

Good News Parish Magazine

High Downs Parish

*Serving the villages of
Eastling, Otterden,
Stalisfield and Throwley*

www.goodnews.rf.gd



Holy Week in High Downs Churches

Everyday 9am Morning Prayer on Facebook and
www.kingsdowncreekside.co.uk



APRIL 2022

- 4th Eastling PC and Hall Annual Meetings
Eastling Village Hall 7.30pm
- 6th Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 9th Eat, Pray, Walk 1.30pm
Norton Church car park
- 13th Egerton Arts Society Lecture
Egerton Millennium Hall 2.30pm
- 13th Youth Club - *Easter fun & chocolate*
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 14th Gardeners' Club
Eastling Village Hall 2.00pm
- 14th Charing Local History Society
Charing Parish Hall 8.00pm
- 17th Easter Egg Hunt (need to book)
Belmont 11am - 3pm
- 27th Youth Club - *Love our planet*
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 28th Faversham Arts Society Lecture
Alexander Centre 11.00am

MAY

- 2nd Spring Fair at Belmont
Belmont, Throwley 11am - 4pm
- 4th Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 4th Cheese and Tunes
Eastling Church 7.30pm
- 11th Youth Club - *Craft Extravaganza*
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm

JUNE

- 2nd Village Fête
Throwley Forstal 1 - 5pm

Palm Sunday 10th April

9am Holy Communion in Eastling Church
10.30am Morning Prayer in Throwley Church

Monday 11th April

7.30pm Evening Prayer with Reflections, Newnham

Tuesday 12th April

7.30pm Evening Prayer with Reflections, Eastling

Wednesday 13th April

7.30pm Evening Prayer with Reflections, Doddington

Maundy Thursday 14th April

7pm The Last Supper with Shepherds Pie Supper,
Reflections, Sharing of Bread and Wine in Norton
Village Hall, Prayers in the Orchard and finishing
together in Norton Church.

Good Friday 15th April

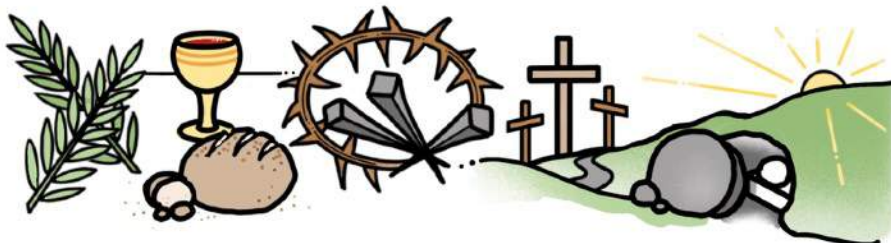
10.30am Stations of the Cross, Doddington Church
2pm Last Hour of the Cross, Newnham Church

Saturday 16th April

7.30pm Evening Prayer with Reflections, Eastling

Easter Day 17th April

6am Sunrise Service with breakfast, Wychling Church
10.30am Holy Communion, Stalisfield Church
10.30am Easter Morning Worship, Eastling Church



Moment by moment....

Deadlines. We all live with them. And in our world as it is today, there is something crucial happening in an hour to hour, minute to minute timescale that is unprecedented and something that only people who lived through war before might have experienced. And so with this deadline for the newsletter, I am writing in advance and who knows what might happen in our world between now and the moment you read this.

We live in moments. And there's something about appreciating the moment we're in which can improve our mental wellbeing. All too often we look backwards to what has been, either good or bad, or forwards to what we hope to be; hope to achieve; hope to see; hope to be. And neither is entirely satisfying because we've failed to live in the moment we're in.

We've heard from across the world many stories of Ukrainians forced to live moment by moment – perhaps looking to the past to what was and might never be again, but also to the future and the unknown. Fear is something that we all might feel in light of what is going on in Ukraine, especially for those living in the midst of the stark reality of war. This fear is real and present right now, in this moment, but theology tells us not to look through, but to look beyond. This war will not have the last word. Evil will not have the last word.

As we look towards Easter, I can't help but notice the disciples more than ever in the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. What their experience of those moments must have been like. Every day during that week leading up to the crucifixion, journeying with Jesus, from the adulation of the crowds on Palm Sunday to the harrowing scenes on Good Friday, holding moments of wonder and joy alongside moments of fear and horror.



During each season of Lent, we are also invited to journey through these moments close to Jesus. Looking deep within ourselves to how strong, resilient, courageous, fearful, shameful, sad, joyful, worshipful, prayerful we are in our faith. And moment by moment, we discover new things about ourselves and about the depth of love God has for us, his children, however hard life might seem.

So what can we do with these moments of both fear and wonder in our lives? We pray. We pray for ourselves. We pray for our world. We pray for peace. We pray for hope, that there is a kingdom of heaven and just as the disciples caught glimpses of it, so might we too, in the mundane, in the everyday, in the toil, in the difficulties, even in darkness of war. For if there were no darkness, we wouldn't need to correct our vision to see the beauty of the starry world it contains.

The vision we all need right now is one of Christ as the one who has the victory. This is seeing beyond the immediate whilst giving God the glory in the present.

So do not be afraid, for God is with you. He will never leave you or forsake you, for Christ came into this world and has overcome the darkness.

May you know this reality in your lives this very moment, and especially this Easter time.

Rev Caroline Turvey

Easter Lilies at Eastling

If you would like to contribute towards Easter lilies in memory of loved ones, please let Bay know: 07922 484648.



Easter Gardens

Last year we had some exquisite Easter gardens made by the Neesham and Wood families that were displayed in the church porch. If anyone feels like trying their hand at making one, however simple or complex, please place it in the porch on Saturday, 16th April, along with their name.

Communal decorating for Easter: Saturday 16th April. 10.30 onwards. All welcome.

Prayer Pointers

April 2022

Mondays - Pray for all living in war torn countries or under persecution.

Tuesdays - Give thanks for our homes, freedom and food and pray for those less fortunate.

Wednesdays - Pray for world leaders that they will rule with wisdom and understanding.

Thursdays - Give thanks for this time of spring growth and pray for a renewal of faith.

Fridays - As Jesus' family mourned his death, pray for all who lost loved ones.

Saturdays - Pray for encouragement and good teaching for all new Christians.

Sundays - Celebrate Christ's resurrection and the promise of eternal life for us.



Short Mat Bowls

We have started our roll ups on Wednesday evenings in Eastling Village Hall, 7 - 9pm.

New members are very welcome, all equipment is provided, all we ask is for you to wear flat soled shoes with no tread, this is to protect the mats and make them last longer.

We had a league game at home against Kemsley with some very tight fought matches but we held them to a draw - 8 points each. That was a good result for they had four Kent County players in their team.

Alas it was different story a week later when we went to Lower Halstow. This time we got hammered on their very short mats, only just in the regulation length, no excuses we did not play well at all coming home with only 1 point, still you can not win all the time.

Come along and have a contact Roy Piles on 537162.



Which bottles are 'Witch bottles'?

Exploring early modern bottle magic in England, and the findings from Charing and elsewhere in Kent.

Speaker: Nigel Jefferies
Thursday 14th April, Parish Hall,
Station Road, Charing
Doors open 7.30pm,
Talk starts at 8pm

Charing & District Local History Society

www.charinghistory.co.uk



Eastling Gardeners' Club



The next meeting will be on
Thursday, 14th April at 2 p.m.
in Eastling Village Hall.

Kevin Tooher will talk on
'Trees for the smaller garden'

The talk will be followed by afternoon tea.
Subscriptions will be due at £10 per person.
Non-members pay £5 per meeting.



Quizzical Report from Stalisfield

Friday 11th March saw a lot of head scratching in Stalisfield as ten teams battled it out over General Knowledge, Quantitative Teasing, Themed Questions, Dingbats and songs with missing lines - sung beautifully by members of the Stalisfield Singers. Team 'The Sue Gray Report' just pipped 'SunnyRedShires' in the last round. A fun evening had by all.

Date for your Diary

THROWLEY SUMMER FETE

Saturday 4th June
Traditional Village Fête
1 - 5pm
Throwley Forstal Green

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Celebration Garden Concert

Come and celebrate 50 years of listening with the Ashford and Tenterden Samaritans.

Stroll in glorious, Godinton House gardens, then picnic while listening to Ashford Invicta Choir sing songs from the showsfrom opera to Disney!

Wednesday 22nd June - gardens open from 6pm, performance from 7pm. Tickets £15 from godinton.digitickets.co.uk/



Cheese and Tunes

Eastling Church
Wednesday 4th May
7.30pm



40 minutes singing your favourite hymns followed by wine and cheese, free entry and cheese, donations appreciated for wine to cover costs.



The Arts Society, Egerton

Enjoy Arts and Culture presented by world class lecturers

THE ARTISTS WHO OUTWITTED THE NAZIS

Presented by **MATTHEW WILSON**

Wednesday 13TH April 2022

At 2.30 p.m.

at THE MILLENNIUM HALL, ELM CLOSE, EGERTON TN27 9DS

Did you know that artists, like the codebreakers of Bletchley, were among the unsung heroes of WWII, and crucial participants at the business end of conflict? This lecture is about two military units from WWII: the British Middle East Command Camouflage Directorate, and the American 'Ghost Army', both of which were populated by artists, specially recruited to devise deception operations that would foil the Germans. For example, the units created fake tanks and depots to fool German reconnaissance planes and draw their attention away from real Allied attack points. They blurred fiction and reality on the field of battle, for the first time weaponizing artistic skills and making for a literal 'theatre' of war. More than this, their ingenious ruses were arguably a critical component of the overall Allied victory against the Nazis.

Matthew Wilson studied History of Art at the Courtauld Institute and has taught the subject in secondary schools for over a decade. He is a freelance writer

Visitors are very welcome AT £5 (reimbursed if you become a member)

Please contact Christine Willis via cmwillis75@gmail.com or 01233 756377 for further details or visit our website at <https://theartsocietyegerton.org.uk>



The Wood View

By Audrey Keen

See divine blossoms and
shimmering flowers
Watch the grass there as it grows,
Gaze lovingly onto the sensuous
cloud
And drift with the wind as it
blows.
Caress the dark mosses and touch
the new leaves
Fresh come to the beech I adore,
And step with care on the carpet
of bluebells
That come to the blessed wood
floor.
Peer through the tree tops
And by-pass the cloud
For the sky is emblazoned with
blue,
And let the eye fall
Again and again
To dwell on this splendid wood
view.

Monthly walk, tea, cake and prayer for all ages
Start and finish in NORTON Church Car Park
1.30pm to 3.00pm

**Next time we're
at NORTON
Friday 8th April
Eat Pray Walk**

Celebrating God in creation

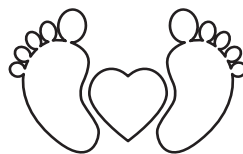
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A WILL
MONTH**
APRIL-MAY
2022



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Two donkeys



Two
donkeys
were
walking the streets of
Jerusalem. One said: "Just a
few days ago I came down that
hill carrying Jesus, and the
people were all singing and
shouting and throwing down
their cloaks and palms for me
to walk on. But today they
don't even recognise me."

The other donkey replied: "That
is how it is, my friend. Without
Jesus, none of us amounts to
much."

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Belmont House and Gardens



Wild Classroom Family Cooking Workshop

Tuesday 12th April, 10am - 1.30pm

Step outside this spring and join Wild Classroom where you and your family will be able to cook over fire using seasonal produce from our Kitchen Garden. £65.00 includes the registration of 2 adults and 2 children aged 4 - 15 years.

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday 17th April, 11am - 3pm

Join us at Belmont for some Easter fun. Explore the gardens and search for the wooden eggs to win a chocolate treat, then head back to the Orangery to get crafty with some Easter themed activities. £5.00 per child & £2.50 per adult. Tickets must be booked in advance.

Wild Box Cocktail Making Class

Friday 22nd April, 7 - 9pm

Join us for an evening of cocktail making, you and your guests will create three cocktails with a Wild Box mixologist. Using locally sourced spirits and seasonal produce, you will create unique twists on classic serves. £45.00 per person. Booking online required.

Spring Fair

Monday 2nd May, 11am - 4pm

Our Spring Fair features a superb range of quality plants, garden-related gifts, artwork, textiles, jewellery and a whole host of wonderful, crafted delights. £5.00pp and free for under 16s.



**Belmont House & Gardens, Throwley, Nr Faversham,
Kent ME13 0HH
W: www.belmont-house.org**

Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.

Our March meeting was a very informative and entertaining evening with Joanna Van Blommestein, The Bra Boss of Kent. Joanna guided us through the complex world of sizing and explained how difficult it can be getting the correct fit. It is no wonder that it is estimated that as many as 85% of us are in the wrong size! As we all know we can be one dress size in one retailer's range and a completely different size in another, and it is exactly the same with bra manufacturers, but even more varied. Joanna set up her own bra fitting business from her Faversham home in 2019 and has now won several Business awards for offering a very personal service. Several of us left the meeting promising to book an appointment. And who knew the best place to hand wash your bra is in the shower while using your body wash?

Our April 6th meeting will be attended by Matthew Scott, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, who will be discussing his role and his plans for tackling various issues in Kent, including the safety of women. This is a long awaited visit which had to be cancelled in 2020 and last year, so we are all looking forward to meeting him.

As a small village group we are always keen to welcome new members so if you would like to come along and meet us please call Ellie Cameron on 01795 892016

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References available upon request

01795 532627

KINGSDOWN & CREEKSIDE CHURCHES

EASTER CHILL-OUT CAFE

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**Tuesday 12th April from 10.30 - 12
at Doddington Church**

The Cancer Research UK North Downs Walk

Sunday 12 June 2022

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Stalisfield Highlife

Stalisfield Village Hall

2022

2nd June Platinum Jubilee
Celebration

16th July Treasure Hunt

27th August Village Fete

8th October Harvest Supper

9th & 10th Dec Pantomime

17th Dec Children's Christmas
Party

18th Dec Seniors' Christmas Dinner

A testimony: Escaping Ukraine

Alan Sutton, a close friend of **Saint Margaret's, Budapest**, shares his story leaving his home and son in Ukraine.

Reproduced from <https://europe.anglican.org> by kind permission of Diocese in Europe

"I have been living in Dnipro in central Ukraine since 1997. For most of that time, I have been organist to St Katherine's Lutheran. My house is in an idyllic spot by an inlet off the River Dnipro itself, about 15 miles from



Alan's home in Dnipro. Ukraine

the town where I live with my 19-year-old son, Julian.

We bought a generator as we live outside the city and our water supply is a well with water pumped up by an electric pump. We slowly stocked up with food and fuel. I had a lot of pressure from family outside Ukraine to leave while Julian was adamant that he would not leave; he was born there and lived all his life there.

So, as a compromise, I said I would follow the Embassies and decamp to West Ukraine for a bit, not to L'viv, where everyone else was going, but to Mukachevo - a rather picturesque town near the Hungarian border. There is a daily train to Budapest so I bought a train ticket for the evening of the 24th. I was very lucky. The invasion began in the early

morning of the 24th, and Dnipro received two bombs, one on the airport and one on a radio station.

Thereafter it has been quiet. Long queues formed at ATMs, Pharmacies, Bakeries and Petrol Stations. I thought I would have to stay. Then we found out at the last minute that my train was still running, and so I took it. There were a lot of people at the station but I missed the scramble as I already had a ticket. The other berth in my compartment was occupied by a couple with a toddler who amazingly slept for almost the whole of the way to L'viv.

The train was blacked out at 8 pm and we travelled very slowly all night, stumbling around in the dark or using mobile phones as torches. We were also rerouted due to an air attack on one of the towns on the main line. While we were travelling, news came through that men aged 18-60 were forbidden from leaving the country, and there was a tearful scene by the couple when we arrived at L'viv as they had planned to go to Poland, but he would now have to return.

I continued to Mukachevo, and the next day was lucky again, getting a ticket from a gentleman who was now unable to travel. He asked me to see his wife onto a train to Warsaw from Budapest, which I did.

Since that time, over 2 million have left Ukraine, of which over 200,000 have travelled to Hungary. Most of them are going to wherever they have friends or relatives who can take them in. By far the largest numbers are going to Poland or the Czech Republic where already large numbers of Ukrainians were working.



Alan at the 2015 Europa League Final in Warsaw

Almost all are women and children, apart from the sizeable contingent of foreign students. I was very depressed to hear of two neighbours of mine, a mother and daughter, who have a sponsor in the UK who is a British citizen but not family. They made it to Calais, via Moldova and Romania, in a journey far less comfortable than mine, only to be told to go to a visa application centre in Paris, where they have been for three days.

Read about the [Diocese in Europe and USPG Ukraine Appeal](#) or you can donate to the appeal on europe.anglican.org

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www.kent.police.uk

EASTLING

Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Trustees

Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish Council

These two meetings will take place in the village hall on

Monday 4th April 2022;

the Trustees meeting at 7.30pm and the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00pm.

Please come along to support these two local organisations and raise any comments and queries.

Both meetings are open to all.

Eastling Neighbourhood Watch

Village Warden

07794 010 394

or 01795 890848



Police 101 Emergency 999

Usual reminder to keep animals under more control in the vicinity of livestock as the farmers are entitled under law to shoot any animal that is worrying or attacking their livestock. It can cause distress from all sides.

Now is the time that certain people will be looking out for any gardening machinery that may be accessible for onward gain. Please make sure your machinery, including any electrical hand tools, are safely locked away.

Although there have been one of two cases where police have visited the village over the last month, generally all is quiet and well and hopefully it will stay that way.

There is a campaign running regarding abuse against women and children, should this involve any person or anyone knows of this occurring please ring 101 where you will be treated with respect and the call will be treated as confidential.

Enjoy the spring
Take care
Alan



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Call 07771045382
Message them on their Facebook page
Please note that they have a limited number of emergency vouchers.

FAVERSHAM UMBRELLA CENTRE

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Please leave a message on the answerphone and someone will call you back.

BENEFICE OF FAVERSHAM CHURCHES

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Email 4favershamchurches@gmail.com

AGE UK: FAVERSHAM

Call 01795 532766
You may need to leave a message on the answering machine.



Most of our agencies are working remotely so reply calls may be made from a withheld number. Please try and apply for a voucher the day before you visit us.

Spring Statement

from Helen Whatley M.P. for Faversham

is available to view on the Eastling Parish Council website:

www.eastlingvillage.co.uk

All Together Now

Time together in church for all ages

Lynsted Church

10.15 for coffee

10.30 start

3rd Sunday each month:

20th March

17th April - Easter Sunday with Easter egg hunt

15th May - followed by b.y.o. picnic lunch

19th June

16th July - family fun day - Teynham church

17th July - at Teynham Church with Holy Communion

Have you ever been to church before and have worried about your children making too much noise?

Have you ever been to church and wondered why there aren't many young people or families there?

Have you ever been to church and don't know where you fit in or would like to do something a little bit different?

All Together Now is a new way to do church, post all the covid restrictions, to enable people of all ages to enjoy church TOGETHER!!! We'll be sharing a story from the bible, sharing each other's experience and helping one another understand what God is like, and how amazing life can be when we include God in it all, including the mess!!!

This month, the theme is Spring and turning a new leaf.

Please come along. We're excited to be putting this on - it's something for families, grandparents, uncles, aunts, people on their own, babies, in fact, it's for everyone.

This is a service for people from the whole of Kingsdown, Creekside and High Downs Benefice - from Stalsfield to Oare, come along and see what church is like. It's fun, inclusive, joyful and an encouragement to us all to share light and life every day of the week.

For more info, contact caroline.turvey@kc-hd.org.uk



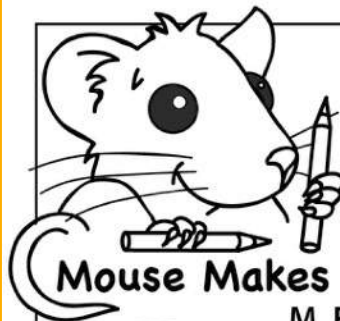
"It's not as picturesque as the old steeple but it's saving a fortune in electricity bills!"

HIGH DOWNS



Dates for your diaries:

- 23.3.22 Karaoke talent and cooking for Mothering Sunday
- 13.4.22 Easter fun and chocolate
- 27.4.22 Earth day - love our planet
- 11.5.22 Craft extravaganza
- 25.5.22 Wide games
- 8.6.22 Jubilee party and Father's Day presses
- 22.6.22 Sports week - Bake off Prep
- 13.7.22 Bake Off judging
- 27.7.22 Commonwealth Olympics
- 24.8.22 Youth Fest
- 25.8.22 Youth Fest and BBQ
- 26.8.22 Youth Fest with Lynsted Youth



Who betrayed Jesus?
Who denied Jesus?

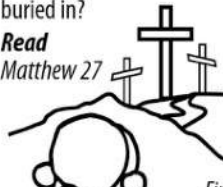
Read Matthew 26:17-75



What did the soldiers put on Jesus at his crucifixion?
What time did Jesus die?
Whose tomb was Jesus buried in?

Read

Matthew 27



HAPPY EASTER!

Jesus has risen!

Jesus is with us!

Jesus will come again!

M E S S I A H W I N E
E T R E E D O N K E Y
A Q C H R I S T I T P
L R G O D H A O S H A
R O B E A E N V T R S
A O O B R A N C H E S
N M J O K V A P O E O
G O O D N E W S R D V
E R Y Y E N V A N A E
L N J E S U S V S Y R
P I B D S Q U I P S C
E N L I N E N O I C U
A G O T E L L U R R P
C R O W N N D R I O Q
E A D E A T H A T S U
B O D Y E N A I L S A
S P A L M S T S K T K
C R U C I F Y E I O E
D A E B R E A D S M B
K I N G O L O T S B U
I S T O N E M A R Y R
S E A S T E R O A D Y

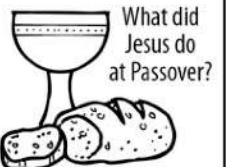
Find these words from the Easter story in the word search:

DONKEY • ROAD • BRANCHES • PALMS • KING • HOSANNA
PASSOVER • ROOM • BREAD • WINE • CUP • MEAL • BODY • BLOOD
KISS • MESSIAH • CHRIST • JESUS • CRUCIFY • CROWN • THORNS
ROBE • TREE • NAILS • CROSS • DARKNESS • QUAKE • DEATH • LOTS
TOMB • LINEN • STONE • BODY • BURY • THREE DAYS • MORNING
MARY • ANGEL • HEAVEN • GOD • RAISED • JOY • GO TELL
GOOD NEWS • PEACE • SPIRIT • SAVIOUR • PRAISE • EASTER



What did Jesus send the disciples to find?
What did the crowd do?

Read
Matthew 21:1-11



Read Matthew 26:17-30



On the third day who rolled away the stone covering the tomb?
What had happened to Jesus?

Read
Matthew 28



We run regular monthly lectures on the fourth Thursday at the Alexander Centre, Faversham. Subjects cover all aspects of the Arts in its widest sense and are given by experts in their chosen field and include university lecturers, broadcasters and tour guides. Come along to a lecture as a guest (£5 fee) or join for a year's lectures.

Our next lecture is on the 28th April at 11.00am and is given by Leslie Primo on "The Cult of the South Pacific: Cook to Gauguin". Coffee and biscuits will be served from 10.20am

This lecture will look at the enduring Western obsession with, and invention of, the so called 'exotic' or 'noble savage' starting with the first discovery of the Island of Tahiti in 1767 and charting the impact, through painted images of the island and their people, of the English and European influence in this part of the world through the eyes of not only Captain Cook and those who came before him, but also through the eyes of the artists that accompanied these pioneering

The Arts Society Faversham



voyages and into the 19th and early 20th century with the images of Gauguin.

Leslie Primo holds a BA in Art History and an MA in Renaissance Studies from Birkbeck College, University of London. Was Visiting Lecturer in Art History at the University of Reading in 2005 and 2007, gave lectures and guided tours, plus special talks, at both the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery for 18 years.

Currently he lectures at the City Literary Institute, Imperial College, London, and has

presented a series of talks at the National Maritime Museum and the Courtauld Institute

For further information contact us at info@theartsocietyfaversham.org.uk <https://www.theartsocietyfaversham.org.uk>

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Sunday Services

3rd April Lent 5

Philippians 3. 4b - 14, John 12. 1 - 8

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion CW

Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

10th April Palm Sunday

Psalms 118. 1-2, 19-29, Luke 19. 28 - 40

Eastling 9am Holy Communion BCP

Throwley 10.30am Morning Prayer

Monday 11th April

7.30pm Evening Prayer with Reflections, Newnham

Tuesday 12th April

7.30pm Evening Prayer with Reflections, Eastling

Wednesday 13th April

7.30pm Evening Prayer with Reflections, Doddington

Maundy Thursday 14th April

7pm The Last Supper with Shepherds Pie Supper, Reflections, Sharing of Bread and Wine in Norton Village Hall, Prayers in the Orchard and finishing together in Norton Church.

Good Friday 15th April

10.30am Stations of the Cross, Doddington Church

2pm Last Hour of the Cross, Newnham Church

Saturday 16th April

7.30pm Evening Prayer with Reflections, Eastling

17th April Easter Day

Acts 10. 34 - 43, Luke 24. 1 - 12

Stalisfield 10.30am Easter Communion

Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship

Lynsted 10.30am All Age Service

24th April Easter 2

Acts 5. 27 - 32 John 20. 19 - 31

Throwley 10.30am Holy Communion

1st May Easter 3

Acts 9. 1 - 6 [7 - 20], John 21. 1 - 19

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion CW

Wychling 5.30pm Evensong

Online Daily Worship Continues

As well as the services in our churches, the daily 9am Morning Prayer at Lynsted will continue and be live online on www.kingsdowncreekside.co.uk - also on the Kingsdown and Creekside Facebook page.

High Downs Parish

Rector Reverend Canon Dr. Steve Lillicrap
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Associate Priest Reverend James (Jim) Pye
01795 890726 jim.pye@kc-hd.org.uk

Curate Reverend Caroline Turvey
01795 886351 caroline.turvey@kc-hd.org.uk

Reader Caroline Ramshaw (07799 538809)

Anna Chaplain Caroline Ramshaw
AnnaChaplaincy@outlook.com

Churchwardens

Eastling Andrew Baxter (01795 890598)

Administrator Janet Payne
E mail: eastlingchurch@gmail.com

Stalisfield with Otterden
Jenny King (01795 890366)

Administrator Shirley Pritchard
Email: Stmarystalisfield@gmail.com

Throwley Gaynore Moss (01795 890995)

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

CONTACT THE GOOD NEWS EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like to submit articles, or to advertise in the May 2022 magazine, send your submission by 20th April to: goodnewsmagazine@me.com.

Past and current issues of the Good News may be viewed on ccgi.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews or www.goodnews.rf.gd

Maundy Thursday is the 5th day of Holy Week.

'Maundy' comes from the Latin word for command, 'mandare'. On this day the Church looks back to Jesus' command to His disciples that they should: "Love one another as I have loved you."

On the evening of Maundy Thursday Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples, before going on to the Garden of Gethsemane and being arrested. It was the last evening He had with them before His crucifixion.

At the Last Supper Jesus shocked His disciples by washing their feet. He did this as an example, to demonstrate to them that they should serve others with humility. Over the centuries, some churches have recreated this act of humility at a special service on Maundy Thursday.



Report from KCC Representative – March 2022

At the KCC annual budget meeting in February, the administration put forward their proposed budget for the 2022/23 financial year. For a variety of reasons, they are in the unenviable position of having to balance the budget to provide more services each year for a growing population with increasingly complex needs; and do so with less money, because although council tax increases each year, the amount received from central government usually falls.

One of the administration's proposals was to cut the current level of subsidy provided for bus services across the county by £2 million. Opposition groups put forward various amendments to try and prevent this cut from going ahead, but sadly were unable to get it removed from the budget. Unfortunately for Swale East, a fair amount of the services proposed to be cut are rural services, and a number of them serve the villages and parishes across our area.

A consultation on the future of these services opened on 20th February and will remain open until 20th April. It can be found online at <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/bus-funding-reductions> (or tinyurl.com/kentbus on most web browsers).

If you use these services, please respond to the consultation so that your voice is heard.

The services in Swale East in line for cuts are...

Kent Karrier – formerly known as Dial a Ride, this service provides a vital lifeline for elderly and vulnerable residents in communities such as Throwley, which are already without a bus service. If the other services listed below are cut, then demand (and the need) for the Kent Karrier service would increase hugely.

And the following services currently provided by Chalkwell...

8 – serving Sittingbourne, Bapchild, Teynham and Conyer

332 – serving Deans Bottom in Bredgar parish

343, 344 and 345 – serving Newnham, Doddington, Lynsted, Conyer, Teynham, Bapchild, Sittingbourne and Bredgar

And the following school services...

662 – serving Teynham, Lynsted, Doddington, Newnham, Ospringe and Faversham

664 – serving Conyer, Teynham and Lynsted

666 – from Faversham to Sheldwich

(The 666 Stagecoach bus from Faversham to Ashford will remain in service)

I will be working hard to raise awareness of these proposed cuts over the coming weeks as I believe that the social and environmental costs of losing these services greatly outweigh the financial savings they represent.

I will also be working with officers at the council as I believe the currently stated financial savings have been

overestimated. One argument put forward for cutting services has been that bus usage is only at 70% of pre-pandemic levels, but figures I've seen suggest that these routes are seeing 89% of their pre-pandemic passenger numbers, which underlines their importance to our communities.

I will be holding drop in sessions at the locations and times below for anyone that would like assistance responding to the consultation.

Saturday 2nd April

Rodmersham Village Hall – 9.30am to 11am
The Ship, Conyer – Midday to 2pm

Saturday 9th April

Newnham Village Hall – 9.30am to 11.30am
Doddington Village Hall – Midday to 2pm

Rich Lehmann

(rich.lehmann@kent.gov.uk)

If you have any questions about the consultation, please feel free to email me at rich.lehmann@kent.gov.uk and I'll be happy to help.

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Stalisfield Village Hall, ME13 0HY - Thursdays 18.30 - 19.30

Lenham Community Centre - Tuesdays 6.45 - 7.45pm
and Saturdays 9-10am

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