

VILLAGE DIARY

SEPTEMBER			
2	Footpath Group Walk	V Hall Car Park	2.30pm
2	Wateringbury Cellos	Church	6pm
4	Parish Council Meeting Followed by Planning Committee	Village Hall (Upper Room)	7.30pm
5	Coffee Break	Church	10.30a m
9	Strawberry Tea Party	Manor Farm	2-5pm
13	Women's Institute	Village Hall	2pm
15	Queen Tribute Band (NWPS)	Nettlestead V/Hall	
19	Coffee Break	Church	10.30a m
19	History Society	Village Hall	7.40pm
22	Quiz Night (Conservative Assoc)	Village Hall	7pm
23	Bless the Spire – Special Service	Church	4pm
OCTOBER			
7	Footpath Group Walk	V Hall Car Park	2.30pm
11	Women's Institute	Village Hall	2pm
13	Village Hall Quiz Evening	Village Hall	7pm
17	History Society	Village Hall	7.40pm

WATERINGBURY CELLOS 2018

Sunday 2 September 2018, 6 to 7pm

St John the Baptist Church, Wateringbury

as part of her 'Summer School' Naomi Butterworth is directing cellists from Trinity Music College who will perform a cello extravaganza featuring music from Bach to Gershwin and highlighting Chloe Sami (soprano) in de Falla's Seven Popular Songs

admission £5 (under 18s free) at the door
proceeds to the *Save our Spire Fund* refreshments available
don't miss this unique musical event

RINGING REMEMBERS

1,400 bell ringers died during the First World War. Honour their memory by becoming one of 1,400 new bell ringers this year and be part of a nationwide moment by ringing on the centenary of the Armistice on 11 November 2018.

Find out how to take part by emailing bells@big-ideas.org

Or by contacting our local bellringers on 01622 812262

HISTORY SOCIETY

After our glorious summer months, a warm welcome back to all our members and visitors and we look forward to seeing you on **Wednesday 19th September 2018** when Stephen Harmer will be speaking to us about the History of Sissinghurst Castle. Our October meeting, on Wednesday the 17th, will be a return visit by Colin Breed who previously talked to us about Royal Visits to Kent and this will be part 2.

Our July outing to Parham House was a great success, our visit included a tour of the award-winning gardens, with the gardeners, who were doing a sterling job in keeping the gardens looking their best despite the exceptionally hot weather.

Meetings in the village hall are at 7.40 pm with the speakers beginning at 8pm. Subscriptions are still £10.00 for the year with visitors at £3.00. We look forward to seeing you in September.

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Please let us have your news and tributes by 17 September for our October magazine. Entries are free.

Congratulations to Maria and Malcolm White who became first time grandparents on Sunday 8 July with the arrival of **Lilly Marie Barden** and of course to Lily's parents **Alanna and James**.

"Big" Birthday Congratulations to Hilary Cayzer and to **Councillor David Marks** for their forthcoming birthdays, and belated wishes to **Gillian Sessions** for last month.

Yvonne Shadbolt passed away peacefully very recently. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Details of funeral arrangements will be made known in due course.

JULY PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Co-option of Councillor At the start of the meeting Steven Tickner was co-opted on to the council.

KCC Councillor Matthew Balfour spoke about traffic congestion at the cross roads. He took questions from members of the public who were concerned with the speed of traffic on the Tonbridge Road as well as the merits of filter lanes at the traffic lights. Suggestions were made from councillors and public regarding traffic flow, speed and pollution levels.

The chairman proposed the reformation of a Parish Highways committee to deal with all traffic and highways related concerns. Councillors agreed and the members will be Steven Tickner, David Marks, Dennis Stones and Lyn Simons.

Crime Report Between 2 and 22 June the following crimes were reported in the village: a road rage incident at the traffic lights resulting in an assault, fuel siphoned and windows smashed on several coaches parked in Danns Lane, possession of a controlled drug, a vehicle had its rear window smashed and a wing mirror removed in Bow Road, a bad driving incident which caused a cyclist to swerve on Tonbridge Road and an object thrown out of a car window hitting another vehicle causing the windscreen to crack, a vehicle seen driving on to the playing fields with other males seen to approach. There were also several RTCs along the Tonbridge Road and one in Livesey Street.

Friends of Wateringbury Volunteers had worked recently in the village and collected 32 black sacks of leaves, weeds and rubbish from Tonbridge Road near the bus shelters and the lock-up area. Councillors expressed their thanks for this community effort to improve the village environs.

Playing Fields Following a request councillors voted to provide a design of swing seat which is suitable for children of all abilities to use. At the public discussion time concerns were raised about the speed of vehicles using the track down to the facilities and unsocial behaviour in the evenings, which the police have been asked to monitor.

A meeting had been held with the Sports and Recreation Committee about the insurance of the Sports Pavilion. Councillors agreed to put to the Association a suggestion they pay 50% of the premium.

Speedwatch During June 19 one hourly sessions took place during which 4827 vehicles passed by. There were 508 speeding vehicles and 7 vehicles being driven untaxed.

The chairman expressed the council's appreciation of the work of the volunteers. A request was made to borrow the parish Speedwatch equipment to count the number and speed of vehicles on the Tonbridge Road for lengthy periods. It was stated users would need training and they would not be covered by the police insurance. The Council felt that Speedwatch already carried out adequate monitoring.

T & M Local Plan (which sets out planning strategy for the next few years). Central Government had instructed T & M to revisit the plan and find sites for an additional 630 new homes.

Councillors expressed deep concerns about the infrastructure and traffic implications of the recent purchase of Broadwater Farm (which borders East Malling and Kingshill). Berkley Homes' plan is to build 1100 homes and a primary school.

Village Hall The T & M pollution monitoring equipment had been installed in the porch of the hall and would be insitu for about a year. The chairman thanked the hall trustees for their co-operation.

Planning Committee Councillors considered the following applications:

Demolition of existing barns and erection of log cabin for B1(a) office use with associated parking at Home Farm, Red Hill. Council had no objections

Single storey rear extension at 1 Tonbridge Road. Councillors had no objections provided neighbours were happy.

Public Question Time Members of the public raised concerns about:

Brambles and Ivy growing on the roof of the village lock-up.

The pressures on Secondary School places when at Kings Hill and other large developments primary schools were being built but there appeared to be no new Secondary Schools planned. Neither were cemeteries being provided

A member of the public referred to reports the signal box at the station would be boarded up when changes were made to the crossing gates and stated this was not the case.

The waste bins at the playing fields were overflowing.

The apparent inadequate responses of the police to reports of crimes within the village.

*The next meeting is on **Tuesday 4 September at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall (upper meeting room).*

SCOUTING NEWS

Although we don't meet in the summer time it's still super busy with loads going on! By the time the September Rostrum is around the village all our adventures will be memories.

The **Scouts** summer camp this year is to visit the WWI war memorials and graves along with some of the places of interest from the war. We are taking two wreaths one for the scouts of Wateringbury that were called up and lost their lives and another to pay our respects for all those that fell. We also have 5 wooden crosses to take to place on the graves of the scouts as our guide has found their grave locations. It's not just a camp, it's a chance for our scouts to discover first-hand the impact of WWI on our daily lives. We do also have some fun and games planned, a trip to the beach and a full day's scouting activities at a nearby centre including kayaking, climbing and team games.

The **Explorer Scouts** are off to Northern Ireland for their camp this summer with loads planned and lots of crazy adventures! They have 8 people on target to achieve their Gold Duke of Edinburgh awards along with the rest of the section working towards their Silver and Bronze awards... lots of expeditions this year for them in all sorts of weather... baking hot summers to freezing cold winters!

The **Cub Scouts** have been super busy having just had summer camp at Downe Scout Activity Centre with a visit to Downe House...and a walk back in a lightning storm, but we braved the weather and had lots of giggles with coke-a-cola powered rockets and exploding film canisters all in the name of science!

Beavers have had some cool adventures from a sleepover to a nice walk along the river and making mud pies....yes they covered the walk of the HQ in mud...one of Tudors more crazy ideas!! They've also learnt about DIY tools and selecting the right tool for the job and how to hammer a nail in safely!

Our **AGM on 28 September at the school at 1900**, come along if you can.

VILLAGE HALL QUIZ EVENING

Our annual quiz evening is to be held on. **Saturday 13 October** at Wateringbury Village Hall. Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. No, you have not missed it; the date has moved from February to October. The same format, although after many years Phil Rex has decided that he needs a rest from doing the questions. Always a fun evening, all you need is a team of 6-8 people (or come on your own and we will match you up with others to make up a team). There will be a raffle...and prizes for the quiz winners...(and losers)! 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. Even if you cannot make it please spread the message about the evening. To book a table or a place please ring Mike Hoiles on 01622 813573 or e-mail mikejhoiles@aol.com

NETTLESTEAD AND WATERINGBURY

Preschool (NWPS) and Out of Schools' Club

Graded as Outstanding by Ofsted

NWPS 'Holiday club' supports our working parents but is open to anyone aged between 2 and 11. The children have enjoyed a range of activities, including cooking, visits to local parks and river, making friendship bracelets, butterfly houses and clay pots, and for those of us old enough to remember, 'It's a knockout!' Games included dressing up races, thread the key, tunnel ball, save the jelly babies and my favourite, water welly races – watching 3 and 4-year olds, racing in oversized wellies full of water is a sight to behold. Next year it'll be 'jelly wellies'. Equally, children have enjoyed playing with our preschool resources, such as sand, babies, pirates, the farm, garage and dinosaurs!

On 15th September 2018, NWPS will be holding a 'tribute night' at Nettlestead Village Hall to raise funds for toys and resources for the children. A Kind of Mercury – Queen Tribute Band. Tickets £12 – bring your own drinks and snacks. Tickets available at the setting, Benny's and Post Office.

For Childcare, Education and Out of School Club, including holiday club, enquiries: 01622 813120, enquiries@nwps.uk

WATERINGBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our speaker for September (13th) is Cyril Baldwin, who during his talk, 'Going, Going, Gone', will be telling us about his many experiences during a life-long career of buying and selling antiques. Our competition for this month is a 'Favourite Collectable Item', the entries will be judged during our social period after Cyril's talk, when tea and biscuits will be served and the raffle held.

October (11th) sees the return of Delia Taylor whose talk "The Roaring Twenties" is sure to be both funny and entertaining. October's competition is for a 'Twenties Head Band'. **Visitors are very welcome to both meetings.**

WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our summer term ended with the opening of our new-look library. Thanks to a fantastic community fundraising campaign, grants from the Diocese and our borough councillor, as well as support from our parent association, we have been able to complete essential work to replace the roof, windows and heating of our library and also to redesign the entire space with the help of the children and their imaginative ideas. Children's author Christopher Lloyd officially opened the new library ahead of our annual Open Evening on 18th July. We look forward to our library continuing to excite and inspire children to love reading for generations to come and we would like to thank all those individuals and businesspeople who have contributed to this campaign.

At our Leavers' Service at St John the Baptist Church on 19th July, we said our farewells to our Year 6 pupils as they prepare to embark on new adventures at secondary school and also to members of staff who are furthering their careers in education or seeking new challenges in other areas of public service. We also took the opportunity to thank our Chair of Governors, Chris Clark, for his years of dedication to the school. Chris will step down as Chair this month but will remain on the governing body.

We are looking forward to welcoming back children and teachers when we return to school on Wednesday, 5th September. Our youngest pupils, who will join Reception Class on Thursday, 13th September, enjoyed a Teddy Bears' Picnic on our school field at the end of the summer term as part of our familiarisation process. We are also excited to welcome Karen Down as part-time Special Educational Needs Coordinator during a maternity leave and also as part-time Acting Deputy Head; welcome also to David Smith as our Year 2 teacher and Emma Derby to Year 6.

Our traditional 'Wateringbury Walk' takes place on Friday, 7th September when all pupils in Years 1-6 walk the river path down to Teston Bridge, dressed in their class colours. This is our way of 'walking in' a new academic year and setting the children up for plenty of outdoor learning in our beautiful environment.

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

WAR NEWS, SEPTEMBER 2018

12: first large scale offensive on Western front by American Expeditionary Force.
23: British occupy Haifa and Acre in Palestine.
29: British retake Messines and Passchendaele on Western front.

After three months with no war fatalities for Wateringbury, Corporal **Ernest James** was killed near Ypres in Belgium on 5th September, nearly a month into the British army's 100 days advance. The war diary of his battalion of The North Lancashire Regiment records for that day that they experienced "Intermittent enemy shelling with lachrymatory & mustard gas" with 3 "Other Ranks" (i.e. not officers) killed.

The Kent Messenger reported his death as follows: *A regular soldier for 11 years, 8850 Corpl. James was the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. James, of Wateringbury, and 35 years of age. Much sympathy is felt for his aged parents, who received the news of their sad loss in the following letter: "With the deepest regret I inform you of the death of your son, Corpl. James, who fell gallantly doing his duty during an advance on the 5th. He was a most valiant soldier and much loved by his men and fellow soldiers. His comrades buried him close to the spot where he so bravely laid down his life for his country, and the burial service was read over his grave and a cross erected. We, his fellow soldiers, offer you our most heartfelt sympathy in your great trouble, in which we fully share."* He is now re-buried at Wulverghem-Lindenhoek Road Military Cemetery which is 13 km south of Ypres, one of 1,010 Commonwealth graves there.

Edward Jenner, from Teston but well known in Wateringbury, helping his father as a general carrier, was seriously wounded in late August and a graphic letter describing how he came to be wounded was published in the Kent Messenger in September.

The 100 days advance saw the Military Medal (MM) for "fine leadership and marked initiative... displayed on September 29th-30th during the operations near Comines" awarded to Sergeant Mathew Relf. Matt attended Wateringbury School and had been working in the Leney brewery as a ledger clerk until 1916 when he joined up. The MM was an honour ranked after the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) and over 115,000 were awarded during the war.

The 100 days of the final advance saw nearly as many British losses in total as at The Somme, and even more if measured daily. Wateringbury's losses were much lower than for The Somme. The home front was not completely

brutalised by the war: Christopher Eaton, from London was prosecuted at Malling petty sessions in September and fined one pound for "cruelly ill-treating a certain animal to wit an ass, by working it in an unfit state at Watlingtonbury."

Although many women moved during the war out of domestic work into better paid jobs, Mrs Brocklebank of Watlingtonbury Place was advertising in September for a second (of three) housemaid. Previous experience was necessary and a further requirement was that applicants be a "Church woman".

Terry Bird

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

WATERINGBURY GUIDES

Guides have been very busy this term and making the best of the weather by being outside at every possible opportunity. We have made burgers cooked in cabbage leaves, cowboy suppers, and camp donuts all on a wood fire. We have been wall climbing, had a pampering session, a sleepover, an animal friendly evening, and a water fun day. We have made shelters in the woods, played rounders on the field and finished the term with pioneering – making wooden swings and rope bridges over the stream in my garden and all while trying (in vain) not to fall or step into the stream! We had a BBQ before closing for the summer. If you would like to join guides with our fun activities, please contact me on sheenastewartx3@gmail.com. We would be delighted to see you.

Sheena Stewart

On Thursday 26 July, 1st Watlingtonbury Guides went on a summer camp to Cudham Shaws campsite, along with 500 other girls from Kent, Surrey, Sussex and London. In the soaring temperatures, we pitched tents and got to know the other units around us. Over the course of the camp, we enjoyed bouldering, tree climbing, an assault course, a disco, woodwork and an abundance of other activities. Our camp ended with thunderstorms (a huge difference to the 35 degree heat the day before,) but we gained a lot from the experience, including lifelong friends. Thank you to Tricia and Sheena for taking us on such a memorable camp, my last one as a guide.

Poppy Isted

WATERINGBURY FOOTPATH GROUP

The July walk was from Mereworth School to Peckham Hurst along the Swanton Valley then through the woods. With record temperatures being recorded we were thankful that most of the walk was in the shade. After crossing Seven-Mile Lane we followed the path to Yokes Court Farm then on to the spring-fed pond at Swanton (source of the Watlingtonbury Stream), passing through a meadow and an avenue of pine trees before climbing up for some road-walking at Peckham Hurst, admiring the excellent views over the Weald to the South Downs along the way. We then re-joined the footpath back to the start. A popular walk and one I have been asked to do again next year.

2 September, 2.30pm meet at Village Hall for a local woodland walk. The following walk will be on **7 October** – meet at the same time, same place.

KFR - 07713 740375

Paddock Wood Choral Society is looking for new members, particularly male voice singers (tenors and basses) to join them for their forthcoming season starting in September. Rehearsals are every Tuesday from 7.30-9.30pm at St. Andrew's Church, Paddock Wood. To find out more, contact the Secretary, Adrienne Bishop on 01892 833232 or email secretary@paddockwood-choral.org.uk.

Sheena and Gordon's Jams - Good News. You may recall that earlier in the year we wrote in Rostrum to say that with regret we had to remove our jams, marmalades and relishes from the Post Office due to burdensome regulations from Tonbridge and Malling Council. We can report that following this we met with the Environmental Health Officer and found out that are considered a small business and thus the need to have stainless steel kitchens does not apply to us. It is with some relief that we have now registered as a food business and following an inspection of our kitchen we have been awarded a five star rating. We are delighted to report that our produce is now back in the Post Office and we would like to encourage you to support us by purchasing supplies from there and in the process help to support and keep our local Post Office. Thank you to Nathan, his team and to everyone who encouraged us to continue.

Sheena Stewart

Volunteers aren't paid---not because they're worthless, but because they are priceless.....

Maidstone Hospital League of Friends last year purchased £181,000 worth of equipment for the hospital but more volunteers are needed for the shop and tea bar. If you can work one morning or afternoon per week with a friendly group of people, please ring the shop manager Jacqui Featherstone on 01622 224781.

Maidstone Homeless Care / Food Bank requires drivers. If you can spare 2 to 3 hours one morning a week picking up donations of food from supermarkets and bakers for the centre in Knightbridge Street, please ring the manager Zofia Grezmala on 01622 674064.

Alternatively, if you would like to phone Mike Williams on 01622 814529 he will be able to provide further information on the roles.

TESTON AND WATERINGBURY PRE SCHOOL

Welcome back to all our children and families to what will be a very exciting start to the new academic year when we will be learning all about ourselves, where we live and the different cultures around the world.

In our craft activities we are making gingerbread biscuits, pet puppets, and creating hand print trees for our display board. We are also talking about our family and will be bringing in our baby photos, including the staff, (some of these will be in black and white!!)

During the term the children will be taking part in a sponsored bounce-a-thon where we will be counting how many jumps the children can do on the trampoline in 1 minute. It's great to hear the children learning by counting their jumps.

Our annual general meeting will be on Tuesday 9th October at 8.00pm. All are welcome when we will be saying goodbye to our outgoing committee members and welcoming our new team of parents. I would like to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to all who have contributed to our fundraising last year, without which we would not be able to give the children the varied activities we have available.

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

WATERINGBURY BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Last term was very busy for us. We had our 'Teddy Bears Picnic' and finished the term with our 'Summer Fayre'. Everyone enjoyed themselves playing games and doing lots of craft. **Our new term begins on 12 September** when we will be doing craft and playing with our new toys. If you would like to join us, we meet every Wednesday and Friday from 10am to Noon. It will cost £2 for the first child, then £1 for any other children. The price includes tea/coffee for adults and snacks and a drink for the children.

For further information please contact Linda on 01732 522 437

QUIZ NIGHT with Fish & Chips - Saturday 22 September at 7pm

Tonbridge, Edenbridge and Malling Conservative Association are holding a quiz night at Wateringbury Village Hall. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Teams of 6-8 people with tickets at £12 each, with all profits going to the Association. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles. If you would like to book a table and join us in a fun evening, then please contact Sarah on 07740 664843 or sarahhudson500@gmail.com

Residents urged to complete electoral registration form as soon as possible

Households in Tonbridge and Malling have been sent an important electoral registration form to fill in, as the Borough Council carries out the annual process of updating its Register of Electors.

Residents must be registered to vote in order to be able to vote in future elections or in any referendum that may take place. Every household must complete the form, even if they have voted in recent elections. The form has been delivered to all homes in the borough.

The form is easy to complete – if the details already printed on the form are correct and you don't need to make any changes, you can tell the Council online or by telephone (landline calls are free) or by text message using the details on the form. If you do have changes to make, you can respond online or by completing and returning the paper form you have received. You can also let the Council know if you would like to vote by post.

Julie Beilby, Electoral Registration Officer and Chief Executive of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, explains the process: "Completing the Household form is extremely important because we need to know who is living at your address so we can help ensure that they are registered to vote. We don't get this information from council tax records or from any other organisations so we need to hear from you, even if you have voted in recent elections. So, please complete your form as soon as possible and make sure you don't 'lose your voice' at future elections. Each response we receive now will also save the Council money, as we won't need to send you a reminder, helping us to work in the most efficient way."

For help and advice on registering to vote, please email voting@tmhc.gov.uk visit www.tmbc.gov.uk/voting or call 01732 876022.

WATERINGBURY CHURCH SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

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

Church Face Book Page: fb.me/wateringburychurch

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

Saturday 1 September, 3-5pm Church

Messy Churches are found all around the world and are for all ages, though mostly attended by families with young children. There will be craft activities, a short bible story and prayer times and ours will always end with afternoon tea. Do give it a try.

*NB: In October and November Messy Church will be held on the **second** Saturday of these two months.*

Sunday 2 September, 10am Eucharist

A Communion service based on the Church of England Common Worship Service Book. Rev Nick Williams always prepares a service sheet so it's easy to follow. Sundays Cool (for all children) meets in the Vestry during this Service.

Sunday 9 September, 10am Morning Praise

An informal service led by our readers. Secondary Division for those at Secondary School meets for discussion (and a second breakfast) in the Vestry.

Sunday 16 September

8.30am Book of Common Prayer, Holy Communion

A quiet service using the beautiful words written by Cranmer in 1662. Rev Nick also gives a short address.

10am Family Service

An all age informal service led by the Sundays Cool team with well-known hymns.

Sunday 23 September, 10am Eucharist

The choir leads our singing of hymns which are usually lively and easy to sing. Sundays Cool meets in the Vestry.

Refreshments are served after all our 10am services so please stay for a chat if you can.

Sunday 30 September, 10am the Benefice Service will be held at East Malling Church

COFFEE BREAK – Wednesdays 5 and 19 September

Do come along to the church between 10.30-12.30 and enjoy a hot drink, cake and a good chat. Revive an interest in knitting, crochet, needlepoint or other craft. Members have been making poppies, using various methods, which will be used for the **Carpet of Poppies** weekend in the Church on **2, 3 and 4 November**. Save the date!

Thanks to everyone from across the village who gave during **Christian Aid Week** and to the team of volunteers for giving out and then door knocking to collect those envelopes. We collected £652.61 this year which will make a real difference for many of the most vulnerable people.

Becky & Bob Bowie



STRAWBERRY TEA PARTY

SUNDAY 9 SEPTEMBER, 2 - 5PM

MANOR FARM, OLD ROAD, WATERINGBURY

The Friends of Wateringbury Church (FOWC) invite you to come and join us in the beautiful gardens of Manor Farm (by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Mark English). Everyone is welcome to come along to enjoy a good old-fashioned English country house garden afternoon. Glasses of Pimm's will be on offer and there will also be an opportunity to buy tea/coffee and homemade cakes and delicious local strawberries and cream donated by Hugh Lowe Farms. To complete the afternoon, a white elephant stall and raffle will be run while you relax and/or play garden games – croquet, badminton, rounders, quoits, boules etc - and races for the children. Whilst some garden seating will be provided, you might like to bring along a rug/folding chairs. **Admission is free** and pedestrian and car entry is via the farm entrance in Old Road.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism – We welcomed into the family of the Church:

Max Henry Spencer Morgan on 15 July

St John the Baptist Church – Spire News!

Special Service to Bless the re-shingled Spire

4pm on Sunday, 23rd September with the new Bishop of Tonbridge

Please do come and join us in this special service to mark the completion of the work to re-shingle the spire, replacing the old cedar shingles with new oak ones – designed to last for at least one generation, if not two or more! The service will be led by the newly commissioned Bishop of Tonbridge, the Rt Rev'd Simon Burton-Jones, and Rev'd Nick Williams. It will be followed by refreshments in the church afterwards. We would love this to be a real celebration and to thank everyone who has played any part in this project. We have received a great many generous donations from individuals and families. We are also very grateful to the following organisations, who, together with you, the residents of Watringbury, have made this project possible.

The Friends of Watringbury Church - £25,000

The Rochester Bridge Trust - £15,000

The Friends of Kent Churches - £7,500

The Wolfson Foundation / Church Care - £5,000

All Churches Trust - £1,500

The Alan Evans Memorial Trust - £1,000

We are delighted with the appearance of the spire, and enormous thanks go to the contractors, Cater (Roofing Contractors) Limited of Essex, and to our Architect, Karen Butti of Thomas Ford & Partners. We hope it will be a fitting sign of the church's presence in the village for decades to come.

Friends of Kent Churches

Founded in 1949, the Friends of Kent Churches are dedicated to preserving Kent's churches and helping maintain them in good condition. In the past ten years, through their fundraising Ride & Stride and generous legacies and donations, Kent's churches have benefited by over £2 million.

This year's Ride & Stride takes place on Saturday, 8th September, and is the main fund-raising event of the year. Everyone can take part in this event – either by “riding or striding” or by sponsoring those who do. Please visit their website for more information, both generally, and specifically about this event: <http://friendsofkentchurches.co.uk/>

Anyone can become a member – see website under “Join Us” – a poster and application form will also be available shortly in the church if you have any problems with the online version.

PRIESTLY PONDERINGS

Rev Nick Williams
The Vicarage, 2 The Grange,
East Malling
parishofficeemwt@gmail.com

01732 843282

Dear Reader

Looking out at the vicarage garden at the brown and parched lawn and the flower beds filled with wilting and, to be honest largely dead or dying flowers, it struck me that we need to be very careful what we wish or indeed pray for as the outcomes are not always the ones we might have hoped for. The topic of the weather is a standard subject of conversation for the British, it's a safe ice breaker when meeting strangers and more often than not we express our wish for good weather during the weekends or the holiday periods. Well this year we certainly seem to have got what we wished for. Record high temperatures, blazing sunshine day on day, perfect weather for gathering the harvest, perfect weather for the school summer holidays, perfect weather for simply doing nothing if indeed you have the opportunity to spend the day doing nothing. But for those of us who have to work, for those who are unwell or confined to their beds, for those who have difficulty breathing, for animals and for many of the elderly, the weather wasn't quite so glorious. Those with chest problems have difficulty breathing in the humid air, dogs die in hot cars, stubble baked dry by the sun catches fire very easily, water shortages begin and hosepipe bans are imposed. What is good for one group of people isn't necessarily good for every group of people.

So, it is with life in general. We cannot live our lives motivated only by the idea that what is good for me is good for everyone or what is good for me is all that counts. Life truly lived in Jesus Christ teaches us that we live in community, we have a duty of care (to use a modern phrase) for those around us and for the places and communities in which we live. What we do has an effect on others and what they do and say has an effect on us and the communities in which we live.

So, enjoy what remains of the fine weather but be aware of those around you. Is there someone who needs your help as they suffer in the heat, are you using water without thinking about the consequences, do your animals or ones in your garden need extra shade, shelter or water? We live in community not only with our families but with everyone around and indeed in the world in which we live. We can only expect to be cared for in our time if we are willing to care for the things and people around us, we forget that at our peril.

Yours in Christ **Rev Nick Williams**