



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

Feb 2016  
No 79

**Beneficial News**

Thank you for the warm welcome which I received from your various congregations when I was able to join you to lead worship on Advent Sunday, at the Midnight Christmas Service at St James', East Malling and on Sunday, 10 you, I — and countless Christians the world over and possibly many others beside — are embarking on a journey which will take us through the seasons of Lent, Passiontide, Holy Week and on to Easter. What a journey! What a destination! In some places across the century, Lent was the season to prepare people for Christian baptism at Eastertide — and for many people that tradition feeds into a modern pattern of learning in Lent, of Lenten study groups and discussion groups, Lent books and the like. Whether we are the most devout of Christians or someone with little regular church involvement, this season can, nevertheless, allow us an opportunity to reflect on the journey of Jesus during the period of his adult public ministry, — a time when he faced temptation and testing, when people were drawn to him and where people sometimes withdrew from him, where he gave unforgettable teachings to those who heard him and to those who passed them down to others across the generations, even to ourselves. It was a period when he did physical miracles (eg healings, even the restoration of people from death, but also the multiplication of loaves and fishes to feed the hungry and the stilling of the storm to save his fearful disciples). It was a time, too, when he would be betrayed and denied by some of those closest to him. He would be beaten and unjustly condemned by those with physical and political power. It culminated in his crucifixion, when he would say those sublime words about those who were putting him to death — “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do” and to the penitent thief dying beside him (“Today you will be with me in Paradise”) and, on Easter morning, an empty tomb and discarded grave clothes would bear witness to the reality of his resurrection. This led to people encountering him, risen, alive and eternal, in their very presence — in the morning and the afternoon and the evening in Galilee of the North and in and beyond Jerusalem in the South, whether meeting him face-to-face singly, or in small groups or — according to St Paul — in a crowd of more than 500 people at one time. In his death and resurrection existence was transformed, hope restored and a pattern for the future was open to be embraced by those who would follow him in faith. Do take an opportunity, through these weeks of February and March this year, to read something afresh of that journey of Jesus. Put yourself in the picture of the stories which you read and imagine him speaking his words to you, or you witnessing the deeds which he was doing. Respond afresh to him when you hear his voice coming to you from the pages of Scripture, so lovingly preserved for us by those of former generations and so powerfully used by the living Spirit of God to share himself with us today and to invite us on the journey of Christian faith in our own time and generation. May God bless you over these days which help us to prepare for the triumph of Easter. Best wishes, Ven Clive Mansell, Archdeacon of Tonbridge

**Thank You from “Choices”**



An amazing £865 was raised for the charity “Choices” at the East Malling Christmas Fayre in December. The cheque was handed over by Jacqui Brooman to Greg, the representative from the charity.

There will be a **Healing Eucharist** service on Tuesday 2nd February, 8pm, at St John the Baptist, Watringbury **This service is for everyone in the Benefice.**



**Services for Ash Wednesday  
10th February 2016**

**9am** Holy Communion & Ashes, East Malling  
**7.30pm** Holy Communion & Ashes, Watringbury

**Further Dates for your Diary**

**17th & 24th Feb, 2nd, 9th & 16th March**  
Simply Soup Lent Lunches - Watringbury - 12.15pm-1.30pm  
**8th March** - MMF Fundraiser - East Malling  
**5th April** - Healing Praise - Teston - 8pm  
**9th April** - East Malling Singers Concert - East Malling  
**23rd April** - Antiques Talk - Watringbury - 7.30pm

**Who's who in the Benefice?**

*(Details of Wardens and Ministers for your quick reference)*

Hon Asst Priest Administrator	Canon Derek Carpenter Sandra Corby	01732 874420 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>Watringbury</b>		
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

**LENT, HOLY WEEK & EASTER**



Details of the **Lent Courses** taking place in the Benefice will be available soon.

**A Lenten Cantata**

The Benefice Choirs will present “A Lenten Cantata” By G.F. Handel in St James the Great Church, East Malling, at 6pm on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2016. This is the Passion music from Messiah and from Handel's “Passion of Christ”. There will be a retiring collection, to defray expenses.

**Holy Week**

Monday 21st March - Holy Week event - 8pm - East Malling  
Tuesday 22nd - Holy Week event - 8pm - Watringbury  
Wednesday 23rd - Holy Week event - 8pm - Teston  
*full details will be available at a later date*

**Maundy Thursday - 24th March**

Holy communion and Watch - 8pm - East Malling

**Good Friday - 25th March**

At the Foot of the Cross - 10am - Teston  
Solemn Liturgy - 2pm - East Malling  
An Hour at the Cross - 2pm - Watringbury  
Good Friday Project 9.30am-12 noon - East Malling

**Saturday 26th March**

Easter Project - 9.30am - Watringbury

**Easter Sunday**

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



**Around the Parishes Part I**



At St.Peter and St.Paul, Teston, visitors enjoyed the ambience of Epifest, and also a sumptuous Feast after the Eucharist on The Feast of the Epiphany.

## Sunday Services

### Sunday 7th February - Last Sunday after Epiphany

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

### Sunday 14th February - First Sunday of Lent

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

### Sunday 21st February - Second Sunday of Lent

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

### Sunday 28th February - Third Sunday of Lent

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

### Sunday 6th March - Mothering Sunday

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

### Sunday 13th March - Fifth Sunday of Lent

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

### Sunday 20th March - Palm Sunday

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

### Sunday 27th March - Easter Sunday

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



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

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

## Around the Parishes Part II

A scene from *Wateringbury's Nativity Play* which took place during the Family Service on 20th December.



### Toddler Praise, Wateringbury

Toddlers, Mums, carers, and helpers said goodbye to Angela Billinge, when she retired from helping at Toddlers on 14th December - and she had the honour of being Mrs Christmas!

Angela was there from the beginning when Fr Jim started Toddlers in Wateringbury church all those years ago. Angela is missed by everyone, and we all hope she is enjoying a well deserved rest on a Monday afternoon.



The cast of *Teston's Nativity Play* performed in the church on 13th December



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

## Special Events in the Benefice

### WOW! Worship Our Way

A Youth service, the Six Five Special, will be held on Tuesday 2nd February, 6.05pm at St Peter & St Paul, Teston.  
 Music will be provided by the Band from The Vine church in Loose. Come and join us!

### Valentine's Dance

Saturday 13th February 2016, at East Malling Village Hall. The Friends are organising this popular event and there will be dancing to local band "The Connections" and a Fish & Chip Supper.  
 Tickets are available now at £15 each and can be bought (or reserved) from Pat Gill 01732 522355 or Jean Spinks 01732 870722.

### Jumble Sale

Teston Village Hall, on Saturday 5th March, at 2.30pm. In aid of Teston Children's Church. We would be pleased to receive Jumble.

### An afternoon with

#### THE EAST PECKHAM SILVER BAND

at the Church of St John the Baptist, Wateringbury, on Sunday 13th March 2016 at 3pm. This friendly, thriving Silver Band formed in 1895 can boast the title of the oldest surviving village band in Kent. They will play toe tapping music for the entire family to enjoy.  
 Tickets: adults £10, children/students £3 to include programme. Available from Ros on 01622 813032 and Wateringbury Post Office.

### WATCH Club Youth Group

Meets at Wateringbury Village hall  
 13th March - 5pm-7pm - Yr 6 and older

### THE TESTONITES 2016

The show will be staged on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 17th, 18th and 19th March, in Teston Village Hall. Tickets available from Dawn 01622 812691.