



Dec 2015  
No 78

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

## Beneficial News

### 'O little town of Bethlehem'

'O little town of Bethlehem' lies not nearly as quiet as she would like. Sadly this year, I find myself repeating that urging – to *pray for the peace of Jerusalem*, and the surrounding region.

But let me add another line from that carol: 'So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.' At Christmas we celebrate and proclaim that in Jesus everything we think of as 'heaven' breaks into our human experience. 'Heaven' is about the close presence of God, and Jesus offers us the way into knowing that presence in our own lives. 'Heaven' is about a life of joy and contentment, and Jesus offers us that experience now. 'Heaven' is about the full coming of God's justice and peace, and Jesus makes real that possibility.

The Christian faith is that, although we do not in this life experience these things in full and final form, we may have a foretaste, a first instalment. These gifts of God can begin to be reality for us and for the world: as heaven becomes increasingly present in our hearts, so in our lives it becomes a tangible thing. Christ Jesus is 'born in us today' and, through us, for others.

This Christmas, may God impart afresh to us his wondrous gift and the blessings of his heaven.

+James, Bishop of Rochester



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

Parish Office contact details:  
**The Vicarage,**  
**2 The Grange,**  
**East Malling,**  
**ME19 6AH**  
**Office tel: 01732 843282**  
**Email: parishofficeemwt@gmail.com**

## THANK YOU!



We have been overwhelmed by all the love and support we have received over the years, and particularly before and after our last service. We would like to say a huge thank you for all the kind words, gifts, and love bestowed on us, and to everyone involved for creating such a wonderful memory to cherish. We will miss you all. Love and God Bless  
Jim & Jean

### Nativity Plays in the Benefice Churches

13th December - Teston 6.30pm\*  
14th December - Toddler Xmas Party, Scout HQ Wateringbury 2pm  
16th December - East Malling Toddlers 1.30pm  
20th December - Wateringbury 10am

\*please bring a torch



### 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
Administrator	Sandra Corby	01622 815218
<b>East Malling</b>		
Churchwarden	David Chambers	01732 842582
Churchwarden	Sue Payne	01732 841585
Reader	Alan Bramley	01732 846800
Parish Children's & Vulnerable Adults' Rep.	Michala Neaves	01732 321473
<b>Teston</b>		
Churchwarden	Ros Hutchins	01622 297340
Churchwarden & Reader	Dawn Page	01622 812691
Parish Children's & Vulnerable Adults' Rep.	Hilary Fisher	01622 813768
<b>Wateringbury</b>		
Churchwarden	Joanna Fyson	01622 814980
Churchwarden	Peter Bond	01622 814793
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 & Vulnerable Adults' Rep.	Debbie Bond	01622 814793

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES



### Advent Courses in the Benefice

**Wateringbury - in the Vestry at St John the Baptist**  
Mondays at 8pm:- 23rd Nov, 30th Nov, 7th & 14th Dec  
Wednesdays at 1pm:- 25th Nov, 2nd, 9th & 16th Dec

**Teston - at "South Cottage", Malling Road, Teston**  
Mondays at 8pm:- 30th Nov, 7th, 14th & 21st Dec

All welcome

### Christmas Services

#### Sunday 6th December

9.45am - Family Toy Service - East Malling  
10am - Christingle - Wateringbury

#### Sunday 13th December

6.30pm - Nativity Play - Teston

#### Thursday 17th December

8pm - Nine Lessons & Carols - Wateringbury

#### Sunday 20th December

10am- Family Service & Nativity Play - Wateringbury  
4pm - Nine Lessons & Carols - East Malling  
6.30pm - Nine Lessons & Carols - Teston

#### Thursday 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 Eucharist - Teston  
11.30pm - Midnight Eucharist - East Malling  
11.30pm - Midnight Eucharist - Wateringbury

#### Friday 25th December - Christmas Day

9.30am - Family Communion - Teston  
9.45am - Family Communion - East Malling  
10am - Family Communion - Wateringbury

#### Wednesday 6th January - Benefice Epiphany Service

6.30pm - Teston

### Epiphany Course

Mondays:- 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th January 2016  
To be held in people's homes in Wateringbury.  
Venues & times to be confirmed.



## Sunday Services

### Sunday 6th December - Second Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion - East Malling  
 9.45am Family Toy Service - East Malling  
 9.45am Family Service - Teston  
 10am Christingle - Wateringbury

### Sunday 13th December - Third Sunday of Advent

9.45am Eucharist - East Malling  
 10am Eucharist - Wateringbury  
 6.30pm Nativity Play - Teston

### Sunday 20th December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion - Wateringbury  
 9.45am Eucharist - East Malling  
 10am Family Service & Nativity Play - Wateringbury  
 4pm Nine Lessons & Carols - East Malling  
 6.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols - Teston

### Sunday 27th December - First Sunday after Christmas

10am Benefice Communion Service - East Malling

### Sunday 3rd January - Second Sunday of Christmas

8am Holy Communion - East Malling  
 9.45am Family Service - East Malling  
 9.45am Family Service - Teston  
 10am Matins - Wateringbury

### Sunday 10th January - First Sunday of Epiphany

9.45am Eucharist - East Malling  
 10am Eucharist - Wateringbury  
 6.30pm Evensong - Teston



### Sunday 17th January - Second Sunday of Epiphany

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

### Sunday 24th January - Third Sunday of Epiphany

9.45am Eucharist - East Malling  
 10am Eucharist - Wateringbury  
 6.30pm Eucharist - Teston

### Sunday 31st January - Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

10am Benefice Eucharist - Teston

## Around the Parishes



At our 5th annual **Shining Bright Party** nearly 60 children enjoyed an evening of Super hero games, crafts, dancing, food and lots of sweets! Throughout the evening we remembered Jesus, whom we decided is the

Best Super Hero.

Thank you to all the wonderful people that came along and helped on the day, thank you for the donations of sweets and a big thank you to the children who were amazing and left with the biggest smiles, which blessed us all. Thank you.

Lisa and The Shining Bright Team xxx



A lovely evening was enjoyed at **Barham Court** where a **Charity Dinner** was hosted for St. Peter and St. Paul, Teston. Especial thanks to Keziah Thomas who stepped in at very short notice, and gave us a delightful evening of music on the Harp.

### Further Dates for your Diary

10th January - WATCH Club - Epiphany Party - Wateringbury  
 19th January - Tea at Three - Teston

There are services of **Holy Communion** at St James the Great, East Malling, at 9am every Thursday.

The **Healing Praise** service is on 1st December, 8pm, at St James the Great, East Malling

The **Benefice Service**, is on 27<sup>th</sup> December, 10am at St James the Great, East Malling

**These services are for everyone in the Benefice.**

## Special Events in the Benefice

### Kent Chamber Choir

St John the Baptist, Wateringbury,  
 Saturday 5th December 2015, at 7.30pm  
 Conducted by Alan Vincent  
 with Tabitha Reynolds - mezzo-soprano  
 John Harding - baritone - and Geoffrey Lester - organ  
 Tickets £10 (£5 children/full time students) available  
 from Wateringbury Post Office and  
 Ros Diment 01622 813032 or g.diment@btinternet.com

### King & Queen Christmas Lights Switch-on and Carols

4pm, Sunday 6th December, East Malling  
 Why not get into the Christmas spirit outside the King & Queen. The road will be closed and there will be stalls on the green, mulled wine and hot chocolate for sale and the choir will lead us in singing all the traditional Carols.

### Tea at Three

Tuesday 8th December, St Peter & St Paul, Teston  
 Cake & Carols - 3pm

### Carol Singing around the Benefice in December

**Teston** - Tuesday 15th & Wednesday 16th.  
 Meet at village hall 6pm. Collecting for Christian Aid.  
**Wateringbury** - Friday 18th from 6.30pm-9pm  
**East Malling** from 6pm-8pm  
 Monday 21st, Rocks Close/Middle Mill & The Grange  
 Tuesday 22nd, Bradbourne Fields

### Angels & Cribs

2.30pm at St John the Baptist, Wateringbury,  
 Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th December

### East Malling Singers Concert

Saturday 19th December, 7.30pm at East Malling church  
 Featuring Vaughan Williams Fantasia on Christmas Carols,  
 Choir Carols and audience participation.

### Fund Raising Mini Market in East Malling church

on Saturday 12th December, 10am-12.30pm  
 Refreshments and light lunches will be available.