

# The Start of Time Wordsearch

- |         |          |            |           |
|---------|----------|------------|-----------|
| animals | birds    | creation   | dark      |
| day     | everyone | everything | fish      |
| good    | land     | light      | lights    |
| made    | men      | night      | people    |
| plants  | rest     | sea        | separated |
| sky     | sorts    | universe   | women     |

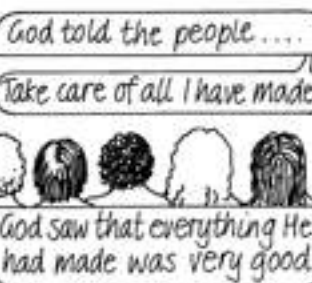


## Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Genesis chapter 1 to 2 verse 3.

This story is at the start of the Bible, and the start of time...



## Eastling School News

With the uniqueness of school based time, April is a short month for us as the Easter break ends on the 11th with our start of the Summer term. The change in seasonal temperature means that we can open up more sports to our children with Netball, Football and Cricket available as after school clubs and additional offerings of tennis, trampolining and archery for every class in the school as well as continued swimming sessions (Year 5 this term).

On Friday 15th April we invite parents in to celebrate the hard work their children have accomplished in our open "Book Look" afternoon, whilst on Friday 22nd the Leopards' class assembly will share their excellent, in depth work, including their biographies of our M.P. Helen Whately who visited the school last month.

Our Friends of Eastling School group are now busily organising the school fête (10th July, 12.00pm) and have their meeting on Tuesday 19th when any new ideas, offers of help or even equipment would be warmly welcomed.

The school has been chosen to 'trial' the brand new Infant spelling, punctuation and grammar tests in early April with children so that they will be correctly moderated for students in June.

At the end of April we start our first field trip sessions, with our Tigers' class venturing out to undertake science field work at the shoreline.

# Good News

Parish Magazine

April 2016



St Mary's Church presents...  
**CAFESTYLE**  
Sunday 10th April  
10am - 11am

Eastling Village Hall

A creative time of worship:  
Church in a Café setting.  
worship discussion reflection  
prayer fellowship

Tea, coffee & yummy nibbles will be available throughout the service and space for the youngest & oldest to worship altogether



## 2016 BLUEBELL WALK

Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May  
Starting from  
Eastling Village Hall  
from 10am: last registration 2pm

This year there will be a 1 hour short walk,  
a 2 hour medium walk with an extension to give  
a 4 hour long walk.

£3.50 per adult, £1.50 per child ( £8 per family of 2  
adults + 2 children) Maps and guide notes included.

More information from 01795 890368

Proceeds to our Church Appeal

### Help Needed

The annual **Bluebell Walk** is a very busy day and we need lots of helpers to make it a good day for everyone.

The **Bluebell Bistro** is an essential part of the fundraising, open from 10am onwards.

#### Can you help before hand:

Making soup, cakes or puddings?

#### Can you help on the day:

Serving food, clearing plates, washing or drying up?

Please call Norma on 890487 or Hilary on 890338  
if you can help with the Bistro.

Thank you.

## Stalisfield Highlife

### QUIZ PARTY

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm

Spring is well under way and cerebral cobwebs need to be disturbed. Join us for the evening and let us provide a spring clean of professional standard.

Quizmasters Ian and Nick stand ready with searching questions designed to clear cranial corners in the good humoured manner of Stalisfield quizzes, where entertainment and erudition happily mingle.

The usual formula applies: £2.50 per person, tables of six maximum, bring your own nibbles and tipples. Start time is 7.30 prompt. If you can't make up a full table you will be more than welcome to join the pot luck groups. Ian is taking reservations on 01795 890475.

We hope to see you on the night.

The news magazine for the parishes of Eastling, Stalisfield with Otterden, and Throwley

[www.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews](http://www.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews)

# Canon's Column

Someone once said to me,

*"You don't really believe in the resurrection, do you?"*

This person knew I was a priest so what was he really asking me? How can a man of your education believe in these simplistic myths such as the resurrection? Or was he asking how can a modern sophisticated person believe in children's tales?

I am a reasonably educated person having studied at several colleges and universities in the areas of pedagogy, theology, psychology, counselling and ethics. But courses in psychology, philosophy, economics and physics have not changed my faith. Sometimes it has been challenged and I have had to give some serious study to some aspect of my faith, but I have not lost my faith or belief in God. The terminal illness and death of my daughter was probably the greatest challenge to my faith, but during that time I experienced the presence of God in so many ways, particularly in the support and care of my friends and fellow Christians. I knew that God was there with me.

So why do I believe in the resurrection? I believe in the resurrection because the early church believed it. The early church proclaimed the resurrection of

Jesus Christ at a time when many of the witnesses to the resurrected Jesus were still alive. For the early church the resurrection was a fact that could not be refuted or discarded.

I believe in the resurrection because our faith is meaningless without it. The Christian faith is a powerful model for living the human life and for many people it is the teaching and ethical example of Jesus that has become important to them. But for me there is far more to the Christian faith than an ethical or moral system.

The real power of the Christian faith is in relationship, the relationship between the individual human being and God. It is obvious from Jesus' teachings as well as from other parts of the Old and New Testaments that our God is a God who enters into relationship with us as individuals. Just look at the examples of his relationships with Abraham, Jacob and Joseph in the book of Genesis. When God spoke to Moses, he said, "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac,

and Jacob." God did not say, "I was their God" but rather "I am." He did not speak of them being dead but alive (Exodus 3:6, Matt. 22:31-33). In a number of places in the bible there is the understanding that the life of those in relationship with God will continue on.

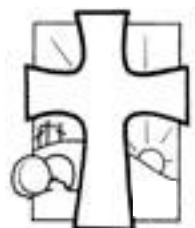
Easter is the celebration of the resurrection which brought new life to disciples who lived in fear and despair for two days and who were ultimately empowered to share their knowledge and understanding of Jesus Christ with the widest world they knew.

For me the two great proofs of the resurrection are experiential, the experience of the early church that had the power to change the Roman world, and the experience of Jesus Christ in my life and the lives of those I have ministered to in the last 45 years.

We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. **We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.** Amen (The Nicene Creed)

Blessings,  
Canon Donald J Lawton

## Prayer Pointers April 2016



- Sundays Give thanks for the glorious resurrection of our Lord.
- Mondays For all who provide our food and clothing.
- Tuesdays For the Wholeness and Healing team.
- Wednesdays Continue to pray for all who provide our spiritual needs.
- Thursdays For a solution to the world-wide refugee crisis.
- Fridays For help for the hungry, homeless or oppressed.
- Saturdays For children everywhere.

## Eastling Church Flower Rota

April 3rd - Easter flowers  
April 10th & 17th - Bay  
April 24th - Janet Wood



**Many thanks** to everyone who gave up time to make the church beautiful for Easter. The Easter lilies and joyful Spring flower arrangements looked wonderful and the whole building was gleaming thanks to the efforts of the kind team who gave up a morning to clean the church. Extra special thanks to Libby Swatland for creating an Easter garden.



## NORTH DOWNS WALK

**Sunday 19th June**  
Harrietsham Village Hall,  
Church Road – ME17 1AP.  
**Start from** – 8.00am.  
**Last registration** – 11am.  
**3, 6 or 9 mile course**  
across the beautiful North Downs  
[www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk](http://www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk)  
North Downs Walk-line: 07519 320919

Free Ploughman's Lunch and strawberries plus entertainment by a local Jazz Band. See the website for Maps/Poster/Route Details/Registration Forms etc. all of which may be downloaded.



## Helen Whately

**MP for Faversham and Mid Kent**

If you have a problem you think I can help you with, please contact me or visit me at one of my surgeries

House of Commons,  
London, SW1A 0AA

020 7219 6472

[helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk)

### Upcoming surgeries:

Friday, 29th April, Tesco in Grove Green, Maidstone.



## Eastling Village

The joint Annual Parish Meeting and the Trustees' Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 27th April. The meetings will be in the Village Hall, as usual and the Trustees will meet at 7.30pm and the PC at 8pm. All villagers are welcome to attend and to raise any points with either organisation. Refreshments will be served!

## EASTLING PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council held meetings on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Councillors discussed and set the precept for the year 2016/17. There is a small increase to cover costs which equates to 4.78% (£22.34 for band D property increase of £1.02). A number of pavements and potholes have been registered for repair with Kent Highways.

The meeting dates for the next year were agreed.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 8pm following the Village Hall Trustees AGM. Drinks and snacks will be available.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May

Other meetings will be on 6<sup>th</sup> July; 21<sup>st</sup> September; 9<sup>th</sup> November; 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and 8<sup>th</sup> March. All meetings will be held in Eastling Village Hall at 6.30pm.

Residents are welcome to attend.

Jill Seaman, Clerk to the Council  
[jseaman444@btinternet.com](mailto:jseaman444@btinternet.com)

## Eastling Neighbourhood Watch



Village Warden 07794 010 394  
or 01795 890848  
Police 101 Emergency 999

Now that the lighter evenings are here the people who do not want to purchase their own garden equipment will be out and about to try and steal the equipment from our own sheds and outbuildings, so let us make it as hard as possible for them and make sure that all our equipment is safely locked up. Generally these people will have a vehicle so please keep your eyes peeled for anything suspicious. There has been instances already in local villages. As you have probably noticed there are sheep and lambs in the fields. A reminder that it is an offence to allow your dog to chase or hassle these animals and it is perfectly legal for a farmer to shoot any animal that is causing distress to the sheep. To ensure that your dog does not cause any problems please keep them on a lead in the vicinity of sheep or cattle. On mentioning dogs please be aware it is an offence after the 6<sup>th</sup> April this year for any dog not to be microchipped.

Have a good month and take care,  
Alan

## AGM of the Otterden Parish Committee followed by the

Neighbourhood Watch Meeting  
Held at The Harrow Inn, Warren Street  
on Wednesday 20th April at 7.30pm

Help feed local people in crisis

### Faversham Foodbank

Thank you for your continued support

We gather that the Foodbank has had a big donation of pasta and baked beans so no more required at present. This month's urgent items are listed below. Your generous contributions are so appreciated. Do visit Faversham Foodbank's Facebook site periodically for extra updates on the Foodbank's work.

**Please continue to give generously .**

**Food list for April**

**Urgent items:** longlife fruit juice; squash; tinned fruit; marmalade; tinned potatoes; noodles; tinned mince; tinned stewing steak

**Also needed:** tinned ham; instant coffee; cereal bars; washing powder; longlife milk; chocolate bars; dog food

**The Plough Inn, Stalisfield;** a family run, independent, award winning pub & restaurant offering an extensive menu of restaurant quality food and pub snacks as well as a large range of unique & locally produced drinks.

**Rum Night Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April**  
Tasting a selection of rums presented by Jamie from Le Mouton Rouge in Canterbury  
7.30pm, pre booking required

**St Georges Day 23<sup>rd</sup> April**  
Celebrating English Food & Drink at its best!

**National Drive It Day 24<sup>th</sup> April**  
Owners of classic vehicles are encouraged to get them out for their first run of the year. How about bringing yours out for a picture in front of our lovely 15<sup>th</sup> century pub.

Stalisfield Road, Faversham, Kent, ME13 0HY  
Tel: 01795 890 256 Email: [info@theloughinnstalisfield.co.uk](mailto:info@theloughinnstalisfield.co.uk)

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## Easter message from Rt Revd Trevor Willmott, Bishop of Dover

Dated 27th March 2016



Today, the Church celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ - how, three days after suffering torture and death, Jesus conquered death and appeared to his friends.

One thing that strikes me about the accounts we read about the resurrection in the Bible is how messy and confusing it all appeared to be for the disciples - Jesus' closest friends. Of course, they weren't expecting him to transform death into life, but even if they were, they might have imagined that it would all work out much neater, more clear-cut. We're told that they struggled to recognize Jesus after the resurrection when he first appeared to them. Perhaps Jesus could have appeared to all of them together in a way that was clear right from the start so that nobody would be in any doubt. Perhaps he could have presented himself to the Roman and Jewish authorities as a final demonstration of their failure to defeat him. Instead - for the first few days, at least - there were individual sightings, rumours, scattered pieces of a jigsaw puzzle that didn't quite fit together. It's funny how God's ways differ so vastly from what we might expect and desire.

But messy it was. And I draw huge comfort from that, from the sense that Jesus appears right there in the messiness and brokenness of our lives. He doesn't wait patiently for us to sort ourselves out before he comes to engage with us. He doesn't expect us to have tidied and cleaned our houses - or even done the shopping - before he turns up at the front door for dinner. It's something of a cliché that 'God meets us where we are', but from everything we know about Jesus it's undeniably true.

Easter Day reminds us that God's truth is even more amazing! Jesus is not just sympathetic to our brokenness. Instead, we worship a God who chose to enter into all the mess and confusion of our world and live as one of us - and better still this is where he reveals his love for us, his deep love for the world and his glory. He dealt with all the challenges that being a human being entails - both physically and spiritually. In the gospels we witness his struggles with his own family, his friends and with the social and political powers of first century Jerusalem. He lived through good times when he seemed to be the most popular man in town, the leader everyone wanted a piece of. But there were also times when there was not a friend to be found, when nobody understood him and no-one could bear to be tainted by association with him. He died a lonely, criminal's death, a disgraceful and painful death and was laid to rest in a borrowed tomb.

Even after all these years, every Easter I still find myself astonished by the God who loves us so much that he chose to live this life and to die this death for us to set us free.

This might not sound like good news, but that's truly what it is. Because when Jesus enters the fractures and messiness of this world, he transforms them. Interestingly, he doesn't always fix things - and how disappointing that can be for those of us who long for easy solutions. But by inhabiting our pain and brokenness, he can bring a different

kind of healing, a wholeness that brings grace into dark places.

And not only does Jesus do that for us, he invites us to join him in that mission. This is the task of those who would call themselves Christians: to be present in the brokenness of this world. Not in order

to fix things, nor to offer easy answers to difficult questions, but simply to be. And by that presence to shine Jesus' light into dark places, to dwell with people in the messiness and difficulties of this life. Make no mistake, this is not a simple task. It's a call to powerlessness, to vulnerability. To release all of our preconceptions and the desire to offer solutions and just live alongside people, to face what they face is no mean feat.

I have been tremendously inspired by the example of my Buddhist friend Tom Radcliffe, who has spent many months living in the refugee camp in Calais known as 'The Jungle.' Tom's permanent residence is in Kent, but he and Shizuka, his partner, decided to make the Jungle their home as an act of solidarity and love for those who had no choice but to live there. Tom shared in all aspects of everyday life in the Jungle - he spoke, ate and worshipped with his friends there. As the French authorities cleared



the camp, they shared that experience too - the crowds and the teargas, the disappointment of security lost and fear of an uncertain future. I have no doubt that Tom's presence in the Jungle was transformational for his neighbours there. If nothing else, they knew that someone cared about their struggles, and that someone thought them significant enough to be worth spending time with.

The bombings in Brussels this week have reminded us again of the pain and darkness that can be found in our world, of the fractures in our societies and the conflicts that play out on local, national and international levels.

Easter is a challenge to us all to live in the messiness and brokenness and to let Jesus' light shine brightly into the forgotten corners of this world. But we do so in the knowledge that God goes before us and travels with us every step of the way.

Wherever you are, whoever you are, may you know God's love and transforming power in the messiness of everyday life. Happy Easter!



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## Services in our Churches

## The High Downs Benefice

### 3rd April Easter 2

Acts 5. 27 - 32, Revelation 1. 4 - 8, John 20. 19 - 31  
 Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 Eastling 10 am Holy Communion (CW)  
 Stalisfield 10 am Morning Prayer

### 10th April Easter 3

Acts 9. 1-6 [7-20], Revelation 5. 11-14, John 21.1-19  
 Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 Throwley 10 am Morning Prayer (BCP)  
 Eastling 10 am CaféStyle in Village Hall  
 followed by Annual Benefice meeting at 11.30am  
 Otterden 3 pm Evening Prayer

### 17th April Easter 4

Acts 9.3 6-43, Revelation 7. 9-17, John 10. 22-30  
 Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 Eastling 10 am Morning Prayer (BCP)  
 Stalisfield 10 am Holy Communion (CW)

### 24th April Easter 5

Acts 11.1-18 Revelation 21. 1-6, John 13. 31-35  
 Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 Eastling 10 am Morning Praise  
 Throwley 10 am Holy Communion (CW)

### 1st May Easter 6

Acts 16. 9-15, Revelation 21.10,22-22.5, John 5. 1-9  
 Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 Eastling 10 am Holy Communion (CW)  
 Stalisfield 10 am Morning Prayer

(BCP) Service taken from the Book of Common Prayer, 1662.  
 (CW) Service follows Common Worship Liturgy, 2000.

### Annual Parochial Church Meetings

**Eastling**  
 3rd April, 11.15am in Church  
**Throwley**  
 4th April, 7.30pm in Church  
**Benefice Annual Meeting**  
 Sunday 10th April,  
 11.30am in Eastling Village Hall  
 All parishioners are welcome to attend

Rector Revd Canon Donald J. Lawton (01795 890487)  
 The Rectory, Newham Lane, Eastling ME13 0AS  
 Reader Norman Fowler (01795 890412)  
 4 Meesons Close, Eastling  
 Reader Hugh Perks (01795 890603)  
 Weald Cottage, Eastling  
 Reader Caroline Ramshaw (01795 892088)  
 4 Glebe Cottages, Eastling

#### Churchwardens

**Eastling** Andrew Baxter (01795 890598)  
 Assistant Warden Steve Youle (01795 890368)  
**Parish Administrator**  
 Janet Payne (01795 890487)  
 E mail: eastlingchurch@gmail.com  
**Stalisfield with Otterden**  
 Jean West (01233 712270)  
**Parish Administrator**  
 Sheila Moger (01233 713212)  
 E mail samhawksnest@aol.com  
**Throwley** Glynn Howland (01795 890094)

### From the Registers

#### Interment of Ashes

Pamela de Lombard Wright (nee Diamant)  
 2nd March 2016 at Eastling

### Midweek & Lent Groups

**Tuesdays:** Study group, 9.30am on 12th & 26th April  
 at Garden Cottage, Eastling. 01795 890368

**Tuesdays:** Weekly study group, 7.30pm Pinks Farm,  
 Kettle Hill Road, Eastling. 01795 890338

**Thursdays:** Weekly prayer group, 10.30am Pinks Farm,  
 Kettle Hill Road, Eastling. 01795 890338

**Fridays:** Weekly study group, 10.45am, New House Farm,  
 Eastling. 01795 890629

*You will be welcome at any of our groups.*

### Prayer for Healing in our Churches

Members of the team will be available  
 for private prayer for you  
 during and after Communion on:

3rd April, 10am service at Eastling,  
 17th April, 10am service at Stalisfield,  
 24th April, 10am service at Throwley



### Dawn Chorus

A glow in the east,  
 faint fingers of dawn  
 A single bird wakes,  
 and greets the dim rays  
 His voice fills the air, as morning takes form  
 And soon he is joined by a chorus of praise.

They praise for their life,  
 and the end of the night  
 For perils survived, and hunters unfed.  
 They praise for the day, and the beauty of light  
 The praise for their flight; while we lay abed!

And yet, as we lay, and hear their fine song  
 Our praises join theirs, our hearts lift with joy.  
 We can't match their skill, but yet sing along  
 The birds and ourselves our voices employ

In worship of God, for gifts of new days  
 A cadence of song, dawn chorus of praise.

*By Nigel Beeton*

If you sleep with your bedroom window  
 open, you will know all about the dawn  
 chorus around now! The birds are busy  
 establishing their territorial rights, and the  
 'early birds' have probably already selected a  
 nest site and started building.

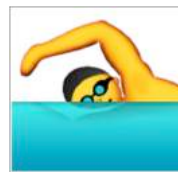


The blackbird builds a solid  
 cup of twigs, plant stems and  
 leaves, lined with a thick skin  
 of mud covered with finer  
 grasses and leaves. The long tailed tit forms  
 a soft hollow ball of mosses, hair and wool,  
 with a tiny hole as entrance. The wrens do it  
 differently, with the male wren sometimes  
 building several nests before his finicky  
 mate will accept one. He gets his revenge,  
 though, because he sometimes installs a  
 second wife in one of the rejected sites!

International Dawn Chorus Day 2016  
 is on Sunday 1st May.

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 stay@frithfarmhouse.co.uk**

### Men Get Singing!



Do you sing in the shower?  
 Do you sing in the car?  
 Do you sing at the footie?  
 Do you never sing because  
 it's only for girls?

Then this singing workshop is for  
 YOU !

Saturday 7th May at  
 Newnham Village Hall ME9 0LL  
 Coffee & tea at 9am,  
 Bacon Rolls at 10.30am  
 Go Home 12.00  
 Oh yes, and only men singing together in  
 between!  
 Workshop costs £10.00  
 To book your place email  
 music@cantiana.co.uk or ring 01795 886392

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## Faversham & Villages Refugee Solidarity Group

week some people went away and  
 either bought food or returned with  
 donations of clothing. The most  
 common response was 'Yes it is awful  
 but what can we do?' This was the  
 opportunity to share with them the  
 ways in which The Faversham and  
 Villages Refugee Solidarity Group are  
 trying to help. We have been collecting  
 donations of food, clothing and shelter  
 and members of our group have been  
 taking these directly to the camps in  
 Calais and Dunkirk. We have  
 established a Facebook group  
 (Faversham and villages Refugee  
 Solidarity Group) to share information  
 and update the quickly changing  
 situation in the camps and what is  
 needed.

Please join us if you can for our next  
 meeting on Tuesday 5th April, 7.30 in  
 the Vaults P.H. opposite the Alexander  
 Centre, Preston St. Alternatively you  
 can phone Greg on 07787062634 to  
 find out more about the group.

### Fiddle Faff invite you to join them for a.....

## Spring Sing



on Saturday 30th April  
 at Norton Village Hall, Provender Lane,  
 ME13 0SW

Workshops from 2.00 - 5.30pm  
 Bring 'n' Share Tea  
 Informal performance at 7.00pm

No experience needed....all songs taught by ear  
 Adults of any age welcome

Booking £12.00 and enquires to Lissie  
 Bayford 01795 886392 or  
 hello@fiddleandfaff.com



BelmontHseGdns  
Belmont House and Gardens



## BELMONT HOUSE & GARDENS EVENTS

### COOKERY WORKSHOPS

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 10.00am - 1.00pm & Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 10.00am - 1.00pm  
Let your child come and have fun making a mess in our kitchen at beautiful Belmont and bring home some tasty treats for all the family to enjoy! They will learn how to make delicious Hot Cross Buns on this Easter workshop, with a morning of mixing, kneading, baking and eating.

Suitable for children aged 8 - 13 yrs. £12.50 per child. There is a limit of just 6 places for each class, so be sure to book your place early! To make a booking please call 01795 890 202 or email [events@belmont-house.org](mailto:events@belmont-house.org)

### SPRING FORAGE

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 10.00am - 4.00pm

We will cover plant identification techniques, foraging and the law, what to avoid when foraging and an introduction to fire lighting. Once you reach the expedition style camp it's all hands on deck to prepare the ingredients you have found along the way and participate in some campfire cooking techniques. £40.00 per person, booking essential. To book please call 01795 890 202 or email [events@belmont-house.org](mailto:events@belmont-house.org)

### SPRING FAIR

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 11.00am - 4.00pm

This event is the perfect way to spend a Spring day and a great opportunity to get some advice on how to get your garden looking wonderful this Summer. New for this year, we are delighted to announce a partnership with 'Keep it Local Events' who will be running our craft marquee, so you can expect to enjoy the chance of finding unique, quality handmade gifts.

There is something here for everyone, including the children. The Medieval Society, a firm favourite every year, will run our popular 'Have a Go Archery'. £2.00 per person and free for children under 16.

Normal house tour admission applies.

**Belmont House & Gardens, Throwley, Nr Faversham, Kent ME13 0HH**

## Jo's Diary of Country Walks

(A dog tells the story of her life in the countryside) by Audrey Keen



When Rhoda is ready, we walk from the house toward the spinney passing fields and meadows as we go. There is kale still in one field, awaiting the arrival of sheep. Grass brushes Rhoda's wellingtons and makes swishy noises by my head. We walk onto the footpath and Rhoda looks out at the view, it is cold and she picks me up, now I too can see the view. The distant houses in the village look peaceful and smoke comes from each chimney pot. The countryside around the village looks completely asleep as fog drifts across from the wood. It veils the distant fields, passes the sheep and covers the farmhouse and beyond. The pathway through the coppice is clear but in places muddy ruts are filled with water and, as we walk towards it,

our home appears mysteriously through the grey fog. I am pleased to have my coat on my back keeping the damp from my fur, but rain, fog, snow, hail or sunshine, there is no other place I would rather be than here with Rhoda and my friend Connie in the freedom of the countryside in which we may roam.

## Short Mat Bowls

Our visit to Aylesham on 1st March resulted in two very close games, the team of Nellie Potter, Eileen Piles and John Graham went right down to the wire, on the Fifteen and last end they was 11 shots each, John put his last wood right on the jack, but the Aylsham skip took this off, and they lost by one shot. The other team of Des Briggs, Bryan Searly and Roy Piles were behind right through the whole game, going into the last end and needing three shots to make a tie of it. With some excellent bowling, they won the game, taking Five shots on the last end. Eastling returned home with 4 points leaving Aylesham just 2. The return game at home was on 8th March and we needed to have a good win, this being the last game of the season in the East Kent League. The same teams played; Nellie, Eileen & John won 22 shots to 12 shots. Des, Bryan & Roy played an excellent game winning 30 shots to 2 shots and with this good



## THROWLEY WALKERS

Spring has sprung! hoping to find bluebells in flower this month.

All walks start at 10.30am

Ann : 01795 892037

**Friday 1st April** 3 miles, from Brogdale Farm car park, ME13 8XZ

**Wednesday 6th April** 2 miles, Newnham, from The George ME9 0LL

**Friday 8th April** 4 miles, Newnham, from The George ME9 0LL

**Wednesday 13th April** 2 miles, Wilgate Green, ME13 0PW.

**Friday 15th April** 3 miles, Eastling Village Hall, ME13 0BA.

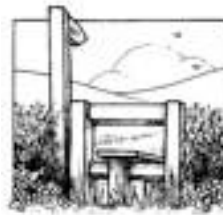
**Wednesday 20th April** 2 miles, Throwley Forstal to Dodds Willows

**Friday 22nd April** 4 miles, King's Wood. Meet in the car park on White Hill, off Buck Street, nearest Challock. TN25 4AR is nearest postcode.

**Wednesday 27th April** 2 miles, Stalisfield, the Plough Inn ME13 0HY

**Friday 29th** 3 miles, Throwley Forstal to East Wood

**Wednesday 4th May** 2 miles, Kettle Hill Farm to Divan Wood. Park at the mini green on Kettle Hill Road, nearer to Eastling; NOT the mini green at Arnold's Oak (signposted to Painters Forstal), nearer to Throwley.



## Otterden and Stalisfield WI

Our last meeting with David Leland was a very interesting evening, with anecdotes about the film industry, and once again we thank him for his time.

In April we have a trip to the Marlowe to see "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" and later in the month we have a Bluebell walk in Stalisfield, followed by Soup and Bread at the Village Hall.

Anyone wanting information about our steadily growing group (31 members now), please contact, Lesley Andrews (01795 890581) or Stephanie Culver (01795 890748).

## Craft Club

### in Eastling Village Hall

On Wednesday 13th April the craft club session will start an hour earlier than usual, so we start at 10am. We will be having fabric painting session. It will go on till about 1pm or so. Refreshments and materials provided. Cost £5.



## GRAND PLANT SALE

We will be holding our annual plant sale on Saturday 11th June raising funds for the Eastling Seniors' Christmas Lunch.

Hopefully by the time you are reading this spring will have made an appearance, so please start growing and taking cuttings as all donations will be most welcome.

More details in the May magazine.

## Painters Forstal with Selling W.I. at Eastling

We will be holding all future WI meetings in Eastling Village Hall. Our meetings start at 2.15pm and finish about 4pm.

Our April meeting is on Tuesday 19th April, and our WI will be celebrating its 79th Birthday. Our speaker for the afternoon will be Barbara Stevens, who will talk about Journalistic stories. If you would like to come along and join us for this special event we would ask that you contact either Barbara, on 01795 890020 or Pat on 01795 539629 by noon on Tuesday 12th April so that we can update our catering requirements. We are a small but very friendly group and welcome new members.

## EASTLING VILLAGE HALL

To book ring Alan Willson on 01795 890848

[www.eastlingvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.eastlingvillagehall.co.uk)



A beautiful hall in a lovely village location for your wedding, club, sports or meetings. The large hall has pretty grounds, car parking, meeting rooms and fully equipped facilities for professional or self-catering occasions.

## EASTLING

### SUMMER GARDEN SAFARI

We are planning to hold a garden safari around the 18th and/or 19th of June this year. If you are interested and willing to open your garden to visitors on either or both of these dates would you please contact JULIE KYTE by phone or e-mail (01795 890703, [juliemkyte@btinternet.com](mailto:juliemkyte@btinternet.com)). Any garden of any size is welcome even if you only have a patio, lawn or raised flower bed, and we're not looking for RHS standards, just gardens with summer interest. All proceeds to go to church funds.



## Stalisfield Highlife

### Coffee Morning

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April, 11am

All welcome at Stalisfield Village Hall for a social occasion. Come and meet up with friends and neighbours for coffee, tea, cake, and chat. Find out more about up-coming events and book tickets. Tell us about anything else you would like to see happening in your village hall. For more information or if you need transport call Cat on 01795 890298. We hope to make this the first of many.



## Stay Tuned!

The next event in our summer programme will be the annual Safari Supper, on Saturday 14th May. Details will follow for this popular event which depends on a sufficient number of hosting families volunteering to provide one of three courses of supper. The size of guest group is nominated by the host. Between courses the groups change hosts safari-style, finally meeting up for the last course in the village hall.

If you feel you would like to be one of these hosts Judith or Shirley would be happy to provide information on 01795 890203 and 01795 890167 respectively.

April  
2016



5th Refugee Solidarity group	7.30pm	The Vaults, Faversham
6th Otterden & Stalisfield WI	6pm	Stalisfield Village Hall
9th Coffee Morning	11am	Stalisfield Village Hall
13th Craft Club	10am	Eastling Village Hall
15th Quiz Night	7.30pm	Stalisfield Village Hall
15th Deadline for May Good News		See below
19th Painters Forstal & Selling WI	2.15pm	Eastling Village Hall
20th Otterden Parish Meeting	7.30pm	The Harrow, Warren Street
20th Rum Night (Booking required)		The Plough, Stalisfield
23rd Cabaret Night	6.45pm	Eastling Village Hall
24th Classic Vehicles 'Drive it' day		The Plough, Stalisfield
26th Magazine Folding	2pm	Pinks Farm
27th Eastling Village Hall AGM	7.30pm	Eastling Village Hall
27th Annual Parish Meeting	8pm	Eastling Village Hall
<b>MAY</b> 2nd Bluebell Walk	from 10am	Eastling Village Hall

## FROM THE EDITOR

If you would like to advertise in the May 2016 magazine, submit articles or stories for publication, or would like any forthcoming events publicised, send your contribution by 15th April to: Hilary Harlow, Pinks Farm, Eastling, Faversham, ME13 0BA. Tel: 01795 890338. Where possible, please submit your entry by email: [goodnewsmagazine@me.com](mailto:goodnewsmagazine@me.com)

**Past and current issues of the Good News may be viewed on [www.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews](http://www.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews)**