

# CHRISTMAS FAIR

**SATURDAY 8TH DECEMBER**  
**11AM - 1PM**  
**OSPRINGE SCHOOL**

Plans are well underway for the Christmas Fair on Saturday 8th December, from 11am - 1pm, Father Christmas, plenty of Games, Crafts, excellent Refreshments and Live Music make this the Christmas event not to miss!

This event is closely followed by a new event for Ospringe School; on Friday 14th December the OSA will be holding a Children's Fashion Show at 7pm, with the help of Brats Children's Fashion wear company. The children's fashions include; Tammy Girl, Adams, Debenhams, plus, sports wear such as Adidas, Nike and Umbro. Most chainstore clothes are at least 50% cheaper than High Street prices. All items are available to be purchased on the night and payment can be made by cash, cheque, Amex or credit/

debit card. There will be a classroom available for trying on garments. There will also be refreshments and a raffle on the night. Tickets for this event are priced at £2.00 each and are available from the school lobby each day between 3.10 - 3.40pm. There will be no charge for any children who are primary school age or below, but all children must be accompanied by an adult.

There are only a limited number of tickets available, so please book your tickets early to avoid disappointment! Meanwhile in school the infants and lower juniors are busy preparing for their Christmas productions and members of the school choir and friends are planning to go Carol singing around the area to raise money for charity. It is going to be a busy month! Jill Fagg

Merry Christmas to all our readers and a very special thank you to all who help make this magazine possible: all those who contribute news from their clubs etc., all who help fold the 1310 copies we produce each month, all who deliver to homes in Stalisfield & Otterden, Eastling, Painter's Forstal & Ospringe, even into Faversham. Thanks to all our advertisers whose money pays the production costs (if you use their services, please tell them where you saw their advertisement). If you would like to help with the magazine's finances, please send your contribution to Mr. R. Tumber, 8 Briton Road, Faversham. ME13 8QH (Please make cheques payable to 'Good News Church Magazine'. Please do not post cash.)

Christmas is in the air. We are holding our Christmas Shopping Evening on Thursday 6th Dec from 7-9pm in the Village Hall. We have lots of exciting stalls including Regatta, leather goods and accessories, twisted willow, cheeses and pates, scarves, jewellery and candles, beautiful books, lots of craft items and much more. Refreshments will be served and there will be a raffle. This is a popular evening and a good opportunity to do your Christmas shopping.

Please come and join us.

## CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENING

**THURSDAY 6TH DECEMBER**

**7 - 9PM**

**EASTLING  
VILLAGE HALL**

**Christmas trees** will be available again this year.

These are grown, cut and delivered to the School by 2 of our parents. They are lovely trees and reasonably priced. Please call the School Office on 890252 for more information.

The last date for your diaries is the **School Carol Service** on Friday 21st Dec., 9.30-10.15am. It's a lovely opportunity to come and enjoy the School at its best and a wonderful way to start the Christmas holidays. We look forward to seeing you at these events. Have a very Happy Christmas.

Celia Hamilton-Jones

## Good News December 2001

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**Christmas Eve**  
11.30pm Stalisfield  
Holy Communion  
11.30pm Ospringe  
Holy Communion

**Christmas Day**  
8am Ospringe  
Holy Communion  
10am Eastling  
Family Communion  
11am Ospringe  
Family Service



**Ospringe Church  
Christmas  
Family  
Service**  
Sunday 16th  
December, 11am



**Christmas  
Celebration**  
Saturday 15th December  
Ospringe Church  
7.30pm



**Crib  
Service**  
Stalisfield Church, 3pm  
Sunday 16th December



**Christmas  
Carol Service**  
Eastling Church, 4pm  
Sunday 23rd December

**Carols by  
Candlelight**  
16th December  
6.30pm Champion  
Hall, Painter's Forstal



The news magazine for the combined parishes of Eastling, Ospringe, Stalisfield and Otterden



# A Reflection for Christmas

by David Winter

There were shepherds abiding in the field,  
keeping watch over their flocks by night. Luke 2.8

It all seems a bit of an anti-climax. After centuries of prophecy and promise, when we finally come to the moment of the Messiah's birth, how does the story start? "There were shepherds...."

Shepherds were near the bottom of the social pile in ancient Israel. The nature of their work precluded them from sharing in the necessary religious rites and rituals. They couldn't leave their sheep, so they were unable to get to synagogue or Temple. They could not join in the prayers, hear the Law, or offer their sacrifices. They simply 'abided' in the fields - they lived there, the fields were their 'abode'.

And it was these ordinary people, going about their ordinary business, to whom the 'angel of the Lord' appeared. The 'glory of the lord' shone around them. The dark night was illuminated by the very presence of God. No wonder they were 'sore afraid'!

And the message, when it came, was no less startling. It concerned the moment their nation had been praying for, awaiting with a hope and expectation that years of disappointment had slowly eroded. God had heard the prayers of his people. The long-promised Messiah had been born.

This day is born to you in the city of David a Saviour, Christ the Lord. The announcement could not have been more stark and clear. The Messiah (Christ, in Greek) had been born, to be Saviour of his people. And this handful of social outcasts on the hills were the first people on earth to know about it.

They were given a 'sign' to enable them to identify this particular baby. They might have expected that he would be wearing royal robes and lying in the arms of a princess. But in fact he would be found wearing 'swaddling cloths' - the simple linen bandages with which poor people bound up the new-born infant - and lying in a feeding trough.



The whole scene is one that turns normal expectations upside down. By the standards of the time there was nothing squalid about a birth in a place where cattle were kept - every rural home would have recognised the scene. But it was a setting of utter simplicity, shorn of anything that would suggest rank, power or wealth. It was the birth of a child to a simple, peasant couple in a simple, rural setting.

And the shepherds fit perfectly into this scenario. They were on the fringes of the society of Israel, strangers to the usual niceties of custom and religion. They waited on the hills, while the truly devout (like Anna and Simeon) waited for the Messiah in the Temple. But it was to the shepherds that the angel appeared with his message, and it was shepherds who bore the first news of the birth of Israel's Saviour into the streets of Bethlehem. The 'devout' got their revelation later!

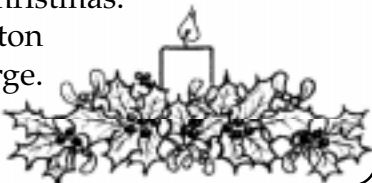
God still has marvellous things to say to ordinary people. He is still, in the old biblical phrase, 'no respecter of persons'. The birth of Jesus is a wonderful reminder that intellect, rank, social position, worldly power and reputation cut no ice with God. The shepherds never forgot the needs of their sheep, and God never forgot the needs of the shepherds.

God still reveals the most marvellous things to ordinary people, going about their ordinary lives - provided they have ears and eyes open to what is happening.

## And now.....?

Two thousand years on, the world still struggles to find peace, the peace of which the angles sang. Most of us may not be able to influence the world scene in a big way, except through prayer - but we can all contribute to peace in our homes and in our communities doing our best to follow the example of the prince of Peace. I wish you all a peaceful Christmas.

The Revd. Penny Fenton  
Priest - in - Charge.



We will continue to have short Choir Practices before the Services, 10.15 a.m. on the 1st Sunday in December, and 10.25a.m. for 10.30 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. We are having Choir Practices on Wednesdays, 6 to 6.45 p.m. and they are in Church in the Parish Room, where it will be warm. There will be no Wednesday Choir Practices during the Christmas Holidays, 26th December and 2nd January. We will start again on Wednesday, 9th January please. Mr. Shepherd has planned a special Advent Sunday Service on 2nd December, with lots of people involved.

I was pleased to sing the two verses of our National Anthem on Remembrance Sunday. Look in our newish hymn book and number 177 has three verses.

## Ospringe Choir Report

We are looking forward to our annual Christmas Celebration on Saturday, 15th December. Yes it is THAT time of year once more! We will sing an arrangement of John Rutter's "Candlelight Carol" and Engelbert Humperdinck's "When at night I go to sleep", Hansel and Gretel's song. E.H. the composer, 1854 to 1921!! Lauren and Joanne Fagg will sing Bob Chilcott's "Midwinter" Carol.

With Ted's help the Choir are going to join Pat as she leads a Christmas Service at Carnalea. The Staff there always look after us and the Choir look forward to the singing and the splendid tea. Thank you, Ted.

This Christmas Blessing came from my friend in New Zealand:-  
*May Christmas bring you gifts no money can buy;  
A patience that endures hardship  
A courage that can face the worst  
An insight that shall be all things spiritual  
A love that touches God and  
A light that no darkness can dim.*

Happy Christmas to all in our Benefice from Ospringe Choir.

## FROM THE ORGAN SEAT

My big box of Christmas Music is down from the loft and I am enjoying relearning the Christmas pieces. Joanne Marshall is well settled at her University and is working and playing hard. We look forward to her playing for us once more during the Christmas Vacation.

It is good to have Joanne Fagg turn over my music for me now. I have a lovely book to read to the grandchildren, "Granny goes to Bethlehem". I will put it out at The Christmas Celebration. Grannies will empathise with Mary's Mum!

Happy Christmas, Vicky Shepherd.

Mrs. Vera Bushell gave me this poem she wrote out for me in 1996.

### THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

*That time of year is here once more  
When the holly wreath hangs on the door.  
The Infant Jesus wears a crown  
And the shepherds looked up  
and the stars looked down.  
What did they see I wonder,  
people full of despair?  
For at times we all have troubles  
in this world of which we share,  
But when God looked down  
I'm sure he thought  
'No wonder they are weary  
For in winter when the days are short  
everything looks dreary.  
So what can I do to cheer them up  
and brighten their days?  
I'll gave them something to celebrate,  
something to amaze.  
To bring them Peace and Happiness  
just for a while on earth.'  
And so he gave us Christmas,  
the Day of Our Saviour's Birth.  
That's why we keep His Birthday,  
just like yours and mine.  
Each year with candles glowing,  
cake, of course and wine.  
While giving each other presents  
all helps us to recall  
That when God gave us Christmas  
He gave The Greatest Gift of All.*

## Prayer Pointers December 2001

- Sundays** That Christ may come first in our lives this Christmas.
- Mondays** Friends and family for whom this will be a sad Christmas.
- Tuesdays** For all our worship and activities during Advent and Christmas
- Wednesdays** Family circles broken by death.
- Thursdays** Those who are homeless and afraid.
- Fridays** For Christians who suffer persecution.
- Saturdays** For goodwill and understanding between all warring factions.



## CAROLYTES

HAND PAINTED LAMPSHADES

any design possible.....

TREASURED FRAMES

RECOVERED

your fabric or ours.....

Please ring.....01795 534323..... any time!



# CHRISTMAS Newstyle

**Eastling Church**  
**Sunday 9th December**  
**10.30am**

This month's theme:  
'Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.' (Matt 5:5)

**But** that was 2000 years ago - would you consider being 'meek' a positive characteristic in today's world?

**Who** are these 'meek' people that Jesus says will be blessed?

**How** will they inherit the earth?

Come and investigate with us at Newstyle, 9th December.

You might like to read Psalm 37 before you come.


**Coffee and Croissants from 10am**  
**Traidcraft Christmas goods for sale.**

## British Humanitarian Aid

The December newsletter from Tony and Valerie Budell tells of the three orphanages 'adopted' by BHA earlier this year; Timki, Stara Bassan and Zamgli. The Convoy of Hope has supplied most of their needs, including food, clothing, shoes, bedding, toys and educational items and the children are much happier now. The government of the Ukraine allocates 4GR (75p) per child per day to cover everything, all of their needs, including medical requirements, so the involvement of BHA in their lives is vital. The authorities only supply, by law, one frock, or pair of trousers, per child every two years and that does not specify 'new'. Shoes, underwear, warm coats, jumpers and bedding are not supplied, so the only help they receive is from outside agencies. BHA is the only outside agency working in the Chernigov/Chernobyl region, so it is vitally important that BHA continues that work.

The BHA community centre, Aratta, distributes the humanitarian aid directly to the orphanages, becoming an absolute lifeline, not only to the children in the orphanages, but also to hundreds of impoverished families in the areas. Aratta continues to help everyone who seeks help, none is turned away. In some ways a victim of its own success; those requiring urgent help visit the local government offices and are told that the only advice they can offer is to visit 'Aratta', a charitable organisation set up by an Englishman! The director of Aratta, Victoria Filatova, a former teacher, has introduced a full educational programme at the orphanages, teaching the physically and mentally handicapped youngsters as if they no disabilities whatsoever. This is beginning to benefit many of them enormously.

It is ten years since Tony meet Mother Theresa, who was very instrumental in putting his life onto the right track. He still receives comfort and inspiration from her words 'None of us can do great things, only small things with great love'.



**MOUSE HOLE**

From my home in the church I learn about all sorts of things...

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus... and it all started with a message from an angel... The angel Gabriel was sent by God with a message for Mary. He told her that she would be having a baby, a very special baby boy and his name was to be Jesus which means *the Lord saves*.

Read about Gabriel's visit to Mary in Luke 1 verses 26-38

God made the angels, just like he made us, but angels don't have bodies like ours.

Just after Jesus had been born, God sent another angel with a message for the shepherds living in the fields above Bethlehem. He told them of the good news of the birth of Jesus, the saviour God's people had waited so long for. Then suddenly a great number of angels appeared and started praising God.

We don't usually see angels unless God wants us to see them like Mary and the shepherds did.

Read about the angel's visit to the shepherds in Luke 2 verses 1-20

God sends angels to guard and protect us, sometimes they have special messages for us... and they worship God with us.

Cut up paper doilies to make 'angel' cards

• Wind a ball of wool or plastic string or raffia 30 times around a small book.  
• Tie the loops together at the top of the book, slide the loops off, then cut right through at the bottom.  
• Tie a length of wool to make a neck.  
• Tie 10 strands together on either side and cut a little shorter to make arms.  
• Tie at the waist.  
• Glue on paper wings.

**Christmas Angels**

## CHRISTMAS FAMILY SERVICE

"So here it is Merry Christmas, everybody's ..."  
(heard this song!)

Why not do something special this year and join our family celebration of Christmas. There will be carols and lively seasonal songs, stories, activities and entertainment for children, mince pies etc. all in a relaxed, friendly environment where the whole family can rediscover what Christmas is really about.

**Where?** Just follow the star to Ospringe Church.

**When?** Sunday 16th December at 11am.

We look forward to welcoming old friends and new.



As in previous years we will be collecting presents to give to British Humanitarian Aid to distribute to children in the Ukraine. Anyone who would like to contribute, please bring your gift (toys, colouring books etc.) to the Service. It would make packing and delivery much easier if any gifts are in a shoebox, marked as to whether it is suitable for any particular age / sex. Thank you.

## Ospringe Snippets.

Ospringe has featured well in both of our local newspapers. It was good to see the smiling faces of the Reception Classes in them. Congratulations to Chris Barkaway on his honour. Well deserved, Chris. Well done Jack Keys on your 25 years of Community Christmas Carols, it is quite special, singing around the Tree, with the lights strung across the streets. I love walking into Faversham about 3.30 p.m. when dusk is coming and the lights are on. It is something special.

I am pleased to have been allowed to plant snowdrops in the Churchyard. You all know my gardening lack of prowess so I hope the little bulbs respond to my husband's green fingers! You should see 4 circles of them towards the end of January if the snails have not eaten them! I have decided I am a "galanthophile". I wanted to do this in memory of several loved ones who have died in the last two years and, although not connected with Ospringe, I wanted to say thank you to God for the interest they had shown to me and our family over many, many years.

When I was a Head Teacher I wanted the children to have their own "Host of Golden Daffodils" as I used to read that poem to them every year as the first daffodils came through. I bought every child a daffodil to plant and ceremoniously we planted them. The snails had a gourmet feast that year! and we were deprived of our display! I hope the snowdrops do not suffer the same fate!!

Vicky.



"...telling the children there's no Father Christmas is one thing... but denying the existence of Harry Potter is unforgivable!"



**Part time**  
**Egg packers required**

Throwley area.  
9.30am - 12.30pm  
Good rate of pay.

Please contact:

Stephen Reid on 01795 890728  
mobile 07946 421894

## CLEANER REQUIRED

Approx. 3 hours per week  
Normal household chores  
**Phone 01795 591463**  
(Evenings)

## GARDENER

**Required**  
Otterden Area  
Part time, flexi hours.  
Terms negotiable.  
**Tel: 01622 859889, 858551**

## Ospringe Church Fundraising.

November 10th saw

### Ospringe Church's Autumn Fayre.

What a great achievement on everyone's part. We made £900.84p. What a wonderful result, and worth all the hard work.

I would like to thank everyone who helped on the day, or by coming to support us. Without any of this, we could not have come up with the result we did.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Christmas.

Best wishes to all.

Sally (Social Secretary)

## Thank You

To everyone who donated grocery items for the Grocery Tombola Stall at

Ospringe Church Autumn Bazaar on Saturday 10th November. The Tombola raised just on £100 and my heartfelt thanks go to all who provided the items, and to all who supported so generously on the day.

My special thanks to Ann King who helped me on the stall. We were kept pretty busy; people do love a little gamble! All in a good cause.

With love,

God Bless you all  
Pam

## News from the Pews

I've come to sit upon this pew to think some quiet words with You, on family matters, worries, fears - Lord, I know that you will hear.

So many things I want to say but can't, to friends along the way, but in this place of tranquil calm where lately rang the hymns and psalms, You know my soul and all its hurts without the need for formal words, so here, upon this ancient pew beneath the murmuring pigeon's coo, amongst these stones as old as time and clock with labouring, wheezing chimes, I think the things I cannot share except with you, in silent prayer.  
Margaret Waddingham



## STALISFIELD & OTTERDEN HARVEST SUPPER

A last minute Harvest Supper was organised by several willing helpers in Stalisfield Memorial Hall on Sunday 14th October. A marquee was borrowed from Throwley Fete committee which provided cover for 133 adults and 50 children, in spite of the inclement weather. The general feeling being that it was good to have time for a chat, drink and supper together. An admission charge of £1 was made for the evening, which paid for insurance on the marquee, a donation to Throwley, some of the food, with £25.23 being donated to the Stalisfield Village Hall Committee. A similar event is planned for next year.

Jean West

## MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

During our October meeting, Vicky, our organist and Mothers' Union member, selected several Christmas Carols to play and explain their history. We were interested to learn about the following:- **Silent Night** - the tune was written by Franz Gruber in 1818 at Oberdorf, near Salzburg. This carol came about because a mouse chewed through the leather bellows, therefore there was no sound from the organ for the forthcoming Christmas Evening Service. Joseph Mohr speedily wrote the words and children from the area sang it for the service- it created a mixed reaction within the congregation. Many years passed before the carol was sung again before the Austrian Kaiser.

**Christians Awake** - was written 250 years ago by John Byrom. It's original title was 'Christmas Day for Dolly' - he wrote this for his daughter.

## Canterbury Domestic Violence Project

Support, advice, counselling for women and children experiencing abuse.

Domestic violence is not just physical abuse. It can also include emotional and sexual abuse, keep you isolated & afraid & make you feel trapped & powerless.

Your partner may:

Push, punch, bite, kick, strangle.  
Stop you having friends.  
Not let you out alone, time you or question your movements.  
Accuse you of having affairs, control what you wear, who you see and contact.  
Stop you seeing your family and prevent you responding to your children in the way you want.

If you need someone to talk to. Home visits can be arranged. We can also offer help and support for your children.

This free and confidential service is available for anyone who is living with, or has lived with an abusive partner.

You do not need to leave your partner in order to get help. We can offer you support, legal advice, home visits, counselling for yourself and your children.

We can talk to you about keeping safe and help you find a safe place to stay if you decide to leave.

# 01227 452852

Managed by Canterbury Refuge: 01227 451238 Reg. Charity no. 289253

**O Little Town of Bethlehem** - was written by an Episcopal Bishop from the Diocese of Massachusetts, America. Philip Brooks wrote this carol for his Sunday School following a visit to Bethlehem. The tune was collected by Vaughan Williams at Forest Green.

**It Came Upon The Midnight Clear** - was also written by an American, Edmund Sears. It is an ethical song for world peace. The tune was composed by Arthur Sullivan. This carol is 100 years old.

**See Him Lying On A Bed Of Straw** - was written 1964 by Michael Perry, who later became Vicar of Tonbridge Parish Church.

**Once In Royal David's City** - was written in 1848 by Cecil Frances Alexander who had a talent for writing poetry and hymns for small children such as 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' and 'There is a Green Hill Far Away'. Finally, we listened to a tape of John Rutter's music - The Nativity Carol and Shepherd's Carol. John Rutter was born in 1945 and was Director of Music at Clare College, Cambridge before becoming a freelance composer. We would like to thank Vicky for the enlightening talk and playing the music.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 28th November at 2.00p.m.  
Carol Marshall



Everyone will be welcome  
at the  
**Crib Service**  
3pm  
Sunday 16th December  
Stalisfield Church

### Baby Jesus goes missing

After the Christmas morning service, the baby Jesus was missing from the crib. The vicar was searching for him when a little girl arrived with a doll's pram and started lifting the baby Jesus and putting him back into the crib saying: "I told you that if I got a pram for Christmas you would be the first to get a ride in it!"



**Christmas Morning**  
a service for all the family  
Ospringe Church, 11am

## Club 8 - 12

Champion Hall 6.15 - 7.15pm  
December 7th Handicrafts and Games.

### Flight for Baby Jesus

A Sunday School teacher had asked her class to draw pictures of their favourite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Tammy's picture which showed four people in an aeroplane. So she asked him which story it was meant to represent.

"The flight to Egypt," replied Tammy.

"I see . . . and that must be Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus, but who is the fourth person?" asked the teacher.

"Oh, that's Pontius the Pilot."

## Sunday Schools

**Ospringe** meets during the communion services at Ospringe church on the second and fourth Sundays in the month at 11 a.m. On 9th December we shall be making Christmas cards using coloured clay (come and find out!). On 23rd December we shall be performing the song we have been practising in the special Christmas Family Communion Service.

**Eastling** Meets at 9.50am in the village hall on 2nd December. No Sunday School on 16th December as we will be organising to go to the Stalisfield Crib Service. The first Sunday School in January (6th) will be a 'party' at the usual time.

**Painter's Forstal** meets at 10.40am in the Champion Hall on 2nd December.



## Beechfields

Residential Home  
Conyer Road, Teynham,  
Sittingbourne.

Individual, ground floor, en-suite rooms with views over the surrounding countryside. Run by the resident owners, Cliff and Dorothy Saffrey, both registered nurses. Day care available.

Tel: 01795 520580



### OTTERDEN LAMB

Local, welfare friendly, naturally produced. Farm Assured Lamb  
**FRESH FOR YOUR FREEZER**  
All jointed and ready to freeze.

Half Lamb = £30: 5 roasting joints, chops, neck pieces + liver if required.  
Whole Lamb = £60: 10 roasting joints, chops, neck pieces + liver if required.

David & Julie Murray

Tel: 01795 890700

e-mail: snoadfarm@aol.com

**7 DAY DRAINAGE**  
**IF IT'S BLOCKED WE'LL FIX IT**  
Sinks Gutters Blocked Drains  
CCTV Surveys undertaken  
Domestic and Commercial  
A local company carrying out local work

**FREEPHONE 08080 073544**

## Services in our Benefice

## Sharing Ministry in our Parishes

### 2nd December Advent Sunday

Romans 13. 11 - end, Matthew 24. 36 - 44

Ospringe	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Eastling	9.50am	Sunday School
Eastling	10am	Holy Communion (CW)
Stalisfield	10am	Holy Communion (CW)
Ospringe	11am	Advent Service followed by Baptism

Whitehill Chapel	10.40am	Sunday School - All ages
Whitehill Chapel	11am	Family Service

### Tuesday 4th November

Whitehill Chapel	2.15pm	Communion Service
------------------	--------	-------------------

### 9th December 2nd Sunday in Advent

Romans 15. 4 - 13, Matthew 3. 1 - 12

Eastling	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Stalisfield	10am	Morning Prayer (BCP)
Eastling	10.30am	Sunday Newstyle
Ospringe	11am	Holy Communion (CW)
Ospringe	11am	Sunday School

### 16th December 3rd Sunday in Advent

James 5. 7 - 10, Matthew 11. 2 - 11

Ospringe	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Eastling	10am	Holy Communion (CW)
Ospringe	11am	Christmas Family Service
Stalisfield	3pm	Crib Service

Whitehill Chapel	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight
------------------	--------	-----------------------

### 23rd December 4th Sunday in Advent

Romans 1. 1 - 7, Matthew 1. 18 - end

Stalisfield	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Ospringe	11am	Family Communion (CW)
Eastling	4pm	Nine Lessons and Carols

### 24th December Christmas Eve

Stalisfield	11.30pm	Holy Communion (CW)
Ospringe	11.30pm	Holy Communion (CW)

### Christmas Day

Ospringe	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Eastling	10am	Family Communion (CW)
Ospringe	11am	Family Service

### 30th December Christmas 1

Eastling	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW)
----------	---------	---------------------

<b>Priest in Charge</b>	Reverend Penny Fenton (01795 536366)	9 Brogdale Road, Faversham.
<b>Curate</b>	Reverend Patricia Pollard (01795 535407)	7 Arthur Salmon Close, Faversham.
<b>Reader</b>	Mr. Hugh Perks (01795 890603)	Weald Cottage, Kettle Hill Road, Eastling
<b>Reader in Training</b>	Mr. Norman Fowler (01795 890412)	4 Meesons Close, Eastling, Faversham
<b>Methodist Minister</b>	Reverend Chris Esgate (01795 532461)	esgate@bluecarrots.com
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Ospringe Mr. G. Shepherd	
	Eastling Mr. N. Fowler (01795 890412)	
	Mrs A. Cheeseman (01795 890629)	
	Stalisfield Mrs J. West (01795 890285)	
	Mrs H. Galer (01795 890780)	
<b>Steward</b>	Whitehill Miss B. Richards (01795 532756)	

#### Contacting the Church's staff

For general enquiries and for specific enquiries about Baptisms and Weddings, please telephone Faversham 536366. If you would like the parish clergy to conduct a funeral, either in our churches or elsewhere, please ask the funeral director to make the necessary arrangements.

#### FROM THE EDITOR

If you would like to advertise in this magazine, submit articles, features or stories for publication, or would like any forthcoming events publicised, please send your magazine contribution by the 15th December to Hilary Harlow, Pinks Farm, Eastling, Faversham ME13 0BA 01795 890338 (e-mail: mharlow@talk21.com)

### From the Registers

#### Baptism

4th November 2001 Ospringe Church  
ABIGAIL JANE Harvey

#### Funerals

19th November 2001 Cremation at Vinters Park  
Kathleen BARNEY

19th November 2001 Cremation at Charing  
William Frederick (Bill) SEARLEY

### 6th January Epiphany

Ephesians 3. 1 - 12, Matthew 2. 1 - 12

Ospringe	8am	Holy Communion
Eastling	9.50am	Sunday School Party
Eastling	10am	Holy Communion
Stalisfield	10am	Holy Communion
Ospringe	11am	Morning Prayer
Whitehill Chapel	11am	Family Service

#### Parish Clerk

Eastling Parish Council is still looking for someone to take on the role of Parish Clerk from the end of December. Main duties are preparing the Agenda and Minutes for Council Meetings (held every two months) and various secretarial and administrative tasks between Meetings. On average, it involves about two or three hours work per week. Access to a computer and the Internet would be helpful.

Out-of-pocket expenses and a salary (based on hours worked) are offered. For more details or an informal chat, please contact either the present Parish Clerk, Mrs Sue Parry, on (01795) 890254 or the Chairman, Mr Harold Wyld, on (01795) 890413.

#### Evening Buses

If all goes according to plan, the new bus service for return trips into Faversham on Friday and Saturday evenings should be starting around the time this "Good News" is published. The first evening is Friday, 30 November.

One aspect that has surprised a number of people is that the new 345 route comes up to Eastling from Newnham via Newnham Lane. This means that the bus will NOT stop in The Street, but turn from Newnham Lane into Eastling Road towards Painters Forstal and Faversham. Eastling residents will be able to catch the bus by hailing the driver in Newnham Lane or on the Eastling-Faversham road. There is a scheduled

## Eastling Parish Council

stop at Glebe Cottages at 7.29pm. The return bus leaves Faversham Court Street at about 10.20pm, but will wait until the end of the film at The Royal cinema.

Fares are the same as the current day-time service into Faversham. Most households will have received a leaflet giving details and these may also be found on the parish noticeboards and the Eastling village website. The new evening buses are being run as a six month trial; continuation will depend on public support.

#### Golden Jubilee

Eastling Parish Councillors have been discussing how the village might mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee. So far, no suggestions had been received apart from plans by the Village Hall Committee to organise a barbecue on or near the main celebration in early June. Councillors also felt that the Jubilee might be a good occasion for upgrading the approaches to the village with new more attractive entry signs and agreed this should be investigated further.

#### Road Problems

Eastling Parish Councillors have drawn the attention of Kent Highways Unit to the problem deep ponding of surface water at the entrance to Goosemeadow in Newnham Lane. Also included on a list of road problems are several potholes on the edge of the Eastling-Faversham road to

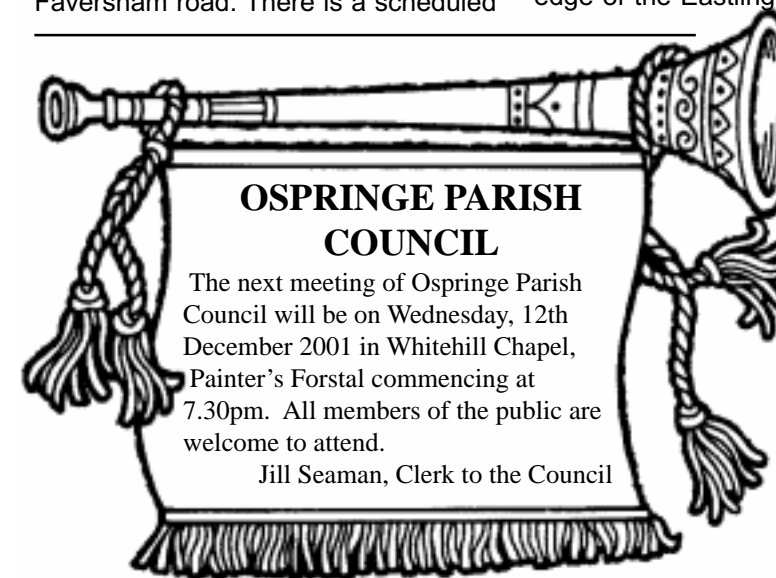
the north of the village. Councillors have been advised that the serious flooding on the same road at the junction with North Eastling Lane has been investigated and some drain clearance carried out. Further work by the engineers is planned. The badly faded white lining on the Eastling-Faversham road should be dealt with following proposed re-surfacing next year.

#### New Bus Shelter

Plans to provide a bus shelter at the very exposed Glebe Cottages stop have taken a step forward. Parish Councillors have agreed to seek approval for a masonry and timber design expected to cost just over £3,100. As a first step, they will be contacting Moat Housing Society, who manage the Glebe Cottages housing development, to discuss the scheme and the siting of the shelter. Approaches will also need to be made to Swale Council for planning permission and, possibly, grant aid.

#### Good News on-line

Recent visitors to Eastling Village's Internet web site at <http://go.to/eastling> will have noted the appearance of a link to the "Good News" parish magazine and its on-line editions on the first page of the site. Now there's an even easier way to go straight to the "Good News" pages. Just enter <http://go.to/goodnewsmag> in your web browser.



#### ACCOUNTING & BOOK-KEEPING SERVICES FRIENDLY: RELIABLE: CONFIDENTIAL

* ACCOUNTS	* TROUBLESHOOTING	* TRAINING
* BOOKKEEPING	* BUDGETS	* PLANNING
* VAT, PAYROLL	* SYSTEMS	* PRESENTATIONS
* SELF ASSESSMENT	* E-COMMERCE WEBSITES	* COMPUTERISATION

**GERRY OLSEN BA. ACCOUNTANT 01795 890231**

### Diary

### December 2001

5th	Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch	1pm	Eastling Village Hall
6th	Afternoon Club Lunch	12.45pm	The Alma
6th	Christmas Shopping Evening	7 - 9pm	Eastling Village Hall
7th	Club 8 - 12	6.15pm	Champion Hall
8th	Christmas Fair	11am	Ospringe School
9th	Sunday Newstyle	10.30am	Eastling Church
10th	Gardeners' Club	7.30pm	Champion Hall
11th	Study/discussion group	8pm	Newhouse Farm, Eastling
12th	Ospringe Parish Council	7.30pm	Whitehill Chapel
14th	Fashion Show	7pm	Ospringe School
14th	England Swings	8pm	Stalisfield Village Hall
15th	Deadline for January Good News		
15th	Senior Citizens Christmas Tea	4pm	Stalisfield Village Hall
15th	Christmas Celebration	7.30pm	Ospringe Church
16th	Christmas Family Service	11am	Ospringe Church
16th	Crib Service	3pm	Stalisfield Church
16th	Carols by Candlelight	6.30pm	Whitehill Chapel
17th	Coffee Morning	9.30am	Champion Hall
18th	Coffee Morning	9.30am	Eastling Village Hall
18th	W.I.	2.15pm	Champion Hall
20th	Afternoon Club	2pm	Champion Hall
21st	School Carol Service	9.30am	Eastling Church
22nd	Carols in the Market Place	7pm	Faversham
23rd	Carol Service	4pm	Eastling Church





## Christmas Stampede

A big thank you to everyone who collected and gave their used stamps. I sent another large collection off to Mid Africa Ministry back in August. Unfortunately the gentleman who processes the stamps has retired after 34 years having raised over £72,000. What an achievement! That said, keep the stamps coming as we can send our collections to "Stamps for Causes". This is a non-profit making voluntary organisation that raises funds for charities by collecting used British and foreign stamps. Everyone can help by saving your used stamps. and dropping them into the green box at the back of Eastling Church.

Leigh Dyson

### OSPRINGE CHURCH 200 Club

You contribute £1 a month for at least one year and you could win a prize in our monthly draw. Contact Carol or Stuart Marshall on 537873 for more details. The winning numbers for the 20th draw in November were:  
1st - 6, 2nd - 65, 3rd - 33.

### The Wine and Wisdom

held in the village hall on Saturday 17th November was very well supported. Thanks go to all the helpers and those who donated money or raffle prizes. A balance of £207 was made: £103.50p has been donated to the hall funds and £103.50 has been deposited in the Senior Citizens Christmas funds.

Norman Neaves



### Churches Sponsored Bike Ride

Eastling Sunday School children: Sarah & Christopher Bell, Oliver Hewlett, Alex & Olivia Hamilton-Jones, along with Steve Youle, raised £333.60 on the sponsored Friends of Kent Churches bike ride in September. Peter & Angela Cheeseman also rode and the cheque which came back to Eastling P.C.C. amounted to over £180.



## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

**Saturday 15th December  
7.30p.m. at Ospringe Church**

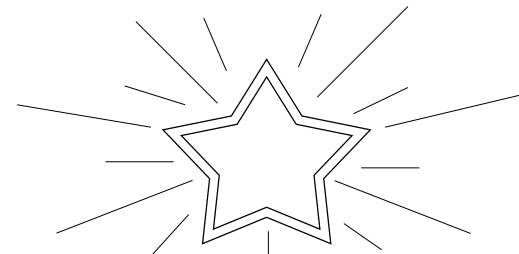
An entertainment of seasonal words and music  
with carols for audience

Tickets: £3.50 for adults £2 for children, to include mulled wine/orange juice and mince pies. Available from Gill Wilson (01795) 537160 and Jan Williams (01795) 536528  
.....

**Carols in the Market Place, Faversham  
Saturday 22nd December,  
7pm**

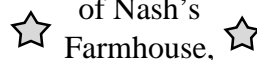
**Carols by Candlelight  
Sunday 16th December  
Champion Hall  
6.30pm**

Mince pies and hot drinks  
after the service  
Everyone Welcome



### Christmas Trees

Mr  
Peter  
Howard  
of Nash's  
Farmhouse,



Luddenham writes:

☆ 'This year there is both good and bad news. First the good news: ☆  
Last year a total of £4,600 was raised by donations for over 200 Christmas Trees by ☆  
members of the parishes in the area. Of total ☆  
raised, £1,200 has been donated to National Kidney Research fund, with the balance benefiting the Pilgrim's Hospice, £569  
to five  
Church Restoration Appeals,  
£1,608 to 25 local Church  
PCC fabric funds, and  
a reserve of some  
£1,108 for grants  
to Church Restoration Appeals.

**The bad news is that due to such heavy demand** over the last 2-3 years, and in spite of extensive replanting, there will only be a very limited number of trees available for those with very high ceilings requiring trees in the range of 10 - 16 feet.' Mr Howard thanks all who have been loyal supporters over the years and says he is rebuilding stocks for the future.



**Nine Lessons & Carols  
Sunday 23rd December  
Eastling Church  
4pm**

Mince pies and hot drinks  
after the service  
Everyone welcome



### EASTLING & PAINTER'S FORSTAL PLAYGROUPS

Many thanks to family and friends who supported the Sponsored Obstacle Course and Coffee Morning on 8th November. The raffle raised a total of £51.50 and sponsorship money is still being collected. The Christmas Coffee Mornings will be held on Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th December and the raffle (First Prize of a hamper) will be drawn on 20th December. Please join us for coffee and cakes. The children's Christmas Parties will be held on the last day of the term - Thursday 20th December at Eastling and Friday 21st December at Painter's Forstal. We say goodbye to the children starting school in January and hope that you all have a very Happy Christmas. Any enquires to Jill Seaman, 01795 890519.

### Having a Party?

#### Planning a Wedding?

#### Venue for your Club .....

Hall and smaller rooms available with kitchen facilities at  
**Eastling Village Hall.**

For more information please contact  
Mary Eagleton on 890436.



TIME OF OUR LIVES  
PROFESSIONAL MUSIC THEATRE  
present their latest retro show

## 'England Swings!'

**Friday 14th December  
8pm**

### Stalisfield Memorial Hall

Evocative songs and comic sketches  
celebrating life in England.

Tickets: £5 to include a glass of wine or soft drink and light refreshments, available from 890475, 890594, 890287.

### Afternoon Club

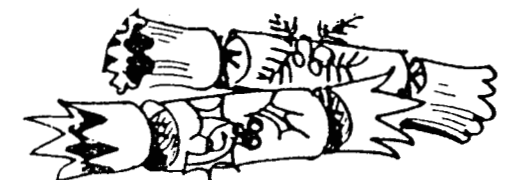
This year's Christmas meal will be at the 'Alma', meeting at 12.45pm. A merry and healthy Christmas to everyone. Activities for December:  
Thursday 6th: Lunch at the 'Alma'.  
Thursday 20th: Social afternoon, including Bingo, 2pm Champion Hall.  
Rodney.

### Ospringe with Painter's Forstal W.I.

The December meeting will be on Tuesday 18th, 2.15pm in the Champion Hall, Painter's Forstal. Mr. M. Newcombe will talk on 'The Countryside of New England' and the competition is an American Souvenir. New members welcome, information from 533756.

### Stalisfield Village Hall

Stalisfield and Otterden Senior Citizens Christmas Tea will be held on Saturday 15th December at 4pm. Please phone Brenda on 890594 if you have not received your invitation.



### Painter's Forstal Gardeners' Club

On Monday 10th December, the club are holding their Christmas Social Evening, 7.30pm Sharp, at the Champion Hall, Painter's Forstal. Please make yourself a 'Decorated name tag'. there will be small prize for the most original. Wishing you all a very happy Christmas. Further details Tel: 633608.