

Welcome to your May magazine

VILLAGE DIARY

May	
4th 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting and Planning Committee followed by Annual Parish meeting via Zoom. Contact parish clerk for access details clerk@wateringburypc.org.uk
6th All day	Elections for KCC Councillor and Police and Crime Commissioner – Don't forget to vote at the Village Hall
29th 10- 1pm	St John the Baptist Churchyard Plant Sale
June	
1st 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting followed by Planning Committee at the Village Hall
Please see the Footpaths Group Walks paragraph for full details on walks during the pandemic restrictions	

VILLAGE ROAD TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS

Wateringbury Parish Council have been asked by Kent County Council to put forward suggestions for improvements on the roads in the village. This could include signage. As residents and users of our roads and pavements we would like to ask you for your suggestions by answering two questions to help make a positive contribution to the future of the village environment.

1. What do you consider to be the road problems in the village?
2. What suggestions do you have for solving these problems? Your suggestions should be realistic.

Please either email the Parish Clerk with your answers clerk@wateringburypc.org.uk or 'post' your answers into the red letter box for returned books by the telephone box library.

ADVERTISING SUPPORT FOR ROSTRUM

Thank you to our loyal advertisers for renewing their advertising. Their support allows Rostrum to be delivered to residents in the village free of charge. We welcome three new supporters – Vassoulla Georgiou (spiritual holistic therapist/counsellor), Geraint Owen (Learning Life Skills Coach) and RB Lettings.

If you use the services of any of our advertisers, please do mention that you found them in Rostrum.

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

RIP Peter Melville Blest (12.10.1950 – 18.02.2021)

The funeral of Peter Blest took place on 12th April, which would have been his 71st birthday.

Peter was the sixth generation of his family to have lived in Wateringbury, and remarkably these days, spent his entire life living in Canon Lane. He was born at Canon Court to John and Elisabeth and had a younger brother, Anthony. Later, he moved with his parents to Broomscroft. The only time he spent away was at school and at Cambridge University. His

married life with Jan was at Little Canon Cottage where their children, Lucy and Thomas, were born and grew up.

Peter was a countryman at heart and a keen naturalist. When his father retired from hop and fruit growing, he devoted much energy to replanting their farm with Kentish cobnuts, plums and damsons. In parallel with this, he was an antiquarian bookseller, dealing in books in subjects relating to his interests. He will be greatly missed.

WATERINGBURY HISTORY SOCIETY

Hope everyone is keeping well and as a Society we feel it unlikely there will be a meeting before September 2021. In the meantime you may find the link to Wateringbury History Society webpages of interest:

<https://sites.google.com/site/wateringburylocalhistory/topics/celebrations/mayday1909>

It is a very detailed and vivid report of May Day celebration in Wateringbury in 1909, published in the Parish magazine, the predecessor of Rostrum.

Gill Smith History Society

WATERINGBURY FLOWER CLUB

At our April meeting we were treated to a fab demonstration by Graham King via Zoom who entertained us with four wonderful spring designs, some using floral foam and some without and beautiful spring flowers.

May's programme has not been arranged again with COVID rules changing. We are hoping to do a garden visit to Great Comp.

For up to date details please see the website.

Jean Schofield WFC

1ST WATERINGBURY GUIDES

We have, at long last, been given the go ahead for outdoor meetings with unlimited numbers and in the last few days we have also been given permission to meet indoors for the first time since March 2020. Traditionally this term is spent outside and we intend to do that wherever possible.

We have an excellent programme for this term which will challenge the girls and give them and us plenty of fun. Planned activities include wide games, outdoor cooking, paddle boarding and pedaloos, canoeing and sailing, and other land and water based activities.

We do now have a waiting list as we have 31 guides, having had over a dozen brownies join us in the last year. If your daughter is interested in joining us, please register her on the Girl guiding website and we will contact you to arrange a visit. Brownies do have spaces now and you can register your daughter for brownies on the same website. Rainbows are aged from 5-7, brownies 7-10 and guides 10-14.

We really need another adult to help us on a regular basis – not necessarily to go into uniform and definitely not to do admin tasks but to come on a Friday and enjoy working with the girls. If you think this could be you, do please contact me on the email below. Working with youth organisations is always a valuable item on a CV too.

If you would like to help us with guides in any way do please contact me at sheenastewartx3@gmail.com

Sheena, Emily and Hayleigh 1st Wateringbury Guides

WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pupils in school celebrated Easter with an online service featuring Bible readings, poetry, songs and art and finished with a message and a prayer from Reverend Gary. We were so proud of the pupils for their efforts in such a short space of time.

We are delighted to announce the wonderful news that Miss Debbie Johnson will be joining our Wateringbury family as our new Headteacher in September. Miss Johnson is a highly qualified and well-respected senior educational leader and practitioner. She also has a collaborative and outward-facing approach which will help us to build and strengthen relationships and to develop wider links which will put our school at the heart of our local community.

Miss Johnson is currently Interim Head at Ditton CE Junior School and was previously the Deputy Headteacher at Pembury Primary School. This is an exciting time for our school and we are all looking forward to welcoming her to Wateringbury later in the year.

Mrs Aneka Osborne - Interim Head of School

www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk

WATERINGBURY FOOTPATH GROUP

Great news! After five months of group walks not being allowed due to Covid restrictions, the Footpath Group has been out again. As last autumn, the group size was limited to six people. We were incredibly lucky with the weather and two separate groups of six enjoyed perfect sunshine, with no hint of rain or wind on two different days. It felt more like summer than early spring and was a wonderful antidote to the months of locked-down winter.

Both groups followed the same route, enjoying picture perfect views of the village pond, Red Hill, Bow Hill and a glimpse of the dome of Mereworth Castle. We also spotted a couple of local relics: Brooms Down's ice house by the village pond; and Rock Farm's former hoppers' huts. Early spring can give you the chance to see things before they are hidden by new leaves. Along our walk there was a wealth of spring flowers including primroses, wood anemones, celandines, violets, the first hint of colour on bluebells and early fruit blossom.

I hope that soon we'll be able to go out in bigger groups, which will reduce my workload in allocating people to groups. For now, if you are interested in joining our walks and haven't already contacted me, please get in touch so I can allocate you to a group when I organise a walk. Please text or phone me or contact me on Messenger.

Lisa Dean 077 5953 9032

TESTON AND WATERINGBURY PRESCHOOL

We would like to welcome all our new children to the start of our summer term where we will be enjoying lots of outdoor play in our wonderful, secluded garden. Our story times outside will start with our termly book 'Anna Hibiscus' Song by Atinuke. This tells the story of Anna Hibiscus who lives in Africa with her mother, her father, her baby twin brothers and lots of her family. We are going to get to know her, her family and what makes them happy in this delightfully illustrated story that explores feelings, love, and togetherness in everyday life in Africa.

In our craft corner the children will be painting a self-portrait which will be displayed around the hall, making bead jewellery and listening to African music. The children will also

be pounding yams before cooking and tasting them during our snack time.

A huge thank you to all who donated their unwanted clothes for our 'bags to school' fundraiser last term. We raised an amazing £105 which will go towards our craft material for the children.

If you are interested in joining our pre-school, please contact

Tina Driver on 07805 796353 or email

tandwngroup@gmail.com

THE MEANING OF THE NAME WATERINGBURY

The name *Wateringbury* is Old English or OE (post Roman), like most but not all, English place names. It is used in two late Anglo-Saxon documents, one a will and one relating to Rochester Bridge, and was subsequently used in the Domesday Book of 1086. It divides into three parts: **Water**, **ing**, **bury**. Let us consider in reverse order.

Bury is nothing to do with the modern word *bury* but comes from the OE *Burg* meaning *fortified place*.

ing means *tribe* and we see this being used in many other places settled by the Anglo-Saxons at a similar time, for example Malling, which means the tribe of Mealla.

Water is a corruption of an Anglo-Saxon personal name (the Anglo Saxons only used one name), *Othere*.

So putting it all together we have Wateringbury's meaning as ***The fortified place of Othere's tribe.***

If you are interested in the origins of other English place names, go to the web-site of Nottingham University

<http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk/>

Terry Bird

NETTLESTEAD AND WATERINGBURY PRESCHOOL (NWPS) AND OUT OF SCHOOLS' CLUB

What an end to a super Spring term at preschool. We have been finding out about where our friends' families live - we've explored Bermuda, Germany, Holland, Poland and Portugal. Our lovely families have brought in food for the children to try, music, nursery rhymes, books and photographs to help the children understand the differences and similarities between themselves and others.

We had two very special visitors - Korma and Winnie (lambs). We'd like to say a big thank you to Chris and Diana Chaplin (whose girls attend the preschool) for bringing them in to show the children.

"I really want children to engage with the natural world and perhaps develop a sense of food and farming. The lambs are part of my Bow Meadow Lamb enterprise."

<https://www.facebook.com/Kentishlamb>

The children have particularly enjoyed exploring diggers! Thank you to our two very patient guys from Luke Brook-Child's LB Garden Services who came to prepare the ground ready for our new storage building.

If you are interested in any of the services the setting offers, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Childcare, Education and Out of School Clubs, including holiday club. 01622 813120,

enquiries@nwps.org.uk , <https://nwpreschool.org.uk/>

WATERINGBURY SURGERY PPG

All patients registered with Wateringbury Surgery are eligible to join our Patient Participation Group. A PPG is an independent body formed to act as an interface between the practice and patient.

We are a small friendly group looking to find new members. We meet 4 times a year and look at ways to make a positive contribution to the services and facilities offered by the surgery.

The PPG is currently re-forming so interested Wateringbury Practice patients will have the opportunity to help form the team and discuss priorities for the PPG with the Practice and organise a first 'Health Promotion event'.

If you would be interested in joining the PPG please contact Nikki Howe at the Wateringbury surgery for further information nikki.howe@nhs.net

WATERINGBURY SCOUT GROUP

With warmer, longer days just around the corner Wateringbury Scout Group are welcoming a return to face to face meetings across all the sections after the Easter holidays. So if you see us around the village give us a wave!

I think every section has a meeting planned around a campfire, whether it's firelighting, camp cooking or toasting marshmallows, we'll all go home smelling of smoke but with a big smile on our faces.

Beavers Scouts have got one of their all-time favourite activities planned - shelter building. Will their shelters shelter them from the elements? They also have planned a marvellous mud meeting, water games and Beaver olympics too.

Not to be outdone by their younger counterparts, the Cub Scouts have loads of adventurous activities planned too, such as a village wide scavenger hunt, giant catapults, a recycling regatta and canoeing on the Medway.

The Scouts will be enjoying keenly competitive catapults, a big baseball game on the field and no doubt getting a little damp whilst playing kayaking games on the river to name but a few of their adventures.

Members from the Explorer Scout unit have already been busy completing their respective silver or gold Duke of Edinburgh practice expeditions around the Kentish countryside over the Easter break. This entails hiking on a route they've planned themselves from given checkpoints over several days, all whilst carrying a full rucksack containing all their food, clothes and equipment, which includes their tents!

I think it's safe to say, we (leaders, young leaders and youth members alike) are all looking forward to fun, scouting adventures this summer!

Nicola Plane - Cub Scout Leader

NEWS FROM OUR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR SARAH HUDSON

A huge THANK YOU to everyone that took the time and trouble to email me, the Parish Council and Kent Highways regarding the proposed 'improvements' to the crossroads, as part of a planning application for the Syngenta site in Yalding. The money is now being used to improve disabled access at Yalding train station instead.

There is a similar clause in a planning application for 330 houses on land south of Barming Station in Hermitage Lane, but I do not know when this is coming before the Area 3 planning committee at TMBC. The reference is TM/20/02749/OA. If you would like to let the Planning Officers at TMBC know your views, please email planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk.

There is also a planning application for up to 65 homes off Clearheart Lane, Kings Hill, with an emergency access at Kettridge Lane, Teston Road, Watlington. Please let the planning officers at TMBC know your views. The reference is TM/21/00881/OA.

The Community Fridge has closed its doors, having served its purpose with helping residents over the last year. We have been able to supply fresh fruit and vegetables, eggs, and many other food staples to many, many families, as well as reducing food waste. We have collected over 3,377kg of food, which is the equivalent of 8041 meals, and provided 10,704kg of CO2 savings. So we have all made a really significant difference. Thank you to everyone for your support, and a huge thank you to the team of volunteers, without whom none of this was achievable.

Community Library - We have enough book donations to last a while, so please no more for the time being. It is really pleasing to see the facility so well used and supported.

The Friends of Watlington will be starting our next project on the Bank Holiday weekend (1/2 May) where we will be weeding, and tidying up the car park, and painting the fences. If you can help, please contact Michael Williams on michaeljwilliams123@btinternet.com. A big thank you to Gary Haffenden for providing the free skip for the rubbish.

1ST WATERINGBURY BROWNIES

As the lockdown restrictions ease, the Brownies will be returning to face to face meetings in the coming weeks. The pack has immediate vacancies for girls (ages 7 to 10 years) to join. Should you have a daughter who would like to join, please register your interest via the Girlguiding website:

www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter

or alternatively get in touch with us via

email: 1stwateringburybrownies@gmail.com

Carolyn Peal and Jane Bennion

WATERINGBURY PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020-2021

This term started in May with only five Councillors. One new member was co-opted at our March meeting and we have two candidates up for co-option at this May's meeting which will bring our number up to eight. It has been a long time since we have had that many councillors and we still have one vacant space to fill.

When the Covid pandemic lockdown started in March 2020 we had to stop our normal face to face meetings and on the 17th of March we proposed that the Parish Council suspended all future meetings until further notice and in accordance with Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 delegated certain decisions to our clerk and any two councillors, and that all councillors would be kept informed by email of any decisions taken. Our annual meeting in May had to be cancelled as were council elections for Chairman, Vice

Chairman and positions for committees. Councillors agreed to carry on until our next annual meeting could take place.

During that period our clerk started to look into the Zoom system of virtual meetings with the advice from KALC, we gradually started to practice and to get used to the system and went live on the 1st September 2020, and we are still using it but we have now been notified that the government cannot extend legislation for virtual meetings after 6th May at this time.

In November our new VAS sign warning vehicles that they are in our 30mph zone was installed at the bottom of Canon Lane at a cost of £7,982.

Our thanks go to David Merry and his band of Speed Watch members who keep recording record numbers of vehicles speeding on the A26 East and West and Red Hill up and down. We keep being told by the authorities that they are recording more vehicles speeding than any other team. David informs us he is in the process of recruiting more members to his team, well done, so watch out speeders.

The Friends of Wateringbury had a good year in 2020. Every year the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) give an award to people for their work in their community, and the Parish Council put the Friends name forward to the awards panel in early 2020 and the Parish Council was told during the lockdown the Friends had won the award for 2020. Unfortunately, due to lockdown the Parish Council has not been able to present the award to Mike Williams as yet.

Our thanks go to John Ibbs for his efforts as our Village Warden. Also, our thanks go to our ladies of *Rostrum* for their attendance and their reports on council business.

Last but by no means least, my thanks go to our Parish Councillors for their continued support and their time given freely to the parish. To our Borough Councillor whose assistance with the threatened crossroads alterations recently proved to be an important factor in the result, as was the resident's response. Our thanks to all involved.
Michael A.Wells, Chairman of Wateringbury Parish Council

APRIL PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Announcements The chair opened the meeting by expressing the council's sincere thanks to the many residents and Borough Councillor Sarah Hudson for their efforts in making known to KCC and Maidstone Borough Council their feelings on the proposal to decimate our historic crossroads by making two filter lanes. Later in the meeting Sarah said it was estimated that such filter lanes would reduce journey times by 23 seconds. The funds earmarked in the former Yalding Syngenta site planning application to part fund suggested work at our crossroads have been re-allocated to improve disabled access at Yalding Station.

Borough Councillor Sarah Hudson sent huge thanks all who responded to the flyer distributed to every house in the village requesting emails to KCC about their resurrected plans for filter lanes at the crossroads. KCC were left in no doubt about the importance of the crossroads to village residents. There was also a planning application for 330 homes off Hermitage Lane which also mentions our cross roads as a planning condition. Sarah had made enquiries at KCC and there appears to have been a breakdown in internal communications at KCC which was somewhat frustrating.

56.1% of resident waste is now recycled making **TMBC the top Borough in Kent**, and no. 7 in the UK for recycling improvement, based on latest DEFRA figures. Increased collections based on pre COVID times are: +78% plastic, cans etc., +47% residual waste, +37% paper and card,

and +70% garden waste.

The next plan for the **Friends of Wateringbury** is to **tidy-up the village car park** which is owned by T & M. Sarah will be using part of her BC councillor's budget to provide paint for boundary fencing. A probable date for this is the early May bank-holiday weekend.

Village Community Fridge at the village hall will open its doors for the last time on Friday 30th April. As lockdown is being lifted, there has been a reduction in the number of residents attending and many volunteers are resuming former activities. Sarah thanked all those who had helped her serve the community over the past pandemic year.

Cemetery It was decided to wait until next year to provide a Litter bin at the cemetery car park. At this time the council will own the land and thus avoid the fee of £175 which the agents for the leaseholder wished to charge for allowing a bin on the land.

Crime On 1st March a Honda parked in a works car park in Bow Road was damaged. The Kent Association of Parish Councils is taking up with Kent Police its failure to issue Community Safety letters to parish councils.

Allotments All invoices were sent out for this year's tenancies. Three posts had been put in along the fencing which had been leaning over the footpath

Village Roads Councillor Patrick Gregson had been in communication with several experienced highways engineering companies and had obtained quotes from them to carry out a detailed survey of our roads. Borough Councillor Sarah Hudson offered to meet 50% of the cost of a detailed survey from her Borough Councillor's community allowance. The reasoning for the parish council commissioning an independent road survey is to provide it with information to strengthen its hand when dealing with KCC Highways Division. After discussion it was decided to make a final decision at the Highways and Transportation meeting later in the month.

Cllr Gregson reported on his **virtual meeting with Matthew Scott, Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)**. The traffic issues raised were: insufficient police speed checks in the village; the possibility of enforcement by the police of any agreed speed limit on the approaches to the village; and reducing the number of heavy lorries going through the village. These are operational matters and PCC will put them forward to the Chief Constable. Speed cameras are managed by Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership, not the Police.

A short traffic survey, requested by KCC from the Parish Council, will be put into Rostrum to further canvass residents' opinions on the village road traffic improvements to be sent to KCC for consideration.

Planning Applications There was only one planning application for a second floor shower room and dormer window at 141 Pizienwell Road. Councillors had no objections to the plans save for the use of upvc windows in a Conservation Area.

The national government has removed the Covid 19 pandemic facility for council meetings to be held on-line with effect from 6th May 2021. Councillors are investigating how future meetings can be held to meet safe distancing and public access requirements. The regular monthly meeting on Tuesday 4th May at 7.30pm via Zoom will be followed by the **Annual Parish Meeting** which affords residents the chance to raise matters of local concern. Please contact parish clerk for access details clerk@wateringburypc.org.uk

Approved minutes of the meetings will appear on the Parish Council website www.wateringburypc.org.uk in due course.

The mobile library will be at Bow Road on a Friday from 11.25 - 11.55am on the following dates: 21 May, 18 June, 16 July, 13 August, 10 September. At the moment the mobile is continuing with the **Click and Select** service from Coldharbour library. Here is a link to information on this service:
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/mobile-libraries-during-coronavirus>

REV GARY WRITES

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

I've no doubt many of you watched last month the funeral for the Duke of Edinburgh. I thought it was a very beautiful and moving ceremony. I think we were all sad to see Her Majesty sat at a distance from her family. That is a reminder to us all that we continue to live under Covid restrictions, and I think it is a measure of Her Majesty's service to her nation that she abides by the same set of rules that we are all under, setting us a good example even at a time in her life of great personal sorrow.

But of course, Her Majesty's sitting alone is a poignant reminder that her beloved husband is gone. With this funeral, as with all funerals, the reason for gathering is an absence – the absence of someone loved who has died. The very next day I and others were gathered in our churches for the Sunday morning services and I reflected that the reason for those gatherings was not an absence but to celebrate a presence - the presence of the Lord Jesus who had died but was raised and is alive again. He promised to be with all those who take up the cross and follow Him –

“I am with you always”, He said, “even unto the end of the age.”

I think I'm right in saying that the familiar words of committal were not said at Prince Philip's funeral (perhaps they were said off camera or at some other point in the day's proceedings?) But it would have been good for the nation to hear them because at that moment of closure, when the body is being lowered, they are a reminder of the Christian hope of the resurrection of the body and the power of Christ. The words of committal are based on some words written by St Paul in his letter to the church in Philippi: *'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body'* (Philippians 3:20,21).

At a Christian funeral the beloved's body is committed to the earth or the flames in the firm hope that Christ will one day return physically to complete in us His work of salvation and that He will raise us from death and give to us new bodies fit for eternal life.

So, with that hope in our hearts and with the Lord's own promise to be with us always, we are encouraged and do not lose heart. I'm sure many of you will want to join with me in praying for Her Majesty and all her family that they will find strength and encouragement in the Lord as they face the days ahead. Indeed, that is our prayer for all those who mourn, and I have no doubt Her Majesty will be remembering them in her prayers as we remember her in ours. *Rev Gary Townsend*

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Saturday 29th May

10am to 1pm

In the churchyard

Beautiful Flower and Vegetable Plants

All proceeds towards the upkeep our ancient village church. *Donations of plants would be most welcome - preferably labelled and priced.*

HYMNS - ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

- 1 What transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth
The king of love my shepherd is
- 2 Ye fearful saints fresh courage take, the clouds ye so much
dread are big with mercy and shall break in blessings on your
head *God moves in a mysterious way*
- 3 His chariots of wrath the deep thunder clouds form
O worship the king
- 4 Led out to die on Calvary, risen from death to set us free
Lord Jesus Christ (Living Lord)
- 5 Craftsmen's art and music's measure for thy pleasure all
combine *Angel voices ever singing*
- 6 Humbled for a season to receive a name from the lips of
sinners unto whom he came
At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow
- 7 Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Morning has broken
- 8 Who from our mother's arms hath blessed us on our way
Now thank we all our God
- 9 Speak through the earthquake wind and fire, O still small
voice of calm *Dear Lord and Father of mankind*
- 10 Let me see thy footmarks and in them plant mine own
O Jesus I have promised

Annual Parish Meeting by Zoom Thursday 13th May 7.30pm

This is the meeting where our Church Wardens and PCC members, etc are elected for the coming year. It is also a time to reflect on the past year and plans for the future. It's easy to join from the comfort of your own home. email gary.rev@outlook.com for the link to the meeting

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10-16 MAY

Traditionally we undertake a house to house collection for Christian Aid every year to support their work fighting global poverty. We hope to restart this in future years as there is always a generous response from across the village. However this year we invite you to donate directly online at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk> or via the Christian Aid bowl which will be available after the church services on 9th and 16th May. *Bob and Becky Bowie*

WATERINGBURY CHURCH - SERVICES IN MAY

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

Services in Church For the time being Covid regulations mean that it is not feasible to hold an 8.30am Prayer Book Holy Communion Service on the 3rd Sunday in the month. Week by week services at St John the Baptist church are as below:

2nd May - 10am - Matins with Barry Fisher

9th May - 10am - Communion for Rogation with Canon Brian Stevenson

On Rogation Sunday we ask God's Blessing on our food crops, that the harvest may be plentiful.

16th May - 10am - All Age Worship

23rd May - 10am - Communion for Pentecost with Rev Gary Townsend

Pentecost (Whitsun) is regarded as the birthday of the church when we celebrate God sending his Holy Spirit (His Power) to His followers

30th May - 10am - Trinity Sunday Benefice Service at Wateringbury church with Rev Gary Townsend

6th June - 10am - Morning Praise with Barry Fisher

To comply with Covid regulations it is important that those hoping to attend a service notify their wish by emailing before 2pm on the prior

Saturday to office@wateringburychurch.org.uk / 01622 813852.

Our short on-line worship will still be available every week for you to enjoy at <http://tiny.cc/krymmz>
It is available at any time.

Ascension Day Thursday 13th May There will be a Zoom service. Please email gary.rev@outlook.com for the link

WEEKLY ZOOM BENEFICE BIBLE STUDY GROUP
Thursdays at 7.30pm for about an hour **Rev Gary Townsend** invites you to join him for bible study. To join please email gary.rev@outlook.com for the link to the meeting.

IN OUR SORROWS – FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Funeral - We extend our deepest sympathy to the loved ones of **Peter Melville Blest**

(12th April 1950 – 18th February 2021)

Funeral followed by burial in cemetery - 12th April

CANON BRIAN'S GRAND DAYS OUT

When I took the Easter service at St John Baptist a number of people asked me what I had been doing with myself since I was last there (Christmas Day 2019). Here is a partial answer.

Over the past months of Covid lockdown our holidays have been restricted with nowhere to stay overnight. I have reverted to old ways. In the 1940s my father had a week off in July and we would go most days on a train journey to the sea-side where after paddling we would have fish and chips, an ice and then return home. We liked Bangor, Dundrum, etc. This year we have had days out:

To Wisley Gardens for an Easter Egg Hunt and a viewing of the fine magnolias and camellias and the awesome cherry trees in full bloom. We have loved walking around the outside of stately homes and moated castles. Bodiam was ideal for this as its moat is not too vast and there are other walks. Knole takes longer to circumvent and was surprisingly well attended by young families with prams. There is space and fresh air in abundance. We liked the takeaway cafe at Ightham Mote and the ability to have a leisurely picnic in the grounds and exult in the daffodils.

Our sea-side trip was to Hythe and Camber Sands. We went on 30th March the hottest day of the year so far with our bubble: our son and his daughters - age wanted Hythe, youth wanted Camber Sands - so we went to both on the same day. We dropped our son off at Folkestone and we drove on to Hythe and then slowly walked back towards Folkestone to meet him. He would walk twice as fast as us. Hythe is ideal for older people as it has a long, long esplanade, level and wide. There were a lot of pensioners about, ambling and sitting on the numerous benches looking out to sea. We had only gone a mile or two when we saw Edward approaching us at speed. We turned back to Hythe for hot dogs and ices, sitting on the sea wall. Toilets are a problem in the Lockdown but the Imperial Spa was hospitable and clean. We tried to skim flat stones towards Calais.

Then onto Camber Sands with its vast expanse of beach especially at low tide which we coincided with. Unlike Hythe, Camber was dominated by young families. It is difficult to climb up through the dunes to reach the sand and there is no esplanade or commemorative benches. We found a deep chasm in the dunes where you could roll down the slopes, cartwheel, forward cascade - if you were under 18. It was hot and I bought a beach ball which took forceful puffing to inflate. I warned the girls not to throw it out to sea or follow it out if it drifted away. After playing some time on the beach with the ball and walking up and down the strand I decided that the best use for the beach ball was as a pillow so I had a snooze in the sun and dreamt of long ago day trips.

Where shall we go next? On our bucket list are Bewl Water, Penshurst and Hever. Perhaps we will bump into friends from Watlingtonbury at one of those. *Brian Stevenson*