



## Why Easter will never go away.....

How do you make sense of the Resurrection? Dead men don't rise, so why believe that this particular dead man did rise?

At the end of St Luke's Gospel we read that: the disciples "did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense." (Luke 24.11). This is

**The disciples did not believe** highly significant. The Gospels do not show us a group of disciples who were in a receptive frame of mind.

After the crucifixion, they were in hiding, frightened and scattered. Then suddenly, they came out of hiding and were totally different; excited, joyful. By Pentecost they were confident, with one firm message: "You crucified Jesus, but God raised him up!"

How did they know this? Because of direct personal experience. Some of them had visited the tomb of Jesus: it was empty. Others claimed to have seen and touched the risen Lord. Were they hallucinating? People can hallucinate in groups – when taking drugs, for example. But, of course each one will see a different

**Were they lying?** hallucination. But the disciples all saw the same thing. Or rather, the same person. Jesus.

Were they lying? Jesus had died a humiliating death as a criminal. Perhaps they wanted to rescue His

good name. So did they pretend they had seen Him?

**Did they pretend?** This theory has a big problem. Their preaching led them into trouble with the authorities. They were beaten and imprisoned and some of them killed. People will die for ideas and causes which they believe in passionately. But not for things they have made up. We might suffer for our convictions, we will not suffer for our inventions.

What about the 'swoon' theory? That Jesus didn't die on the cross, despite terrible wounds. He recovered in the tomb, and then escaped. The disciples nursed Him back to health. But Roman soldiers knew when a

**Did He escape?** man was dead; and there was the guard on the tomb. Also, the events which followed simply don't fit. If the disciples had been hiding Jesus, they would have kept very low-key, and out of the way, so that the authorities did not come after Him again.

Besides, to preach that God had raised Jesus from the dead – which is exactly what they did preach – would have been a lie. Beatings and threat of death would soon have loosened their tongues. Inventions crumble under pressure; convictions hold fast.

Another reason for believing in the Resurrection is this: Jesus' continuing impact. Thousands and

soon millions of people in every generation since have shared an inescapable sense of being 'accompanied' through life. Though unseen, they identify this presence as the Risen Lord.

Sometimes this experience of meeting Jesus is gentle and fitful. Sometimes it is dramatic and life-changing. This reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus is not just an interesting historical puzzle. It is a vital, present day reality. It brings wonderful

**The resurrection is vital** comfort, assuring us of the central Christian truths: death is dead; Jesus is alive; God is love.

This central notion was captured by the great Albert Schweitzer: 'He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: "Follow thou me", and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfil for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the suffering which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is.'

Have a joyful, and a challenging, Easter.

## SAUNTERING THROUGH KENT

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1899 there appeared in the Kentish Express under the heading "A Saunter Through Kent with Pen and Pencil" an article about Kennington, "a picturesque parish not two miles distant from Ashford". The paper announced that this was to be the first in a series of articles describing the villages of Kent.

The author of this first article, although unnamed, was Charles Igglesden (1861-1949) who was Editor of the Kentish Express. The illustrator was Xavier Willis the paper's resident artist. Little could they have expected that the series would run for over 45 years with the same men wielding pen and pencil.

By the time the last article appeared in October 1944 their peregrinations around Kent had covered 242 villages and one town (Ashford). Such was the demand that the articles were published in hardback book form and altogether 34 volumes were published between 1900 and 1946

Malcolm Horton has written a biography celebrating the life of Sir Charles Igglesden. The book will also include Volume 35 of the Saunter series, containing villages that appeared in the Kentish Express between 1942-1944 but never found their way into hardback form. The villages featured are Selling, Stalisfield, Stowting, Postling, Bonington, Otterden, Oare, Norton and Luddenham.

"Sauntering through Kent" is a joint publication with Bygone Kent and Malcolm Horton and will be launched at Waterstones, Canterbury on 2nd May at 6.30pm. Admission is free and all are welcome. The author has a Special offer to readers of the *Good News* of 10% off the cover price 17.99 (£16) inc p@p apply [cwc@uk.net](mailto:cwc@uk.net).



## Eastling Annual Meetings

This year, the combined Annual General Meeting of the Trustees of Eastling Village Hall and the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday, 26th April in Eastling Village Hall. The Trustees' AGM will start at 7.30pm followed at 8.00pm by the Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting. A presentation will take place at the latter meeting of the Kent Association of Local Councils Community Award which will recognise the contribution a resident has made to the village. Both meetings are open to the public, so please come along to support your village organisations. Refreshments will be served.

## Eastling Church Flower Rota



**April**  
1st - Bay Lees Easter Lilies  
8th & 15th - Janet Wood  
22nd & 29th - Emma Norwood  
May 6th - Fiona & Catherine

If you would like to join the flower arranging rota, please call Bay on 01795 892036.

**Otterden Parish Committee AGM followed by the Neighbourhood Watch Meeting**  
To be held at The Harrow, Warren Street at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18th April  
All Welcome

## Eastling Neighbourhood Watch



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

A reminder about dogs in the vicinity of sheep - dogs must be on a lead and if possible avoid going in the same field as this can cause unnecessary disturbance of the sheep.

As has been in the news lately there has been widespread fraud of persons finding or stealing bank / credit cards and using them as contactless. As we all know there is no check with contactless so please take extra care with your cards. Should you be unfortunate and lose a card contact your bank immediately.

Potholes are a continuing problem so please take care especially in the country lanes.

Have a good month and take care, Alan.

## Prayer Pointers Easter 2018

- Mondays:** Would we be counted among the doubters hiding in the shadow cast by that cruel cross?
- Tuesdays:** Or, when challenged like Peter, openly deny you?
- Wednesday:** There are times, Lord when doubts assail and the distance between us seems to increase.
- Thursdays:** There are times, Lord when sin has its hold, like a barrier between us that will not move.
- Fridays:** Who is there we can turn to when we feel so overwhelmed?
- Saturdays:** Who can roll away the stone and reveal the empty tomb? No-one but you, Jesus, no-one but you!

**Sundays:** Christ the Lord is Risen today, Alleluia!



**CANCER RESEARCH UK**  
Rotary Club of the Weald of Kent  
**The Cancer Research UK North Downs Walk**  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2018  
Check in 10am-11am  
Harnettsham Village Hall, ME17 1AP  
Non-sponsored walkers welcome, minimum donation of £15.  
1.3, 6 or 9 mile walk  
Free ploughman's, strawberries and jazz band on return.  
Dogs Welcome  
You can donate 50% of your sponsorship money to a cause of your choice  
To register or for more information, please visit [www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk](http://www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk) or call 07519320919  
Find us on Facebook - Search for 'North Downs Walk'

**faversham foodbank** Help feed local people in crisis  
[faversham.foodbank.org.uk](http://faversham.foodbank.org.uk)

**Faversham Foodbank 2018**  
Thank you so much for your generosity in continuing to give regularly. It's three years since our community started supporting the work of the Faversham Foodbank. I suppose we had all hoped that the need for food banks might have diminished but sadly that is not the case. The majority of people who use them now are people in work who just can't make ends meet.

**Food list for April**  
Urgent items: long life fruit juice; cooking oil; rice; tinned fruit; tinned vegetables: tinned sponge puddings; tinned custard.

**the trussell trust**

## Services in our Churches

### 30th March Good Friday

Stations of the Cross Walk between Newnham and Doddington. 10.30am at Newnham Church.

### 1st April Easter Day

Acts 10. 34 - 43, John 20. 1 - 18 or Mark 16. 1 - 8  
 Throwley 10 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
*Celebrant - Revd. Thomas Collett White*

### 8th April Easter 2

Acts 4. 32 - 35, 1 John 1.1 - 22, John 20. 19 - end  
 Eastling 10 am CaféStyle in the Village Hall

### 15th April Easter 3

Acts 3. 12 - 19, 1 John 1.1 - 7, Luke 24. 36b- 48  
 Stalisfield 10 am Holy Communion (CW)  
*Celebrant - Revd Canon Reg Humphriss*

### 22nd April Easter 4

Acts 4. 5 - 12, 1 John 3.16 - end, John 10. 11 - 18  
 Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
*Celebrant - Revd. Penny Fenton*  
 Throwley 10 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
*Led by - Revd. Thomas Collett-White*

### 29th April Easter 5

Acts 8. 26 - end, 1 John 4.7 - end, John 15. 1 - 8  
 Eastling 10 am 'Thank You' Songs of Praise

### 6th May Easter 6

Acts 10. 44 - end, 1 John 5.1 - 6, John 15. 9 - 17  
 Eastling 10 am Morning Prayer (BCP)

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

## High Downs Parish

Rector	Vacant	
Parish Office	Email: eastlingchurch@gmail.com facebook.com/highdownsbenefice	
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

<b>Eastling</b>	Andrew Baxter (01795 890598)
<b>Administrator</b>	Janet Payne E mail: eastlingchurch@gmail.com
<b>Stalisfield with Otterden</b>	Jean West (01233 712270)
<b>Administrator</b>	Sheila Moger (01233 713212) E mail: samhawksnest@aol.com
<b>Throwley</b>	Glynn Howland (01795 890094)

### Midweek Groups

**Tuesdays:** Study group, 9.30am on 10th & 24th April  
 at Garden Cottage, Eastling. 01795 890368

**Wednesdays:** 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.*

## Local Residents, we need you!

Volunteering can be wonderful and fulfilling, it can provide help and support to those who need it the most. At Macmillan Crossroads Care Kent & Medway Volunteer Service, we support people affected by cancer and their carers. Our team provide quality information and guidance, along with a helpful assessment process to understand what support is needed. Currently our volunteers provide:



Companionship; emotional support; light housework; gardening; social outings; shopping; escorting to medical appointments.

One of our valued volunteers Isabel has expressed the following;

*"I became aware of the Macmillan Crossroads volunteer opportunity whilst volunteering for Pilgrims Hospice and they asked me to come in for an interview. The rest is history (well over 3 years of it) I visit people in their homes do bits of light gardening, light housework, shopping trips, health appointment visits and cups of tea and chats. I even get to work once again with students as I am lucky enough to be part of training and supporting 6th form students in this type of care work. The rewards are immense I have learnt so*

*much from these people about lives led challenges faced and to still be faced, all is put into perspective. Life is for living and sharing even when time maybe in short supply. Give it a go Every visit is different and being part of a team is very enjoyable."* Can you spare some time

each week? Do you have a good listening ear, the first and most important part of helping?

Do you have a special interest or skill that someone could benefit from?

Volunteering is a very positive addition to your CV as it can demonstrate your commitment to a work ethic and your caring nature. There is also in-house training available for all volunteers and volunteering expenses can be reimbursed in line with our volunteering policy.

Local volunteers are required to help local people. At the moment, volunteers travel from all over the west Kent area to help local residents.

If you feel you'd like to make a difference when someone needs a helping hand, contact Sam, Phil or Chloe on 01227 743703 enquiries. macmillan@crossroads kent.org or find us on Facebook Macmillan Crossroads Volunteer Service.

## The Caller

When I do the housework  
 And mop the kitchen floor,  
 It's usually just at this time  
 That someone knocks the door.  
 The floor is wet and soapy  
 I seem to lose my grip,  
 What happens next is obvious,  
 Of course, I had to slip!  
 I knocked the bucket over  
 There was water everywhere,  
 The dog was barking frantically  
 And now she's going spare.  
 The caller keeps on knocking, she cannot know my fate,  
 But due to my predicament she'll simply have to wait.  
 There's paw marks and there's foot makers  
 Glory! What a mess,  
 And looking at myself aghast I see I've torn my dress.  
 I turn to face caller to explain the long delay,  
 To find the latter tired of waiting, quietly went away.

Audrey Keen



Kent Wildlife Trust

### Easter Holiday events:

Including:  
**Secret Tree Stories,**  
 with Easter Egg hunt, at Cromer Wood, Sittingbourne on Thursday 5th April.

**Pond Dipping** at Tyland Barn on Tuesday 10th April

Go to  
[www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk)  
 for more events.



Walk Church is an experimental congregation celebrating God in the outdoors. It will be meeting for the first time on Sunday 22 April at 10am. The group will begin from the Market Place, Charing, TN27 0LP (in front of Charing Parish Church) and will be walking uphill onto the downs. The total walking time will be about two hours but there will be a break - you may want to bring a snack and something to drink. Please bring suitable footwear and clothing. Well behaved dogs are welcome. Further details from Revd. Alex Bienfait Tel; 01580 291454, Email rector@sbcofe.org



**Roman Catholic Mass**  
 will be celebrated in the  
 afternoon of Sunday 13th May  
*(time to be confirmed)*  
 in Throwley Church.

## Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.

On 7th March Yvonne Fernando came along to talk and involve our group on the subject of Meditation, Relaxation and Mindfulness; Yvonne works from the Surgery at Charing so is very much a local. It was an interactive session as everyone was able to put into practice the methods Yvonne suggested. It was particularly helpful to those who are leading stressful lives at the moment.

The WI Annual Council Meeting at The Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells, is on 21st March and several of us are attending. The guest speakers this year are Baroness Floella Benjamin and Hilary Haworth from the NFWI. This event should be interesting - feed back next month!

Now that Spring is creeping up on us, our group is holding the annual Bluebell Walk on Wednesday 18th April starting from Stalisfield Village Hall, meeting a little earlier than usual at 6 p.m. Those who do not wish to walk, are more that

welcome to just socialise until everyone returns, when hot homemade soup and bread will be served. A raffle will also be held. Guests, as always, are welcome to join us.

Wednesday 2nd May at 7.30, is our AGM when we will be selecting a new President and Secretary as Stephanie Culver and Lesley Andrews will be stepping down after having served for the past four years. Between them, they have put in a great deal of time and effort to make ours a thriving Group, for which we all give our grateful thanks for their hard work.

Why not come along and try our friendly WI Group? Contact Lesley Andrews on 01795 890581 or Stephanie Culver on 01795 890748. We meet the first Wednesday of each month at Stalisfield Village Hall, Stalisfield Green at 7.30 p.m.

## High Downs Parish Annual Meeting

Monday 23rd April, 7.30pm  
in Eastling Village Hall

Everyone welcome to come hear about the three Churches in our High Downs Parish



The Faversham & Villages Refugee Solidarity Group is proud to present

### An Afternoon Recital

from Faversham's own internationally renowned baritone BILLY RAE with piano accompanist

JUDITH NOCKOLDS

Sunday 29th April, 3.00 – 4.30 pm  
the ASSEMBLY ROOMS, Preston Street

A varied programme to include works by ....  
*Butterworth, Beethoven, Ravel, Donizetti, Vaughn Williams, Verdi, Burns...*  
TICKETS £5.00 (to include interval refreshment)

from The Hat Shop, West Street  
Clarissa Hanna: 01795 533296

[clarissa.hanna@hotmail.com](mailto:clarissa.hanna@hotmail.com)

All proceeds from this event will go to providing essential survival items to help refugees in northern France.



### Charing Local History Society

Horatio Nelson & Emma Hamilton.

The more human side of Admiral Lord Nelson - through his relationship with Lady Hamilton - *Sheila Boyd*

Thursday 12th April in the Parish Hall, Station Road, Charing, Kent. The talk starts at 8pm, doors open at 7:30pm and visitors are welcome at £3 each.

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

**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.

#### Band Night - April 20th

Live music with The Chillbillies

#### National Drive it day - April 22nd

Bring your classic car out to lunch

#### St. George's Day - April 23rd

Celebrate all that is English in quintessentially English Pub!

#### Wonderful Women's Wednesday - April 25th

A great excuse to meet up at the pub for some food and drink with the ladies, pre booking required, please call for details.

#### World Whisky Day - May 19th

Come and try one or two of our selection of 20 Malt Whiskies

Keep up to date by following us on **Facebook, Twitter or Instagram**

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

A Family run business on your door step offering job opportunities to build your career.

### We are currently recruiting for casual kitchen wash up

**Willingness to work is essential, experience not required, train and earn at the same time in our Family run Pub**

Please send CV to [info@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk](mailto:info@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk) or pop in to see us with your CV

## Painters Forstal with Selling WI

Members will holding their 81st birthday meeting on Tuesday April 17th at 2pm. The speaker will be telling us how to live a healthier life. This will of course start on the following day as members and friends will enjoy a tea made by members after the speaker has finished!

As usual further information from Barbara on 01795 890020 or e-mail [tombar72@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tombar72@hotmail.co.uk).



### Stalisfield HighLife

Stalisfield Village Hall

Barn Dance

30th June

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the date is currently being changed.

Watch this space for further updates!!



### Eastling Gardeners' Club

Coach Outing to **Wakehurst Place,** the country estate of Kew Garden on Saturday, 2nd June, leaving at 8.45 a.m.  
Full details in next month's Good News

### EASTLING VILLAGE HALL

To book ring Hayley on 01795 890968

[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.

Thank you

We would like to thank Holly, Cat, Marianne and the other lady from the Plough, for visiting us to see if we needed anything during the cold spell.

We are very grateful from Pat and Des Briggs



## HELP

We have a rabbit problem in our garden. I think we have a burrow. The garden is fenced.

I would love to hear from anyone with ferrets or with any advice on controlling this infestation.

Please contact via email: [gillian.regan@icloud.com](mailto:gillian.regan@icloud.com) or phone 01795 890556  
Thanks



April 2018

### WEEKLY EVENTS:

Mondays	Zumba	9.30am	Stalisfield Village Hall
Tuesdays	Table Tennis	7 - 9pm	Stalisfield Village Hall
Alternate Wednesdays	Eastling Walkers	10.30am	Call 01795 892194
Thursdays	Fitness Pilates	9.15am	Eastling Village Hall
Thursdays	Zumba	6.30pm	Stalisfield Village Hall
Fridays	Short Mat Bowls	2.30pm & 7.30pm	Eastling Hall

### APRIL

1st	Easter Egg Hunt	11am-3pm	Belmont House
8th	CaféStyle - church for all	10am	Eastling Village Hall
12th	Charing History Society	8pm	Charing Parish Hall
14th	Community Church Tidy Up	10am	Throwley Church
14th	Safari Supper	7.30pm	Stalisfield Village
15th	Deadline for May Good News		Details see below
17th	P/Forstal & Selling WI	2pm	Eastling Village Hall
18th	WI Bluebell Walk	6pm	Stalisfield Village Hall
18th	Otterden Parish Meeting	7.30pm	The Harrow
23rd	High Downs Parish AGM	7.30pm	Eastling Village Hall
24th	Magazine Folding	2pm	Pinks Farm, Eastling
26th	Eastling Hall Annual meeting	7.30pm	Eastling Village Hall
26th	Annual Parish meeting	8pm	Eastling Village Hall
29th	Afternoon Recital	3pm	Assembly Rooms, Preston Street
MAY 7th	Bluebell Walk start from	10am	Eastling Village Hall
12th	Musical Recital	7.30pm	Stalisfield Village Hall

### CONTACT THE EDITOR

If you would like to advertise in the May 2018 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)**

BelmontHseGdns  
 Belmont House and Gardens



## BELMONT HOUSE & GARDENS

### SPRING FAIR

Monday 7th May, 11.00am – 4.00pm

A 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. With a superb collection of local crafters and artisans, you can expect to find some unique, quality hand-made gifts  
£3.00 per person and free for children under 16.

### SPOON CARVING WORKSHOP

Tuesday 15th May, 10.30am – 4.00pm

Phil from Badger Bushcraft will demonstrate how to get the best results from the tools. You will learn to safely and confidently perfect your techniques and, by the end of the day, take home your very own spoon! £40.00pp. To book please email [events@belmont-house.org](mailto:events@belmont-house.org)

### MEET THE HEAD GARDENER

Monday 21st May, 1.00pm – 3.00pm

Join our Head Gardener, Graeme, for a walking tour around our beautiful gardens to see some of the many species of plants and trees we have at Belmont. He will also tell you about the seasonal work involved in maintaining the gardens here. £6.00 per person. No booking required.

### HERB WALK

Wednesday 23rd May, 1.00pm – 3.00pm

This relaxing walk will introduce you to different herbs used today and historically to treat illness and maintain health. Learn the benefits of some very familiar wild plants and some lesser known. A great chance to see, smell and taste the plants in a beautiful garden setting. To book please email [events@belmont-house.org](mailto:events@belmont-house.org) £8.00pp.

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