

## VILLAGE DIARY

### March

- 1 Parish Council Meeting** – Village Hall - 7.30pm  
followed by Planning Committee
- 6 Footpaths Walk** – meet at Village Hall – 2pm
- 9 Simply Soup Lent Lunches** – Church –  
12.15-1.30pm
- 23 History Society Talk on Anglo Saxons** – Village  
Hall - 8pm
- 16 Flower Club** – East Malling Institute – 7.30pm
- 18 Footpaths Walk** – meet at Village Hall – 10am
- 18/19 Alice in Wonderland** – Players – Village Hall –  
details below
- 19 Free Cycle Checks** – Car Park - 10am-12.30pm
- 23 Simply Soup Lent Lunches** – Church –  
12.15-1.30pm

### April

- 5 Parish Council Meeting** – Village Hall - 7.30pm  
followed by Planning Committee
- 9 Simply Soup Lent Lunches** – Church –  
12.15-1.30pm
- 16 Easter Fun with Faith** – Church -  
9.30am-12.30pm

### May

- 15 Community Market** - Noon – 2pm - village car park  
(Please note no markets in March due to pantomime  
and April as it is Easter Sunday)

### June

- 2, 3, 4 Community Flower Festival in the Church to  
mark Queen's Platinum Jubilee**
- 19 Village Fete on the Playing Fields including  
Flower and Produce Show**

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### GREETINGS FROM THE WATERINGBURY PLAYERS

We are looking forward to welcoming you all to The  
Wateringbury Players 2022 production of **Alice in  
Wonderland** at the Village Hall this month. The dates are as  
follows:

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm** (doors open at 7pm) Tickets  
£10

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2pm** (doors open at 1.30pm)  
Tickets £10 (children £6)

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm** (doors open at 7pm) Tickets  
£12

Tickets available on Sunday evenings at the Village  
Hall between 7pm and 8.30pm. Cash or Cheque only. Tickets  
selling fast with low availability for the Saturday matinee.

Look for updates on our Facebook/website

[www.wateringburyplayers.co.uk](http://www.wateringburyplayers.co.uk)

We look forward to seeing you all there.

Following on from the success of last year, **Cycleworks** will  
be back at Wateringbury Village Hall car park on **Saturday  
19<sup>th</sup> March from 10am until 12.30pm. Come along and  
get your bike serviced for FREE.** Community Bikefix will  
be able to adjust saddles, check your brakes, pump up tyres  
and make sure your bike is roadworthy.

No appointment necessary. Just drop by between 10am-  
12.30pm

### VILLAGE PEOPLE

*Please let us have your news and tributes by 17<sup>th</sup> March for our  
April magazine. Entries are free. Email*

*[www.rostrum2@hotmail.com](mailto:www.rostrum2@hotmail.com) or phone editor of month on*

*01622 812023*

**New baby congratulations to Rebecca and Jamie Fannon** on the arrival of **Rory Alan**, a brother for Amelia and **Great Grandson to Janet and Alan Coltham**. Rory was born in the Birthing Centre at Maidstone on 26<sup>th</sup> January weighing 9lb 2oz. (Mum Rebecca has amazingly found time to be in the cast for this year's Players Pantomime, Alice in Wonderland.)

**Thank You** to the unknown artist who placed some delightful painted pebbles around the village including the one on our cover which was seen on the wall at the Mill Pond.

### **R I P Mollie Waller (1936 – 2021)**

Mrs Waller was our Caretaker/Cleaner in charge at Wateringbury School from 1987 to 2002. Mollie lived in Bow Road adjacent to the School. This brought advantages. Her house backed on to the school drive, giving her easy access and allowed her to keep an eye on the buildings. She was also a parent - her son, Simon, was in my class. She knew about events in the Village, directing me, a new boy, to the key happenings.

She kept the School neat and tidy, making sure the toilets were clean, the classrooms were orderly, doors were locked, and windows shut. Her pride and joy was the Hall floor. At the start of every term the tiles gleamed as if they were new. She also had a very dry sense of humour. When our first intruder alarm was installed, Mollie was anxious at first, and kept saying it wouldn't work, it was sick. On investigation it turned out that she had mis-read the flashing "Invalid" code message.

I know she enjoyed being part of the school family and many children and adults will have a fond remembrance of her in her royal blue overall coat, brush in hand. Even after she retired, Mollie visited regularly to help with readers and craftwork. She was a friend to me and a good friend of the School. *Richard Arnold*

### **LOCAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**Hairdresser** required to work at Meadow View Court, The Orpines, Wateringbury, housing scheme for over 55s, enquiries to [Jill.Bryant@rapporthc.co.uk](mailto:Jill.Bryant@rapporthc.co.uk) or call 01622 812115.

**Vacancy for Part-Time Village Warden** The Parish Council is looking for a part-time Village Warden (12 hours per week). For details of the Warden's duties/responsibilities, please contact the Clerk, Susan Cockburn, at [clerk@wateringburypc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@wateringburypc.org.uk) or call 01622 817068.

**Closing date for applications 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

### **WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

It is hard to believe that, as I type this, we are embarking on our half term holiday and are halfway through the academic year. The children and staff have been working so hard they have certainly earned this break.

I have been inundated with children coming to show me their work this term. The pride on their faces as they explain what they have been learning is magical. This week, I have been encouraging the children to look back in their books at their work in September and compare it to now. The progress that the children are making is phenomenal and they can't believe it. In the words of one young man I saw last week "Well, Miss Johnson, that's because I am six now. When you're

six it is much easier to understand what to do and work hard all the time". Perfect.

The theme for our worship this term has been 'joy'. We have been looking at how we can find moments of joy in our own lives as well as showing kindness to others to bring joy to their lives. The children are keen to spread joy throughout their community so look out for smiles and lovely manners when you see our children out and about.

We love reading at our school (if you have seen our library, you'll have seen the proof) and are looking forward to sharing lots of stories together for World Book Day in March. More than just an excuse to dress up, this is a chance for us to share stories together and immerse ourselves in the imaginary world of books. We can't wait!

We are always happy to welcome visitors and have had teachers from other schools come to see what we do here recently. Everyone who has visited has commented on how engaged and enthusiastic our children are. If you are looking for a school place for your child or would like a tour of our school, please contact the school office at [office@wateringbury.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@wateringbury.kent.sch.uk).

**Debbie Johnson – Headteacher**

[www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk](http://www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk)

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

#### **TESTON AND WATERINGBURY PRESCHOOL**

Our focus for Term 4 is based around the book 'There is no dragon in this story' by Lou Carter and Deborah Allwright. It's about a poor old dragon. Nobody wants him in their story. This is a glorious story which promotes diversity and teaches children to be inclusive. As part of our theme the children will be making a gingerbread sweetie house for Hansel and Gretel, making paper flowers for grandma and growing a beanstalk for Jack! The children will also be dressing up as their favourite book character to celebrate World Book Day on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and of course we will be getting messy with pancake day on the first.

In our craft corner the children will be making a special gift for Mother's Day, celebrated on 27<sup>th</sup> March and we are looking forward to the Easter bunny visiting our garden during the last week of term.

*Tina Driver 07805 796353 email [tandwngroup@gmail.com](mailto:tandwngroup@gmail.com)*

#### **WATERINGBURY FOOTPATH GROUP**

In February there were two walks, one as usual on a Sunday afternoon and this month the other was a Friday morning. Both walks started from the Village Hall, turning up the footpath opposite Love Lane to where two paths cross. At this point you can continue straight on to the woods around Kings Hill or turn right to Red Hill Farm Estate Winery and Vineyard, but we turned left. Our path went across the hillside, giving good views and taking us to Canon Lane. We continued in the same direction on a footpath that skirts Kings Hill Golf Course before descending the hill to Wistaria Villa on the Tonbridge Road. Crossing the main road, we took the short footpath straight ahead to Old Road. At this point some people took the road back to the village pond, while others extended their walk, stopping to admire the wonderful garden and animal sculptures in Pizien Well, the views from Gibbs Hill and the Wateringbury stream waterfall. It was lovely to see bulbs coming up (including clumps of snowdrops), white blossom (probably blackthorn, but our plant expert wasn't with us) and mahonia in flower. It was about 4 miles for the full walk. The route was a bit slippery in places, but the weather was very

good for the time of year, there was a good turnout for both walks and we enjoyed chatting as well as walking. In March we will be leaving the Village Hall on: **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 10am Everyone is very welcome to join us.** If you want more information please contact me. *Lisa Dean 077 5953 9032*

### VILLAGE FETE UPDATES

The Village Fete committee are still **looking for volunteers** to help us on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June**. We need car park marshals, raffle ticket sellers, people to help get the marquees up for the jazz band and the all important beer tent. Help tidying up and litter picking. We are also happy to receive raffle prize donations from residents and local businesses.

If you can spare an hour or two on the day, your help would really be appreciated. Please contact [wateringburyfetecommittee@gmail.com](mailto:wateringburyfetecommittee@gmail.com).

As part of our event line up on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June, we are going to have a **Flower and Produce Show**. So now is the time for all green fingered folk to get planting. Various categories including veg, fruit, flowers, home baking, jams and chutneys - lots of prizes to be had. Kids events include 'paint an egg', make a posy, write a poem about Wateringbury, make a scarecrow and make a bug hotel. There will also be a photography competition with various themes - to be announced soon.

Adult fruit and veg categories are: 5 carrots same variety, 5 radishes same or mixed varieties, 3 early potatoes same variety, 5 broad bean pods same variety, 5 asparagus spears, 5 spring onions, 3 tomatoes any variety, 3 beetroots any variety, 3 rhubarb stalks, 5 strawberries, 10 raspberries and bunch of mixed herbs. Details of other categories will be in April's Rostrum or email [sarahhudson500@gmail.com](mailto:sarahhudson500@gmail.com) for more details.

### TONBRIDGE & MALLING BC REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH HUDSON

The contractors for the traffic calming measures previously advised are now appointed, and work will start soon on the new pavements along the A26 south side opposite the Church, and the adjustments to the splays and sight lines on the side roads of Old Road and Upper Mill. This will make it safer for residents driving out of these roads. The reduction in the speed limit from Pizien Well Road to Manor Farm from 60mph to 40mph comes before the Joint Transportation Board on 7th March, and, once approved, will be implemented this summer.

TMBC have written to Michael Gove (Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations) voicing concerns at the level of development expected in Tonbridge & Malling and that there is a need for a target that is consistent with the infrastructure constraints and environmental concerns that exist.

Wateringbury Post Office is benefitting from the TMBC Shopfront scheme, we are just waiting for final planning approval.

A joint operation was recently carried out targeting unlicensed waste carriers and suspects of environmental crime with Kent Police Rural Task Force. Three vehicles were seized, and one person arrested for an outstanding warrant. TMBC are delivering tougher enforcement on these types of crime.

Through the Welcome Back Fund, TMBC are clamping down on graffiti across the Borough. Please report any you see to myself, and I will forward on to officers.

Finally, on a personal note, I have been invited by the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May, and to meet the Queen, in recognition of my work during the pandemic for the community. I feel incredibly honoured.

### **HISTORY SOCIETY**

Our speaker for March, **which will be in the village hall at 8pm a week later than usual on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March**, is William Aers who will be speaking about **Anglo Saxons**. William is currently a lecturer at Mid Kent College and has worked in museum education. In January we had a very entertaining evening with our talk being about toys through the ages with examples for us to reminisce about. Our February speaker's subject was the baby boomer generation, with much nodding of heads and singing along from our members and guests.

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee the Church is organising a flower exhibition over the weekend of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of June and we are looking to see if anyone would like to make an arrangement to represent our Society. If you feel you could assist please telephone 01622 812023.

### **TONBRIDGE AND MALLING RAMBLERS**

This friendly group is one of 13 Ramblers groups in Kent and part of the national Ramblers Walking Organisation. On our Sunday and mid-week morning walks we explore the beautiful countryside of Tonbridge & Malling and surrounding areas. Walks are mostly circular with a moderate pace over 5-6 miles. You don't have to be a Ramblers member to try out a couple of walks with us, to help you decide if you'd like to join.

There is a short break about half-way through the walk (bring refreshments). For start times, meeting points and walk leader contacts, see the programme link at: [www.tonbridgandmallingeramblers.org.uk](http://www.tonbridgandmallingeramblers.org.uk). **On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March we are organising a moderate circular walk of 5.5 miles from North Pole pub to the River Medway at Nettlestead.** *Nicola Brown*

### **DESTRUCTION OF VILLAGE LIFE**

An intimidating barrage of sound  
Builds beyond the confines of our ground.  
As I walk to my bus along the hedgerow  
This relentless din continues to grow;  
Traffic pounding by – hell on earth!  
Approaching the road it grows even worse.  
We live on the edge of a beautiful village,  
Subjected to mechanised rape and pillage.

A 'Go Slow' warning by the bend  
Serves only to re-enforce the trend  
Of attaining speeds of up to seventy,  
(Much too fast for health and safety.)  
Toxic fumes pollute the air  
Exacerbating our frustration and despair.

Reaching the bus stop I sit down to wait  
When, magically, the noise abates.  
I hear songbirds as they sing  
Celebrating the burgeoning spring,  
The cries of new-born lambs in the field:  
Wonders of nature enticingly revealed.

The crash! The misery begins again,  
(Traffic-lights down in the village have changed.)  
Vehicles of every sort  
Hurtle by as if distraught.  
Drivers mirthless in their determination  
To keep to deadlines of their creation.

(A man from the council whose advice I sought  
Thought action might be taken with deaths to  
report.)

Once again, a sudden glimpse of calm  
Descends with its life-giving feeling of balm.  
My Adelstrop moment is with me again,  
Temporarily excising all sense of pain.  
Everywhere silent, everywhere still,  
Except for the magical birds that yield  
Their music across the Kentish weald.

*Anthony le Fleming (Wateringbury)*

#### **WATERINGBURY SCOUT GROUP**

Did you know that (amongst other things) it is an essential requirement for every Scout leader to complete basic first-aid training and ensure it is regularly updated? While reassuring to parents that we understand what to do in an emergency first-aid situation, we all hope never to use it and we assess the risk of every activity (and explain safety at meetings) with the aim of avoiding it of course!

And what about our young members? Recently the Cubs have been earning their Emergency Aid level 1 badge which involves knowing the importance of getting help and how to make a 999 call, reassuring someone at the scene of an emergency and helping someone who is bleeding or unconscious. The Scouts have been going over first-aid exercises during meetings. Explorers who are Young Leaders undertake first-aid training as part of their role, and DofE participants learn first-aid and carry their own first-aid kit (and know how to use it) during their expeditions. Having just completed 6 hours of refresher training myself, it serves as a reminder of how useful this knowledge is generally. In giving our young people opportunities to learn the basics, we hope it would take the panic out of any minor or major mishap which they will inevitably encounter at some point in their lives. We are prepared! *Hazel, Assistant Explorer Scout Leader*

#### **WATERINGBURY W.I.**

At our February meeting we heard a talk by Melanie Gibson Barton on The Life and Times of Edith Cavell. Melanie has made extensive research into Edith's life and her very fluent talk was supported by photographs of many of the surviving artefacts of her life. Edith was working as a nurse in Brussels in 1915 when she was executed for treason by the occupying German forces. This brutal event was widely condemned and her bravery and good work in nursing were well commemorated. Our competition, based on a heroic figure, had Janice, Diana and Margaret as joint winners. Our next meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March will be Competition Day. Entries are as follows: a circle of flowers, a cake of any flavour baked in a loaf tin and any piece of craft work. *Margaret Malsher*

An **INDOOR BOOT FAIR** in aid of East Malling Singers is being held at

**East Malling Village Hall on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March.** Setting Up from 8am, doors open to the public 9.00 – 12.30. Tables £10, entry £1, children free. - Contact sue@willshouse.co.uk or 01622 750943

**If you are looking for a traditional butcher** who supplies British meat at affordable prices visit **The Village Butchers and Store, Pound Road, East Peckham** who supply all meats and home made pies, hams, quiches and freshly made coleslaw. If

you are short of time just phone 01622 872557 and they can have your order ready for you to collect.

### **FIRST WATERINGBURY GUIDES**

We've started the year on a half and half basis to try to help with social distancing but it's not ideal as you can't make decisions regarding patrol members or longer term plans as you haven't got all the girls together. Our last meeting in two halves is 11<sup>th</sup> March and thereafter we'll be back together outside for most of the time.

Before then we've celebrated Chinese New Year with dragons, Chinese music and some food to sample. I was surprised to find that some of the girls hadn't tried Chinese food before but were up for having a go with chopsticks. We've done some role plays based on first aid scenarios and had wide games in the orchard over half term.

We'll be at the Wateringbury Players panto in force as traditionally one or more of our leaders have been in the panto, although sadly not this time, and we end the term at Prison Island which is great fun for all especially when last time the oldest girls beat us leaders! I'm still on the hunt for people to come and show the girls either craft activities or even home or car maintenance activities so if you're willing to give it a go, please contact me.

Plans for the canal boat trip in May are progressing well and we have lots of girls wanting to go to Wellies and Wristbands – a festival camp for guides in August. It's lovely to be able to organise overnight events again - all subject to Covid. While we're full at the moment, you can put your daughter's name on the waiting list via the Girlguiding website. Please contact me if you have any questions on 01622 815416 or email to [sheenastewartx3@gmail.com](mailto:sheenastewartx3@gmail.com). *Sheena Stewart and team.*

### **GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE**

I heard and saw my first Skylark today, a sure sign for me that Spring is almost here. These birds lay their eggs in a hollow on the ground and deliver their distinctive song whilst hovering above open fields and are a relatively common sight around Wateringbury. Other birds are equally active as they search for nesting material. You can now buy specific contraptions for displaying a range of nesting material and it's interesting to note what is chosen. The birds in my garden cleaned up after a recent cat fight and have presumably lined their nests with soft fur! They are burning a lot of energy nest building so please continue to feed them.

As the weather warms and the days get longer, the first solitary bees will start to emerge. The males hatch out first and then hang around waiting for the females. If you can install a bee house in a sunny, sheltered position you will be rewarded by being able to observe these fascinating pollinators lay their eggs in the tubes provided.

Queen Bumblebees will also be emerging and will start looking for suitable nest sites under hedges, in tussocky grass, compost heaps and under sheds so do keep a look out for them.

Butterflies that overwinter as adults will also start to appear and all these insects will be looking for food so do try to provide a range of open flowers for them to gorge on.

I will be **opening my garden again as part of the KWT scheme on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April**. The Kent Mammal Group will be here, so hopefully they'll bring a couple of young hedgehogs with them and answer any relevant questions. KRAG will also be attending and will offer information and advice on amphibians and reptiles. Further details can be found on the KWT website [www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk)

### **QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATION FLOWER FESTIVAL AT THE CHURCH Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June and Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June.**

To mark this very special occasion a Community Flower Festival is planned in our village church. We will shortly be contacting village organisations to invite them to take part. A souvenir programme will be printed with a page for each participating organisation or business to tell

the village of their activities. If you would like to help the village mark the occasion in this way, please email [office@wateringburychurch.org.uk](mailto:office@wateringburychurch.org.uk) or phone 01622 813076

**COFFEE BREAK, CRAFT AND CHAT MORNINGS**  
**Wednesdays 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March 10.30-noon**  
**in the Church**

We were pleased to welcome some new faces who had recently moved into the village at our February mornings. Do come along for some delicious home-made cake, coffee and a chat. Crafts are optional and some members have revived their knitting skills.

**SIMPLY SOUP LENT LUNCHES IN CHURCH**  
**Wednesdays 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March and**  
**9<sup>th</sup> April - 12.15-1.30pm**

Hoorah after a 2 year Covid break the simple home-made soup lunches have returned. Lunches are free with donations being invited for the chosen charity of the week: 9<sup>th</sup> March - Alzheimer's Society, 23<sup>rd</sup> March - Breast Cancer Charity and 9<sup>th</sup> April - Anthony Nolan Trust, the stem cell charity which links donors to those needing this life-saving gift.

**EASTER FUN WITH FAITH**  
**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 9.30am – 12.30pm in the Church**

Calling all primary school aged children within the village to join us for a morning of craft and activities to help celebrate and hear the Easter story. How far will your boiled egg roll down the footpath? Even if you have visiting grandchild/ren, they too are welcome. It is £2 per child (to pay on the day) and the booking form can be found online at [www.wateringburychurch.org.uk](http://www.wateringburychurch.org.uk) or email me at [easterfun@wateringburychurch.org.uk](mailto:easterfun@wateringburychurch.org.uk). I can supply a printed booking form if required. We are restricted with numbers, so please book early.

Some photos are on our website from a previous event.

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

*Debbie Bond*

**REV GARY WRITES**

*The Rectory, 72 The Street, Mereworth ME18 5NA*  
[gary.rev@outlook.com](mailto:gary.rev@outlook.com) ☎ 01622 813178

**A Lent reflection for the hungry by Rev. Gary Townsend.**

Pancake Day falls on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March this year. I do love pancakes and, judging from their popularity, so do many other people! When I was a boy we only had them on Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) and having them once a year, like hot cross buns on Good Friday and turkey on Christmas Day, made them all the more special.

You can look up the origins of Shrove Tuesday and you may well know about it already but I want to reflect on the fact that if we don't use up all the food that we store away then, eventually, it will go off and will be thrown away.



To the idea of loss through corruption Jesus added loss through theft resulting in the general idea that things we would try to hang on to or preserve can be taken away from us. He said in Matthew 6:19 – 21:

*“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

I think the point he was making was that our hearts will be with whatever we treasure and if what we treasure is prone to corruption and theft then our hearts will be vulnerable to corruption and theft too.

The practice of fasting, of giving up something for Lent, is supposed to make us reflect more largely on what we set our hearts upon. What do you treasure the most and is what you treasure liable to corruption? Whatever we treasure the most, if it is liable to being taken away from us in some way or another and at some time or another then we'd better learn to devalue it and start learning to treasure what is prized the most by God in heaven. We can learn what is treasured in heaven by accepting Jesus as the Son of God who came down from heaven to show us the way. Only Jesus can show us for no one has come down from God as He has. He described Himself as the true bread come down from heaven upon which if we feed we shall never hunger (John 6:35).

If you'd like to know more, perhaps you'd like to join us after Shrove Tuesday at one of our Ash Wednesday services. God bless you this Lent.

*Rev Gary Townsend*

*Priest-in-Charge of Mereworth, Watlingtonbury and West Peckham*

#### **IN OUR JOYS AND SORROWS –**

##### **From the Parish Registers - Funerals**

**1<sup>st</sup> February Mollie Waller (08.08.36-20.12.21)**

followed by interment in the cemetery. Service led by Rev Wil North

**10<sup>th</sup> February Frances Agnes Bassett (06.02.36–05.01.22)** followed by interment in the cemetery.

Service led by Rev Gary Townsend

## Wateringbury CE Primary School needs you!



**Do you want to make a difference in your community?**  
**Do you have the confidence to ask school leaders challenging questions?**  
**Do you enjoy working as part of a team?**

Wateringbury CE Primary School has two Foundation Governor vacancies.

### The governing body's role:

- Helping to set and review the school's vision and strategic direction and agreeing targets for improvement
- Holding the headteacher and school leaders to account for the academic performance of the school and its pupils

- Overseeing the school's financial performance and ensuring public money is well spent.

In addition, Foundation Governors are expected to bring to the governing body an informed regard for the Church nature of the foundation of the school, to ensure that its Christian ethos is preserved and developed, and the religious worship reflects the tradition of the Church of England.

### What does the role offer?

- A sense of achievement in helping to drive school improvement and raise educational standards
- Access to a programme of free education/governance training
- A chance to develop your own professional leadership skills and experience.

If you can answer YES to the questions at the top of this advert and you are interested in finding out more about the role, please email us to find out more – no obligation:

Gail Isted/Goff Pain (Co-Chairs) – [gisted@wateringbury.kent.sch.uk](mailto:gisted@wateringbury.kent.sch.uk)  
[gpain@wateringbury.kent.sch.uk](mailto:gpain@wateringbury.kent.sch.uk)  
Sara Wallis (Clerk) – [governors@wateringbury.kent.sch.uk](mailto:governors@wateringbury.kent.sch.uk)  
to governors)



*Learning, growing, achieving... Our Journey together with God*

## WATERINGBURY CHURCH - SERVICES IN MARCH

SJB Church web site: [www.wateringburychurch.org.uk](http://www.wateringburychurch.org.uk)

Church Face Book Page: [fb.me/wateringburychurch](https://fb.me/wateringburychurch)

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

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March Ash Wednesday**  
**Communion and Ashing – 7.30pm**  
**Wateringbury**  
**10am - Mereworth**

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

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> - 10am – Matins** led by Barry Fisher

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> - 10am - Holy Communion** led by

Rev Gary Townsend

Sundays Cool for children meets in the vestry during the service

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> - 10am - All Age Worship**

**Mothering Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> - 10am – Family Communion with Rev Gary Townsend with posies of flowers for the ladies in the congregation**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April - Messy Church 3-5pm**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April - 10am - Morning Praise with Barry Fisher**

**There is a said communion service each Sunday at 8am in St. Lawrence, Mereworth**

**At 5pm each Sunday a Benefice Youth Service is held in Mereworth Church.** Not just for youth but for those who enjoy informal worship.

### **WEEKLY ZOOM BENEFICE BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

**Moved to Mondays at 7.30pm for about an hour.** Rev Gary Townsend invites you to join him for bible study. To join please email [gary.rev@outlook.com](mailto:gary.rev@outlook.com) for the link to the meeting.

### **FEBRUARY PARISH COUNCIL NOTES**

**Crime Report** - According to the police on-line site two crimes had been recently recorded. A puppy was stolen from a back garden and eggs and other missiles were thrown at a parked car.

**New Play Equipment** - A resolution was passed authorising Councillors Frances Fielding and Richard Tripp, on behalf of the Parish Council, to approach charities and other potential sources of monies to fund the proposed new play area. The cost could be in the region of £50,000. The Council plans to close the lower play area which is for young children and put equipment for this age group next to the equipment for older children.

**Overflow car park for playing fields**, which is owned and managed by the Parish Council, is on-target to be cleared so it can be fully used for its intended purpose and for grass cutting.

### **Planning**

**Coppice Court, 70 Teston Road**

**Demolition of existing stables and the erection of a replacement dwelling – revision to replacement dwelling previously approved under TM/18/02150/FL** Councillors had no objections but queried the significant increase in size of the proposed property.

In the public forum two residents raised concerns about the siting of a telecommunication Monopole and the ancillary works on the grass verge adjoining 115 Tonbridge Road. It was pointed out that in the February issue of Rostrum it was stated that the Parish Council had not been informed of the proposed work. This is incorrect; the planning application had come before the November Parish Council meeting and was reported in December's Rostrum. Rostrum apologises for misunderstanding, and therefore wrongly reporting this discussion.

**Borough and KCC Councillor Sarah Hudson** reported that:

A housing needs survey had just been completed to help T & M plan for future housing needs. The survey was open to all residents with 15,000 randomly selected households being sent a letter inviting them to take part in the survey.

Roadside Nature Reserves - following the successful trial at Darenth Avenue in Tonbridge the scheme may be extended to more sites. If you have any suggestions for such nature reserves please contact Sarah.

Covid 19 Business Grants - applications for both the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant and the Additional Restrictions Grant Discretionary scheme are now open. The deadline for applications is 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022. It is still felt that many businesses who are eligible have not yet applied. Any monies not distributed to local eligible business will be returned to central Government.

**Councillor Hudson** reported that the A26 Road Scheme handover had been put back to 4<sup>th</sup> March but the safety audit has been approved. The final costs are currently being worked out. The speed reduction to 40mph at the western edge of the village goes before the Joint Transportation Board on 7<sup>th</sup> March.

Sarah concluded her report by giving details of the village organisations which had benefitted with donations from her Members' Discretionary Grant monies: Watlington Football Club £1,000 for equipment, Watlington Cubs £500 for equipment, Teston and Watlington Pre-school £2,000 for their outside all weather space, Watlington Church £1,400 for a community defibrillator, Watlington Guides £1,500 for camping equipment and £250 to Citizens' Advice. Organisations in Mereworth, Hadlow and East Peckham had also received assistance.

**Highways and Transportation** - the minutes of the committee meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> January were discussed including the Design Report from the consultants Charles & Associates whom the Council had employed to help formulate the village plan for traffic improvements. The recommendations of Charles & Associates had helped councillors complete the KCC Highway Improvement Plan. At the public forum a resident expressed disappointment that the proposal in the report to seek a 20mph zone ended at Lodge Close but not extended to Old Road as had been suggested at a previous meeting.

*The public are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings. The **next meeting** is on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall (upper meeting room).*

*The meeting notes in Rostrum may not fully record all that happens at Parish Council meetings. They simply give readers an outline of discussions and decisions as perceived by a member of the editorial team who goes to the meetings. Members of the public can attend Parish Council meetings and have the opportunity at the Public Forum to raise matters of local interest/concern with the Council. Minutes of the Parish Council meetings are published on the Parish Council website [www.watlingtonpc.org.uk](http://www.watlingtonpc.org.uk) when approved.*

## **WATERINGBURY FLOWER CLUB**

March has a treat for members as we are back in the **East Mallington Institute Hall, on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm** and our demonstrator for the evening is Eloise Hasler-Stott a Chelsea Gold Medallist and Young Florist of the year 2019. Eloise has been a Kent Area demonstrator for 3 years

now and is also an accomplished designer and Florist working locally. The demonstration is titled Scents of Spring. *Jean Schofield for WFC*