

ROSTRUM FEBRUARY 2020

Welcome to the first issue of Rostrum for 2020. Producing and distributing Wateringbury's free magazine would not be possible without the help of so many in our community. So THANK YOU:

- ☺ to all who contribute news of village activities and news of village people and events (but please aim for 200 words max!)
- ☺ to the band of all-weather distributors who pop Rostrums through letterboxes promptly each month
- ☺ to John and Simon of Tonbridge & Malling BC print department who print our magazines and are so helpful
- ☺ to all our advertisers whose support allows Rostrum to be delivered free to each home ten times a year. When you use one of our advertisers please don't forget to mention that you saw them in Rostrum.
- ☺ to Ela Bird who has 'volunteered' to join the editorial team
Christine, Trudy and Ted

VILLAGE DIARY

FEBRUARY			
2	Footpaths Walk	Car Park	2pm
4	Parish Council Meeting followed by Planning Comm	Village Hall	7.30pm
8	Hush Heath Wine Tasting info@englishreserve.co.uk	Where Memories Meet	7pm
12	Crafters Coffee Break	Church	10.30am
13	Women's Institute	Village Hall	2pm
19	Roaring 20s talk History Soc	Village Hall	7.40 for 8pm
1	Behind the Scenes at BBC – talk by a cameraman	Church	7pm for 7.30pm
26	Crafters Coffee Break	Village Hall	10.30am
MARCH			
2	Footpaths Walk	Car Park	2pm
3	Parish Council Meeting followed by Planning Comm	Village Hall	7.30pm
14	Village Hall Quiz Night	Village Hall	7 for 7.30pm

BOOK THE DATES

VE 75TH Anniversary of Peace in Europe 1945-2020

Church Service 10am **Sunday 10th May**

Flowers For Peace - Flower Festival at the Church

23rd, 24th and 25th May

Village Summer Fete Sunday 8th June – Playing Fields

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

Welcome to Holly Ann Keates who was born on 29th November weighing 7lb 9oz. **Congratulations to proud parents Helen and Nick** (Group Scout Leader for Wateringbury). All doing well -and Holly is booked for the next camp!

REST IN PEACE

David Atkins 1944-2019

David moved to Wateringbury in the early 80's with his wife Mairead and children Elaine and Graham to turn the old, near ruined, Carriage House of The Wardens into a beautiful home. He was a man of many talents and great energy which he shared with the community. The Wateringbury Players have David to thank for

scenery and prop building, even making a Humpty Dumpty costume for Barry Fisher that was almost too big for the stage! Many will remember the Toad of Toad Hall production in our church and Mr Toad's amazing motorcar made by David using a mobility scooter. He was interested in cars and motor cycles which he loved to restore. He restored a 1934 Riley Merlin from a pile of rust to a stunning car and also had another 1948 Riley RMA. He enjoyed touring Europe in his vintage cars and going to club rallies. He spent many hours with his son Graham in his workshop assisting others with their car projects or fixing anything else that needed fixing or making. When he was diagnosed with Mesothelioma in 2018 he did not let this deter him from going on a planned motorcycle tour in India with daughter Elaine and son-in-law Chris and in Spring 2019 on an adventure in Columbia. He will be sadly missed by many.

Bryan Shrimpton

Neighbours in Mill Lane were saddened by the passing of Bryan on the evening of Monday 25th November. He was well known in the community for his love of animals, especially dogs and has over the years cared for dogs belonging to many local people. He had come to be known as the 'Wateringbury Dog Whisperer'.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE BBC Friday 21st February in Wateringbury Church starting at 7.30pm. Former BBC Cameraman Peter Woodley spent 45 years at the BBC and was behind the camera for many famous scenes including The Two Ronnies, Only Fools and Horses, Monty Python and Blue Peter Tickets £5 pre-booked £6 on the door Children Free To book contact 01622 812933 or email jez32z3@gmail.com *Proceeds from this light-hearted talk to Friends of Wateringbury Church and Hospice in the Weald*

WATERINGBURY VILLAGE SUMMER FETE – SUNDAY 7 JUNE

Save The Date It Promises to have Something for Everyone

If you are involved in a local business or organisation that would be interested in having a pitch, or perhaps providing sponsorship or raffle prizes, then please contact Sarah Tucker at wateringburyfetecommittee@gmail.com.

Additionally we are seeking volunteers to help on the day (specific tasks include helping to mark up the pitches, putting up signage, assembling the marquees and stands, helping with the raffle or bar, parking attendants and also helping clear up and remove everything at the end of the event). It doesn't have to be for the whole day - even just an hour would be much appreciated.

VILLAGE HALL QUIZ EVENING

Our next quiz evening is to be held on.

SATURDAY 14th March at WATERINGBURY VILLAGE HALL. Doors Open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Always a fun evening. All you need is a team of 6-8 people (or come on your own, we will match you up with others to make up a team). There will be a raffle...and prizes for the quiz winners. Please bring your own food and drinks. Tea and coffee will be available. The cost is £8 per person and proceeds

will be used to help maintain and equip our splendid Village Hall.

Please don't leave booking your place till the last minute; many were disappointed when we had to cancel the quiz planned for last February. Also if you cannot make it yourself please spread the message about the evening to others. **To book a table...or a place...**please ring **Mike Hoiles** on **01622 813573** or e-mail mikejhoiles@aol.com.

Thanks to those who came to our evening of snooker with Jimmy White in November. It was a great success and intriguing to see, close-up, a snooker great in action. Also a big thank you must go to John Bennett Billiards who provided and set up the snooker table. *Mike Hoiles*

WANTED COVER PICTURES FOR ROSTRUM

We are looking for cover pictures for future Rostrum magazine issues. So if you have some great photos or have painted some interesting artwork and are willing to share them please send them to the Rostrum team either by email or hard copies. (Contact details on back cover)

HISTORY SOCIETY

Our next meeting will be a talk by **Delia Taylor on the roaring twenties, this will be on Wednesday 19th February** and on the 18th March Toni Mount will talk to us about medieval housewives.

Our first meeting of 2020 was Antonia Gallop who gave us a talk about the history of carriage driving. Antonia arrived in her splendid attire and gave us a very entertaining and informative talk. Our meetings are in the village hall with tea or coffee from 7.40 pm with the talk beginning at 8pm. Visitors Welcome at £3.

FOOTPATHS GROUP

Sunday 2nd February meet village hall for local walk 2 pm
Sunday 1st March meet village hall for local walk again 2 pm

On 1st December we walked down to Bow Meadows and through Waregrave's Woods to Tutsham Farm. Passing the farm, we went along the path between the horses' paddocks towards West Farleigh. Collecting mistletoe on the way we strolled down to Teston Bridge. After a short stop at the Lock, our path took us through the water meadows to join the high path alongside the railway line back to the start.

Our New Year's Day walk, where conditions underfoot were not too bad considering the recent heavy rain, walking the Gransden path then out towards Canon Lane before following the bridleway alongside Kings Hill golf course. We passed the old Hoppers bottle dump to Wistaria Cottage, then along Old Road to Upper Mill and the Wardens path back to the start

Kevin Reynolds 07713 740 375
kevin.f.reynolds@btinternet.com

WI

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 13th February** at 2pm. The subject is Poetry and Parlance for the Undaunted presented by Bridget Nolan. Visitors will be welcome

At our January meeting local resident Maurice Chittenden gave a talk on The Golden Days of Fleet Street. Maurice spent his working days as a reporter, employed or as a free lancer with the major British newspapers. He gave a brief history of daily newspapers beginning in 1702 with the Daily Courant. His belief is that the best days for the industry was during the 1960s, 70s and 80s. The reading of physical newspapers is very much in decline with most news now being read on the internet. This was a most interesting and entertaining talk. The competition winners were Jenny Cropley for a copy of a 1935 newspaper and Sandy Parker won the photo competition.

WATERINGBURY GUIDES

The end of last term saw guides enjoying a range of different activities. We tried our hand at the new Backwoods Cooking badge and cooked outside on fires. Menus included pancakes, pizzas, fruit and meat kebabs, summer pudding, and homemade beef burgers. A special challenge was cooking an egg in the shell suspended by wire across the top of a baked bean can with a night light in the bottom. Our thanks go to Nikki Lewis, Jane Bennion and Sam Fallaize for coming along to help.

We had a very energetic evening learning a range of self-defence moves as well as hints and tips on how to handle potentially difficult situations. Lauren ran an evening based on The Chase with some edible prizes which always go down well and our final meeting was held at Prison Island in Maidstone. This was an evening of challenges and puzzles and was great fun. Our final event was horse riding at Horse Shoes stables in East Farleigh and our thanks go to the staff for coping with 15 enthusiastic girls. We hope to return again next summer for a ride out into their orchards.

If you are an adult and would like to join us as a leader, do please contact us as we would be very pleased to welcome you. You don't need to have been a brownie or guide, just keen to work with the girls and have fun yourself. Just email us at wateringburyguides@hotmail.com *Sheena, Emily and Hayleigh*

NEWS FROM OUR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR SARAH HUDSON

Happy New Year! Few meetings have taken place over the last weeks, so it has been relatively quiet – except for the bins! TMBC have read the riot act to Urbaser, and have invoked the penalty clauses in the contract, due to poor performance. The money the council will receive back will cover the costs of all the additional resources they have had to provide – anyone who has had to ring the council to report a problem, will know how long it has taken to get through.

I attended a training session on Treasury Management – how TMBC effectively manage the money that they have. We have no borrowings at all, unlike many other councils, and are very well run.

Following our successful bid for funding, 4 half whisky barrel planters have been bought, along with (sadly) 4 padlocks and chains, and these will be placed at each of the four

'entrances' to the village, by the 'Welcome to Wateringbury' signs. Brookside Garden Centre has sponsored the compost, and John Bennett Billiards has kindly agreed to sponsor the planting of them. Any other local company that would like to get involved, then please do contact me on sarah.hudson@tmbc.gov.uk.

Another member of the Parish Council has resigned, so there are now 4 vacancies. If you are interested in what happens at local government level, then please get in touch with clerk@wateringburypc.org.uk . It is a highly rewarding role, and is not too onerous or time consuming. The more you put in, the more you will get out! And it is nothing to do with bins!!

Paddock Wood Choral Society Quiz are holding a fund-raising quiz on **Saturday 15th February** in the Winter Hall, St Andrew's Church, Paddock Wood at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Teams of up to 8 at £5 per person. Bring your own refreshments. To book a table phone 01892 834814 for email carolb.73@talktalk.net

Police Warning – watch out there has been an increase in burglaries in our area. Please secure all doors and windows and do not leave car keys in plain sight as two recent crimes have seen thieves break-in and steal the car keys to drive the car away.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Be thoughtful of the opinion of others. There are three sides to every controversy – yours, the other person's and the right one.

NEWS FROM OUR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR SARAH HUDSON

Happy New Year! Few meetings have taken place over the last weeks, so it has been relatively quiet – except for the bins! TMBC have read the riot act to Urbaser, and have invoked the penalty clauses in the contract, due to poor performance. The money the council will receive back will cover the costs of all the additional resources they have had to provide – anyone who has had to ring the council to report a problem, will know how long it has taken to get through.

I attended a training session on Treasury Management – how TMBC effectively manage the money that they have. We have no borrowings at all, unlike many other councils, and are very well run.

Following our successful bid for funding, 4 half whisky barrel planters have been bought, along with (sadly) 4 padlocks and chains, and these will be placed at each of the four 'entrances' to the village, by the 'Welcome to Wateringbury' signs. Brookside Garden Centre has sponsored the compost, and John Bennett Billiards has kindly agreed to sponsor the planting of them. Any other local company that would like to get involved, then please do contact me on sarah.hudson@tmbc.gov.uk.

Another member of the Parish Council has resigned, so there are now 4 vacancies. If you are interested in what happens at local government level, then please get in touch with clerk@wateringburypc.org.uk . It is a highly rewarding

role, and is not too onerous or time consuming. The more you put in, the more you will get out! And it is nothing to do with bins!!

Paddock Wood Choral Society Quiz are holding a fund-raising quiz on **Saturday 15th February** in the Winter Hall, St Andrew's Church, Paddock Wood at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Teams of up to 8 at £5 per person. Bring your own refreshments. To book a table phone 01892 834814 for email carolb.73@talktalk.net

Police Warning – watch out there has been an increase in burglaries in our area. Please secure all doors and windows and do not leave car keys in plain sight as two recent crimes have seen thieves break-in and steal the car keys to drive the car away.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Be thoughtful of the opinion of others. There are three sides to every controversy – yours, the other person's and the right one.

WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Christmas break was a good, long one this year and the children have returned to school excited and ready for the busy term ahead. I think many parents were also pleased to be dropping their children back at school! As welcome as holidays are, school routines are beneficial for everyone.

Our Christmas charitable donations reached a generous total of £289. This year, we are giving to the Rochester Diocese's 'Poverty and Hope Appeal' which supports critical grassroots projects both abroad and in the UK. School families also got involved with providing food for Christmas dinners and gifts for homeless men and women in Maidstone through an initiative led by Rap Interiors. Our Christingle Service included an enormous display of beautifully-wrapped gifts and food for the homeless shelters.

Our Christmas Crafts Afternoon and Party Supper with Father Christmas was a great success and we are grateful to our parent organisation, FOWPS, for their tireless support and commitment to hosting events which create a real sense of community, purpose and fun.

Our children are certainly out and about this term. Our school choir heads to the SSE Arena, Wembley to take part in the Young Voices concert where they'll join thousands of other schoolchildren to stage an extraordinary massed voices concert. Children will be participating in the RSPB's annual Birdwatch, helping to count the number and variety of birds around the school grounds. Year 5 are visiting Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London before they create the magical woods of A Midsummer Night's Dream when they perform for the school and parents just before the end of term. And Year 4 are also visiting London to explore Victorian portraiture at the National Gallery as part of their history topic.

Term ends on Friday, 14th February and we return to school on Monday, 24th February.

Chasey Crawford Usher – Headteacher www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk

East Malling Singers are holding an Indoor Boot Fair on Sunday, 9th February in East Malling Village Hall. Doors open to the public 9.00-12.30. Setting up starts at 8am. There will be refreshments.
Tables are £10 Entry is £1 - children free.
Contact 01622 750943 for more information.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

December 2019

KCC Councillor Matthew Balfour acknowledged the problems caused by the temporary traffic lights while work was being carried out at The Old Bakery on the corner of Red Hill and A26. Councillor David Marks expressed the view, held by many, that the Parish Council were being frustrated in their attempts to solve the village's traffic problems such as speed cameras and cameras at the traffic lights. Even though the Parish Council were willing to contribute to the costs all their suggestions met with resistance from various authorities. He asked for Matthew's support in securing these aids. Councillor Balfour said of course he would want to be involved to make things better for the village and suggested a meeting with officers at KCC. Due to escalating costs and lack of sufficient funding the proposed KCC scheme at the Cross Roads had been withdrawn.

Borough Councillor Sarah Hudson reported that waste collection problems within the village appeared to be lessening. There was far more recycling in the borough than the contractor Urbaser had predicted and it had been necessary for them to increase the number of vehicles used. She had held discussions with various parties in an effort to provide a pedestrian crossing on the Tonbridge Road near the Upper Mill bus stop.

Tree Charter Parish Councils were encouraged to join the Tree Charter initiated by The Woodland Trust who are giving away hundreds of trees for planting in schools and on community land. Councillors were not clear where trees could be planted in the village and would welcome suggestions.

Village Hall The recent Snooker Event had raised £1460 for hall funds. Councillor Fielding reported that work was continuing on the proposed new lease.

Cemetery Work on the privet, lime trees and car park edge had been completed. The contractor is unable to continue from 2020 as he is leaving the district. Quotes will be obtained for future work.

January 2020

Repairs to the property on the corner of Red Hill and Tonbridge Road have been carried out by the Borough Council in order to make it safe. Councillors discussed the work undertaken and expressed concerns that it may not be up to the standard required for a building in a Conservation Area. TMBC will be contacted.

The pollution monitor at the Crossroads may be removed and this will be discussed at the next Highways meeting on 21st January.

The Residents Committee of The Orpines have submitted a letter to TMBC objecting to the deviation from the original drawings by the developers. It had been noticed that the agreed terracing and planting has been replaced by a motorway-style barrier with a 4m drop. The Parish Council will

send a letter to TMBC asking for the original plans to be adhered to.

Crime Report: during December 2019 there had been 7 crimes of note – theft of a mobile phone; a report of harassment; assault and criminal damage; fraud; criminal damage; public order; and a theft of a motor vehicle. Three other anti-social behaviour and other incidents occurred during the month.

The positioning of speed surveys was discussed.

One will be placed on Bow Road between Phoenix Drive and the pedestrian crossing; the other will be between Bijou Nurseries and Manor Farm. The surveys cost £400 each.

Damage to the wall outside the Village Hall is to be repaired at a cost of £1,680 plus VAT.

Hand rail Council support the construction of a metal handrail at St John the Baptist Church, extending from the gate up to the church. Councillors were asked to consider a donation towards the cost. It was agreed to donate the £100 left in the donations budget.

The Stocks require repair and a quotation had been obtained. It was suggested that Friends of Watlington be contacted to see if they would be able help.

Plans for the new pavilion in the playing fields have been submitted at pre-application level to TMBC and have been met with a promising response. When all Parish Councillors have seen the proposals a presentation will be made to villagers to seek support.

The Speedwatch Group had carried out 11 sessions during December. The two worst locations in the village for speeding offences continue to be Red Hill (southbound) and Lodge Close (westbound).

The Village Warden reported the replacement waste bin at the basketball park in the playing fields had been inadvertently placed in the top field. The Clerk will contact TMBC.

Volunteer Thanks The Council would like to thank the resident of Pizien Well Road who had given their time and energy to clear the vegetation from the area.

Planning Applications

Erection of two storey rear and single storey side extension with the reconstruction of an open front porch at **Oakenwood Cottage, 243 Red Hill**

Comment: We are very concerned that the proposals appear to take little regard to the scale and sensitivity of the listed building in its setting giving rise to the reason for its protection/listing. The development will virtually double the size of the building and will, in our opinion, result in a conventional executive appearance at odds with its historical presentation. The use of quality materials does not justify the increase in mass by their use. We would ask that the conservation officer responsible for assessing this application considers what we feel is gross over development and unacceptable impact on the setting and appearance of this listed building. The proposal would destroy what listing is supposed to preserve.

Retrospective planning permission for **a storage building at 464 Red Hill**

Comment: No objection

Listed Building Application: refurbishment of the internal areas of the Victorian Cottage involves demolitions and upgrading of the internal fabric of the building, replacement of non-original UVPC windows with traditional timber sash windows, renewal of the existing pitched roofs using natural slate, lead flashings and matching detailing, construction of a new entrance and corridor to the cottage and the extension of an existing slate pitch roof over flat roofed area at

Wateringbury Place, 50 Canon Lane

Comment: As long as the Listed Building officer is satisfied the Parish Council has no objection. We are pleased to see the non-original UVPC windows are to be replaced with traditional timber sash windows

*The public are welcome to attend the **next meeting** of the Parish Council on **Tuesday 4th February at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall (upper meeting room).*

Approved minutes of the meetings will appear on the Parish Council website www.wateringburypc.kentparishes.gov.uk in due course.

A VIEW FROM THE PEWS

A thief, hospitality and a pair of novelty underpants

Any traveller robbed overseas will recognise these symptoms. The disorientation of realising you no longer have your possessions. The denial of trying to undo in your head the thing that has already happened. Rising panic and the confusion of deciding with what exactly to do next, far from home, without your possessions.

My bag was gone from under my train seat. I noticed it just after a busy station in central Brussels at a stop when a lot of people got on and someone ran off - Evidently the thief with my bag. Now I am on a train with only my jacket and coat and what's in the pockets. By a stroke of luck, I have my money, my train tickets and my passport on me, along with my phone. But my work, my clothes my medication, my laptop are in the bag. The mind is racing "what to do?". And in the background, a small shift in my thinking about the nature of humankind has changed. I have dark thoughts about these Belgians.

The train is en route to the Netherlands. The guard says we have to get off and go back to Brussels-midi, where I left Eurostar with my work colleague. "Go to the police station." I check my phone and remember I can track the other device. I can see it moving on my map app, into the city. My thoughts darken even more so. Could I not chase? We go back to Brussels midi and the station security direct us to the police station. I am thinking, why do they keep directing us away? Why don't they help? Now the gloom that had settled around the Belgium thief has spread outward to cover the train guard, the station security and I am not expecting much from the Police station. Everything is negative.

The Police station is a door with a buzzer. I push the button, talk into a grill and eventually, a young officer comes

out and takes us into a simple office. He asks me to fill out a form. I show him my phone showing where the laptop is. He looks blankly at me and says, fill out the form. He is not going to dispatch a team of armed officers in a swat van to get the thief! Finally, he gives me a form with a number and the details, and I realise why. Insurance evidence!

The train guard knew we would be in another country before long and had to go back. The security guard and policemen knew this is what we would need for our insurance. Not all Belgium's are wrong-uns.

My elderly colleague has been working hard to keep me calm. I do 'escalating panic' very well. I had realised my asthma spray is gone! He gets me back on our train route up to Gouda, the Netherlands, and has been messaging our hosts. On arrival friendly smiles welcome us with hot soup and wine. Moments later our hosts' sister in law comes around with an asthma spray! She insists I take it. I later discover in the Netherlands an Asthma pump is about £100, as you have to pay for medicines - No NHS! I try to give it back and they refuse. I should keep it until I am home.

Wim, my elderly host, brightens "Don't worry." He says in clear but heavily accented English. "I have what you need for tomorrow. My son sent me some novelty pants from Australia. They are unused as I do not like them but ... " and then he chuckles "... you will like them I think". He heads off to get them. Greet, his wife, starts to laugh. Trevor, my travelling companion, gets out his camera phone saying, "Bob, you're never going to live this down..." and Wim returns holding the pants up and the laughter escalates.

It's not so much a story of 'the Good Samaritan' as 'all the Good Samaritans'. One person let down my faith in human nature. Everyone else did exactly the right thing. Our hosts were magnificent. A story of a thief? Not in my mind. It was a story of welcome, hospitality, human compassion and ... I am saying nothing more about the pants. *Bob Bowie*

Messy Church

There were some super photos in the Kent Messenger illustrating our second birthday celebrations in January. Our numbers are growing but there is always room for more families with young children. Come and join in singing, stories using videos, activities and games and varied crafts to illustrate our themes which this year looks at the stories of Jesus healing people. We will also look at the work of our doctors and nurses.

We meet at our church on MOST first Saturdays in the month from 3pm – 5pm. However please note, in March it will take place on the SECOND - Saturday 14th March.
Ruth Dunn: ruthdunn33@btinternet.com

CRAFTERS COFFEE MORNINGS

This month we will meet at the church on the mornings of **Wednesday 12th and 26th February and 11th and 25th March** from 10.30am until 12.30pm. Come and join us for

coffee/tea, cake, chat and perhaps revive an interest in handicraft or share your knowledge of a craft. In January Miranda showed us how to make felt robins and some knitted Joey pockets which will be sent to Australia to nurse baby kangaroos rescued from the fires raging there. Maidstone Christian Care were delighted to receive the gifts from our Group of new sleeping bags, food items, knitted hats and scarves. For more information please contact Pauline (814673) or Gillian (813076).

FLOWER FESTIVAL 23rd, 24th and 25th May

To mark the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War 2 we are planning a Flowers for Peace Flower Festival in the church. We hope that many village organisations, clubs and individuals will join the commemoration and sponsor a flower arrangement. There will be a Festival Programme which will tell about the organisation sponsoring the arrangement or the WW2 story it honours. For more details please contact Gillian Sessions 01622 813076.

CHURCHYARD PLANT SALE 23rd May When dividing garden plants or sowing seeds this Spring please pot up some for the annual plant sale.

WATERINGBURY CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

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

Saturday 1 February – 3-5pm - Messy Church (for families with young children)

There will be craft activities, a short bible story and prayer times and ours will always end with afternoon tea. This month's story will be Jesus healing the paralysed man. Please note the March meeting will be on the 2nd Saturday -14th March when the topic is Jesus healing Jairus' daughter.

Sunday 2 February - 10am - Communion led by Canon Liz Walker

A Communion service based on the Church of England Common Worship Service Book. Sundays Cool (for all children) meets in the Vestry during the service.

Sunday 9 February – 10am - Morning Praise - Led by Bary Fisher and Pauline Welch

An informal service using a printed service booklet with well known hymns and an address. Secondary Division, for young people, meet for a second breakfast and discussion during the service in the vestry.

Sunday 16 February 8.30pm Prayer Book Said Communion

A quiet service using the beautiful words of Cranmer led by Canon Derek Carpenter.

10am All Age Worship

This informal service will be led by the Sundays Cool team.

Sunday 23 February - 10am - Communion led by Rev Jim Brown

We use the service booklets produced when Jim was our vicar and the choir leads our singing. Sundays Cool meets in the Vestry.

Wednesday 26 February 8pm Ash Wednesday Service of Ashing and Communion led by Canon Liz Walker and Rev David Green

This is a Cluster Service for the parishes of Kings Hill, Mereworth, Offham, Watringbury, West Malling and West Peckham.

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

IN OUR SORROWS - FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

We extend our deepest sympathy to the loved ones of:

David Atkins 24.04.44 – 12.11.19 Funeral 11th December

John Henry Piper 26.02.45-3.12.19 Funeral 17th December

November Toy Service Update:

The women's refuge in Maidstone sends their sincere appreciation for the gifts from our community. Thanks to your generosity we were able to drop off six boxes of toiletries for mums and toys for their children. *Becky and Bob*

Voices Across the A20

The Voices delightful entertainment "A Bit of an Early Christmas Sing" which was performed in Snodland and Watringbury churches raised the amazing total of £2,125 which was shared equally between both churches.

Christingle Candles

The small change donation candle boxes contained **£133.69** which has been sent to **The Children's Society** to aid their work.

The Big Christmas Card

Those who signed the big card instead of sending individual cards made donations totalling **£357.75** (including Gift Aid). This has been sent to the Bishop of Rochester's 2019 Poverty and Hope Appeal to help bring hope to those who need it most in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and also here in Kent.

Jams and Chutneys

We have now balanced our end of year accounts and we are delighted to report that we have donated to the church an amount of **£359.73** from the proceeds of our sales. Thank you to everyone who has supported us this year either direct from

our stalls or from Nathan at the Post Office. Thank you very much. *Sheena and Gordon*

Fairtrade Stall

Many thanks to everyone for their support for the Fairtrade Stall which raised **£254.64** for church funds in 2019. The Spring Catalogue will be available sometime in February for you to take and brows and if there are items you wish to see on the stall for the future please contact Ros who will be happy to help or advise.

Demelza Hospice Care for Children sends thanks for the gift of **£225.98** raised from donations made at the Nine Lessons and Carols Service. Thanks to the Bowie family and Secondary Division for organising the seasonal refreshments and to all who donated.