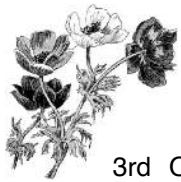


# Good News Parish Magazine

High Downs Parish

Serving the villages of  
Eastling, Otterden,  
Stalisfield and Throwley  
[www.goodnews.rf.gd](http://www.goodnews.rf.gd)



## APRIL 2024

- 3rd Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.  
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 10th Stalisfield Youth Group  
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 11th Singing Kettle Song Group  
Newnham Village Hall 2 - 3pm
- 11th Arts Society lecture, Egerton  
Millennium Hall, Egerton 2.30pm
- 11th Charing History Society  
Parish Hall, Charing 7.30pm
- 11th Eastling Annual Meetings  
Eastling Village Hall 7.30pm
- 20th Copy deadline for May Good News  
[goodnewsmagazine@me.com](mailto:goodnewsmagazine@me.com)
- 24th Youth Group  
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 25th Arts Society lecture, Faversham  
Alexander Centre 11am
- 26th Eat, Pray, Walk  
Doddington Church 1.30pm
- 26th Quiz Night  
Stalisfield Village Hall 7pm
- 28th Bluebell Walk  
Doddington Church 2pm

## MAY

- 1st Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.  
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 6th Spring Fair  
Belmont House 11am - 4pm
- 14th Throwley Parish Council AGM 6.30pm  
Annual Parish Meeting 7.15pm Throwley Church
- 16th Stalisfield Annual Parish Meeting  
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 19th Hymns & Pimms with Pim  
Stalisfield Church 5.30pm

## JUNE

- 1st Throwley Fête Throwley Forstal Green

## Get training!

The Stalisfield Quiz  
is only weeks away!



To do list:

1. Book table  
.....[katejamiesoncornhill@gmail.com](mailto:katejamiesoncornhill@gmail.com). 07810 721125
2. Ring friends with date - 26th April, 7pm at  
Stalisfield Village Hall
3. Pay £7.50 each - card or cash on night ....and  
raffle!
4. Prepare delicious picnic and chill the wine!

## Easter Services

### Maundy Thursday 28th March

7.30pm Last Supper and Service, Norton  
Church.

### Good Friday 29th March

10.30am Stations of the Cross, Doddington  
Church  
1 - 3pm Family Trail, Teynham Church  
2-3pm Last Hour of the Cross, Eastling Church

### 31st March Easter Day

6.30am Sunrise Service, Wychling  
Church  
10.30am Benefice Communion with  
Bishop Rose, Teynham Church



## STOP PRESS.....

- Reverend Paula Jardine-Rose will become our new
- Rector of Kingsdown, Creekside and High Downs on
- 2nd May 2024, service details to follow.
- We pray that God will bless Paula and sustain her in
- her ministry in this benefice.

## April Message



I watched a programme recently on the first moon walk by Neil Armstrong of Apollo 11 in 1969. Some would say

this was one of the most momentous events in human history. Later I went outside and looked up at the bright moon and thought, how is this possible, I found it hard to believe that someone had walked on the moon - it seemed too incredible.

I imagine that's how many people relate to the resurrection - it's just too big a leap to believe and just too incredible. Some have even tried to disprove the event as fanciful, a cruel hoax or delusional.

Two Oxford university law professors agreed during their summer recess to review the evidence of the resurrection with the intention of proving it a fraud and discrediting Christianity - then to write a book together advocating this view. When the professors returned one said to his colleague, "I'm really sorry and quite embarrassed to tell you that having studied all the evidence, I'm now firmly convinced that Jesus Christ rose from the dead, as claimed, and is alive - so we can't write that book. His colleague said, "You don't know how relieved I am to hear this, for like you, and after much research of the evidence, I have come to the same conclusion." So

the men did write a book together, entitled 'The book that was never to be written', affirming their belief in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ.

So, purely based on the evidence, these learned men proved for themselves - beyond doubt - that Christ rose from the grave on that first Easter Sunday. God has been careful to provide such compelling evidence both actual and circumstantial - first to Mary and those women at the tomb, then to the disciples on the Emmaus road and in the upper room - to Peter and John who went to the tomb - and then appearing on 12 separate occasions to his disciples following his resurrection - even to eat fish and chips with them - and on one occasion appearing to over 500 people; they each became convinced he was alive.

As Christians, we too are convinced that Jesus is alive and has risen from the grave. We don't need to be embarrassed to believe this, that Jesus is alive, the evidence is so good. The tragedy today is that many people are not willing to look at the evidence, it is there if you really want to find it. It shows that, when we look at the evidence, the Bible is absolutely accurate - we can trust in what it tells us.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a demonstration of God's great power and his promise of new life. The resurrection proves that Jesus is, without doubt, the Son of God and of God's revelation to

the world in him. Through the resurrection, Christians believe life has triumphed over death, good over evil, hope over despair - we are living in a moral universe. And because Jesus is alive, the experience of the resurrection means we can have a wonderful relationship with God each day and every day.

I remember a famous preacher who was preaching to a crowd in Hyde Park - and he said "Jesus Christ is alive today!" - and a heckler in the crowd shouted "How do you know he's alive?" The preacher replied, "Because I was talking with him earlier today". This is the experience every Christian can have - an Easter gift we can cherish and offer others who also want to know him - in our homes - in our communities - in our work and daily living - as we share this good news. Glory to God in the High Street!



Whether in the evidence or through our experience, God is calling us this Eastertide to trust and turn to him. He is calling us to repentance and to recommit our lives to following his Son Jesus. I pray that we all can say with the Angels and the Saints above.... "He lives, He reigns, He is the Living Lord, who was; and is; and is to come. Alleluia! He is risen, He is risen indeed!"

Mark Harlow

## April Prayer Pointers

**Mondays** - Give thanks for the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Tuesdays** - Pray for newly baptised Christians and those turning to Jesus.

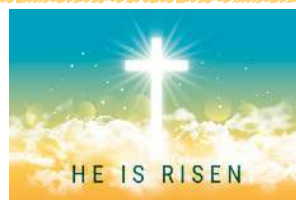
**Wednesdays** - Give thanks for our farmers growing the food we eat.

**Thursdays** - Pray for all who are hungry or live in poverty.

**Fridays** - Give thanks for all working to healing the sick .

**Saturdays** - Pray for all in need of healing, physically and mentally.

**Sundays** - Praise the Lord for the beauty of the countryside in this season of new hope.



## Eastling Church

### Flower rota



31st March - Easter Lilies

7th & 14th April - Gaby

21st & 28th April - Di

5th May - Cerys

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

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**The Plough Inn,  
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a family run, independent, award winning pub & restaurant offering an extensive menu of both 2 AA rosette dishes and your traditional pub classics.

Mental health is so important we are offering a free tea/coffee on **Wellbeing Wednesdays** between 4.30pm & 6pm & 10% off drinks to encourage everyone out to chat with friends or make new ones.

Don't forget that we offer a **take away Fish & Chip service** Wednesdays & Thursday 5.30 - 6.45pm.

**Easter weekend** will begin with our traditional blackboard of Good Friday fish specials, Saturday and Sunday as usual and also open bank holiday Monday from 12 - 5pm.

There will be activities to keep the little ones entertained over the weekend too!

**The Pride of Plough** has said thank you to Cat from Stalisfield & Brendan from Throwley who all were nominated for Sunday lunch with us.

Please don't forget to send in your nominations to

[community@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk](mailto:community@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk)

**Keep up to date** by following us on Facebook, Instagram or X (twitter)

Stalisfield Road, Faversham, Kent, ME13 0HY  
Tel: 01795 890 256 Email:

[info@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk](mailto:info@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk)

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**Rebecca Lapslie**

MCFHP MAFHP

Foot health professional

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**01795 486849**

**07734 698792**

The opening verses of chapter 14 in St. John's gospel are very special to many of us, they certainly are to me. They bring us great comfort in this time of fear and uncertainty, and I hope that this little reflection upon them might do the same for others:

**The Way**

Come, still your hearts, let troubles go  
For you believe in Me,  
And I am with you, I will show  
The way ahead of thee.

My Father's house has many rooms  
You know my words are so!  
My Spirit and my Word illumines  
The way that you shall go.

I am the Way, the Truth, the Life  
Believe and you shall see  
The way through tempest  
and through strife  
To My eternity.

By Niall Beeton

10AM - 4PM

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**Eastling School** (School days only, 8am - 4.30pm) sited in the corridor of Main Building. ME13 0BA

**Stalisfield** sited at Stalisfield Village Hall, ME13 0JE

**Throwley** sited in the old Telephone Box outside the Old Post Office, ME13 0HY



## THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

*The Arts Society brings people together through a shared curiosity for the arts*

We meet at Egerton Millennium Hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 2.30 p.m. (doors open from 2.00). Our next lecture will be:

### **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm THE DANCING FAUN: A PERSONAL STORY OF A MASTERPIECE**

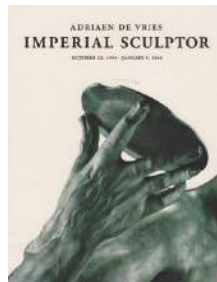
This lecture recounts the extraordinary tale of how a small bronze statue, which had sat in his grandfather's garden for 40 years, was discovered as a master piece and ended up in the Getty Museum, California.

**Bertie Pearce** has a BA (Hons) in Drama, and a Diploma Internationale from the École Internationale du Théâtre, Jacques Lecoq. Member of the Inner Magic Circle, with Gold Star. Has toured the world with a magic cabaret show and a one-man show entitled All Aboard

Visitors are always very welcome at £6, refunded if you join. For further information please contact Christine Willis, our Membership Secretary via [cmwillis75@gmail.com](mailto:cmwillis75@gmail.com) or 01233 756377.

See also our website [www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk)

Image provided by lecturer



## The Arts Society Faversham



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 or join for a year's lectures.

### **Our next lecture is on the Thursday 25 April 2024 at 11.00am on "The Topsy Turvy World of Misericords" by Imogen Corrigan.**

**Coffee and biscuits will be served from 10.20am.**

This lecture shows some of the surprising images that exist in some 400 churches in England, UK and the Continent. The art form was in vogue mainly in the 13th to 16th centuries and rarely includes religious images despite often being placed near to the high altars. Sometimes bizarre and often profane meant they survived the Reformation.

Much social comment can be gleaned from these carvings.

#### **Biography:**

*After nearly 20 years in the British army, Imogen Corrigan went to the University of Kent to study Anglo-Saxon & Medieval History and Art, graduating with 1st class honours, followed by an MPhil from the University of Birmingham. She works as a freelance lecturer across Britain and Europe as well as lecturing on small cruise ships and running study tours and courses on land and has written Stone on Stone: the Men Who Built the Cathedrals, published 2019. A Freeman of the City of London, being a Member of the Company of Communicators.*

For further information contact us at [info@theartsocietyfaversham.org.uk](mailto:info@theartsocietyfaversham.org.uk) .

## Otterden & Stalisfield W.I

The March meeting of Otterden & Stalisfield W.I. saw Yvonne Fernando visit us again for an evening of de-stressing. Yvonne gave us the tools to calm ourselves down from our everyday lives, which was particularly useful for those of us who are still in the workplace.

Our President, Helen, has arranged tickets for a couple of outings to The Marlowe Theatre later this year to see *Pretty Woman* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*, so something to look forward to in the near future. There is also the opportunity to join events organised by local W.I.'s which I am sure some of us will attend.

On Wednesday 3rd April, one of our Members, Marion Bond and her husband, will be reading letters from their parents' wartime romance, reliving many memories of that period in time. A very different world to which we now live, in so many ways. We will be finishing off the evening with beverages and cake while we all socialise and catch up on the local gossip.

If you are new to the area, do come along and join our friendly group. We meet the first Wednesday of each month at Stalisfield Village Hall, commencing at 7.30 p.m. Contact our President Helen Brooks on 07477580727 or our Secretary Ellie Cameron on 07775649337 for further details.

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**See our availability here:** <https://www.eastlingvillagehall.co.uk/calendar>

# North Downs Walk

for Cancer Research UK



**SUNDAY 9th JUNE 2024**  
**Online Registration now open**

[www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk/north-downs-walk](http://www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk/north-downs-walk)

A sponsored walk, starting and finishing at Harrietsham Village Hall, followed by a ploughman's lunch and live musical entertainment.

Choice of 1,3,6 and 9 mile routes.

50% of sponsorship money is donated to Cancer Research UK, and the other 50% to your choice of charity or good cause.

An opportunity for your fundraising, with Rotary providing the organisation



All expenses are underwritten by our event sponsor, Family Funeral Service.

Every penny raised in sponsorship will go to the charities.



Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1099484), Scotland (SC041988), the Isle of Man (1103) and Jersey (247). Registered address: 7 Redman Place, London E20 1JQ.



# Wags & Tales



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**CHARING & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Viking Life and Legend**

*Speaker: Imogen Corrigan*

The popular view of the Vikings is of thuggish invaders and ferocious fighters who were masters of navigation and great traders; but about their culture which influenced later church art in Britain? The lecture looks at Sagas, Skaldic poetry, runes and picture stones and how the various artistic styles developed over the two centuries of the Viking Age. It shows the more sensitive side of the Vikings.

**Thursday 11th April 2024,**

Parish Hall, Station Road

Doors open 7.30, talk starts promptly at 8pm



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



**Bluebell Walk**

Sunday 28th April

2pm from Doddington Church.

Approximate 2.5 mile stroll lead by

Richard Moyse, local flora & fauna expert.

£5 payable on the day  
Tea & cake to finish



**'Happy times with old songs, tea & chatter'**

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11th April, 9th May, 13th June, 11th July

2pm – 3pm at Newnham Village Hall  
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suitable for those living with dementia and their carers (carers attend free of charge)

Enquiries to Lissie on 07790 287878 or email [lissiebayford@gmail.com](mailto:lissiebayford@gmail.com)



**Pentecost Stalisfield**

Sunday 19th May

**Evensong 5.30pm:  
Hymns & Pimms  
with Pim**



**Belmont House & Gardens  
What's On**

**Creative Drawing Workshop**

Wednesday 24th April, 11am - 1pm

Artist and educator Robert Lamoon returns to Belmont for a second series of creative drawing workshops.

During this workshop will look at the work of Edvard Munch and be inspired to create drawings of Belmont gardens loosely in his style. £60.00 per person. All materials and light refreshments included.

**Spring Fair**

Monday 6th May, 11am – 4pm

This event is the perfect way to spend a spring day, browsing the variety of plants on sale and gathering great ideas for your garden for the coming season.

With a superb collection of local crafters and artisans, you can expect to find some unique, quality hand-made gifts for friends, family and maybe yourself. £7.00 per person, to include garden entry. Children under 16 are free of charge!

**Belmont House & Gardens, Throwley, Faversham, Kent ME13 0HH**  
[www.belmont-house.org](http://www.belmont-house.org)



**Eat, Pray, Walk**

Meeting at Doddington church car park at 1.30pm

26th April, 24th May, 28th June

Further information from Lissie Bayford [lissie1710@gmail.com](mailto:lissie1710@gmail.com) or 07790 287878

# Services in our Benefice

## 29th March Good Friday

Doddington 10.30am Stations of the Cross

Teynham 1 - 3pm Family Trail

Eastling 2pm Last Hour of the Cross

## 31st March Easter Day

Acts 10. 34 - 43. John 20. 1 - 18

Wychling 6.30am Sunrise Service

Teynham 10.30am Benefice Communion  
with Bishop Rose

## 7th April Easter 2

Acts 4. 32 - 35, John 20.19 - 31

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

## 14th April Easter 3

Acts 3. 12 - 19, Luke 24. 36b - 48

Throwley 10.30am Morning Prayer

Oare 10.30am Holy Communion

Lynsted 10.30am All Together Now

## 21st April Easter 4

Acts 4. 5 - 12, John 10. 11 - 18

Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship

Norton 10.30am Holy Communion

Lynsted 6pm Cornerstone

## 28th April Easter 5

Acts 8. 26 - 40, John 15. 1 - 8

Throwley 10.30am Holy Communion

Newnham 10.30am Morning Worship

## 5th May Easter 6

Acts 10. 44 - end, John 15. 9 - 17

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

\*\*\*\*\*

## Online Daily Worship Continues

As well as the services in our churches, the daily 9am Morning Prayer will continue via Benefice Facebook Page

<https://kc-hd.org.uk> .

More information is updated weekly on St Mary's Eastling 'A Church Near You':

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11982/>

# High Downs Parish

Rector Vacant

Benefice Administrator Joyce Warren  
01795 521831 [joyce.warren@kc-hd.org.uk](mailto:joyce.warren@kc-hd.org.uk)

Associate Priest Reverend James (Jim) Pye  
01795 890726 [jim.pye@kc-hd.org.uk](mailto:jim.pye@kc-hd.org.uk)

Reader Caroline Ramshaw (07799 538809)

Anna Chaplain Caroline Ramshaw  
[AnnaChaplaincy@outlook.com](mailto:AnnaChaplaincy@outlook.com)

Reader Pim Baxter (07710 116269)

## Church Contacts

Eastling Andrew Baxter, Warden (01795 890598)

Administrator E mail: [stmaryeastling@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryeastling@gmail.com)

## Stalisfield with Otterden

Jenny King, Warden (01795 890366)

Shirley Pritchard, Administrator

Email: [Stmarystalisfield@gmail.com](mailto:Stmarystalisfield@gmail.com)

Throwley Email: [timothydavid.jones@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:timothydavid.jones@yahoo.co.uk)

## High Downs Parish Safeguarding Officer

Mark Harlow (07979 864000)

E mail: [mark.harlow@kc-hd.org.uk](mailto:mark.harlow@kc-hd.org.uk)

\*\*\*\*\*

## From The Registers

### Baptisms

Otilie Morris

25th February 2024 at Throwley

Jesse Stuart Brand

3rd March 2024 at Eastling

### Funerals

Alva Evans

12th March 2024 at Otterden

Jennifer Banbury

13th March 2024 at Throwley

\*\*\*\*\*

## CONTACT THE GOOD NEWS EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like to submit articles, or to advertise in the May 2024 magazine, send your submission by 20th April to: [goodnewsmagazine@me.com](mailto:goodnewsmagazine@me.com).

Past and current issues of the Good News may be viewed on [www.goodnews.rf.gd](http://www.goodnews.rf.gd)

## Anna Chaplaincy

Please contact our Anna Chaplain, Caroline Ramshaw, if you know of someone who is isolated, alone, or unable to attend church.

An Anna Chaplain can offer a listening ear and company.

Communion can be brought to you in your own home.



Contact your local Anna Chaplain on:  
[annachaplaincy@outlook.com](mailto:annachaplaincy@outlook.com)

07799538809

## News from Citizens Advice Swale

citizens  
advice

We're experiencing a busy winter at Citizens Advice Swale, including our energy advice team, which was formed in response to the national cost of living crisis.

Fortunately, with the help of funding from a number of local and national bodies, we've been able to direct energy advice and financial assistance to the most vulnerable in our community as well as to those who've needed extra support in these challenging times.

Since our energy project began, the team has operated through a number of channels, providing face-to-face energy and general advice in local foodbank venues while ensuring we reach out to the most isolated clients by telephone and email. The aim of the project hasn't simply been to help clients access emergency energy funding but to provide a holistic advice service to address clients' specific issues. As important as it is to deliver this short-term assistance, we aim to empower clients to tackle the root of their problems so they're better able to manage going forward.

Although each client has been affected in different ways depending on their individual circumstances, we've noticed several recurring themes from those we've helped.

Single parents with young children have been some of the most affected by the cost of living crisis and they've struggled to afford the high energy costs alongside the rising prices of food, school supplies and other essentials. Many of these parents have found themselves asking for food and fuel vouchers for the first time in their lives and so it's been pivotal for us to assist these clients to help them find the necessary providers of support within the community.

The cost of living crisis hasn't discriminated in terms of age however, with several middle-age and pension age clients struggling to afford expensive energy payments. Many clients in this age bracket have been unaware of the energy support

available, with much of it being advertised on the internet or gov.uk website. We've ensured that such clients are able to navigate the myriad of energy related information that is communicated over the internet and that they're receiving all the support they're entitled to.

Many of the clients we've helped also suffer from multiple health conditions. When providing energy support to these clients we've discovered that many of these clients haven't been accessing the necessary benefits or housing according to their health needs. Our holistic approach to advice has been especially crucial here as we have been able to help the client with several types of issues at first contact and ensure they're then able to receive help from specialists, eg debt and benefits, in our wider local team.

Throughout this project we've found that the majority of our clients requiring energy support are those that pay using Prepayment Meters (PPMs), however many billed customers have also struggled to maintain payments. Regardless of payment type, we've ensured that all clients are receiving any financial assistance that they qualify for in addition to providing practical energy advice to help maximise their income.

If you need help with energy, please get in touch with us by filling out the form at [www.citizensadviceSwale.uk/hsf](http://www.citizensadviceSwale.uk/hsf)

For help with other issues (eg benefits, debt or housing), please email us at [www.citizensadviceSwale.uk/email-general-advice](mailto:www.citizensadviceSwale.uk/email-general-advice) or call Adviceline on freephone 0808 278 7979.

**We run drop-in sessions** at Swale House in Sittingbourne every Monday (10am-12pm), at the Sheppey Gateway in Sheerness every Tuesday (10am-12pm), and at **43 Stone Street in Faversham** every Wednesday and Friday (10am-12pm). No appointment needed.



### Where the Cattle Graze

by Audrey Keen

I look into the pasture  
Where the cattle graze,  
And see the grass  
Moved by the wind.  
In my mind  
I touch the dipping hills,  
Mounted by the blue grey sky,  
And the sun shines  
On brown trees.  
And these together  
Create light and shade,  
And a glow of warmth  
As the clouds trundle on,  
And the cattle continue to graze.

\*\*\*\*\*



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#### The Old Rectory, Otterden

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#### Beech Court Gardens, Challock

Sunday 19th May  
11am - 4.30pm, Admin £5, children free.

#### Doddington Place

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#### Belmont, Throwley

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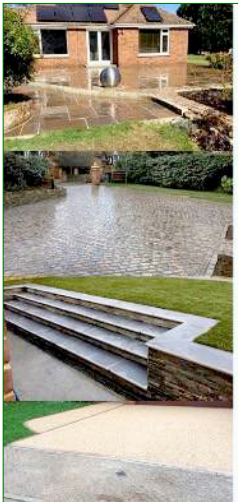
Stalisfield Village Hall, ME13 0HY - Thursdays 18.30 - 19.30

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## News from Rich Lehmann, Swale and Kent County Councillor

I'm acutely aware that in the last couple of pieces I've written I've mainly been talking rubbish (and recycling, and food waste), so I'll change the record this month. The new waste collection contract will commence on Monday 25th March, and because of the widespread changes to collection days across the borough, there will likely be a lot of disruption and confusion in the first month or two, but hopefully the new dates will 'bed in' quickly.

### BUDGETS

Kent County Council and Swale Borough Council have both now set their budgets for 2024/25. The current, widely publicised, financial pressures that councils up and down the country are facing have forced both councils into making difficult decisions relating to the cutting of services, and the increasing of charges for some of the services they provide.

It was an interesting experience for me. I've now spent three years as an opposition councillor at KCC attacking and trying to reverse or prevent cuts made in their budget; but now as an administration councillor at Swale, I'm on the other side of the coin, having to decide (along with other administration councillors) which areas to make cuts in, and then having to defend those decisions. Neither role is easy, or pleasant, and I find the whole process pretty exhausting.

One small silver lining that came out of the KCC budget was that the Faversham Household Waste Recycling Centre, which was threatened with closure in 2023, has been given a stay of execution for the coming year. However tips are still earmarked as a potential area in which the council might look to make cuts in 2025, along with libraries, school maintenance, the Kent Travel Saver (which would cost many families around £1000 without the KCC Subsidy), and "other community services".

Swale have also made some tough decisions whilst attempting to balance their books. Although here it's often more a case of increased charges (such as those for car parking) which appear to be the cause of the greatest concern.

To add insult to injury for residents, the continued reductions in funding from central government mean that both councils are effectively forced to raise their council tax rates by the maximum allowed amount (4.99% for KCC and 2.99% for Swale) just to avoid having to make those cuts even deeper.

I sincerely hope that changes are made in the coming years which mean that local government is given more funding to provide the services that our communities desperately need.

Rich Lehmann  
rich.lehmann@kent.gov.uk  
<http://kentgreencouncillors.news/>

## Eastling Neighbourhood Watch



**Village Warden** 07794 010  
394 or 01795 890848

**Police 101 Emergency 999**

For any scam or cyber attacks or  
calls please report it on  
0330 123 2040

Another reminder to keep your dogs on leads in the vicinity of sheep especially at this time of the year. There are no excuses and, as can be seen in the media, there are far too many attacks resulting in death or suffering. Take care if you enter a field of cattle as they are liable to attack if threatened.

A few polite requests for drivers who park their vehicles alongside The Old Rectory in Eastling Road. If you would kindly park your vehicles further up along the wall away from Newnham Lane it would be appreciated as very often you are halfway across the road before you can see any approaching traffic.

Please make sure that all your gardening equipment is safely locked away as there have been some shed break-ins in local areas.

Take care  
Alan

### TRUSTEES OF EASTLING VILLAGE HALL

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
Thursday 11th April 2024 at  
7.30pm

The Annual General Meeting of the Trustees of Eastling Village Hall will be held on Thursday 11th April 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The Village Hall meeting will be followed at 8pm by the Annual Parish meeting of Eastling Parish Council. All Eastling residents are invited to attend both meetings.

### EASTLING ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Thursday 11th April 2023 at 8pm in  
the Village Hall.

### Throwley Parish Council

AGM at 6.30pm, followed by the Annual Parish Meeting from 7.15pm on Tuesday 14th May, in Throwley Church

### Stalisfield Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 16th May, 7.30pm in Stalisfield Village Hall

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## An Easter reflection

by Canon David Winter.

"When you die, that's it. Nothing. Out like a light." That's what the man in the pub said, and his mates all nodded, though the one whose mother had died the week before wasn't really quite so certain. Still, it seemed to make sense.

After all, we know what 'dead' means: dead leaves, dead batteries, dead fish, dead pets . . . and dead people, to be honest. While we recognise that it's all too easy to go from alive to dead, we've got serious doubts about the possibility of any return journeys.

Which is why Christians have an uphill task at Easter. Jesus was a great man, and people want to remember how He died. Fair enough. But it starts getting complicated when Christians insist that Jesus died - but didn't stay dead - in fact, that He's alive now. That 'return journey' has happened, they say.

That's the problem about Easter, Christians persisting in what sounds like a ridiculous belief. If they just dropped the resurrection bit and concentrated on the wonderful teaching of Jesus and His example of generosity, compassion and love then everybody would find Christianity much more believable. Wouldn't that make sense? And wouldn't that fill the churches again?

Well it might (or, more likely, it might not). But in any case, the trouble is that it wouldn't be Christianity at all. The faith of Christians actually depends on the resurrection of Jesus, and always has done, right from the earliest days.

After the crucifixion the body of Jesus was taken down from the cross by some of His friends and put in a rock tomb with a heavy stone rolled across the doorway. Yet the following Sunday, the third day after His death, His followers claimed that they had met Him, seen Him, talked with Him.

So certain was their belief that nothing could make them recant it. Not ridicule, not torture, not even death itself. They couldn't deny His resurrection, because they were



absolutely convinced that it had happened. Plenty of clever and powerful people at the time had a vested interest in proving them wrong. It shouldn't have been difficult to prove that a dead man had stayed dead, especially when you have at your disposal the resources of the greatest empire in history. Yet they didn't do it, because it couldn't be done.

Still today millions of people all over the world believe that Jesus did in fact rise from the dead. They include brilliant scientists and philosophers as well as plenty of 'ordinary' men and women of all ages. They believe it because they respect the witness of those first Christians, and because in many cases their own lives have been transformed by a relationship with Jesus - a relationship that wouldn't make sense if He were dead!

Christians don't put their faith in a dead hero from the past, but in someone who is alive and *active in their own lives and in the world*. That, in a nutshell, is the real message of Easter.

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# Faversham Spring Fair

30th March 2024

Taking place in Preston Street and organised by Faversham Town Council, the first Faversham Spring Fair will include:

- craft stalls (featuring many Best of Faversham traders)
  - Easter trail
  - beautiful window displays
  - Easter bonnet parade and competition
  - Street food
  - Morris dancing and childrens' entertainment
- Organised by Faversham Town Council.

**Contact:**

[claire.elliott@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:claire.elliott@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

## Barn Dance

Alexander Centre  
Saturday 6th April

With live music and calling provided by the local favourite Boughton Ceilidh Band. Barn dances are a great way to have a fun event you and your guests can talk about for years to come – an event for the young and old alike, for the fit and not so fit. Admission £8, under 16's Free. Bookings: 01795 591691 E: [bookings@thealex.org.uk](mailto:bookings@thealex.org.uk)



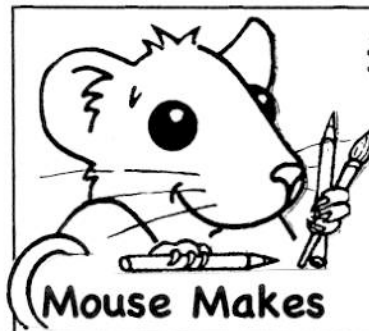
## Stalisfield Youth Group

10th & 24th April in Stalisfield Village Hall, 7 - 8.30pm  
Free to all 11-18yr olds and year 6 students now welcome to attend.

We have table tennis, craft, games, summer outdoor sports equipment, music, Wii and Xbox gaming, tuck shop and free cake!



Any questions please contact Catherine on 07929 928 046



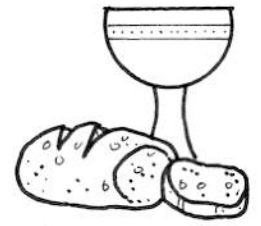
Jesus Christ is risen today!  
our triumphant holy day,  
who did once upon the cross  
suffer to redeem our loss.

Sing we to our God above  
praise eternal as his love,  
for the Lord from death is raised  
Father, Spirit, Son be praised!

ALLELUIA!



**Into Jerusalem**  
Luke 19:28-48



**The Last Supper**  
Luke 22:7-38

glue to 'betrayed'



**Betrayed**  
Luke 22:1-3, 39-53

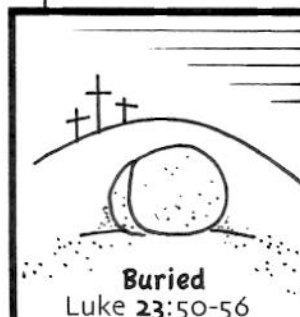


**Condemned**  
Luke 22:54-23:25



**Crucified**  
Luke 23:26-49

glue to 'Buried'



**Buried**  
Luke 23:50-56

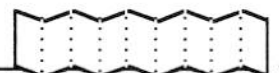


**Risen**  
Luke 24:1-12



**Jesus is Alive!**  
Luke 24:13-53

Make a mini Easter book: Cut out the strips, glue them together then zig-zag fold along the dotted lines.



Come and join the fun!

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Friday, 17th May



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1 pm – Shotgun Start

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