

Double Issue December 2021 and January 2022

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Rostrum Team.

Thank you to all our advertisers, contributors and distributors for your support in 2021 which is much appreciated.

Christine, Ela and Terry

VILLAGE DIARY

December 2021

- 5th Footpaths Walk** – meet outside Village Hall – 2pm
- 6th Free Defibrillator training** Noon-2pm see article in this issue
- 7th Parish Council Meeting** - 7.30pm – Village Hall
- 9th WI Christmas Tea** – 2pm – Village Hall
- 13th Footpaths Walk** – meet outside Village Hall – 10am
- 15th History Society Christmas Evening** – 7.30-9pm – Village Hall
- 16th Nine Lessons & Carols by Candlelight** – 8pm - Church
- 17th Coffee & Mince Pies with MP Tom Tugendhat and T&M & KCC Councillor Sarah Hudson** – 10am-Noon - Village Hall
- 19th Community Market** – Noon – 2pm – Village Hall car park

January 2022

- 2nd Footpaths Walk** – meet outside Village Hall – 2pm
- 4th Parish Council/Planning Meeting** – 7.30pm – Village Hall
- 13th Footpaths Walk** – meet outside Village Hall – 10am
- 13th Gardening Talk (WI)** – 2pm – Village Hall
- 19th History of Toys and Games Talk** – 7.30 for 8pm – Village Hall

All village residents are warmly welcomed to coffee and mince pies with our **MP Tom Tugendhat**, and **Sarah Hudson**, Borough & County Councillor, on **Friday 17th December at Wateringbury Village Hall from 10am to Noon.**

FOOTPATH GROUP

We enjoyed our November walks, especially as we were lucky with the weather. Our route took us across and around the golf course at Kings Hill. Our next walks all start from the village hall - Sunday 5th December at 2pm, Monday 13th December at 10am, Sunday 2nd January at 2pm and Thursday 13th January at 10am

Looking back at 2021, it was great to be able to walk in groups again. It was even better when restrictions relaxed and we weren't limited to six people walking together. Walking is a great way of getting some exercise and enjoying the natural world around us. It's even better when you share it with others and meet new people. It could be your New Year's Resolution to be more active and/or to meet new people! If you are interested in joining us for the first time or want any more information I'd love to hear from you. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Lisa Dean 077 5953 9032

VILLAGE PEOPLE *Please let us have your news and tributes by 17 January for our February magazine. Entries are free. Email rostrum2@hotmail.com or phone 01622 812023*

TRIBUTES

Mike Sandell 17th December 1937 - 21st October 2021

Mike was born in Norfolk and had a true love of the countryside. He passed on his horticultural skills latterly working at Hadlow College. Mike was a talented wood carver. He made children's rocking horses and carved exquisite models of birds which he painted. In retirement he cultivated varieties of hellebores and passed his wood carving skills on via a group at Tonbridge Baptist Church. His wise, positive thoughts uttered in his delightful Norfolk accent will be missed by his family and friends.

Paul Smart 23rd April 1943 - 27th October 2021

Paul was born in Eynsford and in his teenage years lived beside the bridge in East Farleigh where his family ran a cafe and small caravan site. He joined the Merchant Navy for a short time then became an apprentice boat builder in Yalding while at the same time developing his motorcycling talents. The owner of the business hoped that Paul would take it over but the pull of motorcycle racing was too strong. His talents meant he grew increasingly in demand to ride for major racing teams including Triumph and on his 29th birthday for Ducati at Imola, Italy; he won the 200 race and this put them on the map. In 2006 Ducati produced a limited edition Paul Smart motorcycle. He became the first UK rider to achieve racing success in the USA and he and wife Maggie lived in California. In 1978 he had a major crash while racing at Mallory Park and broke both his legs. On recovering from surgery he found that his feet had been reset straight (up until this time he had been pigeon toed!). He retired from major racing activity shortly after this and concentrated his efforts on developing a motorcycle sales business in Maidstone and then Paddock Wood. Upon retirement he became an ambassador for Ducati and attended many events in Europe and was looking forward to celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Imola win in 2022. For the past two years Paul had been having ground-breaking immunotherapy followed by regular chemotherapy to treat skin cancer. He had just been given the 'all clear'. He was full of praise and gratitude to all the staff at the Oncology Unit at Maidstone Hospital.

Paul enjoyed sailing and qualified as an offshore sailing skipper, canoeing on the Medway, cycling and of course motorcycling. It was while out on his motorcycle that a traffic accident caused Paul's life to end so abruptly. He will long be remembered for his positive attitude, the kindness and help he gave to so many and for the amusing stories of events in his life which he shared.

THANK YOUS

Thank you to Jane Bates for distributing Rostrum to the homes in **Hillside Court** for many years. We are now looking for a new volunteer to make these deliveries. If you can help contact rostrum2@hotmail.com

Larry and Angela Collins, Poppy Appeal organisers send a massive thank you to all the collectors who gave their time voluntarily to collect for this year's appeal. Subject to official confirmation the **amount raised is £1,800**. Our success would not have been possible without volunteer support for which we are immensely grateful. Our thanks also to all the static collectors who agree to take poppy boxes and display them in their premises, within the school, church, surgery and local retail and hospitality spaces and to the Village Hall for our Saturday collections.

VILLAGE AMENITY FUND

The fund is open to applications to contribute to specific projects benefiting the village. In the past these have been in the areas of education, youth services, heritage, and sport but others could be considered. It is unlikely that any individual grant would exceed £500. Applications should be made in writing to rostrum2@hotmail.com describing the project in no more than 250 words; on the basis of this initial proposal further specific information may be requested. Proposals should be received by the end of the year and will be considered early next year.

1ST WATERINGBURY RAINBOWS

The Rainbow unit meets at the Guide and Scout HQ, Glebe Meadow, Wateringbury on alternate Saturday mornings from 9.30am to 11.30am during term time. We work for badges through a variety of activities and have lots of fun along the way.

We have been on woodland walks, visits to the Goat Sanctuary at Wierton, decorated biscuits, decorated plant pots and then planted seeds/bulbs in them. At our meeting on Saturday 13th November we painted poppies using our fingers. Each girl took their painting home and we made a joint one to put up on our noticeboard in the HQ.

We are looking for both leaders and girls to join us. If you are interested please go to the [girlguiding website](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) and register your interest either to help or if your daughter would like to join us.

SEASONAL GREETINGS FROM THE WATERINGBURY PLAYERS

We are full steam ahead with our production of "Alice in Wonderland". We have cast the show and rehearsals are underway. We are working hard behind the scenes to bring you another fantastic show. **The dates of the show next year are :** [Friday 18th March](#) and [Saturday 19th March 2022](#) ... **pop it in your diary** . Details to follow in the new year. We look forward to seeing you then. Have a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.
The Players

HISTORY SOCIETY

Our Christmas meeting on Wednesday 15th December in the village hall at 7.30 pm, with refreshments, will be a chance for people to get together. There will also be a table quiz for those that wish to participate.

Our meeting on **Wednesday 19th January 2022** will be a talk **by Martin Crowther on the history of toys and games with real and replica toys to investigate**. Our speaker will commence at 8pm with coffee and tea available from 7.30pm. All meetings are free for the next few months after our Covid break so please do come along, you will be very welcome. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. *Gill Smith*

TESTON AND WATERINGBURY PRE-SCHOOL

As we continue to explore the book 'Dream Snow, by Eric Carle, we will be making snow sun catchers and snowflakes and learning that each one is different and special just as we are. We are pleased to announce that we will be holding our pre-school Christmas concert this year where the children will perform some much-loved songs in front of their parents. There will be the usual Christmas hamper raffle, mince pies, mulled wine and refreshments available. This year we are holding the concert over three days so all parents/carers can enjoy all the festivities safely.

We have started our phonics group this term for our older children to start preparing them for big school, while our younger children are enjoying the many clever finger activities, we have put together to help develop their fine motor skills.

On behalf of all the staff and children, we would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas. We will return on Tuesday 4th January 2022.
Tina Driver 07805 796353

WI

We welcomed Jean Surrey to our November meeting to hear her talk on "Grandma's Workbox". A work box to hold sewing implements was an 18th Century invention. Before that a house wife carried her sewing tools on a chain worn around the waist and called a Chatelaine. Work boxes became very popular amongst wealthier Victorians and Jean had fine examples of them and their contents. The competition winner was Stroma with her beautiful 1925 handmade Christening gown.

The next meeting will be on **9th December**. This will be a Christmas afternoon tea with games, quizzes and chats. The competition is a small table decoration using any materials. Please bring a fork, a spoon and yourselves to enjoy this event.

On Thursday **13th January**. The speaker will be Chris Stewart with a gardening talk entitled "The Good, The Bad, The Ugly and The Beautiful".

GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

Over the last month, the state of our planet has dominated the news. The hope is that governments around the world will take the necessary action needed to limit climate change but, as gardeners, we can play our part. At this time of year, we are tidying up our flower beds and raking up leaves. Much of this can be turned into compost or leaf mould and even the smallest garden has room for one of the 'dalek' bins or even a wormery. Along with garden weeds and grass cuttings, I also add spent bedding plants, vegetable peelings and other uncooked kitchen scraps (not meat) to mine and produce most of the compost that I need for my garden. If I do need to buy any, I make a point of asking for 'peat free' which is still not widely available although compost containing peat will be banned from 2024. Peat is formed over hundreds of years and its use is therefore not sustainable. It stores carbon which is released as carbon dioxide if dug up, contributing to greenhouse gases and is also a valuable ecosystem supporting a wide range of animals and plants. If we, as the customer, make our views known to the relevant retailers and growers it may well make a positive difference with a more immediate effect.

As I come up the lane past the pond, I invariably stop to watch the wildlife it supports. Last week I was rewarded by spotting a Kingfisher which was perched on the roof of a car also surveying the scene before flying off with a flash of turquoise across the pond. We live in a beautiful part of the country and we can all play our part to keep it that way. *Pauline Knutton*

WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

There is no happier place than a primary school in the run up to Christmas and we are heading full pelt into that season now. Letters are going home to parents requesting bizarre items for nativity costumes, children are practising tear-jerking songs and parents are already warning children that Father Christmas is looking out for good behaviour. Hearing children singing in school again is a magical thing.

At the beginning of November our Friends of Wateringbury CE Primary School group (FOWPS) held the legendary Bonfire Night during which the guys that the children made were burned on a massive bonfire. It was lovely to see so many members of the community supporting their local school and getting delicious pies in the bargain. Keep an eye out for more events in 2022!

Our children and staff have been making the most of the outdoors and the beautiful environment that surrounds our school. One class visited the River Darent and learned how to take measurements to monitor the river. Another went to Bore Place for an environmental art day whilst our Year Six pupils have begun their Bikeability training, learning how to keep safe riding their bikes. At lunchtime, the children have been inventing new games to play with the leaves that cover our field.

Finally, I was honoured to accompany three of our Year Six pupils to the Remembrance Service at St John the Baptist. Tom, Dixie and Caitlin laid a wreath in honour of the fallen soldiers on behalf of the school. I was moved to see so many local children in their uniforms showing such respect to the memory of the fallen. Well done, Wateringbury!

If you are looking for a school place for your child or would like to be a volunteer reader at our school please contact the school office at office@wateringbury.kent.sch.uk – we look forward to seeing you.

Debbie Johnson – Headteacher www.wateringbury.kent.sch.uk

NEWS FROM SARAH HUDSON OUR BOROUGH AND KCC COUNCILLOR

I attended a meeting of the Communities and Housing Advisory Board at TMBC last week and voted in support of TMBC adopting the "Community Trigger". Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is a major blight on modern life - loud music, dog poo, pavement parking, fighting, drug use, intimidation, litter and fly tipping, vandalism, abandoned cars..... the list is almost endless and affects most of us on a weekly basis. Residents too often feel their complaints fall on deaf ears. I fear they often do! The "Community Trigger" clearly sets-out the process residents can follow to get their complaints addressed and actions taken by the authorities independently reviewed.

Basically, if you have made three reports about anti-social behaviour regarding the same person (or group of people) in a six month period, and you are unhappy with either the police, landlord's or council's response, you can commence the "Community Trigger" process. This will result in a review of your complaints and the actions taken and appropriate remedial action necessary.

The important thing is when ASB occurs locally, you need to report it to the police (either using 101 on their online reporting tool which can be found at <https://www.kent.police.uk/.../ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/> You can also report it to TMBC or where applicable to the landlord. When you do so, keep a note of the time and date and any additional information, as if you need to commence the

"Community Trigger" you will need a history of events and actions taken.

See: <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/.../report-anti-social-behaviour/3> for more information

Obviously ASB should not happen and those responsible should be held to account, but this is one small step in giving residents the right to be heard and their complaints reviewed.

Following the formal withdrawal of the Local Plan in July, Borough Officers have been working hard to consider ways of speeding up the rewriting process. They have told us that a new reconsidered Local Plan could be ready for the Inspectors in just 18 months. With that in mind they are carrying out a 'Call for Sites' exercise over a four week period beginning in the next few weeks. They have identified a new streamlined way of assessing the sites which will involve the hiring of Consultants. There will be an emphasis on using Brown Field sites first, then Green Field. There will though need to be an estimated extra 3000 houses, as required by the Government (going from 696 to 839 per annum), a 20% increase which should take the plan to 15 years past the adoption date. Having a Local Plan which identifies a 5 year land supply and that has been agreed by the Inspectors will leave us less open to predatory planning applications.

The Local Government Boundary Commission has published its draft proposals for changing the ward boundaries used to elect Borough Councillors to Tonbridge and Malling Council. This is to make more equal the number of electors each Councillor represents including taking into account population growth since the last review as well as sites where new houses have been approved. In addition the number of councillors is being reduced from 54 to 43, meaning the boundaries of all wards are changing. The proposals are for Mereworth, Wateringbury and East Peckham to become a 2 member ward. Kings Hill will remain the same, with 3 councillors, and Hadlow, West Peckham, Golden Green, Plaxtol and Shipbourne to become a two member ward, called Bourne.

Thank you for your support in 2021. Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful, Healthy 2022. *Sarah*

East Malling Singers Christmas Concert will be on Saturday 11th December at 7.30pm at the church of St James the Great, East Malling. This is a popular concert, which is usually sold out. Tickets (£12, children free) are available from boxoffice@eastmallingsingers.co.uk or 01622 750943.

LINE DANCING CLASS

For the last few weeks we have attended a new Line Dancing lessons **for beginners at the WI hall in East Farleigh on a Thursday at 2.30pm** (£7 per session).. The class is taught by Wendy who teaches with humour and at our level, allowing for the odd moment of not knowing our left from our right! Half way through the lesson we stop for a break and a small chat. It's a social and fun way to have some 'kind' exercise which is all set to some great uplifting tunes. If you are interested in joining us contact Wendy on: 07833 079213 or email: wendylangley2910@gmail.com
Dawn and Jackie of Wateringbury

WATERINGBURY FLOWER CLUB

November saw us welcome Graeme King from London and Overseas flower club and for a lovely Christmas demonstration with lots of festive sparkle. We had mince pies with our tea and coffee and reminded all our members that there was a Christmas drinks party at the Chairman's house.

January will see us having a Zoom meeting and our guest will be Pam Hayward from Maidstone flower club talking to us on miniature flower arrangements for competition work. Pam won our Area show exhibit with hers. February will see our club AGM and then a small demonstration from Jean Schofield to members to finish off the evening. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. *Jean Schofield for WFC*

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

We have been looking at Halloween and bonfire night during our October Half Term Holiday Club and at the start of our new term with the preschool children. The children at the Holiday Club had a pumpkin competition as to who cut out the best design on their pumpkin, whilst the preschool children decorated their pumpkin using different coloured paint and other colourful resources. Carrying on with the Halloween theme the children have been making cotton bud skeletons and googly eyed mummies, whilst our After School Club enjoyed a bonfire themed evening with hotdogs and sparklers.

The children enjoyed blowing the bubble mixture to make the best number of bubbles from their cup, then using the bubbles to make bubbles pictures.

For snack, the children have used various types of melon and bananas to make firework kebabs; they cut up their own fruit and pushed them on to the sticks!

Childcare, Education and Out of School Clubs, including holiday club. 01622 813120, enquiries@nwps.org.uk, <https://nwpreschool.org.uk/>

TOM TUGENDHAT OUR MP WRITES

With the colder months on the way and Christmas just around the corner I am sure that we are all hoping for a better celebration this year than last. It will be good to be able to see family and friends.

Most of us have now been double jabbed and are seeing people again but as the days pass it is important we get the coronavirus vaccine booster. This is a vital new phase of the vaccine rollout and I hope everyone eligible will get one. Making sure that we are as protected as possible is just another way that we can ensure that we can spend the winter with the ones we love.

We're all now coming to the six month point at roughly the same time and this is putting pressure on the amazing staff in our community who have done so much this past year. I am now pressing the Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group - the group in charge of the delivery of the rollout locally - to up their supplies so that we can all get an appointment as soon as it is due. Please don't forget to get the flu jab as well from your local pharmacy or GP surgery. That will help reduce pressure on the NHS and, I hope, keep everyone healthy for longer.

We all want a very different 2022 and an end to the restrictions we've had to live with too long. We can do something to help by looking out for one another and protect each other by getting a booster. I'll be doing it as soon as I'm allowed.

**PADDOCK WOOD CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENT
CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD
on Saturday 11th December at 7.30pm in St Andrews
Church Paddock Wood** Tickets from the Box Office e-mail:
tickets@paddockwood-choral.org.uk or via the website
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/paddockwood>
Adults £12.50 under 19s free

FIRST WATERINGBURY GUIDES

We attended our first Remembrance Service at Wateringbury in two years on 14th November and the weather was kind to us. The service was outside and we were very pleased to be able to parade to the church again. We were delighted that 20 of the guides attended as we've come a long way since the equivalent service in 2018 when only six guides came.

We built guys for Bonfire Night and set fire to them, had a go at sparklers photography and have practiced building and lighting fires in readiness for our Backwoods Cooking badge. Gingerbread men and Ice Skating at Tunbridge Wells round off the rest of the term.

We're now completely full with 36 guides but 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.
Sheena Stewart and team

FIRST WATERINGBURY BROWNIES

The Brownie pack has enjoyed returning to the HQ since September, and participated in a wide range of activities working towards their Skills Builder badges, as well as completing interest badges at home. In late September, we had a visit to Lower Grange Farm where the girls completed sessions of Archery and the Cave Bus - both gave the girls the chance to participate in activities they had not done before which they really enjoyed - we even had one Brownie make her way round the cave bus blindfolded - a real challenge! Last week, the girls loved toasting marshmallows over an open fire, eating s'mores and learning some new camp fire songs.

As we approach Christmas, we have planned a visit to the cinema to see Disney's Mirabel's Magical Movie and a Christmas party to finish the term. Thank you to everyone who has supported the unit throughout 2021.

We welcome any enquiries for joining Brownies for girls between 7 to 10 years old, please get in touch via email: 1stwateringburybrownies@gmail.com
Carolyn Peal and Jane Bennion.

REV GARY WRITES

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

You will have discovered a treat in your copy of *Rostrum* for this month. This year the usual Church Christmas Card features pictures painted by children from Wateringbury Primary School. We ran a Christmas Card Competition at the School and the winning entries were used for the Christmas Card. I and some people at the Church had to pick the winners and it was a joy to look through the twenty or so entries. It was an even greater joy to announce the winners at the school and give some prizes. I ran this competition for many years in my previous churches and I've realised over the years that children are able to take pleasure in the simple joy of achieving something and being recognised for it.

I think that's what ought to lie behind the giving and receiving of presents. In my opinion, giving the present ought

to be a way of showing that we acknowledge another person and that they are valued; and in receiving a present we should take it as a token that we are valued. I think this is why it's so hideous when we see a gift received ungratefully or when there's an excess of gifts or huge sums of money spent on getting someone 'what they want.' It seems to rob the whole act of that simple pleasure of acknowledging someone and being acknowledged. We can 'spoil children' – and adults too! As human beings we ought to value relationships and regard them as precious gifts and our characters are spoiled if what we cherish is the gift rather than the relationship with the giver.

And so, I believe, that's how it is between us and God; we cherish the gifts the creator gives (he made the world and gives us life and breath and everything else) but we do not cherish the relationship with Him as the giver. This is why Christians speak of Jesus as God's gift to us because Jesus Christ, we believe, is God incarnate (God as a human being) and so in Christ we have God giving Himself to us - *Himself* is what He wants us to have. He would have to die and rise again for us as part of taking on our nature but it was all so that we could become the children of God and enter into the joy of knowing Him and being known by Him.

I do hope that over Christmas each of us can receive afresh or perhaps for the first time God's gift of Himself to each of us and so go on into the New Year in the simple child-like joy of knowing He is with us and for us.

Wishing you every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

Rev Gary Townsend Priest-in-Charge of Mereworth, Watlingbury and West Peckham

Rev Gary Townsend and the Worship Team at Watlingbury Church pray that the Spirit of Christmas may bring you Peace and the Expectation of Christmas give you Hope and Joy.

MESSY CHURCH 4TH DECEMBER & 8TH JANUARY - 3-5pm

Messy Church is re-building after our Covid break and is a monthly feature of St John the Baptist Church here in Watlingbury. We sing, use our percussion instruments, watch or listen to Bible stories, pray and spend time on various crafts. Often we welcome Rev Gary with his guitar to learn new action songs. We always finish with tea!

On 4th December we will be focusing on the events of the First Christmas.

On Saturday 8th January we are going to hear about the visit of the Wise Men and **celebrate our fourth birthday**. We are growing steadily with about 20 children and their families enjoying our afternoons. Do come along you will be very welcome.

Ruth Dunn (01622 812342)

Twelfth Night Quiz still only £1 - this year's theme is Seaside Holidays From Jan Pursey ☎ 01622 814324.

A family quiz to do with your Christmas Visitors.

Completed quiz sheets to be returned before 12th Night – 6th January. Proceeds to church funds.

NEW COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR

A new Community Defibrillator is to be installed at St John the Baptist Church, Watringbury, on 10th December 2021. This will provide vital emergency equipment for the west side of the village. The defibrillator and external cabinet have been purchased through the Oliver King Foundation and will be positioned to the right hand side of the Church's porch door.

The cost for the defibrillator and cabinet has been met through the KCC Members Grant Scheme and the Village Community Fridge Fund. We are extremely grateful to our County Councillor, Sarah Hudson, for her support in achieving the necessary funding. The cabinet installation and electrical supply costs will be met by St John the Baptist Church, Watringbury.

Mark King, founder of the Oliver King Foundation, will present the equipment to Sarah Hudson and Rev. Gary Townsend at the Church on Monday 6th December. The presentation and training, including CPR, will start at 12 noon and last until 2pm. The training course is for up to 12 people. If you would like to take part please contact Mike Witts on 01622 812027. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

WATERINGBURY CHURCH - SERVICES IN DECEMBER

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

Church Face Book Page: fb.me/watringburychurch

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

We hope you can join us this Christmas.

A warm welcome awaits you.

Please note we cannot guarantee space for social distancing at any of our Christmas services. We would appreciate masks being worn when moving around the church for the well-being of all. In these Covid times at Communion Services the priest dips the wafers into the wine and gives one to each communicant.

Saturday 4th Dec 3-5pm Messy Church (for young families) – Bible Story, Action Songs, Prayer time, lots of crafts and ending with afternoon tea. All welcome

Sunday 5th Dec - 10am – Morning Praise
led by Barry Fisher and Pauline Welch

Sunday 12th Dec – 10am - Holy Communion with Rev Gary Townsend

Tuesday 14 December - 2pm - Watringbury School Carol Service led by Rev Gary Townsend *Our school celebrates the Christmas message.*

Thursday 16 December - 8pm - Nine Lessons and Carols
led by Rev Gary *A candlelit service with traditional readings and well-known carols.*

Sunday 19 December - 10am - 'A Journey to Bethlehem'

led by Becky, Kate and Ruth *If they wish children are invited to come dressed in nativity costumes or use the church's costumes and go on a 'Journey to Bethlehem'.*

Friday 24 December - Christmas Eve

5pm - Crib Service led by Barry Fisher

A service for all ages where young children can help to fill our stable with the traditional visitors. Well-known carols for all to sing.

11pm - Midnight Communion led by Rev Gary Townsend

A service that brings us into Christmas Day. Blessings and Communion are offered.

Christmas Day - 10am - Family Communion led by Rev Jim Brown

A less formal Communion and Blessings service. Children are invited to bring a favourite gift.

St Stephen's Day (Boxing Day) - 10am - Benefice

Communion Service led by Rev Gary Townsend

CHURCH SERVICES IN JANUARY 2022

The pattern of services in the Benefice of Mereworth, Wateringbury and West Peckham changed recently and will now follow the following pattern:

Sunday in month	Wateringbury	Mereworth	West Peckham
First 2 nd January	10am Matins	8am Prayer Book Communion	11.30am Communion
Second 9 th January	10am Communion	8am Communion	11.30am Sunday 45
Third 16 th January	10am All Age Worship	8am Prayer Book Communion	11.30am Communion
Fourth 24 th January	10am Communion	8am Communion	11.30am Sunday 45
Fifth 30 th January	Joint Communion Service for all three churches. The service at 10am is in Mereworth Church with guest preacher Bishop Simon who lives at Kings Hill		

MESSY CHURCH 8th January in Wateringbury. Usually the first Saturday of each month from 3-5pm however in January because of New Year it will be on the second Saturday.

BENEFICE YOUTH SERVICES - 5pm - Mereworth Church

2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd January

An informal service for young people and those who enjoy informal worship. If you play a musical instrument – bring it along. Rev Gary will be bringing his guitar.

BENEFICE MID WEEK COMMUNION 10am – Mereworth Church

5th, 12th, 19th and 26th January

A said service followed by Coffee and Chat

Rev Gary hopes that the new pattern will mean he will be able to participate in most services and that the new 5pm Informal Service on Sundays will be a more convenient time for young people and families to come to church.

COFFEE BREAK, CRAFT AND CHAT

10.30-12.30 on Wednesdays 8th, 22nd -December and 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th January

We have our usual two meetings in December and since many find January a dull month we will be meeting four times in January. Crafts are optional, many just come along for the company. We have a really pleasant morning meeting in the social area at the church, so do come along, it would be good to see you.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Pauline and Gillian

NOVEMBER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

In absence of the Chairman, Cllr Michael Wells, the meeting was chaired by Cllr Patrick Gregson.

Joshua Vincent, the **Local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)**, attended the meeting with a colleague. He reported that Watringbury was a quiet, low crime area, with a relatively low incidence of reported crime. However, motorbike joy riders in the area of Teston Road were a current problem. Fencing off the exit to Kings Hill to close their escape route from police chase was proposed. He recommended using *My Community Voice*, a messaging service to keep in touch with the local police. It allows the public and businesses to communicate with PCSOs and check local area crime updates and alerts. It is not for crime reporting. Crimes should be reported either by phone to 101, the non-emergency police telephone number, or 'Report Crime' on the website www.kent.police.uk.

A request was made for PCSO to occasionally patrol the playground area as well as the Watringbury school approach at school times, where aggravation arises from parking on yellow lines. Cllr Owen asked for occasional 'popping in' at the Playing Fields as a deterrent to potential criminal activity.

Sarah Hudson, T&M and KCC Councillor informed the Council of the following:

- slightly **improved air quality data** at the Crossroads. The testing equipment is old and should be replaced.
- The number of **objections to limit the speed** to 40mph at the approach to the village between Pizienwell Road and Canon Lane increased to 13 and has to be referred to Joined Transportation Board.
- A **defibrillator** will be installed in the Church on 6th December.
- **The donation** of £1000 to the Watringbury Football Club for equipment.
- **Meadow View Court** is temporarily closed to visitors due to a Covid case. The Chairman and Cllr Tripp would look at the Magna lock on the Playing Field gate. A **'No parking' sign** had been placed in front of the gate to the Fields.

Cllr Fielding & Cllr Tripp will obtain 3 quotes to move and redo the **equipment in the Playing Field** to create an integrated junior playing area.

The fitting of **LED lighting** in the village has been completed.

A replacement for the **notice board** by the Village Hall had been suggested. The cost of the Teston notice board had been in the region of £4000. Due to the demand on surplus monies it was felt too costly

The Council has no objection to the proposed change of **the TMBC electoral boundary** linking Wateringbury, Mereworth and East Peckham and will respond to the Boundary Commission accordingly.

The Village Fete to celebrate the Queen's 70th Jubilee on 6th June 2022 cannot go ahead as previously suggested. Members of the Fete committee will be unavailable at the time to organize and attend the event. The Council is considering and looking for organisers of an alternative way to celebrate the Jubilee. (After the meeting an alternative date for the village fete was agreed. The new date is **Sunday 19th June 2022**).

Planning Committee Meeting

The Council has no objections to the following planning applications:

Grass verge adjoining 115 Tonbridge Road-18.0m Phase 8 tele- communication Monopole C/W wraparound cabinet at the base and associated ancillary works

Pelican House, 6 Red Hill - install new boiler with the same size flue and condensate pipe run. (Pelican House is a grade II* listed property).

Grass verge adjacent 501 Red Hill - retrospective full planning application to create a commercial office and workshop space replacing former commercial building. No objection subject to neighbours' comments

Hillview, 101 Red Hill - two storey front extension incorporating loft conversion with side dormer. No objection subject to neighbours' comments

Grandsden Cottage, 248 Tonbridge Road - erection of a part two storey, part single storey side/rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory and shed. Replacement windows on existing house- No objections subject to neighbours' comments

21 Leney Road - dropped kerb to access driveway and moving of lamp post, no objection but lamp post should be retained. No objection but the PC would like to see the lamppost retained

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be on **Tuesdays 7th December and 4th January 2022 at 7.30pm** in the upper room of the village hall.