

VILLAGE DIARY

NOV

5	Footpath Walk	V Hall Car Park	2pm
7	Parish Council Meeting followed by Planning Mtg	Village Hall	7.30pm
9	Women's Insitute "Royal British Legion" talk	Village Hall	2pm
15	Coffee, Craft & Chat	Church	10.30am
15	History Society Talk	Village Hall	7.40pm
18	Grand Christmas Bazaar	Church	11am-3pm
25	ABBA Chique	Village Hall	7.30pm
29	Coffee, Craft & Chat	Church	10.30am

DEC

3	Footpath Walk	V Hall Car Park	2pm
3	School Christmas Fayre	School	pm
14	Women's Institute Christmas Tea Party	Village Hall	2pm

Thank you to our regular advertisers for their continued support in funding this magazine. Invitations to renew adverts for 2018 will be sent during the first week of November.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH – LOOKING OUT FOR YOU

If you can spare one hour a week (or more), at a time and on a day that suits you, then please get in touch by e-mailing me at speedwatchdm@gmail.com. If you would like to hear more about what is involved, I will be pleased to have an informal chat 07484200764. You can also find out more about the scheme by visiting www.communityspeedwatch.co.uk

VILLAGE PEOPLE *Please let us have your news and tributes by 17 November for our December/January magazine. Entries are free.*



Wedding congratulations to.....

John Evans and Michelle Toft who were married at the Archbishop's Palace, Maidstone on 30 September.

Rebecca Reardon and James Fannon who married at St Peter and St Paul's Church at East Sutton on 5 August. Becky has been a long time member of the Watlingbury Players. She joined at about the age of 8 and is looking forward to this year's pantomime.

Diamond Wedding Anniversary Congratulations to Alan and Janet Coltham who were married in 1957 at St Marks Church, Lewisham.

Congratulations to Darryl & Steve Jessop on the recent arrival of their first grandchild, **Beatrix Rosa**.



Tom Blest unveiling the blue plaque to his
3 x great grandfather John Beal Jude founder
of The Kent Brewery who was born at
Cross House in 1807.

The History Society is delighted to learn that many people are enjoying the Blue Plaques and using the QR readers to learn about those commemorated.

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

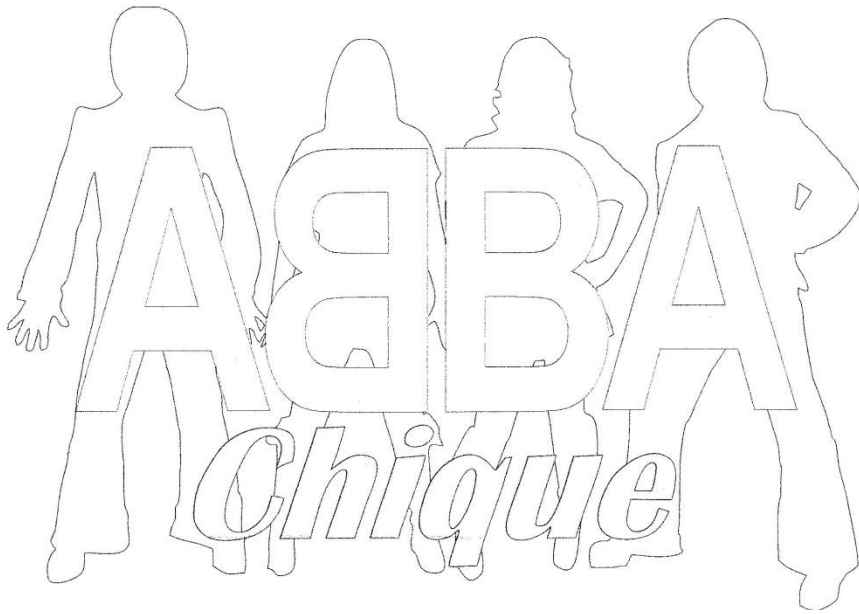
Due to a resignation there is a vacancy on the Parish Council. Should you be interested in applying and would like more information please contact the Clerk: clerk@wateringburypc.org.uk or telephone 01622 817068. It is anticipated the vacancy will be filled by the end of the year.



WATERINGBURY VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 25 November at 7.30pm

Tickets £15 - available from the Post Office & Handy Stores



One of the UK's top tribute bands to "ABBA"
Authentic sound and appearance
Covering all "ABBA's" classic hits!

All funds raised go towards the Village Hall
Licensed Bar
Bring your own nibbles

Wateringbury Village Fete Committee urgently need new members to join their team of volunteers. If you can help or require further information, please contact 01622 812027

A PLEA FROM THE SOLE

Please be a responsible dog owner and clean up your dog's deposits. Reports have been received about the mess left in the playing fields. There are plenty of designated bins in the area. Thank you.

OCTOBER PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The Chairman expressed his thanks to Christine Byron for her organisation of the village blue plaques unveiling walk which had been attended by some 80-100 people in September. Parish Councillors agreed that the event had been a great success.

Members of the Council were reminded of the Remembrance Day Service to be held at the church on Sunday, 12 November at 10am.

The resignation of Keith Fisher was announced at the meeting.

Kent County Councillor, Matthew Balfour referred to an invoice received by the Parish Council for the repairs done to the Wateringbury finger signpost which included additional work not agreed. The Parish Council were looking at ways to cover the cost, but Cllr Balfour said he was happy to fund it. Cllr Balfour reiterated the need to make financial cuts to local services - £10m on this year's budget and £40-£50m next year. The KCC would be averse to reducing funding for roads and drainage. More likely, bus services subsidised by the KCC could be affected. A member of the public asked Matthew to report to the Parish Council what the KCC plans were for the main building at the former Macintyre Care facility at Pelican Court which had been closed in the Spring.

An email had been received from the Borough Councillor, Simon Jessel outlining the following:

- The refuse collection service for the area is currently out to tender.
- Despite an admission that Wateringbury crossroads experiences high pollution, it seemed unlikely that measuring equipment could be borrowed from another area. The Parish Council felt that there had been contradictory information about the use of this equipment and a follow-up would be made.
- The closure of Aylesford newsprint had adversely affected the Borough's income.

The Crime Report taken from Kent Police website showed that during July there had been 2 violent crimes, 1 public order crime and 1 other crime in the village. During September there had been an attempted break-in of a residential property. More recently a vehicle had been stolen from Phoenix Drive.

Traffic congestion at the crossroads is a constant problem and Councillors discussed the usefulness of undertaking a survey. If data recording the movement of vehicles/times, etc would be officially recognised by other authorities it may be worth considering.

Trimming of the lime trees and hedge at the cemetery would be undertaken soon.

Village and road signs in the village had been cleaned by the Friends of Wateringbury.

Part of the soft surface in the play area had been renewed. Swings in the lower playground still need repairing.

A quote had been received for repairs to the leaking roof at Drayhorse Meadow. Another is still required before a decision can be made.

A free app to report crime is currently on trial. An extra 300 Police Special Officers will be recruited across divisions. Advice/assistance had been given to local shop owners to guard against crime.

Wateringbury Community Speedwatch Group submitted a report detailing their observations during 7 hourly sessions during July (123 speeding vehicles) and 13 sessions in August (381 speeding vehicles). Another appeal was made for more volunteers to join the group. Councillors discussed how to recruit more people and it was suggested that the front cover of Rostrum be used to raise awareness.

Maintenance of the planted beds near the crossroads is due to be undertaken by KCC in November and confirmation of this is awaited. A local businessman has offered to take on the work in return for free advertising on the plot. A number of issues need to be resolved by the Council before taking up this option.

The owners of properties previously affected by flooding will be contacted to see if they have any photos of historic flooding events.

During the public discussion session the following matters were raised:

- The many large and brightly coloured signs displayed by the Shell garage which lies within a conservation area was mentioned.
- Vegetation overgrowing the bus stop in Bow Road.
- The recent protest at the crossroads against traffic pollution. It was suggested that "no idling engine" signs be installed. Councillors were supportive of local initiatives and requested that organisers keep them informed of such events.
- The continuing use of the village hall car park by local businesses for commercial purposes. As the car park is owned by TMBC and is classed as a public car park it is difficult to control usage. It was suggested that a registration identifying system as used by some supermarkets could be utilised.
- Congratulations were extended to Cllr David & Mrs Yvonne Marks who had won the Kent Life Magazine Amateur Garden of the Year Award.

At the planning meeting there was no objection to:
Rear lounge extension, utility room & shower/wc - 21 Allington Gardens.

To read the full minutes of last month's meeting, go to: www.wateringburypc.kentparishes.gov.uk/agenda-and-minutes

Next meeting: Tuesday 7 November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall (upstairs room).

WAR NEWS, NOVEMBER 1917

November 6 : capture of village of Passchendaele, Belgium 8 : Lenin and Trotsky assume power in Russia 12 : Italians capitulate to Austro-Hungarians at 12 th Battle of Isonzo, Slovenia 20 : start of Battle of Cambrai, France 28 : Germans surrender to Britain in East Africa
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Thomas Waghorn, was the only village casualty of the month, killed on 25th November during the Battle of Cambrai. The army deployed mass tanks for the first time and had air superiority but, after initial success, the German counter attack resulted in another inconclusive battle. Thomas is listed throughout the war by the vicar on his list of parishioners serving in the armed forces. He is on the village war memorial, but not the school one. His family moved frequently, were not in the village for the 1911 census, and, at the time of his death, were in Snodland, so his connection with the village is not clear. Thomas was a volunteer, aged 18, just before the start of the war. He was 5 foot 3 inches tall when he enlisted with a fresh complexion, brown hair and blue eyes. In November 1914 he was listed by the Police Gazette as having deserted (a term which includes overstaying leave) at Chatham. In December 1914 he was arrested in Watlingbury, remanded in custody by West Malling magistrates to await military escort and fined 2 shillings. However, this episode did not stop him becoming a sergeant at the age of 21 by the time of his death.

On 7th November a meeting was held in Watlingbury to encourage recruitment to a Watlingbury platoon of the Kent volunteer regiment. Convalescent soldiers from Barham Court VAD Hospital, Teston, attended the meeting and gave a programme of music. The volunteer force would be given uniforms and training (10 hours a month, initially at the, now demolished, King's Head Hotel at the crossroads) but expected to fully serve only in the UK in the event of imminent invasion. It was reported that 40 recruits had been secured, but a further 20 were needed.

The following day soldiers from Barham Court again came to Watlingbury to give a concert (mainly comedy) in the Church Rooms (as the village hall was then known) to raise money for the YMCA, attracting a crowded audience of 240. There were many other worthy charities collecting in the village, including one for Kentish prisoners of war, but no Watlingbury prisoners are known.

The Watlingbury Scout and Wolf Cubs at this time consisted of 28 boys under the leadership of Mr EA Smith, headmaster of the boys' school. One of the Patrol Leaders was Reg Rogers. He had gone to a conference and rally the previous month in Chatham attended by Baden Powell, where he delivered a paper "How to deal with the Slacker" which apparently stimulated an hour's "animated discussion". At school the horse chestnuts collected (see October's Rostrum) were weighed at 14 cwt and taken away. There had been no slacking here.

Terry Bird

For more details see the web-site of Watlingbury Local History Society. (<https://www.sites.google.com/site/wateringburylocalhistory/>).

Thanks to everyone who turned up at my book signings.

I signed and sold 40 copies of my book Exclusive! The Last Days of Fleet Street. My Part In Its Downfall at sessions in Teston Village Stores. Even the photographer from the KM bought one! For those who missed out, the book is still available at Watlington Post Office or direct from me - teston@aol.com

Maurice Chittenden

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HAVE YOUR SAY ON KENT COUNTY COUNCIL'S PROPOSED 2018/19 BUDGET

To balance KCC's budget for 2018/19 we have to find an estimated £66m of savings in response to additional spending demands and reduced government grant. Our consultation includes plans for £56m of savings with a further £9m yet to be identified.

We would really welcome your comments on these plans as well as suggestions as to where you think savings can and should be made.

Leader of Kent County Council Paul Carter said in a recent press interview that "the consequences for next year's budget are really very significant"

KCC plans to increase Council Tax by the amount permitted under the referendum principles, including the additional social care levy. The estimated increase for 2018-19 is 3.99% (£41.84 per year for a band C property.) This will increase KCC's share of the Council Tax bill for a band C property to £1,089.68 in 2018/19.

Since 2011-12 KCC has saved £589m in response to the financial challenge.

Please visit: www.kent.gov.uk/budgetconsultation to have your say on our proposals to fix the 2018/19 budget gap and tell us your priorities.

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FOOTPATH GROUP

Unfortunately, in October we could not do the advertised walk owing to Teston Bridge still being closed for repairs. From the start we walked down to the river to join the Medway Valley Path to Nettlestead crossing and over the rail line. Passing Nettlestead Place through the churchyard and on to Rock Farm. We crossed over the Watlington Stream to Old Road alongside the Mill Pond and back to the start. A little shorter than normal, but a good walk. Our next walks are:

5 November - a local woodland walk meet village hall at 2pm

3 December - a local walk meet village hall 2pm

Kevin Reynolds, 01622 813763



TESTON & WATERLINGTON PRESCHOOL

Our term 2 has started well settling in our new children and welcoming our new parents. Our AGM was well attended and many thanks to those who volunteered to join our fundraising committee. It is great to hear so many fundraising ideas and plans for the forthcoming year. I'm confident that we will succeed in our aim of raising £2,000 a year. The money raised by the committee is always used for the benefit of the children, new toys, craft materials etc.

This term we will be looking at animals that hibernate for the winter, making fat balls for our bird feeders and hedgehog bread rolls. We will also be making poppy pictures for Remembrance Sunday.

Time photography will be coming into the setting on Thursday 30 November, pretty dresses, smart shirts and a big smile please! That's the Grandparents' Christmas presents sorted. Regarding Christmas, as usual our Christmas concert will be taking place on our last day which is Wednesday 20 December. Tickets available nearer the time.

I must also mention a big thank you to our outgoing committee members that have stepped down now their children are at big school, their support and contribution has been invaluable over the past couple of years.

If you are interested in joining our preschool please contact Tina Driver on 07805 796353 and come along for a taster session.

WATERINGBURY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our September meeting was "History from the Air" given to us by Rod le Gear, who showed us many interesting sites from the air, including a tour around Kent which gave us an opportunity to guess many well known places, which were not so obvious from above. Our next meeting on 18 October will be "Life of Pocahontas" by Christoph Bull, this coincides with 2017 being the 400th anniversary of her death.

On 15 November Peter Ewart will be talking to us about "Life in the Victorian Workhouse". All welcome, visitors £3. Talks begin at 8pm but doors open at 7.40pm for refreshments.

WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Autumn got properly underway with our annual Harvest Service and each class's presentation of thanksgiving through poetry and song. £75 was generously donated during the retiring collection and this money went immediately to our local foodbank. The children's contributions of food and produce were parcelled up and delivered to individual families in need as well as to local shelters and refuges. Another annual October event, the Macmillan Coffee Morning, raised an impressive £125 to support families who are facing the many difficulties of a cancer diagnosis.

If any parents with children who will be starting school in September 2018 missed our two Open Mornings in October, we are holding an 'Open Classroom' where parents and their child can join in the fun and activities of the Reception classrooms. This will take place on Thursday, 2nd November from 11-12 noon. Please contact the office on (01622) 812199 to reserve a place. Further visits by prospective parents (and children) are welcomed throughout the autumn and you can arrange this with the office.

Two long-serving members of staff reached milestones this autumn. Mrs Humphrey was surprised with a special assembly, song and gifts to mark her 27 years of service at the school. She continues in her role as Office Manager and it was delightful to celebrate all that she brings to our school. Mrs Crawford, our School Secretary, is retiring from school life to spend more time travelling with her husband and settling into a new home and area. Mrs Humphrey and Mrs Crawford are a class double act and we know we will be seeing Mrs Crawford from time to time when she pops in to check on us!

Our parent organisation, FOWPS, are holding their first Bonfire Night at school on Friday, 3rd November from 5:30pm. The evening will feature a roaring bonfire, 7 large guys (made by each class) and delicious soup and hotdogs. The school's popular Christmas Fayre will be held on Sunday, 3rd December and will feature artisan stalls, craft and decorations, teas, cakes and crepes, of course, our justifiably famous grotto. We are trialling a Sunday afternoon and we look forward to welcoming the wider community.

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

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Residents may have noticed that the **restored finger signpost** is once again standing at our crossroads. The restoration included a new finial and repaint and this is thanks to the organisation of the work by the Parish Council and funding from the County Council.

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To read the full minutes of last month's meeting, go to: [www.watringburypc.kentparishes.gov.uk/agenda-and-minutes](http://www.watringburypc.kentparishes.gov.uk/agenda-and-minutes)

**Next meeting: Tuesday 7 November at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall (upstairs room).



**EAST MALLING CHRISTMAS MARKET on Saturday 25 November from 1.45pm to 3.45pm in East Malling Village Hall, New Road.** Proceeds will be donated to Centre for Independent Living Kent (CiLK) - a charity that promotes independent living for disabled people.

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## **WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

On November 9, Andrew Stickells is coming along to tell us about the Royal British Legion. During his talk he will be giving us the history of the Royal British Legion and the changes and events that have affected both the Legion and members of the Armed Forces both recently and in the past, and how it continues to help personnel injured in present day combat. The monthly competition is a "Poppy Related Item". Visitors very welcome.

Our speaker in October was Wilf Lower who came along to tell us about "Lost Empires – the Last Days of Music Hall and Variety". Wilf's talk covered many decades of entertainment, from pubs to palaces and music hall, all of which survived both cinema and radio but the arrival of television brought an end to them. We were given a light-hearted look at the theatre which included performances by Marie Lloyd, Max Miller, and also Gracie Fields and Ken Dodds who are still currently seen and mentioned on television. Wilf, with his talk, gave us a very entertaining afternoon and reminded us of many performers we had seen in the past and now forgotten.

In December we will be holding a 'Christmas Afternoon Tea Party', with festive activities, quizzes and a raffle. For enquiries please contact Janet, on 01622 817833.

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## **CALLING ALL EX-PUPILS**

We have launched an exciting alumni project to track down as many former Wateringbury School pupils as we can. Please email [alumni@wateringbury.kent.sch.uk](mailto:alumni@wateringbury.kent.sch.uk) for more information or check out the school website 'Our School Community – Alumni' page to see how you can get involved. We would like to thank Terry Bird from Wateringbury Local History Society and John Gilham from the Wateringbury Remembered website for their help with promoting this project.

**St John the Baptist Church here in Wateringbury** has a strong focus on young people and strong links with our primary school. We would love to see more families join us for our various activities so let me tell you what we do and what is coming up in the near future.

Every **third Sunday** in each month we hold a **family service** which takes a simplified and very accessible pattern led by Becky Bowie with myself and Kate Millar putting on something practical to illustrate the chosen story. As I write, this Sunday we will be having a 'wedding banquet' which illustrates one of the parables Jesus told. However small your children are you are most welcome - why not try us out.

On the **first and fourth Sunday** we hold a session for **all age young people** in the vestry; we are very short of space but we get by! These sessions are taken by two adults and again there is a story focus with practical activities. The young people join the service part way through for communion when Revd Nick Williams brings them up near the front so they can see what he is doing and ask questions if they want to.

On the **second Sunday** in the month the **secondary division** – their chosen name - meet in the vestry for something a bit more challenging. I think refreshments take an important part! These sessions are for young people at secondary school.

In addition to these sessions in church we hold **Toddlers Praise** every **Monday** in the Scout and Guide hut from 2pm – 3pm. It takes place every week except Bank holidays and is for pre-school children, even babies. We have lots of fun with singing and marching round, a story and show and tell, and of course refreshments!

Now what we are thinking about is adding to our provision for our younger end, say 3 to 7+ year olds, so it is watch this space!!

Also running is **Watch Club** which meets on certain Sundays in the village hall and **JAM Club** in school. So parents, there is a lot of choice. Whatever you choose you will find a really warm welcome.

Just to let you know about other events: our **Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 18 November** will have plenty of games for children run by the young people - plenty for adults, too.

Our next family service is special as well. Each year we hold a **toy service** where we ask for nearly new toys to send to the women's refuge in Maidstone. Women often have to leave an abusive relationship with little notice, taking their children with them. The toys help to make their Christmas special and for the mums we make up shoe boxes, filling them with toiletries. This service is on **Sunday**

**19 November.**

Our **Sunday's Cool** (young people) will have a **Christmas Party on**

**3 December** during the 10am service.

And our **Nativity play on Sunday 17 December** – I am looking for more children to participate. We rehearse on the Friday evening, 15 December at 5pm. And that brings us right up to Christmas!

If you want to know more you can e-mail me on [ruth.dunn@btinternet.com](mailto:ruth.dunn@btinternet.com)

**Ruth Dunn**

## GRAND CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

11am to 3pm Saturday 18 November

Entry Free

At the Church of St John The Baptist

Tonbridge Road, Waterringbury

A great opportunity to buy some special and unusual presents

*Stock up your larder with Sheena & Gordon's Preserves,*



Luxury Chocolates from The Kentish Chocolate Company,

*or Honey from James, our local beekeeper.*

Revitalise your Christmas tree with some sparkling new decorations

*Gifts Galore for everyone on your list*

Come along and find just the right thing for that difficult person.

Children bring a Teddy to have an Adventure on the Zip Wire,

*while you keep your strength up with a cup of tea or coffee,*

*or a glass of mulled wine.*



### COFFEE, CRAFT & CHAT

Come and join us at our fortnightly meetings for tea/coffee, homemade cake, conversation and optional handicrafts. On **Wednesday 1 November** we will be visiting the Chatham Outlet Centre. If you would like to come please get in touch to arrange transport. Our usual meetings in the Church resume on **Wednesdays 15 and 29 November 10.30am-12.30pm**. For further details call 814673.

### FROM THE PARISH REGISTER



Baptism - We welcomed into the family of the Church

Tom and Mia Humphries on 24 September 2017

## BENEFICE SERVICES

Visit our website [www.wateringburychurch.org.uk](http://www.wateringburychurch.org.uk)

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER</b><br><br>8.30am Holy Communion - East Malling<br><br>9.45am Family Service – East Malling<br><br>9.45am Food for Thought – Teston<br><br><b>10am Eucharist – Wateringbury</b>                                                                                              | <b>SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER</b><br><br>8.30am Holy Communion - East Malling<br><br>9.45am Remembrance Svce - E Malling<br><br><b>10am Remembrance Svce - Wateringbury</b><br><br>10.50am Act of Remembrance - Teston<br><br>War Memorial<br><br>6pm Choral Evensong - East Malling<br><br>6.30pm Remembrance Svce - Teston |
| <b>SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER</b><br><br><b>8.30am Holy Communion - Wateringbury</b><br><br>9.45am Eucharist - East Malling<br><br>9.45am Parish Communion - Teston<br><br><b>10am Family Service - Wateringbury</b>                                                                                      | <b>SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER</b><br><br>8.30am Holy Communion – East Malling<br><br>9.45am Morning Praise – East Malling<br><br>9.45am Come & Praise - Teston<br><br><b>10am Eucharist– Wateringbury</b><br><br>6.30pm Parish Communion - Teston                                                                            |
| Every Monday – 2-3pm – Scout & Guide HQ, Glebe Meadow – Toddler Praise                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Every Thursday - 9am in East Malling Church – Holy Communion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Pilsdon Community, 27 Water Lane, West Malling - Rev Viv Ashworth invites you to the Barn Chapel to join members of the community for a Eucharist Service every Wednesday at noon and 6pm on Sundays                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| For baptisms, weddings, funerals and other arrangements please contact the<br><br>Vicar Rev Nick Williams on 01732 843282 or email <a href="mailto:father.nick@btinternet.com">father.nick@btinternet.com</a><br><br>For all other enquiries, please contact the Administrator on 01622 815218 or |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

email [parishofficeemwt@gmail.com](mailto:parishofficeemwt@gmail.com)

## **SPECIAL SERVICES IN WATERINGBURY CHURCH**

### **Annual Parish Act of Remembrance - 12 November at 10am**

and then to the War Memorial in the churchyard for the laying of wreaths and the 2 minutes' silence. There will also be a small area for the placing of wooden crosses dedicated to those we especially wish to remember who have died in the service of our country.

### **Annual Toy and Gift Service - 19 November at 10am**

Please help children and mothers who will be spending time at local Women's Refuges enjoy the Christmas festivities by donating nearly new toys and gift vouchers for the children. Also, the mothers really do appreciate toiletry items, etc.