

## VILLAGE DIARY

### March

- 5 Footpaths Walk** - meet at village hall car park 2pm sharp
- 7 Parish Council** - Hall - 7.30pm then planning committee
- 8 Coffee, Craft & Chat** - Church - 10.30-12.30
- 9 WI Competitions meeting** - Hall - 2pm
- 15 Maidstone a Town of Firsts** History Soc talk - Hall - 7.40pm
- 22 Coffee, Craft & Chat** - Church - 10.30-12.30
- 31 The Mysteries of the Ecclesiastical Year** - Fundraising Talk by Rev Nick Williams for Friends of Church - Church - 7.30pm
- 8, 15, 22, 29 Simply Soup Lunches** - Church - 12.15-1.30pm

### April

- 2 Footpaths Walk** - meet at village hall car park 2.30pm sharp
- 4 Parish Council** - Hall - 7.30pm then planning committee
- 5 Simply Soup Lunch** - Church 12.15-1.30pm
- 13 100 Years of Toys and Play talk** - WI - Hall - 2pm
- 15 Easter Fun with Faith** - Church - 9.30-12.30

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### DIARY DATES

**May 13 - Innominate concert in Church**  
**May 27 - Annual Plant Sale in churchyard**  
**June 4 - WATERINGBURY VILLAGE FETE at Playing Fields**

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### BARN DANCE

**SATURDAY 4 MARCH AT 7.30pm**  
**FANT COMMUNITY HALL, FANT LANE, BARMING**  
**Callers John and Karen Sweeney**

Tickets £10 inc Ploughman's Supper, bring own drinks and nibbles  
Proceeds to RNLI Maidstone Book your tickets from:  
John Ashbolt 01622 725435 or Alan Cocks 01622 761004

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**Casual Vacancy on Wateringbury Parish Council** following the resignation of Catherine Moreland the Parish Council would like to take the opportunity to co-opt a volunteer to correct the gender and age imbalance on the council as the present membership does not reflect the demographics of the village community. The chairman of the council, Richard Tripp, would be happy to chat informally with anyone interested in serving our village as a councillor over a coffee in Where Memories Meet. In the first instance please contact either Richard or Sue, the Parish Clerk, whose contact details are on the back cover of this magazine .



**TESTON AND WATERINGBURY PRE-SCHOOL** The theme for term 4 is 'Planting and Mini Beasts' where we will be making delicious caterpillar fruit kebabs and chocolate nests. We shall also be planting runner beans and making bug houses for our mini beasts in the garden.

We will be celebrating Shrove Tuesday by making pancakes, (note to parents, no pretty dresses or best shirts on this day please!)

We have our special Mother's day activity on 6 March when all our Mums, Aunties and Grandmothers are invited in to join us for a fun activity with Alison from Kippy's Pottery. This year we will be decorating a mug based on the book 'This is how much I love you'.

We are again collecting Sainsburys' vouchers this year and would welcome any of your unused vouchers, just drop them in to the preschool. Our children benefit greatly by the sports equipment that we receive through this scheme.

And finally a day to put in your diaries, we will be hosting a **quiz night in Teston Hall on Saturday 22 April at 7.30pm** in aid of Teston Preschool and our chosen charity this year The Brain and Spine foundation. All are welcome, £10.00 per head including a sausage and chip supper. To book your place please contact Tina on 07805 796353.

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

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

#### **New Grandchild Congratulations to:**

**Barry and Linda Cann** on the arrival in Sheffield of **Wilfred Norman Cann** (8lb 10oz) on 4 February, a brother for Edith. All well with proud parents Oliver and Alyson.

**Alan and Joy Searle** on the arrival on 13 February of **Elodie Loveday Searle** (9lb 2oz) and to Andy, Rosie and big brother Gus.

**Brian and Cathy Miller** on the birth on 13 February of **Sadie Rina Boswell** (6lb 14oz) and to Katie, James and brother Miles.

#### **Big Birthday Congratulations to**

**Syd Thompsett** who will celebrate on **7 March**.

and **Tessa Fyson** whose birthday is on **19 March**

and who is still delivering Rostrums to her neighbours.

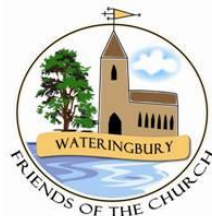
#### **Happy 50th Birthday Anthony David Thompson!**

**Vera Tate** and all the family would like to say thank you for all the cards, gifts and acts of kindness they have received following the recent sad loss of Jack. Jack had lived in the village since 1974 and had supported many village causes. Special thanks to Reverend Nick Williams for conducting the service and to all at Wateringbury Church for their support at this time.

**Thanks to Shirley Higgins** for distributing Rostrums to the Latters Buildings area of Old Road for many years and to **Hazel Mitchell** who takes over the task from this month.

**Well Done and Thank You to Wateringbury Players** for their amazing pantomime **Sleeping Beauty**. No wonder it was a sell-out; every year the productions just get better and better. We are so fortunate that so many talented people are prepared to work so hard to entertain us so marvellously.

**Live Music at The Wateringbury** Do go musical evening with a different singer each



along to our local hostelry on the **last Friday evening of every month** and enjoy a month. Clive, the manager, will be pleased to welcome you.

### WAR NEWS MARCH 1917

March 15: Abdication of Tsar Nicholas II as discontent in Russia increases.

March 18: Second German destroyer raid on Broadstairs and Ramsgate.

**Charles Large** lived with his family of 4 elder siblings in what is now Waterside Mews. Next door lived Robert Head, slightly younger than Charles, and who had been killed in October 1914 near Ypres, a few miles from where Charles would also be killed in March 1917. Charles had gone to Wateringbury School, worked for the Leney brewery and, possibly, was a conscript to the army.

Although clergy were exempt from conscription, there was a strong militaristic streak during the war in the Church of England. In the March 1917 parish magazine the vicar expresses the view: "The enemy means to die fighting, and the sooner we gather up all our resources and utilise all our strength in the task of killing him, the less it will cost us in men and money." His tone is more strident than his usual but is short of that adopted by others, such as the Bishop of London.

The vicar's main focus, however, is finance and food. He notes, approvingly, that "the wage-earning class [in Wateringbury] contributed more than £1,000, probably nearer £2,000" to the latest war loan. Some people, having never been so well off, are only now starting to feel "a little tightness of income". He is concerned that "The average working man eats considerably more than 4lbs. of bread [using imported wheat] per week" and so must change his diet.

The food concern is reflected in action across the village. The Parish Council, meeting for the third time in 1917 after its near dormancy earlier in the war, spends most of its time again on allotments and other food issues. The Boys School grants leave for boys, under teacher supervision, to help farmers clear hop poles so the land can be used for food crops. The Girls School has "cheap and nourishing recipes" written on the blackboard for the girls to copy and take home for their mothers.

A report in the parish magazine illustrates the hardship of an unnamed (war?) widow, with 7 children. The vicar's daughter took 2 boys, aged 10 and 7, from the family to the Waifs and Strays Society in London. The Society still exists, now known by the more prosaic name of The Children's Society. "The mother was brave in parting with them, and the little fellows went off in high spirits, furnished each with a new collar and tie, a new shirt and socks, and two new woollen undervests, which they were wearing to keep out the cold on the journey."

A conference of Scout patrol leaders, held in Maidstone, was attended by some 25 patrol leaders from Kent. One Wateringbury patrol leader chaired the meeting and another presented a paper on how patrols could "carry on" if their Scout master was away on military service.

The village suffered its only pub closure of the war when The Wheatsheaf in Pizienwell lost its license. The police report to the licensing magistrates noted the Duke's Head was under 500 yards away and the 9 pubs in the parish represented one for every 137 persons, considered an adequate ratio.

**Terry Bird**

For more details see the web-site of Wateringbury Local History Society (<https://www.sites.google.com/site/wateringburylocalhistory/>). At the top right of any page there is a search box; for more information on any bolded name insert the name in this box.

**Friends of Wateringbury Church** proudly present

**'The Mysteries of the Ecclesiastical Year'**

An entertaining and illuminating talk by

**Reverend Nick Williams**

Vicar of the Benefice of East Malling, Wateringbury and Teston

**Friday 31 March 7.30pm**

**St John the Baptist Church, Wateringbury**

Many people will have noticed that in many churches the colours of the altar cloths change in a seemingly random sequence throughout the year. These changes are linked with equally odd words like Candlemas, Rogation Days, Plough Sunday, Gaudette Sunday, Quinquagesima and many more.

***Confused? Ever wondered what it all means? Is it all necessary?***

In Rev Nick's fascinating talk, he will outline how the Church year works and what these strangely named days and the customs and traditions attached to them are now, and have been in the past. He will show that far from being an arcane system that should be consigned to the dustbin of the past, the richness of the church year and its customs is a participative teaching tool that helps to improve our scriptural knowledge and bind us closer together in community.

**ALL WELCOME**

Please come along and join us for the beginning of the Friends' 7<sup>th</sup> Year Tickets are £5 on the door, £2 for under 18s

Completed: 11 March 2016, 7:22:00 AM

Cobtree Hall, Willington Street, Mote Park ME15 9EP

Teams of 6-8, £6 each person (includes apple pie and cream)

Contact: Rita 07700 643318



**Discussion**

6.1.1. 25 May 1993

Cobtree Hall, Willington Street, Mote Park ME15 9EP

50p entry Refreshments available – Contact Lesley 01622 892433



**Embroidery** do go along. If you have always wanted to learn any of these skills then

water, the days are brightening and less mud is finding its way into

success on 7 February with each class exploring the endless possi-

erstood and managed to enable children to enjoy it and opera

opportunity to dress up as book characters and immerse the child

our first **Science Fair** last year, the children will be engaged in a

**Service** on the last day of term at 9:00 at St John's on Friday 31

Just been told that we have **won a Caterlink School Kitchen**

Wateringbury kent sch.uk

In February, Chris Wade, a keen photographer, came along to our WI to give his talk 'Kent in Four Seasons'. Chris not only showed us through his many pictures of the Kent countryside, magnificent views of the Downs and coastal areas but reminded us that Kent is renowned for its flora and fauna, particularly orchids, butterflies and birds, all to be seen when out walking or riding. He mentioned that some farmers are now ploughing and planting across long established footpaths, which although they can still be walked on, it is better to avoid crossing a field if possible. Chris said that there are still many areas in Kent we could enjoy and encouraged us to go out and find them. Kathy Coates was the winner of our competition with her drawing of an otter.

9 March is our Competition Day, to enter "6 Cup Cakes" need to be made for the Hickman Cup, a "basket of spring flowers" for the Flower Cup and a "decorated container with a lid" for the Freda Robins Plate. Visitors very welcome.

### **FOOTPATHS GROUP NEXT WALKS**

**Sunday 5 March** meet Village Hall **at 2pm** for local walk.

**Sunday 2 April** meet at Village Hall at later time of **2.30pm**.

Our February walk was up to the edge of Cattering Woods, deliberately to point out the "Private Woodland" signs erected around the paths there. From the top of Canon Lane, where we were pleased to see a Kentish rag-stone wall has been built. We passed the edge of the Kings Hill estate to the old Teston Road before entering Cattering Wood and back to the village hall via the Gransden footpath. A good walk of just over 3½ miles.

Kevin Reynolds

**Fairtrade Fortnight - 27 February to 12 March** Do look out for, and buy, Fair Trade Products to celebrate good value for money and the enormous benefits the Fair Trade Organisation brings to small growers and crafts-people, their families and communities.

### **JUMBLE SALE TESTON VILLAGE HALL SATURDAY 4 MARCH Outside sales from 1.30pm Hall from 2.30pm**

*Proceeds to Teston Church Funds*

### **FLOWER CLUB**

Since the club moved to the East Malling Institute Hall in 2016 for its meetings the membership has lost some members but also gained some new members, this decision was taken for better facilities than the usual hall could provide. The club meets every third Wednesday in the month, there is plenty of parking and the hall is warm and welcoming.

2017 started with a demonstration from Sylvia Cheeseman, a wonderful evening of beautiful designs and a club competition entitled snowstorm which yielded many fabulous entries. February saw the annual AGM with business for the year ahead also discussed, a full programme of events to come with area and national demonstrators, trips to gardens and members competing in the Area show and Kent County Show, always a marvellous day out and a chance to see all the work showcased by Kent members. In the last 12 months Kent members have donated over £1000 to Demelza House children's charity.

Why not come along and visit us - you can find more information on our website [www.wateringburyflowerclub](http://www.wateringburyflowerclub) for 2017 programme of events and membership fees.

Jean Schofield for Wateringbury Flower Club

**PADDOCK WOOD CHORAL SOCIETY'S SPRING CONCERT in St Andrews Church, on 18 March** takes the audience on a fascinating journey from Darkness to Light. The music comprises **John Stainer's** well known oratorio "**Crucifixion**", the premier of **James Corse's** hauntingly beautiful

**"Monsal Blessing"** and **David Pennant's "Resurrection"** - a modern sequel to Stainer's "Crucifixion" written by his great grandson. Don't miss this unique opportunity to hear new and familiar music on your doorstep! Tickets £12.50 online at [www.paddockwood-choral.org.uk](http://www.paddockwood-choral.org.uk) or box office [spring@paddockwood-choral.org.uk](mailto:spring@paddockwood-choral.org.uk)

## HISTORY SOCIETY

Our speaker for the next meeting on **Wednesday 15 March** will be **Peter Batty** a retired teacher who has qualified as a City of London tour guide and has arranged for tea and talks around Maidstone on a variety of subjects. He will be talking to us about **"Maidstone, a Town of Firsts."** To see just what these firsts are you are welcome to join us for a cup of tea or coffee from 7.40pm with the talk starting at 8pm. Visitors £3. Members free.

On 18 January Roy Ingleton came to talk to us about "Kent Disasters". We learnt that in 1348, at the time of the black death, due to burning of dwellings to get rid of germs, in Chart Sutton and Dode the only buildings that remained were the Churches. We heard how Charles Dickens had a fortunate escape from the 1865 Staplehurst railway disaster, clambering back into a wrecked carriage to save his manuscript copy of *Our Mutual Friend*. Roy finished his talk with the story of The Hall at the junction of Pizien Well and Tonbridge Road, Wateringbury and how this was burnt down in 1927.

On 25 February we enjoyed an entertaining talk by Brian Laverick Smith entitled "30 years of bother on the hover" and who would have thought that we would have elephant feet, Richard Burton and John Cleese incorporated into the entertaining talk given to us by Captain Smith. We learnt that the first hovercraft travelled across the channel in 1959 to coincide with the 50th anniversary of Bleriot's crossing with the complete service stopping on the 1st October 2000 and that Lord Mountbatten once presented our speaker with a brace of pheasants, shot on his estate, by way of a thank you for a smooth crossing and that there is a hovercraft museum situated at Lee-on-the-Solent.

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### Tonbridge & Malling BC have launched a new online council tax billing service

It will speed up services and save taxpayers' time and money. **My Account** is a **FREE** online service portal which is a personal, interactive and safe account. It's easy to use and each person who signs up will be able to:

- ☺ Request online notification of their annual council tax bill
- ☺ Check their council tax balance online
- ☺ Ask for services through the website with no waiting or queuing on the telephone or at the Council's offices
- ☺ Benefit from online services request forms, which are pre-populated with their personal details. Setting up an account takes about two minutes, just go to [www.tmbc.gov.uk/my-account](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/my-account) and fill in the brief registration form.

## FEBRUARY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

At the opening of the meeting a secret ballot took place to fill two vacancies on the Parish Council. Keith Fisher and David Marks were elected to serve on the Council. The resignation of Catherine Mooreland was also announced so there will be a ballot to fill this casual vacancy - probably at the April meeting.

**KCC Councillor Matthew Balfour** reported on matters of local interest including:

**Review of the Arriva Bus network** It was likely that the No 6 route would experience some changes.

**Consultations re Railway Networks.** It was suggested that residents may like to submit comments. (The next meeting of the local Rail Partnership on 14 March at The Bull Inn, West Farleigh will also discuss the Rail Franchises.)

**Traffic Lights at north end of Hermitage Lane** plans were being made to re-order the lights to alleviate the traffic tailbacks.

**Borough Councillor Simon Jessel** reported on local issues including finance and planning.

**Drayhorse Meadow** The Council is in the process of drawing up a lease and hope the new tenant will be in occupation in a few weeks' time.

**Crime Figures** The figures are obtained by the Parish Clerk as soon as they are made available on the Kent police website. The November crime figures showed there were 5 crimes: 1 drugs related, 1 theft, 1 burglary and 2 violent crimes.

**Old Road Street Light** to the delight of all concerned the light is now operational.

**Planning** Councillors had no objections to the planning application for the conversion of garage to form home office at 109 Red Hill (TM/17/00124/FL).

**Next meeting** The public are very welcome to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council at **7.30pm in the village hall on Tuesday 7 March.**

***STOP MESSING ABOUT  
PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG***



Do come along to the Church and enjoy

**SIMPLY SOUP**

**LUNCHES IN LENT**



**on 5 WEDNESDAYS**

**From 12.15 to 1.30pm**

There is no charge - donations are invited for a different charity each week

8 March - Send A Cow (Change an African family's future)

15 March - The Heart of Kent Hospice

22 March - Christian Aid Soupa Lunch Appeal

29 March - Embrace the Middle East

(Tackling poverty and injustice in the Middle East)

5 April - Multiple Sclerosis Society

**BENEFICE MOTHERS UNION**

Our meeting on **2 March** will be at **1pm in East Malling Church** when Caroline Hattersley will give a talk W@W Women at the Well.

## LENT DISCUSSION AND STUDY GROUP

We will be looking at the Rochester Diocesan course "A place in a crowd" which explores Jesus' journey to the cross through the lens of crowds.

Meetings will take place in the vestry **7.45 for 8pm on Mondays 6, 13, 20, 27 March and 3 April; or on Wednesdays at 1pm on 8, 15, 22, 29 March and 5 April.**

## CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

Anyone wishing to join the **Church** Electoral Roll please complete a form (these can be found at the back of the church near the hymn books) and return to Hilary Fisher or Church Wardens (Liz Gummer and Peter Bond) **by 5 March.**

**THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING** will be held on **Tuesday 28 March at 8pm** in the Church.

## PRIESTLY PONDERINGS

Rev Nick Williams

[father.nick@btinternet.com](mailto:father.nick@btinternet.com)

The Vicarage, 2 The Grange

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

East Malling ☎ 01732 843282

Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

As I seem to have said several times before, there is an old Chinese proverb which asks God to preserve us from 'interesting times'. I think we could all probably find some agreement in the idea that we are currently living in very interesting times although we might not find agreement on what constitutes interesting. A brief look around at the world we live in perhaps gives us a few clues. In America the new Trump Presidency seems to be overturning decades of foreign policy in its first few months of office. The effects of things that are being said and done, rightly or wrongly, are rippling out across the world and whilst they might be reassuring some, they are most certainly causing worry and concern to many others.

In our own country the Brexit debate is polarising opinion. Despite the best efforts of politicians to allay the fears of many in the society in which we live out our daily lives, you have only to listen to the radio or television to see and hear the uncertainties and worries felt by many being voiced.

Even the Church of England is not immune from uncertainties and 'interesting times'. Only a short while ago the general synod of the Church of England declined to 'take note' of a report from the college of bishops on Human Sexuality and its associated issues, leaving everyone wondering what the way ahead was going to be in this difficult area of doctrine coupled with pastoral care. Interesting times indeed.

Jesus Christ knew all about 'interesting times' as did the people who heard his words and witnessed to his actions. For them it must have been difficult to comprehend what they were seeing and hearing. The Messiah, come at last as they had prayed for some many years, but come not as a king at the head of an all conquering army but as a man who walked amongst them, preaching, teaching, healing and demonstrating the love of God for all his creation.

The challenge for us, the challenge that perhaps the forthcoming season of Lent invites us to think about and to accept is how are we, both as individuals and corporately as members of God's Church going to model the example given to us by Jesus Christ. How are we going to show his forgiveness, his understanding and his love towards our fellow human beings. How are we going to learn to disagree generously and learn to treat those whose views are different from our own with the respect and tolerance that we demand of them.

Generous disagreement is not an easy thing to do, but then many of the things that those who followed Jesus did weren't easy to do either, they involved discussion, generous disagreement and even compromise, you only have to read the Book of Acts to see that in action. The thing is, those early followers of Jesus managed it, it wasn't easy and it took time but managed it they did for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Surely therefore there is no real reason why we who follow him some 2000 years later can't manage it as well.

**Rev Nick Williams**

## COFFEE, CRAFT AND CHAT

***Wednesdays 8 and 22 March, 10.30am to 12.30pm***

We will be meeting on the above dates in the church during March. Do join us for homemade cake and coffee and optional knitting, crocheting, etc. For more details please phone Pauline (814673) or Gillian (813076).

## SAVE OUR SPIRE

The Church spire is in urgent need of replacing the existing worn out wooden tiles (shingles). Please help us reach our target. You can now leave a message on the Save Our Spire Facebook page where you can also watch a short aerial video of Wateringbury Church. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/saveourspire/>

You can also text WATS45 £5 to 70070

Thank you to everyone who has responded to our appeal so far.

## Easter Fun with Faith

**Calling all Primary school aged children in Wateringbury...**

**join us in celebrating the Easter Story**

A morning filled with fun, songs and craft activities on **Saturday 15 April**

£2 per child and starting **9.30am until 12.30pm at your church**

Parent and/or older siblings helpers always welcome

Booking is essential because of numbers

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

or contact **Debbie on 01622 814793.**

## BENEFICE SERVICES

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

<b>Sunday 5 March</b> 8am Holy Communion - East Malling 9.45am Family Service – East Malling 9.45am Family Service – Teston <b>10am Matins – Wateringbury</b>	<b>Sunday 12 March</b> 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 9.45am Children's Church - Teston <b>10am Eucharist - Wateringbury</b> 6.30pm Evensong - Teston
<b>Sunday 19 March</b> <b>8am Holy Communion – Wateringbury</b> 9.45am Eucharist – East Malling 9.45am Children's Church - Teston <b>10 am Family Service – Wateringbury</b> 6.30pm Eucharist - Teston	<b>Sunday 26 March</b> 9.45am Family Eucharist – East Malling 9.45am Mothering Sunday Service - Teston <b>10am Mothering Sunday – Wateringbury</b>
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 Vicar Rev Nick Williams on 01732 843282 or email <a href="mailto:father.nick@btinternet.com">father.nick@btinternet.com</a> For all other enquiries, please contact the Administrator on 01622 815218 or email <a href="mailto:parishofficeemwt@gmail.com">parishofficeemwt@gmail.com</a>

## **SPECIAL SERVICES IN MARCH**

### **Wednesday 1 March - Ash Wednesday Services**

**East Malling 11am      Wateringbury 7.30pm**

### **Friday 3 March - Malling Deanery Women's World Day of Prayer**

St John the Baptist Church, Wateringbury

Coffees from 10am, service starts at 10.30am

### **Friday 31 March - School Easter Service**

St John the Baptist Church, Wateringbury

Service starts at 9am

### **Saturday 25 March - Mothers' Union**

#### **Tonbridge Archdeaconry Lady Day Service**

St Peter & St Paul Church, Teston

Service starts at 11am



*Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble but since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference. Max Lucado*