

# Good News Parish Magazine

## High Downs Parish

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

for current and past editions go to:  
[ccgi.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews](http://ccgi.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews)

## Services

### resume in our churches

We are pleased to invite parishioners into our churches for private prayer (see below) and also for Sunday Services.

To help keep us all safe the services will be a little different to normal - please bear with us in these difficult times. In particular single use service sheets will be on the seats in the Church - please take these with you. At communion services the bread and wine, will be brought to you in individual portions. Sadly, we cannot sing together at the moment but we will have some music to listen to during the service. We would ask everyone to wear a face covering and to use the hand sanitiser when they enter the church and when they leave, observing social distancing at all times.

**Throwley church** will continue to be open on Wednesdays and Sundays 10am-6 for private prayer.

**Eastling church** will continue to open on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12noon - 3pm for private prayer.



# August

## 2020

### Sunday Services in our churches

#### 2nd August

Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship  
Teynham 10.30am Holy Communion

#### 9th August

Doddington 10.30am Holy Communion

#### 16th August

Newnham 10.30am Morning Worship

#### 23rd August

Throwley 10.30am Morning Worship  
Teynham 10.30am Morning Worship

#### 30th August

Doddington 10.30am Morning Worship

#### 6th September

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

**Breakthrough** at 6pm in Lynsted Church  
every Sunday

When I was an 11 year old I attended a summer camp for boys, which I went on to lead for a couple of years as an adult. This camp was and its successors are part of West Runton Holidays and some will know that Jane and I have been part of the Kart Camp team for the last decade or so. Sadly all the holidays had to be cancelled this year due to the Covid pandemic.

The reason for mentioning this is a song that I learnt at that camp in the 'Large Marquee' (and it was in reality a large marquee) where the daily evening worship was held.

## Change?

*Yesterday, today, forever, Jesus is the same,  
All may change, but Jesus never, glory to His name!  
Glory to His name! Glory to His name!  
All may change, but Jesus never, glory to His name!*

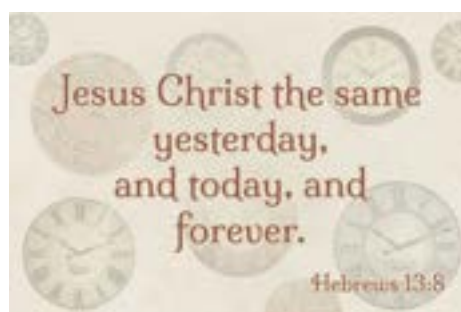
In fact looking this up I discovered that this is a chorus from a hymn, but we just sang the chorus which for us came out of a CSSM or Scripture Union book of choruses.

It was a favourite of many of the boys attending the camp (many years later the camp has become one for both boys and girls), and on the evenings where favourites could be asked for (in fact it was a way of entertaining us on a wet evening!) this was very popular. One of the leaders used to say, "We can have this song as long as someone could tell him the bible reference of the verse it is taken from." "Hebrews 13:8," we used to be itching to say! Well it was one way of encouraging us to learn bible verses and where they were from.

And so Hebrews 13:8 has stuck with me for all these years. And not only stuck with me it has been an important part of my life; in all the ups and downs of life I have been encouraged, held by, reassured by this verse.

**Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

It has struck me how important this is for us today. In the most of our changing world, and how it has changed for us since March, Jesus remains the same. Jesus is a constant where so much is a variable.



Our Church buildings were shut in March; our last Sunday was 15<sup>th</sup> March. We have been able to worship together through our on-line offerings. I have learnt how to live-stream; stitch audio clips together to make a complete service; to create a video service and many of us have learnt how to access these things for the first time.

Now we are beginning to open our Churches for worship slowly and carefully. As I write we have had our first Communion Service in a Church building since lockdown 18 weeks since the previous one. But it is different. 2 metre markings on the path on the way into Church; being taken to a specific seat; no singing although we can listen to music; signing the Peace to each other; Communion distributed very differently.

More change and more variables. I suspect that change hasn't finished as yet. As I write, I am waiting for the National Church's advice in the wearing of face coverings that becomes mandatory in shops as well as other areas from Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July.

**BUT** whatever change there is, whatever restrictions there are in

how we can do things we have the assurance that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever and I can sing that song (silently in my head!) 'All may change, but Jesus never, glory to His name.'

So whatever change we are experiencing at the moment let us please be reassured by this promise of God. Let us reaffirm the foundation that life in all its fullness is built on - our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

May we all continue to know God's blessings in the midst of all that we are experiencing at present.

*Steve Lillicrap*

## *Prayer Pointers* *August 2020*



**Mondays** - Heavenly Father, we give thanks that services are beginning again in our churches. Bless all who come to hear your Word.

**Tuesdays** - We pray for Steve, our Rector, and all who lead worship.

**Wednesdays** - Pray for all who are living with mental health problems.

**Thursdays** - Pray for our NHS staff and those working in care homes.

**Fridays** - Pray for the safety of farmers especially as the grain harvest begins.

**Saturdays** - Pray for all working in the hospitality sector.

**Sundays** - May our Lord bless us in these times of difficulties.



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## The Pigeon

by Audrey Keen

I comforted a pigeon once  
Whose life I could not save,  
I placed him 'neath the greenest hedge  
Which was to be his grave.  
It seemed so cruel to take him  
Away from all he'd known,  
A wood which he had loved  
And spent much time when he was grown.  
I left him on a layer of grass  
And long toothed bracken bed,  
But knew when I returned  
That I would find the pigeon dead.  
But now today brown butterflies  
And bumble bees reside  
On flowers that grow above the place  
Where this grey pigeon died.



### Otterden and Stalisfield WI

We had our first committee meeting for some time, held in my garden on a lovely sunny afternoon. Although Stalisfield Village Hall Trustees have done a great deal of preparation to re-open, we still are unable to hold a full meeting at the hall under the current guidelines. Although the hall would be open for some activities, the rules on 'social bubbles' and distancing make it impossible to hold a meeting at the moment. Thankfully we do not have to hold our postponed AGM this year as all the committee have decided to stay in place.

If you would like to join our group please give me, Ellie, a call on 01795 892016 or our Secretary, Helen on 07477 580727.

## The Plough Inn, Stalisfield

Open in the form of the 'New normal' please make sure you reserve a table in advance though.

All tables are at 1 metre plus inside and we have a marquee in the front garden

to provide outside tables with shelter. Table service for drinks and food is in place which although means service maybe a little slower it is of course a lot safer!

We are continuing to support the local community with our contactless shop and can arrange take aways for collection if people are still shielding.

Please let us know if we can do anything to support you.

Marianne, Richard & Nathan!

Please call 01795 890256 or email

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

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# High Downs Parish

**Rector** Reverend Canon Dr. Steve Lillicrap  
01795 522510 [highdownsvicar@gmail.com](mailto:highdownsvicar@gmail.com)

**Reader** Norman Fowler (01795 890412)  
4 Meesons Close, Eastling

**Reader** Caroline Ramshaw (07799 538809)  
4 Glebe Cottages, Eastling

## Churchwardens

**Eastling** Andrew Baxter (01795 890598)

**Administrator** Janet Payne  
E mail: [eastlingchurch@gmail.com](mailto:eastlingchurch@gmail.com)

## **Stalisfield with Otterden**

Jean West (01233 712270)

**Administrator** Sheila Moger (01233 463746)  
E mail: [samhawksnest@aol.com](mailto:samhawksnest@aol.com)

**Throwley** Gaynore Moss (01795 890995)

**Parish Office** Email: [eastlingchurch@gmail.com](mailto:eastlingchurch@gmail.com)  
[facebook.com/highdownsbeneifice](https://facebook.com/highdownsbeneifice)

## CONTACT THE *GOOD NEWS* EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like submit articles or stories, or to advertise in the September 2020 magazine, send your submission by 20th August to: [goodnewsmagazine@me.com](mailto:goodnewsmagazine@me.com).

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

## Online Daily Worship Continues

As well as the services in our churches, the daily online services will continue on the Kingsdown and Creekside website -

[www.kingsdowncreekside.co.uk](http://www.kingsdowncreekside.co.uk) - also on the YouTube Channel 'Breakthrough at Lynsted'.

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

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

## **Sunday Readings:**

2nd August	Trinity 8	Romans 9. 1-5, Matthew 14. 13-21
9th August	Trinity 9	Romans 10. 5 - 10 Matthew 14. 22 - 33
16th August	Trinity 10	Romans 11.1-2a,29-32 Matthew 15. 21 - 28
23rd August	Trinity 11	Romans 12. 1 - 8, Matthew 16. 13 - 20
30th August	Trinity 12	Romans 12. 9 - 21, Matthew 16. 21 - end
6th September	Trinity 13	Romans 13. 8 - 14, Matthew 18. 15 - 20

## Church must 'learn afresh how to share the gospel', Archbishop of York tells Synod

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, has called on the Church of England to "learn afresh how to share the gospel in the world" as Church and Society face "turbulent times" in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

In his first public address since his confirmation as Archbishop, he spoke of the pain and loss many have experienced in recent months and the major challenges ahead.

Archbishop Stephen was speaking to members of the General Synod, who were meeting remotely following the cancellation of the annual July group of sessions in York. He spoke about lockdown, as a time when people have experienced a "stripping back of our lives", bringing hardship but also clarity and a renewed focus on God.

His comments came in a joint presidential address, alongside the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby.

Archbishop Stephen went on: "Do not misunderstand me," he said. "I hugely miss our church buildings and our liturgy, ... I cry out for the pain of all those socially distanced funerals, the thousands of people who have died alone, the baptisms, weddings and ordinations that have had to be postponed; the economic misery which is around the corner and the devastating impact of this pandemic upon the whole life of our world.

"But neither can I deny, that it has forced me to encounter things about myself which I had allowed to remain hidden behind the security of the things I have had to relinquish."

He spoke about a group he is leading to discern a vision and strategy for the Church for the next decade.

The vision, he said, is the easy part: "It is unchanging – it is what God has done for us in Jesus Christ and continues to do through the power of the spirit."

Archbishop Stephen said that the Church will have to make decisions about priorities amid limited resources. He hopes to bring some proposals to Synod next year.





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&

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## Eastling Neighbourhood Watch



Village Warden

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or 01795 890848

Police 101 Emergency 999

There have been 4 burglaries and 3 attempted over the last few weeks, much to everyone's consternation. There is no question as far as I am concerned as to who is behind these crimes but, at the moment due to lack of evidence, the police have been unable to make any arrests although I assure you it does have priority. Watch this space.

Due to the high cost of buying a dog these days theft of dogs has reached epidemic proportions in the county. Please keep your dog under your control at all times.

The harvest will be collected in the next few weeks so please be extra careful when driving along the country lanes.

Have good month

Take Care  
Alan

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## Faversham Foodbank August 2020

It is good to see that items are continuing to be donated for the Foodbank. Currently the major supermarket are donating basic stocks directly. However, the items listed below are in short supply so your contributions would be welcomed.

**Thank you Carl, for allowing donations to be dropped off at the pub - and why not order your take away or shopping needs while you do so.**

### Urgent items required for August

Sticky pudding cake; ginger cake; surface cleaners; shampoo and conditioners; small boxes of washing powder; washing up liquid.



**Joe McCarron**

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## Eastling Primary School

Eastling Primary School welcomed back pupils from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 on 1<sup>st</sup> June in line with the government guidance. Shortly after this we were able to welcome children from the other year groups back to school. The children were delighted to be able to choose the name for their group bubble and they included banana, rainbow and galaxy. The children, staff and parents quickly adapted to the changes in routine from staggered drop off times to social distancing on the field. The children have coped well with the changes including the increased amount of hand washing. Hearing and seeing children at work and play back at Eastling Primary School has been wonderful. The school successfully managed to have 2/3 of the school back for the final term.

Our Year 6 children have been particularly happy to spend time with their friends before moving on to their secondary schools. We have been able to provide them with a Sports Day, Circus Skills workshop and a socially distanced leaver's assembly. It isn't the send-off they deserve with no leavers party or school production but under the current circumstances it has given them some additional memories to take with them.

We are looking forward to welcoming the whole school community back in September. The school is delighted to have a full cohort for the new Reception class starting in September. It will be lovely to welcome new families into the Eastling Primary School community.

There are a few spaces available across the school. Any prospective parents are welcome to call the office on 01795 890252 to arrange a visit. For further information please visit our school website where photographs and newsletters are displayed and updated regularly

Melanie Dale, Head teacher.



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## Memories of Eastling School

*I received the following email from Nick Sandon, a previous Eastling schoolboy. If anyone would like to contact Nick send your details to the Editor, Hilary at [goodnewsmagazine.me.com](mailto:goodnewsmagazine.me.com) and I will be pleased to forward to Nick.*

Dear Mrs Harlow,

I was sorry to read of the recent deaths of Colin Pilcher and Pamela Hancock in the current issue of the parish magazine Good News. I was at primary school with them at Eastling between 1953 and 1959. Pamela was actually the school-mate whom I met most recently, about five years ago when I spent a nostalgic few days near Otterden, where my family lived. I remember many of the children in my year very well indeed: Roger Munden, Dudley Wells, Peter Henniker, Kerion Shepherd, Linda Atkins, Glenys Richards, Wendy Payne, Pat Rolfe, to name only a few, but I haven't met any of them for sixty years. I remember the teachers even better: who could forget Miss Day, Mrs Taylor, Miss Passey, Mrs Redfern and the ever-cheerful dinner lady Mrs Mills? If any of my contemporaries would like to get in touch I should be very pleased to hear from them.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Sandon (I was Nickie in those days)

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# Parable: The Strength of a Seed

At this time of year we enjoy the fruits of our gardens, fields and hedgerows: vegetables ripen, crops are harvested, and berries begin to show bright among the leaves. Much of this growth started with a few seeds in spring: the miracle of life coming from small dead-looking things. There is a league table of long-lived seeds. The winners so far are from the narrow-leafed campion,



buried by squirrels in the Siberian permafrost over 30,000 years ago. When those seeds finally germinated, they became healthy plants that flowered and produced seeds of their own.

The Bible contains many links between seeds and spiritual growth, and the parable of the sower is the most famous (in Matthew 13). A person may hear or experience something of God which has the potential to germinate into a life of following Him, resulting in the fruit of others coming to know God too. But things can happen that snatch that seed away, killing it before it has finished germinating, or choking its growth.

What about the knowledge of God that gets trampled, churned too deep in the mire of life to receive the warmth and light it needs to develop into faith? Buried seeds don't always die, but they can lie dormant, remaining alive but inactive until the earth is turned over. The possibility of that moment of connecting with something divine, scrap of knowledge, or snatch of conversation resulting in a changed life may seem infinitesimally small, but it's not zero. The seed may be incredibly tough, just waiting for a chance to grow.

The Gospel narrative plays on the fact that it took a long time for the disciples to understand the full implications of Jesus' teaching: a germination process that took many of them three or more years. They could have been discouraged, but Jesus was not. I don't think it's too much of stretch to draw out of the parable of the sower to include the observation that it can take a long time, sometimes decades, for people to work their way through the various barriers, sticking points, and phases of forgetfulness that may keep them from following through on their spiritual experience. When we finally receive – or are open to – the encouragement, challenge, or experience that helps our faith in Christ grow, we can experience the rich fruit of a transformed life.

*Written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.*

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### Keep your distance!

I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch you with a six-foot pole" would become national policy, but here we are!



*Canon David Winter is feeling very solitary just now...*

### THE WAY I SEE IT: What have you missed most during lockdown?

It's a good question, because it is about the things that make us tick. When I examined my list, I found obvious things - going to church, live sport on TV, meeting up with friends for a coffee or a beer.

But as I thought more deeply about it, I realised that what I missed most was TOUCH. For nearly four months I have not touched another human being!

That is an astonishing deprivation. When a baby is born, its first experiences are all of touch. The strong hands of the midwife, mother's excited and loving embrace, tiny hands reaching out to feel mummy's face. We touch our way into life.

And then it goes on. Holding hands with friends, being hugged by grandma, your first serious kiss, and perhaps a last tearful one at the end of a much-loved life.

We greet each other with a holy kiss, the Bible says. And why not?

Sight, smell, hearing and touch. Four senses. And I think lockdown has taught me that the greatest of these is touch!





The sharing table is still going strong. We're now sharing produce rather than plants.

During lockdown we were all pleased to see the show that Circo Rum Baba put on outside the pub - thank you to Marianne, Winnie and crew.

The Village Hall will be opening on a limited basis from 16th August with 'Bounce' and Pilates classes. We're still finalising details but Bounce will be Sunday morning and Wednesday evening; Pilates Tuesday

evening, Wednesday morning and Thursday morning. Details will be on the Village Hall Facebook page once finalised.

The Carpenters Arms is now fully open and is operating strict hygiene precautions which have been very impressive. Carl is also still providing takeaway meals and can supply groceries including some super fresh fish and seafood. He's also doing Foodbank collections from the pub.



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### The Lockdown Lifts

There's life in the town!  
No longer 'locked down'!  
The people stroll out in the sun  
The majestic trees  
Sway in the light breeze  
Like they wanted to join in the fun!

Like light after dark!  
We can walk in the park!  
Buy our tea, and sit out on the grass!  
We can chat to our friends  
As our loneliness ends  
And we smile at the strangers we pass!

Yes there are still queues  
Which cease to amuse  
But things are no longer so black!  
As they sing in that song -You miss what is gone,  
But it's great when at last it comes back!

*By Nigel Beeton*



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On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. John 11 17-19

We have been living in strange times throughout the lockdown. Many of the life event services in church have been postponed or have gone ahead in a very different way. Funerals have had severe limitations on the numbers who could attend.

Many people have been thinking about the meaning of life and

David Pickup, a solicitor, considers funerals during coronavirus

## Think about making a will and planning your funeral

have made wills during the coronavirus crisis. We should all make a will to avoid the disappointment and worry for our loved ones if we do not. Only today I had to advise some grown 'children' that their father's estate would all go to the estranged wife because they were still married at the time of death. Probably not what the father had wanted!

Sometimes I get asked about the funeral arrangements; or rather, told that so-and-so should not be allowed to attend. Sometimes

families do fall out, but can you stop someone coming to a funeral when it is really a public event?

Funerals are usually arranged by executors and they can keep the ceremony as quiet as possible by not announcing it in advance. Church services are public, and it is difficult to stop people attending. Many cemeteries are public places and again anyone can visit them. Crematoria are not usually public and there it is easier to control who is invited and who is not.

If you are worried about what will happen at your funeral, perhaps now is the time to think about putting things right. You could do a letter of wishes to go with your will to say that you hope that people reconcile and let bygones be bygones.

As always this is a light-hearted comment on a complex subject. Always get proper professional advice.

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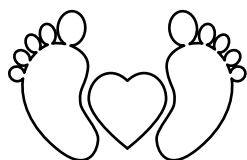
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We know that children have been off school for a while now but we are still running a summer programme during the school holidays for children from 8-14 at our new site in Teynham. We are taking Covid 19 guidance into consideration by working with smaller groups, regular hand washing and sanitising will be in place between activities, also a

social distance of 1 metre where possible and strictly no physical contact. Places are going quickly so contact us via Email [contact@creed-outdoorlearning.co.uk](mailto:contact@creed-outdoorlearning.co.uk) or Facebook messenger to book your child's place. The sessions are Monday – Thursday with Fridays and weekends set aside for family sessions and other activities.

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**Mouse Makes**

The PSALMS are hymns of PRAYER and PRAISE to God.

*"I will proclaim your greatness, my God and king; I will thank you: I will praise you for ever and ever."*

Psalm 145:1-2

**God my guide**

*"Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path."* Psalm 119:105

**God's World**

*"The world and all that is in it belong to the Lord: the earth and all who live on it are His."*

Psalm 24:1

**Glory to God**

*"How clearly the sky reveals God's glory! How plainly it shows what He has done."*

Psalm 19:1

**Praise the Lord!**

*"Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord."*

Psalm 150:6

**Give thanks!**

*"Your constant love is better than life itself, and so I will praise you. I will give You thanks as long as I live; I will raise my hands to you in prayer."*

Psalm 63:3-4

Cut out and colour these cards to help you to thank and praise God.

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