

Welcome to the November issue of Rostrum
Contributors are reminded that next month our
magazine will cover
December 2022 and January 2023

VILLAGE DIARY

November

- 1 Parish Council Meeting** - Hall -7.30pm
followed by Planning Committee
- 2 Macmillian Coffee Morning** - Church - 10.30-
Noon
- 6 Footpaths Walk** - Hall car park - 2pm
- 10 Footpaths Walk** - Hall car park - 10am
- 19 Christmas Craft Bazaar** - Church - 11am-3pm
- 20 Community Market** - Hall - 11am-1pm

December

- 4 Footpaths Walk** - Hall car park - 2pm
- 6 Parish Council Meeting** - Hall -7.30pm
followed by Planning Committee
- 15 Nine Lessons & Carols by Candlelight** -
Church - 8pm
- 18 Community Market** - Hall - 11am-1pm

Annual Village Poppy Appeal Poppies will be available this year to aid the work the Royal British Legion gives to those who have served their country in the military. Collectors will be outside the village hall on Saturday mornings when items not available in the door-to-door trays will be available as well as poppies. Once again I would like thank all of the people of Watringbury who donated to the appeal last year. The total raised was close to £4000. - very generous indeed, well done. Thank you
Larry Collins - Area Organiser - 07867975508

Village Fete 2023 - save the date The Watringbury Summer Fete will be held on **Sunday 11th June 2023**. If anyone would be interested in having a pitch on the day, or would like to volunteer to help, please do reach out to the fete committee on watingburyfetecommittee@gmail.com.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE T & M LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATIONS

There are 13 sites in Watringbury which have been put forward as possible sites for housing developments in the future. Now is the time to have your say.

Closing date for public to express their opinion is 3rd November.

<https://consultations.tmbc.gov.uk/connect.ti/TMBCLocalPlanReg18/view?docid=12964852&objectId=12967380>

The sites are listed on TMBC Local Plan Reg 18 Appendix B list of Sites

VILLAGE PEOPLE *Please let us have your news and tributes by 17 October for our November magazine. Entries are free. Email www.rostrum2@hotmail.com or phone 01622 812023*

New Grandchild Congratulations to David and Jenny Barrow on the arrival on 3rd August of Nancy (7lb 8oz) and to proud first-time parents Cat and Steve Treagust.

RIP Sylvia Robin Buss 21 September 1933-8 October 2022

Sylvia and Trevor Buss moved to Wateringbury in 1995 after they both retired from East Malling Research Station. Trevor passed away in 2004, but Sylvia stayed on in Warden Mill Close until 2018. She loved the village, living by the apple orchards. She was a member of St John's church, had her hair done across the road, and was part of this friendly village. She also delivered Rostrum, and even published a poem in this very magazine. In 2018, despite care from the surgery, it became clear she couldn't live alone any more, and she moved into a Wallingford care home near her son. On 8th October she passed away after a long illness.

Farewell to Syd Thompsett who has recently left the village to be closer to family and now lives in Whiteplains Care Home, Denham where he is very happy. Syd first came to Wateringbury in July 1947 to work as Senior Assistant to the Chief Surveyor of the Whitbread Brewery at Phoenix Brewery in Bow Road. It was there that he met his wife Vera. In 1967 Syd and Vera bought a plot of land in Red Hill and designed and built the bungalow which he has recently sold. He became very active in village life. He played for Wateringbury Football Club and was a member of the team that won the Maidstone Challenge cup, the first trophy won by the club for 50 years. He served on the Parochial Church Council and for several years organised an annual Summer Fete and Christmas Fair. He served on the Parish Council Highways Committee and was in the team which succeeded in getting heavy lorries banned from Bow Road. He was a founder member of the History Society and took an active part in its running and became its first life member. For many years Syd delivered Rostrums too. He has been a trustee of the Working Men's Club for many years. So thank you Syd for all you have done to enrich village life. Syd, in turn, wishes to thank his many friends and neighbours for their help and support over the years.

Horse share wanted I am elderly but fit and would much love to help with or part share looking after a horse. Old and safe about fifteen hands, possibly to ride at a walk. Please contact me on naomilefleming@gmail.com

New Cookery Book with a village connection Yvonne Mark's daughter has written a cookery book which is proving popular – its available on Amazon and is called Anna's Family Kitchen – navigating through Food, Faff and Family

QUEEN ELIZABETH II memories

Emily and I went to London on the Saturday afternoon before the Queen's State Funeral on Monday and joined the Access queue which went 1.25 times round the Tate Britain building block. It was very well organised and there were lots of Navy, Air Force and soldiers marshalling as well as Police and Scout and Guide leaders. There was also a Faith team talking to people. We were offered bottles of water, chocolate brioche, chairs (to use and carry with us!) and, late in the afternoon, blankets.

We finally got our wristbands at 6.30pm for a 2.00-3.00am slot! After a quick chat we decided that we'd get the train home, grab some food and drink as well as change into guiders' uniform and we returned to London by car. We passed through the security checks having given up our sealed bottle of water, hand gel and the battery from my torch, and we were cleared to enter Westminster Hall.

We paused at the coffin, saluted, and bent our heads before moving on and out into the dark. It was a unique experience - London at 1.30 in the morning never seemed safer with masses of police, military personnel, and marshals everywhere. We could cross the road outside Big Ben without needing to look either way or wait for the traffic lights as there was no traffic. A surreal and sombre day which neither of us will ever forget. I finally got to bed around 3.00 in the morning.

Sheena Stewart and Emily Deadman Wateringbury Guides

A First-Hand Account of The Queen's Funeral

Waking up at 3am was challenging as we planned to catch the first train from Tonbridge to Charing Cross. We expected to see the station packed full of people, much to our surprise however, all was subdued and quiet.

Upon leaving the station people began to merge from around the City moving with purpose towards Trafalgar Square. We initially planned to arrive at the Mall however our route was blocked and my mother and I were ushered towards horse guards parade. At the time this felt frustrating, how wrong we were. By 6.30am we had reached our destination. It was less busy than expected, we soon became comfortable; the people around us were eccentric, kind and patient.

After 5 hours the service begun. Everyone stood in silence, a few sung along to the hymns and all the prayers were said. For the 2-minute silence the whole city stood still.

Around 12:15 the procession began. The troupes had lined up and were ready to march. The slow, repetitive drum echoed throughout London bringing a stop to all. The soldiers processed section by section, each after the other, with perfect accuracy. Next came the Queen's Coffin, The King and other royal family members. Everyone fell silent. Men, women and children bowed their heads out of respect.

Once the event was over, thousands flocked home. So did we. Late evening trains were filled with bittersweet conversations about that day's endeavours, reminiscing on an event that shall never leave our memories.

Bethan Price (aged 16)

This overseas tribute was received by Derrick and Sandra Brown.
"My condolences to you Sandra & Derrick for the loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. For 34 years I have admired the E II R for her commitment to values, tradition and responsibilities. The Queen will remain an unsurpassed symbol of what we Polish call British. Signed Marek."

WATERINGBURY FOOTPATH GROUP

We had two walks in October, both in perfect walking weather – dry, sunny but not hot with little wind. There were beautiful views walking between Canon Court and the footpath junction before the path to Redhill Farm. The nectarine trees near the path have been removed and we wondered what would be planted there instead – maybe more grapevines? One of our group who has lived in Wateringbury for most of his life took us on a detour off the footpath and into the woods south of Kings Hill golf course. We were intrigued by what we found there!

One of the pleasures of the Footpath Group is meeting new people. In October it was lovely to be joined on one of our walks by a couple who had only moved to Wateringbury the previous week. It is a great way to meet new members of our community, as well as the regular walkers, some of whom come from other local villages (Nettlestead, East Malling, Teston, Allington and Kings Hill). We are also often joined by friends and relatives who are visiting the area. Walks will be leaving the Village Hall on Sunday 6th November at 2pm. Thursday 10th November at 10am and Sunday 4th December at 2pm.

Everyone is invited! You are welcome to contact me for more information and so I can keep you updated about our plans.

Lisa Dean 077 5953 9032

GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

The last of our Summer visitors, the swifts, left for Africa in mid October this year. These amazing birds spend more time in the air than any other and even spend the night on the wing. They eat great quantities of flying insects and nest in gaps in stonework and under roofs although you can purchase specially designed nest boxes if you want to attract them.

The wildlife that is remaining here for the Winter is busy preparing and we can help in a variety of ways. For example: leave windfall apples on the ground somewhere so that birds and other wildlife can enjoy them. You may even attract Fieldfare and Redwings into your garden. These beautiful birds are members of the Thrush family and arrive from Northern Europe during October.

We all want our gardens to look tidy in readiness for Winter and it is tempting to cut everything back, but if you can leave this until the Spring, you will be providing a food source for a variety of wildlife from the seed heads, whilst the hollow stems provide shelter for a range of insects. With a dew on these plants or a frost, your garden will take on a magical element and so will still look attractive.

Finally, if you have got a pond, now is the time to remove any dead vegetation and maybe put a net over the top to catch the Autumn leaves, which can be collected and stored to make leaf mould for next year.

NEWS FROM BOROUGH & KCC COUNCILLOR SARAH HUDSON

The traffic calming measures carried out over the summer still have a few snagging issues, including some additional road markings such as 40mph roundels outside the cemetery. These are awaiting road space and will be completed soon.

I have bought some additional wooden flower planters to plant and place along the A26 within the village, with 30mph stickers, to act as reminders to drivers that they are in a 30 zone. It also makes the village more village like apparently, so encourages speed reduction.

The pavement along the A26 from Pizien Well Road to Canon Lane has been cleared of weeds and undergrowth, and Hugh Lowe farms have very kindly removed some of the worst of the falling over hedging to make the pedestrian footpath more accessible. And the pavement up Red Hill has been completely resurfaced.

Thank you to everyone who attended the public meeting on The Local Plan consultation recently. A reminder that the consultation closes on 3rd November, so please do take the opportunity to voice your opinions.

<https://consultations.tmbc.gov.uk/connect.ti/TMBCLocalPlanReg18/view?docid=12964852&objectId=12967380>

The Living Wall by the hairdressers has really suffered from this Summer's drought and current hosepipe ban. This is being rectified in the next few weeks when it will be replanted and hopefully with the autumn rain will quickly get established. The volunteers who water all the plants would welcome some additional volunteers to share the workload of watering the plants next spring and summer so if you have a spare 30 minutes once a week please get in touch with me.

I have ordered a bigger Christmas tree this year and would like to have a Christmas Lights switch on with carols in early December. If you would like to join me, please let me know. 4pm on Sunday 11th December is the date for your diaries.

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

COMMUNITY FRIDGE

The community Fridge is back on a Tuesday evening alternating between our village hall at 8.30pm and East Peckham at 6pm. The dates for Watlington are 8th and 22nd November but everyone is welcome to use both sites if an earlier time is more convenient. If residents have apples and other fruit from their gardens that they are happy to donate, rather than just rot on the ground, please let me know. I am happy to collect on a Tuesday morning. With the cost of living issues, we can all help each other.

Sarah Hudson

ANOTHER AMAZING YEAR AT EXPLORERS! ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

At outdoor meetings in the park we've played tag rugby and wide games, created our own assault courses and been soaked by water challenges. Night hikes and varied treasure hunts took us around the local area, and we had the longest egg and spoon race ever. Trips out have included bonfires and camp cooking at Comp Wood, skating, Escape Rooms and a Christmas treat in London to see *Back to The Future*. Cooking is ever popular - cardboard ovens, Ready-Steady-Cook with mystery ingredients, as well as pancakes, pizza and camp doughnuts. We created horrific fake wounds

and learnt how to treat them. We've all learned some new crazy games and undertaken Taskmaster challenges.

For the Queens Platinum Jubilee, we created an origami paper flower display for the celebration at the church, and some Explorers attended Family Camp with their families where we enjoyed a live-streamed campfire and lit a beacon. Many Explorers volunteer as Young Leaders for other sections in our group and we parade with them in the village on Remembrance Day and in Maidstone on St Georges Day. We have congratulated many Explorers this year for achieving either Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards, and also a Queens Scout (the highest youth award in Scouting).

We finished the year with a wonderful summer camp on Guernsey and Jersey. The weather was superb and the beaches terrific: we tried all sorts of watersports including surfing, sailing and sea-kayaking, with lots of swimming and beach games too. Explorers is a chance to forget schoolwork, let off steam and meet your mates: mission accomplished! *Wateringbury Explorer Scout Leaders*

TESTON & WATERINGBURY PRESCHOOL

As we prepare for our half term holiday we look back at a very busy term. Our lending library has been a great success where children can choose a book to take home and share with their family. We have introduced our kindness pot and have made Dinosaur patterns in clay. We have learnt a lot about different dinosaurs, using our book *Harry's Bucketful of Dinosaurs*. We made Dinosaur 'eggs', and even a volcano. The children are really enjoying our newly renovated outdoor area with Astro turf. This means our children can access our lovely outdoor area all year round. They specially enjoy a game of roly poly.

We will be looking at different seeds eg conkers, sycamore, pine and gathering leaves from our garden. The children will be planting a broad bean seed, we will measure these as they grow. They will be painting their own tree, (adult supported activity). Is your tree an evergreen tree? We will be talking about seasons, changes, making seed patterns in clay. We will also be talking about Diwali, the Hindu festival of light, and Bonfire Night. As you can see this promises to be another busy term. If you would like your child to be part of this amazing preschool family, there are still places available please contact.

testonpreschooladmissions@gmail.com tanddwngroup@gmail.com
Tina Driver Tel: 07805796353 See us on facebook too.

WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

The autumn term is always a long one but filled with so much excitement and anticipation. The joy of being back together as a school mixed with the excitement of things to come over the year. We are particularly looking forward to finding out more about the people who live and have lived in our village as part of a history project with some local historians.

This week, I have been showing potential new families around our school which is a great opportunity to take a moment to enjoy all the wonderful things happening in every classroom. I was ably assisted in the tours by our new head pupils, Anna and Jed. We have a strong team of pupil leaders in school now including prefects, castle captains, sports leaders and leading lights who are our spiritual pupil leaders. It is so important to us that our children leave Wateringbury as confident, resilient, and independent members of their community.

This term our children have been learning about castles, the stone age (including reading the classic Stig of the Dump), Ancient Egyptians, Vikings, Greek myths as well as being visited by an Invictus athlete for a whole school sports event. What a busy term!

Hopefully, you will read this in time to be warmly invited to our Bonfire Night event on Friday 4th November (no pun intended!). No loud, scary fireworks but an impressive bonfire, a display of the guys that the children have made, and stalls selling delicious food and sparkly, flashing things! Come and join us – all are welcome.

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

Debbie Johnson – Headteacher
www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk

WATERINGBURY FLOWER CLUB

November is going to be a workshop for Christmas with our committee doing the honours - all items will be supplied for a small price and then we will all put them together around the tables, this is always a good chance for members to catch up and talk about all sorts of things including Christmas which is just round the corner!

October's meeting saw the wonderful Lucinda Knapman demonstrate to us her title Fabulous Flowers - and I can truthfully say they really were, all Autumn colours in various designs and all available for members to win in the raffle. Our own Jean Schofield was featured on Channel 5 programme - Westminster Abbey behind the scenes, also Liz Hall from Maidstone club - Liz is actually one of the WA coordinators and Jean was helping her for the day whilst they were getting the flowers ready for the memorial service for HRH The Prince Philip.

Jean Schofield WFC

GUIDES

On Saturday 2 October it felt as if Kent Weald Girlguiding had taken over the village and surrounds. The event was Challenge Invicta which is run every year in October and moves around Kent, but for the first time that I was aware of, it was based in our very own back yard. Teams of guides, rangers and young leaders enter and it aims to encourage girls to work in groups and develop initiative. The route was 10km assuming they followed the correct route and along the way there were seven bases where the girls had to work as a team and tackle whatever challenge was presented. The girls were scored on their kit suitability, their ability to work out their route, how they presented themselves at each base, how they tackled and completed the challenge, whether or not they brought all their lunch rubbish back with them and they got bonus points if they completed the entire route in the maximum time of 6 hours 30 mins.

There were bases at Nettlestead Place, Wateringbury School, the Guide and Scout HQ, Love Lane, Manor Farm, Redhill Farm Estate, and Kings Hill Sports Park. There was a checkpoint at the top of Love Lane with marshals to see the girls across the road safely and ensure they were generally heading in the right direction. We were so lucky with the weather – last year it bucketed all day and the event was closed early but this year as a marshal it was very nice sitting in our chairs checking the teams through. We entered two teams of guides and out of 30 guide teams, we had one come an amazing 5th and the other which was a very inexperienced team came 17th which for a first time was brilliant. Thank you to Lisa Dean for her brilliant map tuition, and to everyone who stopped to speak to us and find out what we were doing. Thanks to everyone who provided a venue for a base, and apologies to anyone who passed the school as everyone was arriving or leaving as it was a little manic. Wateringbury did us proud and we really appreciate your support.
Sheena Stewart and team. 1st Wateringbury Guides

NETTLESTEAD AND WATERINGBURY PRE-SCHOOL AND OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB

We can't believe how quickly we are heading towards the end of term1 and are still lucky enough to enjoy all this lovely autumn

sunshine. Autumn is such a fantastic time of year where little ones can go exploring the changing season and gather lots of natural resources, from freshly fallen colourful leaves to spiky conker shells. The setting is lucky enough to be surrounded by an open field. We took the children out to see what differences they could spot, whilst collecting special autumn treasures that they could then use in their play and crafts.

Our learning journey went on to explore 'The Sea' next, with water play full of deep sea creatures and natural resources. The children created some amazing artwork, using their imagination and interpretation of the different creatures that live below the sea.

'Whatever Next!' by Jill Murphy took the children on a fantastic space journey. The children were creative and followed the story by making up their own props for their role play. The children used old boxes for rockets with their favourite teddy bears and colanders as space helmets, with a little special space picnic.

As the term draws to end with harvest, the children will explore different vegetables through play, pretending to be farmers using their vegetables for the farm shop. Sharing their likes and dislikes, whilst trying to make vegetable soup in the mud kitchen!

OCTOBER PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Following the removal of the public phone box in Bow Road any notices stating this to be the nearest public phone box for emergency use will need to be amended.

The first draft of the Parish Council budget for 2023/24 will be discussed on 15th November at a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes committee of the Council which will be held at 7.30pm in the village hall upper room. Members of the public will be welcome.

Proposal for ashes memorial garden in the cemetery. Following the resignation of David Marks from the Council, and following his appointment as chair of the Sports and Recreation Association, the resignation from the sub-committee of Councillor Richard Tripp, Councillor Lyn Simmons appealed for others to join her to take the plans forward.

Crime Report – the following crimes were shown on the police web site: Violence and sexual behaviour 5, Anti social behaviour 2, other theft 1, public order 1.

Play Equipment – during the period 2010 to 2022 repairs to play equipment at the playing fields had cost the council £67,000. This was more than the original cost of the equipment. The costs of repairs will therefore be a major consideration when any new play equipment is acquired.

Parish Clerk – councillors spent some time discussing the pay, hours and job description and interviews for a new parish clerk to replace Sue Cockburn who is retiring on 30th November having been in post for 25 years. Interviews are due to be held on 11th October.

Sports & Recreation Association – following his appointment as chair of the Trustees of the Association, Councillor Tripp outlined proposals being discussed with regard to the day to day running of the sports facilities and the possible change of name to better reflect its activities. The entire facilities have been booked for Saturday 13th May 2023 for the Football Festival organised by the local football club and Sunday 11th June 2023 for the Village Fete.

Planning Applications – Councillors had no objections to the application to build three detached three bedroom dwellings with double garages and associated works on land at the junction of Red Hill and Barming Road.

Next Meetings – there are two meetings in November to which members of the public are very welcome. **Tuesday**

1st November for the usual business meeting and **Tuesday 15th November** for the Finances and General Purposes Committee which will discuss the first draft of the budget for 2023/24. Both meetings will be in the upper room of the village hall and start at 7.30pm. *Approved minutes of council meetings will appear on the Parish Council website www.wateringbury.pc.org.uk in due course*

COVER PICTURE - COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVE

There is only one Commonwealth War Graves Commission grave in the village cemetery – that of **Sergeant Kenneth Alfred Brooks 1801977. Royal Airforce Volunteer Reserve**. He died on Thursday 31st December 1942 aged 19 at or near Heyford, Oxfordshire when the Wellington in which he was bomb aimer crashed. Before joining the RAF in February 1942 he worked in the offices of the Phoenix Brewery in Bow Road. Kenny and his family lived at 2 Broomscroft Cottages, Canon Lane which at the time were farm cottages owned by the Blest family. It was to his family home that the RAF colour party carried his coffin from Watlington station, draped in a Union Jack. His coffin remained in his family home over-night before his funeral service and burial. His brother recalled that the RAF were anxious to take the flag back with them as they were in short supply. Shortly before lockdown the War Grave Commission notice was placed on the cemetery gate and his headstone cleaned by the Commission. For many years his brother Joe returned to the village and laid the Parish Council's wreath at the War Memorial. Family members still visit and lay a wreath on Kenny's grave. *(Information from Dail Whiting and Lest We Forget – Watlington in WW2)*

HISTORY SOCIETY

On Wednesday 16th November, in Watlington village hall, **James Dickinson** will come and give a talk entitled **Margaret Beaufort "My Lady the King's Mother"** which is an intriguing title. The Society is pleased that we are able, once again, to offer free tea or coffee from 7.40pm and the talk will start at 8pm. It's time to join or renew membership for the coming season at the very reasonable price of £15 for the year (until June 2023) or £5 per talk for visitors who are always welcome. *Christine Byron*

ADVERTISING IN ROSTRUM IN 2023

Rostrum depends on its advertising income to avoid making any charge to recipients. If you use an advertiser found in Rostrum, please let them know that you saw their advert in Rostrum. If you have had a good experience with a local business which does not currently advertise in Rostrum, but which might benefit from doing so, please let Rostrum know (rostrum2@hotmail.com) so we can provide them with details of our distribution and advertising rates for 2023.

Existing advertisers will be contacted shortly to invite them to renew their advertising in Rostrum in 2023.

REV GARY WRITES

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

The Remembrance Continues

I suspect that this year's Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday observances will be marked with a special poignancy given that these will be the first following the death of our beloved Queen Elizabeth II. Doubtless it will be particularly poignant for King Charles III and the Royal Family. Her Majesty's absence from the big, televised events we are so used to seeing will not go unnoticed or pass without comment in the media. She herself served in the Second World War. In 1944 when she was just 18 years old, Princess Elizabeth joined the ATS and before that she lent her support to the *Dig for Victory* campaign. Furthermore, she did a broadcast for *Children's Hour* for the benefit of children, like herself at the time, who had to be evacuated from their homes. And of course, Her Majesty went on to being linked with all branches of the Armed Forces in various ways.

So, Her Majesty's absence at this year's acts of remembrance will mark a huge change in what we are used to. But the observances will continue and we ought to pray for King Charles as he now takes his place in all the proceedings for so long admirably attended and so well served by his mother. Details of the service for Remembrance Sunday can be found in this November edition of *Rostrum*. I would also like to draw your attention to the Armistice Day Observance that I hold at the war memorial outside Mereworth Church. We'll gather at 10:45 for a ceremony there at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month. Please do join me there and I think it's worth remembering that the Armistice Day observance was instituted by His Majesty's great-grandfather, King George V.

So, monarchs come and monarchs go but the remembering of them and of those who have given their lives in sacrifice for our nation continue. The last Sunday in November this year marks the beginning of the Christian season of Advent. In that season we remember the coming of the monarch Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II openly acknowledged as her Lord and King – King Jesus. In Advent many of us Christians put our focus on the coming into this world of the King of Kings; not only His first coming to live, suffer and die for our sins but also His future return when He shall come to judge the living and the dead. He is the monarch who has been and gone, and who is and shall be again.

The continuance of war in our world and the continuance of dissatisfaction, fear, greed, and so many other wrongs that blight our lives, families and communities all serve as the greatest reminder to me that we need to put ourselves under the just and gentle rule of this King. I believe that the greatest and most far-reaching legacy of Queen Elizabeth's reign would be for her admirers and subjects to put themselves at the service of the Lord Jesus, the King she served. Perhaps you'll join us for our Advent services and take your first steps towards accepting the rule of Jesus Christ in your own life?

The kingdoms of the world go by, in purple and in gold;
They rise, they flourish and then they die
And all their tale is told.
One kingdom only is divine, one banner triumphs still;
It's King, a servant and it's sign, a cross upon a hill.

Rev Gary Townsend

Priest-in-Charge of Mereworth, Watlingbury and West Peckham

WATERINGBURY CHURCH - SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

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

Church Face Book Page: fb.me/watlingburychurch

Friends of SJB Church web site www.fowc.org.uk

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

Sunday 6th - 10am – Matins led by Barry Fisher

**Friday 11th - 10.45 for 11am Armistice Day
Service at the War Memorial outside Mereworth
Church**

**Sunday 13th –
8.30am – Benefice Prayer Book said Communion
10am - Annual Parish Act of Remembrance** Our
uniformed organisations parade to this service which
starts in the church and then continues at the Village
War Memorial in the churchyard for the laying of
wreaths and the national 2 minutes silence.

Sunday 20th - 10am - All Age Worship (An informal
service)

**Advent Sunday 27th - 10am – Communion with
Rev Gary Townsend**

**Sunday 4th December - 10am – Morning
Praise with Barry Fisher**

**Refresh Benefice Informal Worship Service
5pm to 5.45 (approx) in
St Lawrence Church Mereworth.**

Sundays 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th November For all
who enjoy less formal worship. Young people who attend
stay for the first 30 minutes then go to The Rectory for
refreshments and social time together. Adults continue with
worship.

**WEEKLY ZOOM BENEFICE BIBLE STUDY
GROUP**

Thursdays 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.

**IN OUR JOYS AND SORROWS – From the Parish
Registers**

Baptism – Winter Grace Morgan (9th October)

Funeral – Ann Chitty (21st September)

GRAND CHRISTMAS CRAFT BAZAAR

**Saturday 19th November 11am-3pm
at the Church of St John the Baptist, Tonbridge Road
Entry Free**

A great opportunity to buy some special and unusual presents

Stock up your larder for Winter with
Sheena's jams and Gordon's pickles
or honey from Jean, a local beekeeper
Accessories, Jewellery and Crafts

Gifts galore for everyone on your list

Activities for children to enjoy

Bring your Teddy for a ride on the Zip Wire

Keep your strength up with tea or coffee and a mince pie
or a glass of mulled wine

There will also be the traditional Cake Stall and Tombola
General Raffle and Christmas Cake Raffle

Thank you to Watringbury Players for their £350 donation to church funds from the proceeds of Alice in Wonderland Pantomime held earlier in the year.

Thank You for Cement – the musical

What a delightful production with amazing harmonies from the chorus, excellent performances from the cast, creative stage settings and props and splendid lighting. Well done to all involved from Watringbury Players, members of Watringbury Church and Christ Church, Snodland.

CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD AUTUMN CLEAN

Saturday 12th November - 9.30am to Noon

Volunteers are much needed and will be much appreciated, to go along to help prepare the church and churchyard for the annual Parish Act of Remembrance. Please go to the church at any time during the morning and take 'tools' suitable for the job which you would like to do. Tea and coffee will be provided.

REV GARY WRITES

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☎ 01622 813178

The Remembrance Continues

I suspect that this year's Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday observances will be marked with a special poignancy given that these will be the first following the death of our beloved Queen Elizabeth II. Doubtless it will be particularly poignant for King Charles III and the Royal Family. Her Majesty's absence from the big, televised events we are so used to seeing will not go unnoticed or pass without comment in the media. She herself served in the Second World War. In 1944 when she was just 18 years old, Princess Elizabeth joined the ATS and before that she lent her support to the *Dig for Victory* campaign. Furthermore, she did a broadcast for *Children's Hour* for the benefit of children, like herself at the time, who had to be evacuated from their homes. And of course, Her Majesty went on to being linked with all branches of the Armed Forces in various ways.

So, Her Majesty's absence at this year's acts of remembrance will mark a huge change in what we are used to. But the observances will continue and we ought to pray for King Charles as he now takes his place in all the proceedings for so long admirably attended and so well served by his mother. Details of the service for Remembrance Sunday can be found in this November edition of *Rostrum*. I would also like to draw your attention to the Armistice Day Observance that I hold at the war memorial outside Mereworth Church. We'll gather at 10:45 for a ceremony there at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month. Please do join me there and I think it's worth remembering that the Armistice Day observance was instituted by His Majesty's great-grandfather, King George V.

So, monarchs come and monarchs go but the remembering of them and of those who have given their lives in sacrifice for our nation continue. The last Sunday in November this year marks the beginning of the Christian season of Advent. In that season we remember the coming of the monarch Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II openly acknowledged as her Lord and King – King Jesus. In Advent many of us Christians put our focus on the coming into this world of the King of Kings; not only His first coming to live, suffer and die for our sins but also His future return when He shall come to judge the living and the dead. He is the monarch who has been and gone, and who is and shall be again.

The continuance of war in our world and the continuance of dissatisfaction, fear, greed, and so many other wrongs that blight our lives, families and communities all serve as the greatest reminder to me that we need to put ourselves under the just and gentle rule of this King. I believe that the greatest and most far-reaching legacy of Queen Elizabeth's reign would be for her admirers and subjects to put themselves at the service of the Lord Jesus, the King she served. Perhaps you'll join us for our Advent services and take your first steps towards accepting the rule of Jesus Christ in your own life?

The kingdoms of the world go by, in purple and in gold;

They rise, they flourish and then they die

And all their tale is told.

One kingdom only is divine, one banner triumphs still;

It's King, a servant and it's sign, a cross upon a hill.

Rev Gary Townsend

Priest-in-Charge of Mereworth, Wateringbury and West Peckham



Do come along to the
**MACMILLAN COFFEE
MORNING**

**WEDNESDAY 2ND
NOVEMBER
10.30am – Noon
In Wateringbury Church**

**Coffee, and Delicious
Cakes
Craft Sales Table**

Lots of Books 50p each or 3 for £1

**All proceeds to aid the work of
Macmillan Cancer Support**

COFFEE, CAKE, CHAT AND CRAFTS

After organising the Macmillan Coffee morning on 2nd November the group will be back to its normal format on **16th and 30th November**. Last month Miranda showed some how to make pictures using felted sheep's wool, Eddie continued making a rug-type wall hanging, others brought needlepoint projects, one or two knitted, but most just enjoyed the relaxed, friendly atmosphere. Coffee and cake are free and those going along are asked to donate £1 and from the funds accumulated members have agreed to buy some sleeping bags to be given to Homeless Care, Maidstone and to donate £50 to the church to help with the heating costs.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 12th November – 11am-2pm

Craft Fayre in Mereworth Church

Saturday 19th November - 11am-3pm

Christmas Craft Bazaar in Wateringbury Church

***Thursday 15th December – 8pm – in Wateringbury
Church***

Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight

MESSY CHURCH – Saturday 5th NOVEMBER - 3-5pm

Young children and their carers are invited to go along to the church to enjoy an afternoon with lots of crafts, a bible story and prayers as well as songs led by Rev Gary with his guitar. The afternoon always ends with tea. For more details email ruth.dunn33@btinternet.com

