



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

**Apr/May 19  
No: 98**

# Beneficial News

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

There is little good news for the Benefice in what may well be the last edition of 'Beneficial News.'

Some of you have been asking questions about my absence from services at Teston over the last few weeks, and some of you will know the reasons why, but for the avoidance of doubt and rumour here is the truth of the matter. Below is the statement that has been read out at Teston explaining that absence.

*"In view of recent events and the reported behaviour by some at the public meeting with Dr Elders it has been decided to withdraw the Revd Nick Williams from ministry in the parish of Teston with immediate effect. This decision was not taken lightly and is an indication of how seriously the Archdeacon and Area Dean guard the well being of our clergy.*

*Nick will remain legally the incumbent of Teston until such time as pastoral reorganisation can take place. However, for all pastoral matters (to include Occasional Offices and other services) The Area Dean, The Revd Canon Matthew Buchan, will be responsible from now on - the church wardens will pass on to you his contact details. I would ask all in Teston church to pray for Nick at this difficult time"*

I don't think anything needs to be added to this statement save only to say that the meeting with the Archdeacon that gave rise to it was held at my request.

The second major piece of bad news is that our Benefice Administrator, Sandra, has decided to stand down from her role with effect from the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019. Below is an extract from her letter of resignation which explains her decision. Your PCC's have the full version.

*"It is with a heavy heart that I announce I am stepping down from the position of Benefice Administrator with effect from 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019. Having faced some (not so pleasant and unproven) complaints and accusations recently, just for doing my job, I have decided that life is too short to put up with the nonsense that people want to throw at you. So now's the time to take a break, and look forward to a rest (well, as much as a rest you can expect to have when your family has decided to get a puppy!)*

*I have thoroughly enjoyed the past 6 years or so, firstly working for Jim, and of course for Nick (since Nov 2016) as a self-employed administrator.*

**...continued over...**

*... My role has altered quite a bit over the last year or so and is certainly not boring! There was much frustration on my part in trying to get the many volunteers across the Benefice to complete the safeguarding courses. I found myself being ignored quite a bit, and, also moaned at just for trying to ensure that we complied with CofE requirements, and to add to that, the last month or so has been particularly difficult due to the "complaints".*

*...I have to admit it has been very interesting over the 6 years to see how Vicars and their Parishes work from outside the church doors ...how people react to change, how people can be quick to criticise and nit pick, how quickly people can jump to conclusions without having all the facts, but best of all to see how supportive, understanding, patient, loving, and caring people can be just when you need it most.*

*I'd like to especially thank ... Jim and Nick for all their help, guidance and support, Janet for her patience, those who have proof-read many documents for me when I'd gone word blind for looking at something too long, for the warm welcome I receive in each church, and for the kind words that have come my way over the years. It means a lot"*

There is really not much more I can add. I understand Sandra's decision completely but it saddens me that in a Christian community she should find it necessary to tender her resignation, I will miss her assistance.

The lack of an administrator will require administrative and practical changes within the Benefice, until such time as the reorganisation takes place, and I am discussing these with your wardens.

I would ask you to hold all those involved, and particularly the Benefice, in your prayers.

Fr Nick

## Simply Soup Lunches

Wateringbury Church  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April  
No charge.

Donations are invited for a different charity each week.



Picture: [aveggieventure.com](http://aveggieventure.com)



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 send an email to [parishofficeemwt@gmail.com](mailto:parishofficeemwt@gmail.com)  
Weds 9.30am-3pm & Thurs 9.30am-Noon

**This will apply up until 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

## Holy Week & Easter

### Monday 15th April

7pm Compline - location to be confirmed

### Tuesday 16th April

7pm Compline - location to be confirmed

### Wednesday 17th

7pm Compline - location to be confirmed

8pm Agapè Meal - Teston

### Maundy Thursday

7pm Communion with Foot Washing - East Malling



### Good Friday

9.30am Easter Craft Cafe - East Malling  
12 noon Good Friday Liturgy - East Malling  
2pm At the Foot of the Cross - Wateringbury  
8pm At the Foot of the Cross - Teston



### Easter Eve

2pm Open Church for Easter Flowers - East Malling  
8pm Easter Vigil - East Malling

### Easter Day

6am Dawn Service with First Eucharist - East Malling  
9.45am Easter Eucharist - East Malling  
9.45am Easter Eucharist - Teston  
10am Easter Eucharist - Wateringbury



## Sunday Services

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April - The Fifth Sunday of Lent

8.30am BCP Holy Communion - East Malling  
 9.45am Morning Praise - East Malling  
 9.45am Family Service - Teston  
 10am Eucharist - Wateringbury  
 3pm Templar Family Service - East Malling

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April - Palm Sunday

9.45am Eucharist - East Malling  
 9.45am Children's Church - Teston  
 10am Morning Praise - W'bury  
 6.30pm Palm Praise - Teston



### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April - Easter Day

6am Dawn Service/1st Eucharist - East Malling  
 9.45am Easter Eucharist - East Malling  
 9.45am Easter Communion - Teston  
 10am Easter Eucharist - Wateringbury



### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April - The Second Sunday of Easter

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

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May - The Third Sunday of Easter

8.30am BCP Holy Communion - East Malling  
 9.45am Morning Praise - East Malling  
 9.45am Family Service - Teston  
 10am Eucharist - Wateringbury

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May - The Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May - The Fifth Sunday of Easter

8.30am BCP Holy Communion - Wateringbury  
 9.45am Eucharist - East Malling  
 9.45am Parish Communion - Teston  
 10am Family Service - Wateringbury

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May - The Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

**THERE ARE SERVICES OF HOLY COMMUNION**  
 at St James the Great, East Malling, at 9am every Thursday

## Who's who in the Benefice?

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

<b>Vicar</b>	Rev Nicholas Williams	01732 843282
Hon Asst Priest	Rev Canon Derek Carpenter	01732 874420
Assistant Priest	Rev Canon Liz Walker	via Vicarage
Benefice Readers	Alan Bramley (EM) Alastair Byron (W) Barry Fisher (W) Dawn Page (T)	
<b>East Malling</b>		
Churchwarden	David Chambers	01732 842582
Reader	Alan Bramley	01732 846800
Parish Children & Vulnerable Adults Rep.	Michala Neaves	01732 321473
<b>Wateringbury</b>		
Churchwardens	Peter Bond Liz Gummer	01622 814793 01622 813852
Evangelist	Pauline Welch	01622 814673
Readers	Alastair Byron Barry Fisher	01622 812023 01622 813206
Pastoral Assistants	Edna Craig Becky Bowie	01622 812922 01622 813396
Parish Children & Vulnerable Adults Rep.	Debbie Bond	01622 814793
<b>Teston</b>		
Priest-in-Charge	Rev Canon Matthew Buchan	01732 842187
Churchwarden	Ros Hutchins	01622 297340
Churchwarden & Reader	Dawn Page	01622 812691
Parish Children & Vulnerable Adults Rep.	Linda Hoskins	01622 812738

### FURTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**1<sup>st</sup> June** - FoSJG Coffee Morning - 10.30am  
 Messy Church - 3pm - Wateringbury  
**2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> June** - WATCH Club 5pm-7pm - W'bury Village Hall  
**6<sup>th</sup> June** - Mothers' Union Meeting - 1pm - Wateringbury  
**18<sup>th</sup> June** - Tea at Three - 3pm - Teston  
**22<sup>nd</sup> June** - Summer Fair - East Malling  
**30<sup>th</sup> June** - Benefice Service - 10am - Wateringbury  
 FoSJG Afternoon Teas - 2.30pm - East Malling  
**4<sup>th</sup> July** - Mothers' Union Meeting - 1pm  
**6<sup>th</sup> July** - FoSJG Coffee Morning - 10.30am  
 Messy Church - 3pm - Wateringbury  
**13<sup>th</sup> July** - East Malling Singers Summer Concert - East Malling  
**14<sup>th</sup> July** - WATCH Club - 5pm-7pm- Canoeing Allington Lock  
**16<sup>th</sup> July** - Tea at Three - 3pm - Teston

## Events

### St John the Baptist Church

Wateringbury, 3pm - 5pm  
 on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April  
 & Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May

For more details speak to Ruth Dunn  
 on 01622 812342



### WATCH Club Youth Group

(for ages 10-18yrs) meet Sundays  
 4pm - 6pm (winter time)  
 7<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> May  
 in Wateringbury Village Hall



### Tea at Three

will be served in Teston Church  
 on  
 Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April  
 &  
 Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May



### Easter Craft Cafe - Good Friday - 19<sup>th</sup> April

We will be holding an All-Age Drop-in Cafe  
 at St James the Great Church, East Malling  
 from 9.30-11.30am

Come along for refreshments, an indoor Easter Egg hunt,  
 and Easter themed craft activities.

For more information, please contact Anna Ashbee  
 ([annaashbee@hotmail.com](mailto:annaashbee@hotmail.com) or 07786 912041)  
 or see the St James Facebook page



### Friends of Wateringbury Church Talk

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019, 7pm, Wateringbury Church  
 "Carve their name with Pride - female secret agents in WWII"  
 by Dr Juliette Pattinson  
 Email [friends@fowc.org.uk](mailto:friends@fowc.org.uk) for more details