

**Welcome to the May issue of
Wateringbury Village Magazine.**

VILLAGE DIARY

MAY

- 1 Footpaths Bluebell Walk** – meet Village Hall –
2.30pm
- 3 Annual Parish Council Meeting** – Village Hall
- 7.30pm followed by Planning Committee
- 7 Annual Plant Sale** – Churchyard **10am – 1pm**
- 12 Footpaths Bluebell Walk** – meet at Village
Hall – 10am
- 14 4th Football Festival** – Playing Fields – 9.30 am
onwards
- 15 Community Market** – Village Car Park and Hall
– 12-2pm
- 17 Annual Parish Meeting** – Village Hall – 7.30pm
- 21 School Art Exhibition** – Church - 10am-2pm
Every pupil at the school will have artwork on
display

JUNE

- 2, 3, 4 Jubilee Flower Festival** –Church –
10.30am-4pm
- 4 Jubilee Fun at the Fields** – bring your own
picnic 4-10pm
- 7 Parish Council Meeting** - Village Hall -
7.30pm
Followed by Planning Committee
- 19 Village Fete & Market** – Playing Fields –
12.30- 5pm

**WATERINGBURY C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL
ART EXHIBITION**

Every pupil at Wateringbury C of E Primary School
will be showing their work in an

**Art Exhibition to be held in St John the Baptist
Church, Wateringbury on Saturday 21st May 10am
to 2pm**

A short 'Service of Celebration' will then be held
involving some pupils, and will include the presentation
of prizes donated by the Church. Prizes will be given
for the best three Key Stage exhibits
and the overall winner. Refreshment will be available
on the day.

**Please come along and support your local Primary
School**

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Saturday May 7th

**At the Church of St John
the Baptist, Wateringbury**

From 10am to 1pm

**QUEEN'S
70TH JUBILEE
FLOWER
FESTIVAL
AT WATERINGBURY
CHURCH**

**10.30am to 4pm
Thursday 2nd June
Friday 3rd June
Saturday 4th June**
Light Refreshments Available



SATURDAY 4TH JUNE

4pm-10pm

Wateringbury Playing Fields

FREE ENTERTAINMENT

Live Band and DJ

26ft All-Age Bouncy Castle

BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC

Paying Bar and Beer tent

VILLAGE PEOPLE *Please let us have your news and tributes by 17 May for our June magazine. Entries are free. Email www.rostrum2@hotmail.com or phone 01622 812566*

Congratulations to Sylvia and Lee Stevens on the arrival in Pembury Hospital on 9th March of their **granddaughter Ruby Violet Shelton** who weighed in at 7lbs 4oz and, of course, to parents Christian and Sophie.

Martin and Debra Cronk are pleased to announce the births of their 2nd, 3rd and 4th grandchildren! **Max Henry Spencer Morgan** 13/12/2017 and **Winter Grace Morgan** 30/3/2022, a brother and sister for Ivy; Charlotte and Justin's children.
Pip Sylvia Barbara King 24/5/2021 a daughter for Kate and Chris.

Belated Platinum Birthday congratulations to Gill Smith for 16th April.

Diamond (60th) Wedding Anniversary congratulations to Elinor and Vivian Rubin who married on 2nd June 1962 at Hazlemere Parish Church, Buckinghamshire

Thank you to Watringbury Players for their highly entertaining Pantomime Alice in Wonderland last month. All the cast were superb – well done and thank you for brightening village life as well as raising funds for charity.

RIP - Louise MontebelloGreen (3 May 1967 – 12 March 2022)

A devoted mum and wife, and a warm and caring friend to many – that's how we will remember Louise, who passed away suddenly at the Heart of Kent Hospice on 12th March after a courageous battle with cancer.

Born and raised in Catford, Louise was a qualified nursery nurse, working in various childcare settings in the Catford and Lewisham areas. She met Paul, her soulmate, in 1983 and they moved to Grove Park and then Blackfen, before marrying in 1992. Louise was born to be a mum and gave up work in 1997 to start and raise a family. She moved to Watringbury in 2001 and loved village life. Louise made friends easily with her welcoming smile, sense of humour and easy conversation. She supported many village organisations, community activities and social groups and, consequently, had a wide circle of friends. Family and friends remained her passions throughout her life. Louise doted on her two sons, Barney and Alfie, and was so incredibly proud of them both.

Louise's funeral took place on 25th April at Vinters Park Crematorium, followed by a celebration of her life at the Tudor Park Marriott Hotel & Country Club. Rest in peace Louise. You were taken from us far too soon but you have reminded us all of the importance of holding family and friends close and that life is always better when there is tea in the pot and when you're wearing flip flops.

From those privileged to have known Louise and proud to say they were her friend.

RIP - 9th Viscount Falmouth, George Hugh Bowcawen, of Tregothnan, died peacefully at his home in Cornwall on 7th March in his 103rd year. His funeral service took place in Truro Cathedral on 5th April. Tregothnan Estates own land and properties in Watringbury, Mereworth and surrounding area.

WATERINGBURY SUMMER FETE

After a few years' absence Watringbury summer fete is back on! **The event will be held on Sunday 19th June at the Playing Fields, Fields Lane, from 12.30pm to 5pm (on-site parking available).**

There are a wide variety of stalls to browse. Plus a raffle with a first prize of £150 and many more excellent prizes, a not too serious dog show, live music, an ice cream van, a BBQ, a beer tent, face painting, beat the goalie, kids obstacle course, a flower and produce competition, a bouncy castle and much more! Bring some cash as not all stallholders accept cards. A fun, local day out for all the family!

Kindly sponsored and supported by:

KCC, Bodyfixnix20, River Medway Canoes, John Bennett Billiards,

The Pawsome Parlour, Diamond Kite Electrical, Tapestry (Creative media production agency), CIP Puppy Training, Rostrum magazine,

Nepicar Groundcare Ltd and Watringbury Parish Council.

Any queries please contact:

Watringburyfetecommittee@gmail.com

Nicola Plane – Chair – Watringbury Fete Committee

**LOOK OUT FOR YOUR FETE PROGRAMME IN JUNE'S
ROSTRUM**

WE ARE THE LIGHT a choral concert **by Vox Populi
Singers**

Saturday 7th May at 7pm in Mereworth Church

Conductor James M Meaders - Accompanist Jerome
Sadler

A creative programme of music to bring light and hope
to our souls

Tickets £15 on the door

Refreshments available before and after concert

WATERINGBURY FOOTPATH GROUP

**In May our walks will be leaving the Village
Hall on: Sunday 1st May at 2.30pm and Thursday
12th May at 10am**

We hope we will find bluebells in the woods, it's a sight that for me is the highlight of the year. Everyone is welcome and you don't need to let me know in advance if you're coming. But if you haven't been for a group walk with me, please feel free to contact me so I can keep you updated about our plans.

In April we had two group walks both led by Dave. The first was the traditional afternoon walk on the first Sunday of the month. The other was a mid-week walk for people who are busy with other things at the weekends and for those walkers who enjoyed the Sunday walk so much they want to do it again!

Lisa Dean 077 5953 9032

WATERINGBURY FOOTBALL CLUB

Watringbury FC are holding our **4th Football Festival on Saturday 14th 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 13 boys and under 15 boys. The afternoon session begins at 2pm, when the under 8 boys, under 9 boys and girls, under 10 boys, under 11 girls 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 170 children and by the end of 2022 we expect this figure to surpass the 200 mark. 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 14th 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@watringburyfc.co.uk

NETTLESTEAD AND WATERINGBURY PRESCHOOL

This month we began by exploring maths and science. The children used stop watches to see who could run the fastest, and seeing if they could improve their time with each race. They used tape measures to measure how far they had safely thrown their welly boot. We used our numbicon shapes to fit into larger shapes such as a fish!

The following week we looked at different countries of the world. The countries included Portugal, China, Australia, and America. We also looked at Italy where the children made their very own yummy pizzas choosing from a selection of their favourite toppings which they took home to eat! With the weather improving on sunny days we visited the park and had our very own barbeque. On the menu the children enjoyed hot dogs cooked by the staff with a fruit cocktail to finish!

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE – The WI Inspiring Women

At the April meeting gardening enthusiast Mr Chris Stewart of Sevenoaks gave his talk on The Good, The Bad, The Ugly and The Beautiful referring to the huge variety of flora and fauna to be found in our gardens. This talk was supported by some very fine photographs. The competition winner was Gillian Sessions with Stroma Richardson and Sandy Parker as runners up.

Our May meeting will be the AGM with the appointment of Officers and Committee and a chance to discuss the 2022 Resolution. The meeting will be followed by a cream tea. This meeting is for members only.

Too much month at the end of the money?

At the present time day to day living is difficult if you are a low earning household or on benefits. With inflation running at a thirty year high, and this is not set to improve anytime soon, with issues such as the war in Ukraine which will affect our food prices, another energy price increase in October and fuel prices etc. It literally means, for some families, heating or eating. If you are desperate and finding you cannot cope with rising monthly expenses there is help available to you.

Household Support Fund

This is a £1 billion fund giving hard pressed households support for essentials such as food, utilities and clothing. A third of this pot is dedicated to pensioners. You need to apply through your local council.

Food Banks

We have many food banks within a short distance. The rules for entry to these facilities have now changed and you can now self refer.

Look on Kent.gov.uk, go to the home page and put into the search engine "nearest food bank". Alternatively contact Age UK or Citizens Advice.

Mike Williams

FIRST WATERINGBURY GUIDES

Our trip to Prison Island preceded by a chip shop survey was a success and there was general agreement on which chips were best. (Note to the losing vendor – don't try and kid the girls with cheap ketchup!). But our trip so nearly didn't happen – at 5.00 on the Friday it became clear that due to the sudden implementation of Operation Brock on the M20,

the motorway traffic was stationary, so was the A20 and there was a knock on effect on the A26. As quite a few girls come from Kings Hill an instant decision was made to get the train into Maidstone from Watlingbury and come back the same way.

Trying to get around 18 tickets out of the machine before the train arrived was tricky and it was literally printing the last one as the train stopped and the doors opened. Once in Prison Island, the girls tackled the different rooms and challenges with varying levels of success. Naturally the leaders had a go too and it only seemed right and proper to let at least two of the guide's teams beat us.....!

The programme for the busiest term of the year is ready, the venues are booked, and the information issued to the girls. So it's onwards and upwards (literally) for raft building, paddle boarding and pedaloes, Sky Trail and Dino Golf, wide games, tent pitching, cowboy jubilee hats, and hopefully some sailing too.

Are you an adult that would secretly like to try some or all of these? We could take more girls if we have more leaders whether in uniform or just as a unit helper so please do come and join the fun and have something valuable to add to your CV. Please contact me on 01622 815416 or email to sheenastewartx3@gmail.com.
Sheena Stewart and team.

GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

Firstly, thank you to those of you that attended my Open Garden, we were so lucky with the weather and all our visitors showed a genuine interest in wildlife gardening which was very heartening.

The baby hedgehogs were again the main attraction but after them, the pond raised the most interest. It's not looking at its best at present as the water lilies have yet to cover the surface and the recent sunlight has caused algae blooms. The advice is to aim at covering approximately two thirds of the pond's surface with a mix of free floating and fixed root aquatic plants which should alleviate this problem. Regardless of this, visitors were fascinated with the tadpoles, or toadpoles, as mine all are, and I answered lots of questions about them along with ones relating to toads, frogs and newts.

As I've mentioned in previous editions, this month is 'No Mow May', when we are advised to leave even a small area of lawn unmowed, for at least a month. This will provide an additional habitat for wildlife, especially insects and any wild flowers that grow through will also provide a source of nectar and pollen.

Those of you that viewed my long grass area will know that creating a meadow isn't as easy as it sounds and my soil is too rich and the grass too strong. However, I plant bulbs, particularly fritillaries and other wild flowers into it and have allowed the dandelions to flourish at least until they start to set seed and the area still attracts pollinators. I will try a variety of the suggestions that some of you made as to how to move more towards a meadow in the Autumn such as an extra cut and scarify just before Christmas and have another go with yellow rattle. I'll let you know how I get on!
Pauline Knutton

WATERINGBURY SCOUT GROUP

Well, we've all been busy doing the usual scouty stuff, but I'll concentrate on just one section this month - the amazing Beavers!

Just before the Easter break the leaders awarded over 150 badges to the Beavers who worked so hard this term on a number of badges like international, money, first-aid and navigators to name but a few. WELL DONE, fantastic achievements for all, and starting young on building many skills-for-life.

At this special meeting, our District Commissioner also attended to thank Tudor for his long service to the unit. Tudor is now moving on to other roles in the group and further his career. THANK YOU Tudor, you know you are always welcome to pop your head in at Scouting events! And I've just seen the programme for the Beavers next term – packed full! Games, camp-fire, knots, investitures. Hang on, isn't one of the leadership team also walking the Three Peaks in 3 days?! Inspiring and incredible energy all round from our youngest section.

Hazel, Assistant Explorer Scout Leader

MESSAGE FROM THE WATERINGBURY PLAYERS .

So we have gathered up the costumes, packed away the greasepaint and are taking a well earned rest. But we wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support for our panto, Alice in Wonderland. This panto was one of the hardest pantos to plan as we were dealing with results of the pandemic and the ever changing restrictions . . . but against all odds we did it! We all thoroughly enjoyed bringing the panto to the local community and know from your feedback that you enjoyed it as much as we did. This year we are also planning **a show in October:**

CEMENT! The Musical - written by Jonathan Overell. This will be a Dickensian spoof set in Wateringbury and Snodland. We will perform it at the church and the dates are Thursday 6th to Saturday 8th October 2022. More details to follow nearer the time – hope to see you there.

FLOWER CLUB

April was a different month for us as for a change we had an Area Speaker with a talk "The Magical and Mysterious World of Bees" it was a most enjoyable evening.

In May, members will be treated to a demonstration called Natures Pharmacy - a wonderful demonstration by Kent Area demonstrator and winner of the Chelsea Gold Medal 2021 and Best in Show for this installation, Trudi Easton, a member of Sheldwich Flower Club - Trudy only started demonstrating in 2018 and has been setting high standards ever since - a meeting not to be missed.

Our club has been lucky enough to be asked to take part in the Jubilee Flower Festival Celebrations in June for Wateringbury and we look forward to producing something special for this - I hope members will come and support it.
Jean Schofield, WFC

TESTON & WATERINGBURY PRE-SCHOOL

Our focus for Term 5 is based around the book 'The Queen's Hat' by Steve Antony. We will be learning about our Queen in her platinum year with this charming book. The children will learn about the sights of London and the Queen, her corgis, and her hat! As this book comes to a close, the children will consolidate their learning of London and our Queen with a celebration in our garden to mark her Platinum year. In our craft corner the children will be designing a hat for the Queen, using different resources to make their own Tower Bridge, and drawing a map of London.

All families will be encouraged to take part in our 'walk to school week' from Monday 16th May. This five-day walking challenge is part of a national challenge to help children stay fit and healthy by encouraging them to walk or cycle to school. We will finish off our term making sandwiches and cakes for our Queen's Jubilee Garden tea party for all the children to enjoy. If you are interested in joining our pre-school, please contact Tina Driver on 07805 796353 or email tandwngroup@gmail.com

APRIL PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The Public Discussion time was brought forward to the start of the meeting to see if this was more convenient for members of the public.

Borough and County Councillor Sarah Hudson reported on various issues of local concern. Her report appears in full on the next page.

Cemetery Car Park - the clauses requested by the landowner in respect of the purchase of the facility were generally agreed with the exception of one or two clauses.

Cemetery – Councillors are considering the feasibility of creating a Jubilee Memorial Garden at the cemetery.

On-line Banking – after discussion it was unanimously agreed to proceed with the process required to enable this method of payment of invoices, etc. to be used.

Playing Fields - it was agreed to re-stone some of the track to fill in potholes which had appeared over winter. It was hoped that the overflow car park would be used on a regular basis to reduce congestion in surrounding roads on match days.

Play equipment - it was possible to move the fencing from the bottom play area to the top area and for the bottom area to be returned to an open grassed area.

Traffic matters – Councillors had held an informative meeting with Kent Highways officers. Our local PCSO had conducted speed checks in the village in support of our volunteer speedwatch teams.

Communication of information to residents was discussed and ways to improve keeping residents informed were suggested.

Allotments - Councillors expressed their thanks to Cathie Wallis for her long service in being the liaison between

allotmenters and the council. Cathie is standing down from this role and the Clerk will shortly meet with Ann Hipps who is taking over this role. There are at present 7 people on the waiting list for allotments.

Village Warden – there are three applicants for this role. Interviews will be arranged when it was hoped an appointment would be made.

Planning – Councillors had no objections to the general application and Listed Building Application for conversion of part of existing outbuilding into a one bedroom annex for ancillary use in connection with the farmhouse at Canon Court, 312 Canon Lane

The Annual Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday 3rd May at 7.30pm in the Upper Room of the Village Hall.

The Annual Parish Meeting which gives residents the opportunity to discuss matters of local concern on an informal basis is on **Tuesday 17th May 7.30pm**. Councillors (who are all volunteers) welcome the attendance and support of local residents. *Approved minutes of these meeting will appear on the Parish Council website www.wateringburypc.org.uk in due course.*

NEWS FROM OUR BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR SARAH HUDSON

I am in contact with both TMBC and Kent Police about the "abandoned" vehicle on Bow Road. They each keep referring me to each other. At the end of the day, as the vehicle does not have a valid MOT, an offence is being committed, as no MOT invalidates the insurance. I have now gone back to Kent Police and await their response.

The Jubilee Picnic Celebrations are on Saturday 4th June, 4pm to 10pm down at the playing fields. I have organised a live band, DJ, bouncy castle and beer tent, as well as a horse box wine bar, and a visit from the ice cream van. A temporary event notice has been agreed by the council, and additional bins are being provided. Residents are asked to bring their own picnic and gazebo - in the hope that the weather is good!

The Community Market is back on Sunday 15th May, as the third Sunday in April was Easter Sunday, so was not held. The market has grown in size and now occupies both inside the village hall as well as the car park. Please do support local food producers, and remember you don't have to drive!

The Village Fete is on Sunday 19th June from 12.30 - 5pm. This includes a flower and produce show, and a dog show. We have the Kent Invicta Jazz band and lots of stalls. The community market is also on this date, so all stalls will be on the field. We hope everyone will come out to support us, and enjoy the day. The cricket club is once again running the BBQ, so lots of things for residents!

Following a lot of lobbying from myself, the installation company for the mobile phone mast have agreed to paint the cabinets a less intrusive colour. Green is what has been requested and the paperwork is being put together to be submitted to TMBC planning. The installation company are paying for this.

The start date for the traffic calming measures and pavement installations is 23rd May, and should take 5 weeks approximately. Following the successful speed reduction Traffic Regulation Order, reducing the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph, along from Pizien Well Road to the village edge, the village gateways and improved road signage will start to go up.

Additionally, I am able to fund some planters that would sit on the Kent Highways land at Lodge Close and Love Lane entrances, and am investigating the possibility of some hanging baskets along the railings of Wateringbury Place too, which I would also buy. The premise is that I would seek sponsorship from village businesses (£25 per annum) for each planter to cover the cost of summer bedding plants each year.

I have funded the replacement Tommy for the bottom of Canon Lane, and this will be put up soon - just waiting on some replacement posts.

A Solar Farm is being built alongside the A228 opposite Kings Hill, generating enough electricity to power every house on Kings Hill.

At a recent scrutiny committee meeting, the issue of unaccompanied asylum seeking children was discussed. In recent years, the number in January was on average 12 for the month. This year it was 108, and in the first week of March alone was 28. This is having a significant impact on suitable resources and has involved multi agency support across multiple authorities. But it gives an indication on the scale of the problem.

WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

It is hard to believe that we are about to start the summer term, the last term of the academic year. Whilst this is the first time in over two years that schools have been open for the whole academic year, it has been far from a normal year. The children have been working so hard and we have had a fantastic spring term.

As ever, the children have enjoyed their learning this term whether they have been writing stories about superheroes, experiencing elements of life in India, creating Mayan artefacts, designing magnetic games or inventing genetically modified creatures! The school has been alive with creativity.

The term ended on a real high with our Easter Performance by the children in years three and four. It was joyful to hear children singing and to be able to have parents in school to watch their children perform. We were all so proud of them – the singing was beautiful and portrayed the Easter story fantastically. Then, in the afternoon, the Easter bunny visited the school field and hid an egg for each child to find. I don't think we have ever had an Easter egg hunt in the snow before! PSCO Josh Vincent brought his car and kit onto the school playground so the children could have a go in the car – sorry to our neighbours for the repeated sirens. We loved having Josh in school and hope to have him back in the summer term to work with the children.

We are looking forward to lots of exciting events next term including a trip to a local farm, our Year 6 residential trip

and the choir visiting the O2 (finally!) for Young Voices. I am sure there will be many more adventures to tell you about next month.

Next term we are also looking forward to saying hello to our new parents and will be holding an extra welcome afternoon on Thursday 28th April at 2pm for any parents who wish to come and have another look at our school.

If you are looking for a school place for your child or would like a tour of our school, please contact the school office at office@wateringbury.kent.sch.uk.

Debbie Johnson – Headteacher

www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk

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

HISTORY SOCIETY

The meeting on 18th May 2022 will be our Cheese and Wine evening at the home of Thomas and Emily Best Shaw from 7pm - 9pm, tickets are £3 each. Our AGM is 15th June which will be followed by John Dear whose talk will be from Waterloo to Wateringbury. For our summer outing on 20th July 2022, we are looking at local venues, more to follow.

WATERINGBURY CHURCH - SERVICES IN MAY

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

Church Face Book Page: fb.me/wateringburychurch

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

**Sunday 1st May - 10am – Matins led by
Barry Fisher**

Saturday 7th May – 3-5pm – Messy Church (for young families) Action Songs, Prayer time, lots of crafts and ending with afternoon tea. All welcome

**Sunday 8th May – 10am – Communion with Rev
Gary**

Sunday 15th May - 10am - All Age Worship

**Sunday 22nd May – 10am Communion with Rev
Gary**

**Thursday 26th May – 7.30pm Ascension Day
Communion with Rev Gary Townsend**

Sunday 29th May – 10am Benefice Service in St Dunstan's West Peckham On the 5th Sunday of any month the members of our three church congregations take the opportunity to worship together so there is just one service and this month it is in West Peckham

**Sunday 22nd May - 5pm
Benefice Youth Service in Mereworth Church.**

Not just for youth but for those who enjoy informal worship.

Sunday 5th June

10am – Morning Praise with Barry Fisher and Bob Bowie

5pm – Benefice Choral Evensong in Mereworth Church to mark the Queen's Jubilee

As part of the Nation's celebration Mereworth Bells will be rung from 19.52 to 20.22

There is a said communion service each Sunday (except 5th in month) at 8am in Mereworth Church

Each Sunday at 7pm there is an online Zoom Compline Service for the link email llmbettyearl@gmail.com

**MESSY CHURCH SATURDAYS 7TH MAY AND 11TH JUNE
3-5pm in the Church**

A chance for young families to join together in informal worship, lots of crafts, simple prayers and songs (Rev Gary often comes along with his guitar) and at the end of our time together we always enjoy afternoon tea. Just come along to the church where you will be very welcome or contact Ruth for more details ruth.dunn33@btinternet.com

**COFFEE BREAK, CRAFT AND CHAT MORNINGS
Wednesdays 4th and 18th May
10.30am – Noon**

Do come along, a warm welcome awaits you. Most just come along for the company so if you are not a knitter or crafter don't let the name put you off.

Rev Nicky Teverson was due to fly out over the Easter holidays, to Tanzania to the orphanage The House of Hope her charity is building taking with her the knitted blankets and children's hats and jumpers etc some crafters and friends had made. Then the dreaded covid struck and she tested positive the day before her departure so her trip is now on-hold for a few months.

Please note there will not be a meeting on Wednesday 1st June as flower arrangers will be busy creating the displays for the Jubilee Flower Festival taking place on 2nd, 3rd and 4th June.

SIMPLY SOUP LUNCHES IN LENT

Thank you to all who came along and to those who made the soup, bread and cakes. £406 was raised in total; £140 was raised for The Alzheimer's Society, £100 for the Peggy Wood foundation which buys equipment for Maidstone Hospital and £166 for The Anthony Nolan Trust which links stem cell donors with those in need of this life-saving gift.

**WEEKLY ZOOM BENEFICE BIBLE STUDY
GROUP**

Mondays at 7.30pm for about an hour

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

CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY 21ST MAY 11.30AM-2.30PM

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH, MEREWORTH

Lots of Stalls Delicious Refreshments - Entry Free