday  
10<sup>th</sup> May,

2.30pm on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June

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

Lisa Dean 077 5953 9032

## **FIRST WATERINGBURY GUIDES**

Our Mother's Day meal for the girls' mums was very successful and we had 24 ladies attend and be waited on by the guides. A choice of Sausage and Potato bake or Ratatouille and pasta was followed up with Eton mess or steam pudding all made by the girls. Hayleigh Deadman was also presented with her Going Away licence having run our indoor holiday in October 2022. She intends to take one more module and run our outdoor camp in July.

Baden-Powell stated that Scouting and Guiding is a game to be played out of doors and we intend to take him literally this term wherever possible. I'm still finalising the programme but we have booked Paddle boards and pedaloos, as well as dragon boat racing and kayaking at Mote Park, we're going to Lower Grange Farm at Sandling to try zorbing, go karting and the cavebus although some of these are subject to the great British weather!

We've a water fun day booked at Tonbridge involving canoeing, rafting, paddle boarding, and motor boats as well as a sailing day at Haysden Lake in Tonbridge. We hope to do some outdoor cooking at Mereworth and most importantly we're going to be doing a lot of camp preparation as we have a back-to-basics camp at the beginning of the school holidays. This is at Paxwood near Swanley and is camping in the traditional green ridge tents, and cooking on wood fires. We hope to have fun with water, rope bridges, zip wires, wide games and anything else the girls would like to try.

We do have a few 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

[wateringburyguides@hotmail.com](mailto:wateringburyguides@hotmail.com)

Sheena Stewart and team. 1<sup>st</sup> Wateringbury Guides

## **WATERINGBURY & NETTLESTEAD PRE-SCHOOL AND OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB**

We have had a busy term exploring the start of spring with the children. Our little gardeners have helped with clearing up all the autumn leaves with little wheelbarrows, removing old plants to plant new seeds. The children have been learning about life cycles of plants, looking at the different size/texture of seeds, noticing changes of when the seeds suddenly become plants with tiny little roots.

The children have also been exploring the lifecycle of frogs, observing frogspawn turning into little tadpoles in our little pond. They have used books and sensory play to help extend their learning further. In Term 5 we will be getting little caterpillars to look at the life cycle of a butterfly, exploring the similarities and differences.

A local author visited the setting, reading her book to the children and doing some fun creative activities afterwards, where the children had to make their own puppets and masks for a puppet show using instruments.

Towards the end of term, the children joined our Spring/Easter activities. They took part in an egg decorating competition. The eggs were creatively decorated at home, which the children brought into the setting to share with their friends and get a prize for the best decorated egg. They also joined in with making Easter/Spring bonnets, which they paraded around to their friends. The term ended with making yummy little chocolate spring treats and going on an Easter egg hunt finding little hidden eggs everywhere. Nisha Reed 01622 813120 [manager@nwps.org.uk](mailto:manager@nwps.org.uk)

## **GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE**

'No Mow May' is here again and we are asked not to mow our lawns or at least a section of them, for at least this month. If you can leave it until August, even better, as this will allow any wildflower seeds to continue to bloom and set seed, giving you (and the bees), more flowers to enjoy next year. This will also provide a shelter for a range of other insects and, as we are becoming increasingly aware, insects and other invertebrates form a vital part of our ecosystem, supporting all other forms of wildlife and ultimately ourselves! So, consider taking your 'poisons' to the recycling centre and allow the balance to return to your green spaces. I haven't used any insecticides for over ten years and have no major issues with so called 'garden pests'. Our gardens combined, make up more acreage than all our national parks so, as gardeners, we can make a positive difference to the state of our planet.

Another way of supporting bees and other insects is by planting a range of nectar rich plants. There are so many to choose from but at present, the bright colours of pulmonaria (lungwort) is attracting the bees in my garden along with the heathers and flowering bulbs. Early butterflies such as the bright yellow brimstone, are

emerging from hibernation and are also seeking nectar rich flowers such as primroses, sweet william, and forget-me-nots. Whilst later in the year, herbs including marjoram, thyme, lavender, sage and fennel attract bees, butterflies and a range of other beneficial insects.

Our garden birds are busy rearing their young and although we should continue to feed them, they will be harvesting hundreds of small caterpillars from nearby trees whilst the first swifts and swallows should now be arriving and catching a range of insects whilst on the wing.

All this helps to maintain the balance of nature, whilst enriching our lives.      Pauline Knutton



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## **WATERINGBURY CELEBRATES THE KING'S CORONATION IN 1902**

King Edward VII, then aged 59, succeeded Queen Victoria, to the throne in 1901 following his mother's long reign. His coronation was in 1902, a year and a half after his succession.

The Wateringbury village magazine published a long article about the village's coronation festivities which were held in conjunction with Nettlestead. This can be read by *googling* "Wateringbury Local History Society" and putting "Coronation festivities (1902)" in the search box.

Participation in the festivities was high. The two villages in 1901 had a combined population of 1,950 (including children) and 907 adults ate a lunch at a cost of 2 shillings each (10p in today's currency). 496 teas at 6d (2.5p) were served to the children.

A lot of money was spent. The total spend was reported as £188, but this does not include many items given for free. All the service at lunch was undertaken by volunteers. To get an approximate current worth multiply 1902 prices quoted by 150.

The brewers who lived in Wateringbury supported the festivities extensively. Wateringbury Place usually was made available to the village for important events, but, in 1902, it was between owners. Richard Fremlin of the Maidstone brewers, Fremlin, living in Brooms Down in Mill Lane, was a generous donor to the event contributing money (£30 - equivalent to about £4,500 today), and "a well bound little volume which was put into every house in the village." The Wateringbury brewers, Jude Hanbury and Leney, both contributed £20 (£3,000 today) and Augustus Leney allowed a large field near the railway station to be used for the sports, and his large malshouses, for the serving of the lunch prepared by the nearby Railway Hotel.

Multiple large committees were formed to organise the festivities with the vicar chairing the most important ones. The day started with a service at the Church attended by all the local Friendly Societies in full regalia. Then there were sports for the children and later the adults, with plenty of prizes. A band played music and there were roundabouts, swings, Punch and Judy, and much more.

The day closed with dancing and fireworks. The vicar was happy as "excess of all kinds was absent." Terry Bird

### **Tonbridge and Malling Ramblers**

For details of all our mid-week and Sunday walks, start times and locations, and walk leader contacts, see [www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk](http://www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk).

**Hadlow bowls club** are having an Open Day on Sunday 28 May, 10.30 - 3.30. Come along and have a go. The only requirement is to wear flat soled shoes. For more information look at [www.hadlowbowls.co.uk](http://www.hadlowbowls.co.uk).

### **REV GARY WRITES**

*The Rectory, 72 The Street, Mereworth ME18 5NA*  
[gary.rev@outlook.com](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.mwwpchurches.org)

Church Face Book Page: [fb.me/wateringburychurch](https://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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:gary.rev@outlook.com) for the link to the meeting.

**SPRING CRAFT FAIR IN MEREWORTH CHURCH**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March - 11.30am-2pm**

**Interesting Stalls**

**Delicious Refreshments, Raffle and Cake Stall**

**COFFEE BREAK - 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March and 5<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29th March and 5<sup>th</sup> 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 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.wateringburychurch.org.uk) for form or email [easterfun@wateringburychurch.org.uk](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Teston Village Hall &**  
**Churchyard**  
**2.30pm**  
**Grab yourself a bargain**  
**Proceeds in aid of Teston church**