



**The Newsletter for
The Benefice of
East Malling,
Wateringbury & Teston**

**December 2012
No 60**

Beneficial News

"Christmas comes but once a year" and here we go again! But it's not Christmas yet and we do have time to prepare. This, then, is the period of Advent which comes from the Latin word "Adventus", which means "Coming". We use this word to describe the period of preparation and waiting for the coming of Christ at Christmas. I really do hope that this year we can do just that and we have the opportunity through our worship (Advent Carol services and Taizé evenings) and our readings as well as Advent study. I really do want to emphasise the importance of this period of preparation but I know just how difficult it is amidst the celebrations for Christmas!

A new development for our Benefice will be more regular Taizé services taking place at Wateringbury. We aim to do this on the first Sunday evening of each month. You are all most welcome to join this special service of mediation and chanting which you will hopefully discover to be a rewarding spiritual experience.

It seems strange that I find myself writing this introduction to Beneficial News when the very birthplace of Christ is so close to the scenes of increasing violence. I have no way of telling whether the violence will escalate but certainly the region around Jerusalem and Bethlehem, in the West Bank, could be involved in a way that precludes any kind of celebration. I hope that will not be the case and I invite you all to pray for the people of Israel and the Occupied Territories.

It seems to me, therefore, that we ourselves have much to be grateful for. We can celebrate the birth of Christ in peace and safety and we have a wonderful opportunity to prepare for our celebrations too. Don't miss out on this opportunity. Use Advent to prepare for Christmas and I am sure that you will experience a Christmas that will be so much more meaningful.

Have a Happy and Holy Christmas and don't forget Advent!

Revd Jim Brown

For Baptisms, Weddings and other arrangements with the Vicar please attend
**Parish Office at
The Vicarage on
Wednesdays
6.30pm-7.15pm**

The Vicar:
**The Revd Jim Brown,
The Vicarage, 2 The Grange,
East Malling, ME19 6AH
Office tel: 01732 843282
Email:
jamesbrown.brown21@gmail.com**

Services in the Benefice

At a recent meeting of our Ministry Leadership Team we decided to support the holding of a monthly Taizé service at Wateringbury. We are very excited about the prospect of a Taizé service becoming part of our regular pattern of services. But we did have to give this matter serious consideration. It is not simply a matter of plucking dates out of the air and putting them into the calendar. We consider a number of issues such as whether there is a demand, whether it is appropriate, can it be resourced, will it affect other services, what else is happening in the Benefice, will there be a conflict of time and so on.

As we deliberated we realised that there is a huge range of services available to the parishioners of our Benefice. This includes Communion, Healing, Praise, Toddler, Youth, Prayer, Book of Common Prayer, Common Worship and all number of other services. We need to be thankful for everything we are enabled to do. Thank you to you all.

Who's who in the Benefice?

(Details of Wardens and Ministers for your quick reference)

Hon Asst Priest	Canon Derek Carpenter	01732 874420
Hon Asst Priest	Revd Alan Searle	01622 814443
Hon Asst Curate	Revd Pam Rink	01732 840061
Administrator	Janet Saunders	01732 845816

East Malling

Churchwarden	David Chambers	01732 842582
Churchwarden	Sue Payne	01732 841585
Reader	Alan Bramley	01732 846800
Parish Children's Rep.	Michala Neaves	01732 321473

Teston

Churchwarden	Ros Hutchins	01622 720931
Churchwarden and Reader	Dawn Page	01622 812691
Parish Children's Rep.	Hilary Fisher	01622 813768

Wateringbury

Churchwarden	Joanna Fyson	01622 814980
Churchwarden	Eddie Scarlin	01622 812148
Reader	Alastair Byron	01622 812023
Reader	Barry Fisher	01622 813206
Pastoral Assistant	Becky Bowie	01622 813396
Pastoral Assistant	Edna Craig	01622 812922
Evangelist	Pauline Welch	01622 814673
Parish Children's Rep.	Debbie Bond	01622 814793

Advent and Christmas Services



Sunday 2nd December

9.45am Family Toy Service - East Malling
10am Christingle - Wateringbury
6.30pm - Advent Carol Service - Teston



Sunday 9th December

7pm - Advent Taizé Service - Wateringbury

Thursday 20th December

8pm Nine Lessons & Carols by Candlelight - Wateringbury

Sunday 16th December

4pm Nine Lessons & Carols by Candlelight - East Malling *
6.30pm Nativity Play - Teston

Sunday 23rd December

6.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols by Candlelight - Teston

Christmas Eve - Monday 24th December

3.30pm Crib Service - Teston
4pm Christingle & Crib Service - East Malling
5pm Crib Service - Wateringbury
6pm Christingle & Crib Service - East Malling
9.30pm Christmas Eve Communion - Teston
11.30pm Midnight Mass - Wateringbury
11.30pm Midnight Mass - East Malling

Christmas Day - Tuesday 25th December

9.30am Family Communion - Teston
10.30am Family Communion - East Malling
10.30am Family Communion - Wateringbury

* This Carol Service will be signed (BSL)



Nativities

(All in Church)

12th December - East Malling Toddlers 1.30pm
16th December - Teston 6.30pm
16th December - Wateringbury 10am
17th December - Wateringbury Toddlers 2pm



There are services of **Holy Communion** at St John the Baptist at 7.30pm on Tuesdays (except for the first Tuesday each month when there is a service of Healing & Wholeness at one of the churches in the Benefice) and at St James the Great, East Malling, at 9am on Thursdays. These services are for everyone in the Benefice.

Sunday Services

Sunday 2nd December - First Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion - Teston
 9.45am Family Toy Service - East Malling
 10am Christingle - Wateringbury
 6.30pm Advent Carol Service - Teston

Sunday 9th December - Second Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion - East Malling
 9.45am Eucharist - East Malling
 10am Eucharist - Wateringbury
 6.30pm Evensong - Teston
 7pm Taizé - Wateringbury



Sunday 16th December - Third Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion - Wateringbury
 9.45am Eucharist - East Malling
 10am Nativity - Wateringbury
 4pm 9 Lessons & Carols - East Malling
 6.30pm Nativity - Teston

Sunday 23rd December - Fourth Sunday of Christmas

8am Holy Communion - East Malling
 9.45am Eucharist - East Malling
 10am Eucharist - Wateringbury
 6.30pm 9 Lessons & Carols by Candlelight - Teston

Sunday 30th December - First Sunday of Christmas

10am Benefice Eucharist - East Malling

Sunday 6th January - Epiphany

8am Holy Communion - Teston
 9.45am Family Eucharist - East Malling
 10am Matins - Wateringbury
 6.30pm Epiphany Service - Teston



Sunday 13th January - Baptism of Christ

8am Holy Communion - East Malling
 9.45am Eucharist - East Malling
 10am Eucharist - Wateringbury
 6.30pm Evening Praise - Teston

Sunday 20th January - Third Sunday of Epiphany

8am Holy Communion - Wateringbury
 9.45am Eucharist - East Malling
 10am Family Service - Wateringbury
 6.30pm Eucharist - Teston

Sunday 27th January - Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

8am Holy Communion - East Malling
 9.45am Eucharist - East Malling
 10am Eucharist - Wateringbury
 6.30pm Eucharist - Teston



Around the Benefice



On Saturday 29th September Bishop James came to St John the Baptist for the Deanery Confirmation Service. Candidates from the Benefice were Sylvia Stevens, Carol Mills, Suzette Budd and Iona Turner, pictured above with Father Jim and Bishop James after the service.



A message from Becky Bowie:

Many thanks to everyone who came and supported me at Rochester Cathedral on my authorisation as pastoral assistant and to all those who prayed for me. I felt so honoured and privileged to be made a lay minister in God's service. The day was particularly special for

me since my training had been so important in carrying me through a year of ill-health. My special task in the service was to carry the bowl of water for Bishop James to use for sprinkling the congregation - if I look wet in the photos, that's because I was... Let's just say I got thoroughly sprinkled!

On the left, Bob and Becky Bowie with Harry and Martha.



Services of Healing & Wholeness

Tuesday 4th December at 8pm at East Malling
 Tuesday 8th January at 8pm at Teston



Special Events

Tea at Three, Teston

All served in the Church at Three. Cake and Carols on Tuesday 11th December and High Tea on Tuesday 15th January.

A Dickensian Evening at Christmas

Thursday 6th, Friday 7th and Saturday 8th December at 7.30 pm at St John the Baptist, Wateringbury. Performed by the Wateringbury Players celebrating the bicentenary of the birth of Charles Dickens. The evening includes excerpts read and acted from some of Dickens' stories that have a link with Kent, as well as from "A Christmas Carol" and songs of Dickens' time. Tickets £7 to include a glass of wine or juice, from Wateringbury Post Office and The Handy Stores. Further details from 01622 813206.

Carol singing round the Villages (all in December)

East Malling Christmas Lights "Switch On" at the King & Queen, Sunday 2nd at 4pm. Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th Carol singing round the village 6pm-8pm. Collecting for the Children's Society.

Wateringbury Saturday 1st at 7pm at the North Pole pub, Monday 9th at 7pm in Phoenix Drive, Wednesday 12th at 3pm at Greensted, Saturday 15th at 12.30pm at Teston Farm Shop and Wednesday 19th at 7pm at the History Society Social.

Teston Tuesday 18th & Wednesday 19th - meet at Teston Village Hall at 6pm. Collecting for Christian Aid.

If you want to join the choirs please contact Belinda (01732 843319), Dawn (01622 812691) or Barry (01622 813206).

East Malling Singers Christmas Concert

Saturday 22nd December at 7.30pm at St James the Great, East Malling. Tickets £8, concessions £6, school children free. Tel 01622 750943.

Epifest

From Friday 4th to Sunday 6th January St Peter and St Paul will be specially decorated to reflect the season of Epiphany. Each day the Church will be lit with a blaze of candles, and appropriate music will be played, between the hours of 3.30pm and 6.30pm. On Sunday 6th the Festival will close with a Service for Epiphany at 6.30pm. Do come to experience this special time.

Further Dates for your Diary February and March

9th February - Concert Wateringbury