



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

**Feb/Mar 17  
No 85**

## Beneficial News

Brothers and sisters in Christ, those of you who were relieved that Christmas with all its stresses and excesses was finally over, will perhaps be saddened to find out that it has a few more weeks to go before it finally ends with the feast of Candlemas on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. For many of us it has been a time of rejoicing and reflection, as we have rejoiced with the angels at the birth of Jesus Christ, wondered at the crib side with the shepherds, and journeyed with the magi to the stable at Bethlehem. Candlemas brings all that to an end, and our attention is moved from the cradle to the cross as we prepare for Lent and the mysteries of the great feast of Easter. This is a time given to us to reflect, not only the whole of the Easter story but on the part that we play in it. It is a time for us to reflect on who and what we are and the way in which our life interacts and meshes with the life of the people around us. Are we a force for good in the world around us or are we something less than we could be? Do we fulfil our God given potential or are we content to potter along never questioning and never changing for fear of getting the answer wrong? This new season of the Church year gives us the space to reflect on exactly this sort of question and if we are honest with ourselves, the answers that we receive. Your local Churches have also been reflecting on a subject that I would like to invite you to join us in thinking about. All three Churches that make up our benefice (Wateringbury, East Malling, and Teston) have been looking at the question of a new service pattern. On one hand this is a purely pragmatic reflection, as one clergyman now has to do the work previously done by five and finds it difficult to be in two different places at the same time. On the other hand it gives us the opportunity to ask ourselves whether what we offer appeals to those outside as well as inside the church. There are many reasons why people are unable or unwilling to join us in Church at any of the services and events that go on throughout the week, but one of these may be that times and what goes on in Church isn't appealing. So I ask for your help. Spend a few moments reflecting on what, if anything, would make you more likely to come and see what goes in your local Church whether that be Teston, Wateringbury or East Malling, and let the Parish Office know the result of your thoughts. It may be that the times of the services are wrong for you, that the service style is not what you are looking for or any other factor. This is your opportunity to tell us what you think and in doing that to help us make the Church a stronger more accessible part of the community in which we live. I look forward to hearing from you and I'm sure that your answers will give us all much to reflect on.

Yours in Christ

*Fr Nick Williams*

## Around the Parishes

### Quarter Peal

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2016, six ringers rang a quarter peal of 1320 Bob Doubles to mark the arrival of Rev. Nick Williams.

L-R: Albert Gordon (EM) Sue Payne (EM)  
Terry Barnard (Aylesford) Joy Barnard (EM)  
Jackie Barlow (St. Michaels) Barry Evans (Mereworth)



### Who's who in the Benefice?

(Details of Wardens and Ministers for your quick reference)

Vicar	Rev Nicholas Williams	01732 843282
Hon Asst Priest	Canon Derek Carpenter	01732 874420
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.	Linda Hoskins	01622 812738
<b>Wateringbury</b>		
Churchwarden	Peter Bond	01622 814793
Churchwarden	Liz Gummer	01622 813852
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

**For Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, and other arrangements, please contact the Vicar, 01732 843282 / email [father.nick@btinternet.com](mailto:father.nick@btinternet.com)**  
For all other enquiries, please contact the Parish Office Administrator  
01622 815218 / email [parishofficeemwt@gmail.com](mailto:parishofficeemwt@gmail.com)

## Around the Parishes

### Teston's Children's Church Nativity Play

The scripted play, with carols, was performed by the children, aged 3yrs and over (plus an honorary one!) on 11<sup>th</sup> December. It was a performance enjoyed by everyone.



### Epifest

Teston's popular Epifest took place over four days in January. The church was decorated, and lit with candles and fairy lights, to mark the coming of the Wise Men to see Jesus.



On Epiphany, 6<sup>th</sup> January, a Eucharist was held followed by a Bring & Share "Epifest" enjoyed by all. Thanks to those who created the displays, and sat in church to welcome visitors.



## Sunday Services

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February - The Fourth Sunday before Lent

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

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February - The Third Sunday before Lent

9.45am Eucharist - East Malling  
9.45am Children's Church - Teston  
10am Eucharist - Wateringbury  
6.30pm Evening Praise - Teston

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February - The Second Sunday before Lent

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

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February - The Sunday before Lent

9.45am Eucharist - East Malling  
9.45am Children's Church - Teston  
10am Eucharist - Wateringbury  
6.30pm Eucharist - Teston

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March - The First Sunday of Lent

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

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January - The Second Sunday of Lent

9.45am Eucharist - East Malling  
9.45am Children's Church - Teston  
10am Eucharist - Wateringbury  
6.30pm Evensong - Teston

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March - The Third Sunday of Lent

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

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March - Mothering Sunday

Times and services to be confirmed  
*For confirmation, please check the pew sheets and websites nearer the time*

## Around the Parishes

### Toddlers, Wateringbury

Our small but energetic, and happy band of Toddlers, celebrated Christmas with an interactive Nativity story, a party with lots of yummy food, and, of course, some of their favourite Toddlers activities. A big thank you goes to Edna, Ros, and Ruth, who give their time, and love, to the parents and Toddlers each week, and for encouraging and supporting me as the resident DJ!  
Sandra



### Youth Groups

Our Benefice has two Youth Groups  
**WATCH Club**, held in Wateringbury and  
**Pioneers**, held in Teston

**Pioneers** meet every Wednesday, 7.30pm, during term time  
**WATCH Club** meets twice a month  
(they meet 26<sup>th</sup> February, 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> March, 4-6pm)

For **Pioneers** contact Dawn Page (01622 812691)  
For **WATCH Club** contact Lisa Glasscote (01622 812661)

### Further Dates for your Diary

23<sup>rd</sup> April - WATCH Club Youth Group - W'bury Village Hall  
12<sup>th</sup> May - Fashion Show, for the Apple Tree Room - East Malling

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

**Ash Wednesday** services are to be confirmed

The next **Benefice Service**, is on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017  
at St James the Great, East Malling

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

## Special Events in the Benefice

### Friends of St James the Great Valentine's Dance



will be held on Saturday 11th February  
at the Village Hall in East Malling.  
"The Connections" will be providing the live music.  
During the interval there will be a Fish & Chip Supper.  
Tickets £15 available from  
Pat Gill (01732 522355) and Jean Spinks (01732 870722)

### Tea at Three

will be served in St Peter & St Paul church, Teston  
on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March

### Malling Deanery Annual Service "Women's World Day of Prayer"

will be held at St John the Baptist, Wateringbury  
on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 10.30am.

### Teston's Jumble Sale

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March, Teston Village Hall  
from 2.30pm (outside selling from 1pm)  
Admission 50p. Children FREE.  
Funds in aid of Teston's Children's Church



### Testonites Revue "Whether or Not"

will take place at 7.30pm in Teston Village Hall  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March  
Tickets from Dawn Page (01622 812691) include a Theatre Supper.  
All proceeds to St Peter & St Paul, Teston

### Saturday 25th March 2017

#### St Peter & St Paul, Teston

MU Tonbridge Archdeaconry Lady Day Service at 11am  
with the Venerable Clive Mansell, Archdeacon of Tonbridge

#### St John the Baptist, Wateringbury

Friends of St John the Baptist Fundraiser - Talk  
*Details unavailable at time of print*

#### St James the Great, East Malling

East Malling Singers Spring Concert at 7.30pm  
with The Vigo Singers including Anthems from 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> C  
Tickets available from Sue Greenham (01622 750943) or on the door,  
subject to availability