

**GREAT GIFTS**  
for any Budget

Friends Of Eastling School  
**The Children's Shopping Afternoon**  
will be on  
Thursday 11th December in  
Eastling Village Hall.  
There will an opportunity  
for parents and friends  
to buy their stocking  
fillers and other gifts  
from 3pm.

Ospringle School Association  
Invite you to their  
**CHRISTMAS FAIR**  
Saturday 6th December  
Ospringle School  
11am - 1pm

Crafts  
Games  
Refreshments  
Stalls and lots more  
Music

Father Christmas

**MOUSE HOLE**

**The Christmas Tree**

Why do we decorate a fir tree at Christmas?  
The story of the Christmas tree is said to have started in Germany when Saint Boniface replaced the oak tree which was sacred to the pagans with a fir tree decorated with candles in honour of Jesus, the light of the world.

**What's on the Christmas tree?**

**A Star**  
shows the way to Jesus  
See Matthew 2:1-12

**Angels**  
bring messages from God.  
Read about Gabriel's message in Luke 1: 26-38  
Read the shepherd's story in Luke 2:1-20

**Candles**  
remind us that Jesus lights the way to God.  
See Luke 2:29-32

**Presents**  
remind us of God's special gift to us.... Jesus!

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." John 3:16

**Make Stars**

1. Fold a square of paper
2. Fold
3. Fold
4. Fold
5. Cut
6. Open out

**Make Angels**

1. From a paper circle cut
2. Fold
3. Fold around, stick and decorate

**Club 8 - 13**  
Friday 19th December  
Friday 2nd January  
6.15pm in Champion Hall  
50p per session

**Sunday School** at Painter's Forstal for 8 - 13's on 7th December at 10.40am

**Christmas Family Service**  
11 a.m. Sunday 21st December  
Ospringle Church  
Carols and seasonal entertainment for the children

**Sunday School** as usual at Ospringle on the 2nd Sunday (but not the 4th Sunday this month)

**S CLUB NATIVITY**

The S Club Nativity party takes place in Eastling Village Hall on Sunday 21st December from 10.00 - 11.00am. As well as the Nativity Play performed by S Club members, there will be quizzes, games, carols, coffee and mince pies. Everyone is welcome, so bring your family and friends and join in the fun.

Hark the Herald Angels sing Glory to the new born King \*While Shepherds watched their flocks by night.\*

**Yuletide Flower Festival**  
11am - 4pm  
Eastling Church  
Friday 5th - Sunday 7th  
December  
An Evening of  
**Words and Music**  
7.30pm  
Saturday 6th December

**CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**  
Saturday 13th December  
Ospringle Church  
7pm

**Carols by Candlelight**  
6.30pm  
Champion Hall,  
Painter's Forstal  
Sunday 14th December  
Collection for N.C.H.  
Light refreshments \* All welcome

**Happy Christmas to one & all**

**Nine Lessons and Carols**  
4pm  
Eastling Church  
Sunday 21st December

**Good News Parish Magazine December 2003**

**Crib Service**  
3pm  
Stalisfield Church  
Sunday 7th December  
All Welcome

**S Club Nativity Play and Party**  
10 am  
Eastling Village Hall  
Sunday 21st December

**Come to the Manger**  
4pm - 4.45 pm  
Ospringle Church  
Christmas Eve  
Carols and readings for the whole family

**See Him**

lying on a bed of straw \* In the bleak mid winter \* The Angel Gabriel from heaven came \* Love came down at Christmas \* We three Kings from orient are \* It came upon a Midnight Clear \* Ding Dong Merrily on High \* See Amid the Winter's Snow



## Message for the Month

### Christmas 2003

With the arrival of December, the busy time is with us again. Cards to write, presents to find, shopping to do. Will there be enough food and drink for visitors - both expected and unexpected? Then there are the parties and the carol singing and .... Will we be ready?

'Peace on earth, good will to men', sang the angels in the story of Christ's birth. Yet as we come towards the end of 2003 the world is still far from a peaceful place. Hatred and violence are still in evidence both on large and small scales and there are no simple 'quick-fix' answers. Sometimes we may feel helpless when we think of all the injustice to be tackled.

Bethlehem must have been very busy and crowded when Jesus was born, as many had returned there, to their family homes, for the census. The arrival of the Son of God, Saviour of the world, happened, not in a high-tech hospital, not in a 5 star Bethlehem hotel, nor amidst last minute shopping, but without fuss in a borrowed room.

### Prayer Pointers December 2003

<u>Sundays</u>	For a sense of God's peace at this busy time.
<u>Mondays</u>	Those who are separated or estranged from their families.
<u>Tuesdays</u>	Activities in the Benefice during Advent and Christmas.
<u>Wednesdays</u>	Local voluntary workers.
<u>Thursdays</u>	Those caring for others.
<u>Fridays</u>	For all who have to work over the Christmas period.
<u>Saturdays</u>	For peace and good will to all people

It was made known firstly to those shepherds going about their ordinary work on a nearby hillside. I wonder how much we miss, as we rush around, betting ready for 'Christmas', when we may risk leaving Jesus out of it.

However small the part we may think we can play. May we strive to follow the example of the 'Prince of Peace' and, in the words of part of the Millennium Prayer: 'May there be peace in the world and peace in our homes and may it begin with me'.

Penny Fenton  
Priest-in-Charge



### Ospringe Church Gift Day November 1st 2003

Our grateful thanks to all who contributed before, during and after the Day itself. Over £1400 was raised, to which 'Gift Aid' on some donations will be added in due course. A very encouraging result! Thank you for supporting Ospringe Church. Thanks also to those who welcomed visitors and provided music and refreshments. If anyone still has an envelope they would like to return, it is not too late!

Penny Fenton  
Priest-in-Charge



### From the Organ Seat.

The Christmas Music is being prepared. There is such a wealth of beautiful Christmas Music. I love it. *O Holy Night* is "top of the pops" with the Choir!

#### Snippets

Never be afraid to try something new. Remember that amateurs built the Ark. A large group of professionals built the Titanic.

A Prayer for us as we prepare for Christmas and the birth of our Saviour, *Help us O Lord not to cram so many things into our lives that we have no time to relax and admire the beauty around us.*

And from "New Daylight" bible reading notes, a reflection:

*Kindness is the golden chain by which society is bound together.*

Goethe 1749 to 1832.

God bless, Vicky.



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#### *An Introduction to our Client Services*

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Management Buyouts and Takeovers  
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Accounting Systems and Computerisation  
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Assistance in your personal and business affairs within the European Community and throughout the rest of the World using our network of foreign associates.

*These are just a few of the services that we can provide*

For further information, please contact

**Mike Moore - Tel No: 01227 464991**  
**31 St George's Place,**  
**Canterbury**  
**Kent CT1 1XD**  
**Email: [cantinfo@larkings.co.uk](mailto:cantinfo@larkings.co.uk)**

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### Ospringe Choir Report

At the Library we viewed the Millennium Tapestry depicting Faversham's history and worked by the Quay Quilters. I think it ranks alongside the Bayeux and the Hastings Tapestries. We ate at the Moonlight Cafe and that, too, was a pleasure. We were well looked after by the staff.

Then onwards to our Museum where the Walkie-talkie Radios of the Second World War fascinated the youngsters and their Mums remembered the old shops. Thank you to the volunteer staff there who made us welcome.

Freda and Don marched the choir across Gatefield Lane and the 'rec' to Millfield where we played Henry Dagg's Musical Railings.

"That was a great day, Mrs. Shepherd" and, bless them, they have written beautiful letters of thanks to everybody. Do look at the photos I have put up in Church! Thank you to the Mums, Dads and Grandparents who helped us.

The choir diary is full and exciting for Christmas. We plan to take part in as many services as possible, to sing at the Cottage Hospital and at Carnalea. We love our Christmas Carols. Anyone who would like to join us please ask.

Vicky Shepherd

### What's in a Name?

by David Winter

Shakespeare said that a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, which is undoubtedly true. But that doesn't mean that names aren't important. People who are given ridiculous or inappropriate names by their parents often go to great lengths to assume another, whether a nickname or a genuine, legal change. Names colour our view of people - who would call their little boy 'Adolf'?

All through the Bible names are highly significant. Sometimes God himself is said to 'name' people - Abraham, for instance. Jesus named Simon as 'Peter', the rock. And at this Christmas season we are reminded that the name 'Jesus' itself was not simply a matter of Joseph and Mary discussing what to call their new baby boy. It was the angel of God who named him: 'You are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21). The name, as it were, would determine the divine purpose behind this miraculous birth. The child's name, Jesus - Yeshua in Hebrew - was also the name of the man who led the Israelites into Canaan, usually rendered in English as 'Joshua'. So the name was already associated with a mighty saviour (which explains the second part of the angel's message). At Bethlehem a greater 'Joshua' was to be born, one who would also lead his people into a new and

promised kingdom. But this time the waters would be the waters of death and the promised land nothing less than the kingdom of heaven.

There's another name in Matthew's account of the birth of Jesus - 'Emmanuel'. 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel' - words taken from the prophet Isaiah and applied to the baby yet to be born. So far as we know, nobody ever actually called Jesus 'Emmanuel', but the title has enormous significance. It means 'God with us'. At Bethlehem, in some mysterious way, the God of eternity entered the world of mortality in the person of this infant: 'The Word became flesh and dwelt among us' (John 1:14). And then, right at the end of Matthew's Gospel, we have the promise that although in physical presence Jesus was to leave the earthly world, he would still be 'God with us' to the end of human time (Matthew 28:20).

So names matter, especially biblical ones. In many ways, the name tells us all we need to know in order to understand the purpose of the coming of Jesus. 'He will save his people from their sins', and 'he will be with us, even to the end of the age'.

Try something different on a Sunday morning

Come to

### Sunday Newstyle

Eastling Church  
Sunday 14th December

Our guest speaker this month:  
Capt. Laurence Gamlen.  
London & S. East consultant  
for the Church Pastoral Aid  
Society.



Coffee and Croissants served from 10am, Newstyle starts at 10.30am  
All ages welcome  
Further details from 890338

### MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

During October we welcomed Sue Spillett (Mothers' Union Prayer and Spirituality Coordinator) to our meeting.

We were told how the Prayer & Spirituality Unit was first started 15 years ago at Mary Sumner House, M.U. headquarters, and how the unit has developed over the years. It holds conferences, produces leaflets and has information on the internet. The aim of the Prayer & Spirituality unit is to keep members 'alive', and meet challenges. In the Canterbury Diocese it arranges the following: Prayers in the M.U. Newsletter, Annual Wave of Prayer documents, Mid-day Prayers, Diocesan Prayer time in the Cathedral (the last Thursday in every month 12 noon -12.30pm), Indoor Members' Prayer Circle, Emergency Prayer Chain, Diocesan Services and Advent Services.

On a personal level, we were told that prayer is our communication with God and were shown some helpful books. These ranged from 'Using the Bible', the new M.U. Poetry book and Fiona Castle's books: Anthology of Hope, Anthology of Peace, and Joy. We listened to a C.D 'Celtic Expressions' and were told of the importance of music and dance. Sue explained that many of us lead very busy lives and need to have quiet times, and relax; the Prayer & Spirituality unit arranges Quiet Days throughout the year for members and friends to attend.

The meeting finished with time for reflection.

Carol Marshall



## Eastling's Village Bobbies

Mr Richard Mason of Biggleswade, Bedfordshire recently contacted the Eastling Village website to say, whilst tracing family history, he had discovered that his wife's grandfather, Stanley Henry Thomas Latter, was the Eastling village policeman from September 1921 to February 1922. He lived in the village at 1 Prospect Place. Prior to that, PC Latter served at Chatham and went back there after his short spell in Eastling and until his retirement in 1946.

These details, together with an existing item on the website about Leslie Jack Taylor, who became village policeman in 1936 and also lived at 1 Prospect Place, have prompted website operator Harold Wyld to suggest that a roll of all the village's former bobbies should be produced. He said: "Until the village police service was withdrawn about 10 years ago, they were important members of the local community. It seems fitting there should be a proper record of them alongside the other historical information on the website." Anyone with names, dates or other details is urged to contact Harold on 01795 890413 or e-mail eastling@northdowns.plus.com.

## Eastling Entertainment Committee

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who bought tickets and turned up to the

## FIREWORKS EXTRAVAGANZA

on the 5th November.

Everyone enjoyed the Bar-B-Q, the Mulled Wine and the Soup, also the soft drinks for the children. The band, HULLABALOO were just wonderful and we must thank them for coming at such short notice. It turned out to be a wonderful night for the village people and all the visitors from surrounding areas. A special BIG thanks to all the people who helped both before, during and after the event and to the people who kindly loaned equipment.

As previously stated, this was an event for the village and so was NON PROFIT making. Therefore after covering our costs we are in a position to be able to donate £50 each to the Village Church and to the Village Hall.

Again thank you all,  
The Committee.

## BRITISH RED CROSS

*Help the Red Cross - Open a Garden!*

The British Red Cross would like to hear from owners of private gardens willing to join in its annual Open Gardens programme. Owners may participate individually or as part of a local gardens safari. Any funds raised support the Red Cross or can be shared with a local good cause.

If required, the Red Cross will help with planning, publicity and volunteers for open days. Anyone who would like more information should contact Jan Summers, the Red Cross Open Gardens Coordinator for Kent and Sussex, on 01622 891695.

## Champion Hall Whitehill Chapel

We would like to thank Noreen and Colin Mitchell, Lorrie Clarke and Kath Watts for their help with cleaning and putting up the curtains after the partial redecoration. I think Kath thoroughly enjoyed herself removing festoons of dust covered cobwebs from the walls and at the same time showering the rest of us with dust!

Thank you all.

## Eastling Harvest Festival

Thank you to all who so generously contributed gifts of food, fruit and vegetables for the Eastling Harvest Festival, and those who decorated the church; it looked lovely for this special occasion.

All the food and fresh produce was taken to Age Concern in Faversham, who provide meals and supplies to the elderly. None was wasted - the fresh produce which was not eaten immediately was prepared and frozen for a later date. Thank you too to all the readers, aged 6 to 60, who read so beautifully. We were pleased to welcome villagers from all walks of life especially from the farming community at this harvest time.

Angela Cheeseman.

## Show Ospringe Skills

Saturday 15th November saw the Champion Hall transformed with 14 tables loaded with all kinds of exhibits. As one walked in you realised Christmas was on the way with a display of floral decorations just right for the festive season, while next came crackers and snowballs, all hand made. Samples of spinning and weaving, knitting, quilling, lace making and crochet work were all of a high standard. Two very different types of pottery and some examples of wood turning were on display. Painting, framed cross stitch and tapestry were much in evidence, while hanging from the wall and the cross beams were large hand made kites (and there were photographs to prove they really can fly!).

The minute details of the exquisite model soldiers were a definite must see, and the steam engine and carriage restoration with detailed explanations and photographs provided a real interest for our gentlemen visitors. Apart from lunch time, we had a steady stream of visitors coming to view. Several people commented that they would like it repeated next year, so one concludes it was a success. Thank you to all who exhibited or came to view.

Bobbie Richards

## G.C. STEVENS & SON

### WOODSTOVES

Gas, Oil, Multifuel Stoves

**RAYBURN** Cookers

Large selection on display

**STIHL\*** **HONDA** **Husqvarna**

Mowers, Strimmers, Chainsaws,  
Ride-on mowers, Shredders, Generators,  
Vacuum Cleaners, Pressure Washers, etc.

*Come and visit our showroom at*

**Centre 2000, St. Michael's Road,  
Sittingbourne.**

**Tel: (01795) 423758**

## Canterbury Open Centre,

or Canterbury Open Christmas as it was then, began in 1990 when a small group of individuals got together to raise funds to provide emergency Christmas accommodation and meals for homeless people. From such small beginnings it has grown into a well established and highly respected charity which continues to make provision for the homeless, not just at Christmas time, but also throughout the rest of the year. Open 365 days of the year, the charity's main work has focused on the running day of the Day Centre, although since 1998 it has extended this provision to include emergency night shelter for up to 20 people per night.

In addition to the basic provision of daily meals, washing and laundry facilities and secondhand clothing, the Centre also offers advice and support on other issues such as employment, retraining, alcohol and substance abuse and mental health which are often inextricably linked to homelessness.

The Charity's objective is to help clients regain their confidence and sense of self worth within the community in which they live. Our ultimate goal is to rehabilitate alienated individuals to the point where they are able to cope with seeking and maintaining safe, appropriate accommodation. Ultimately the charity is about saving lives.

Canterbury Open Centre is a registered charity. Reg. No. 1014868

**Canterbury Open Centre  
Fund Raising  
Palmer House  
13 Station Road East  
Canterbury  
Kent CT1 2RB**

We need your unwanted bedding, clothing, food. If you live locally to Canterbury and are having a clear-out, we always have a need for gifts-in-kind. Specifically: bedding and sleeping bags, clothes, especially good shoes, socks, underwear and jumpers (male and female), food, Pet food (eg: Dog), and occasionally household items for when clients are rehoused such as pots and pans, rugs, bed linen and towels. These can be brought to the day centre between 8.30 and 4pm, seven days a week.

# Celebrate

The Birth Of Christ

## A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

*Ospringe Church*

*Saturday 13th December at 7pm*

*Join us for an evening of seasonal readings and music*

*followed by mulled wine and mince pies*

*Retiring collection for church funds*

Donations of mince pies and fruit juice would be most welcome on the night. Please contact Jan Williams on 536528 with offers. Donations of red wine for mulling to Vicky Shepherd in advance.

# Yuletide

## Flower Festival

*Come and see your favourite Christmas Carols*

*depicted in floral and craft arrangements*

**11am - 4pm**

**St. Mary's Church, Eastling**

**Friday 5th - Sunday 7th December**

Supporting Canterbury Open Centre, Pilgrims Hospice, Demelza House and Eastling Church.

Gifts Stalls and Refreshments

*PLUS*

## An Evening of Words and Music

7.30pm to 9.00pm

Saturday 6th December

Refreshments ☆ Tickets £5.00

Phone 01795 890598

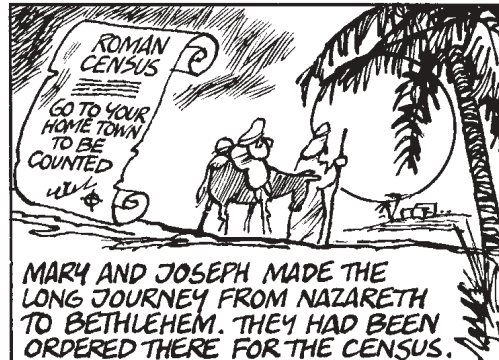


# A Very Special Baby

JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE A VERY SPECIAL BABY.



BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL...



...WHICH IS WHERE JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY.



WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST. THEY TOO WANTED TO SEE JESUS. THEY HAD BEEN GUIDED BY A STAR.



BUT MARY, JOSEPH AND BABY JESUS SOON HAD TO ESCAPE TO EGYPT...



## St Nicholas Day in Canterbury Saturday 6th December FUN FOR ALL

1.00pm Parade from Westgate Music and Entertainment along the way. Big Bash Muusic Co., School Choirs and Bands

2.30pm Arrival at the Cathedral (free entry from 2pm) Music by the Cathedral Choristers, directed by Dr. David Flood.

Greetings from the Christmas Crib from church and city officials. Songs, readings and stories, followed by activities in the International Study Centre and Shop. Sweets for all the children.

St Nicholas will visit the Cathedral Shop from 3 - 4pm.

This year's charity is to be Demelza House. The St Nicholas Society is pleased to announce that Mrs Jane Williams, who will celebrate her first Christmas with her husband Archbishop Rowan and their children in Canterbury, is the patron of the St Nicholas Celebration Day.

In the evening the cathedral will be the venue for a classic seasonal music programme for St Nicholas Day by the Cantuar Singers and Orchestra including Part One of the Christmas Oratorio of J S Bach and a new work by Matthew Martin, with text by Dean Robert Willis, to honour the saint of the day. Tickets will be from £10 for unreserved seats, from Tourist Information Centre & Merchant Chandler. Early purchase is advised as quire seating is limited.

Visit the St Nicholas Exhibition.

An exhibition of images of St Nicholas will be on display in the cathedral till 15th December during regular visiting hours.

## Inter-Faith Dialogue - visit by Revd. Marcus Braybrooke, October 19th

As Penny observed when opening the meeting - it must have been a long time since Stalisfield Village Hall was so full at 3.30pm on a Sunday afternoon! The occasion was the visit of Revd. Marcus Braybrooke, to give a talk and lead a discussion on 'Inter-Faith Dialogue'. He spoke to a crowded meeting of people from our own and nearby parishes.

After long service in the Church of England (including 6 years as curate and later vicar at Frindsbury with Upnor, near Rochester) Marcus has been a non-stipendiary priest at the Dorchester Team Ministry, Oxford since 1993. He is Co-President of the World Congress of Faiths, was formerly Director of the Council of Christians and Jews and is the author of many books, including works on what we can learn from Islam, Hinduism and Judaism. In 2001 he received the Kashi Humanitarian Award for "nearly 40 years leadership of the Interfaith Movement".

Marcus spoke of the religious differences that are at the root of so much strife in the modern world, and of how these differences are often

based on misunderstandings and misperceptions of what the 'others' believe. If only there were greater understanding and acceptance of the validity of other faiths, much violence and many violations of human rights could be avoided. He suggested that even more effective than dialogue on the institutional level was informal contact and friendship between individuals of different faiths. Dialogue should be a living experience for men and women who, though they meet from the point of view of their own religious positions, do so not as entrenched defenders of particular systems, but as people of faiths that are constantly developing. In this regard he commended the Christian/Muslim dialogue initiated by Archbishop George Carey in 2002.

One of the first contributors during the question period pointed out that divisions within Christianity have caused as much trouble as differences between Christianity and other faiths. Marcus agreed that we need intra-faith just as much as inter-faith dialogue, and within Islam (and Judaism, and others) as well as within Christianity. A fundamental point was later raised - could

Christians, and members of other faiths, ever give up their claims to 'exclusivity'? For example, could we Christians ever accept that, while God reveals Himself to us in Jesus Christ, the same God also reveals Himself in different ways to Hindus, Muslims, Jews and others? Perhaps the sympathetic exploration of differences between faiths will lead eventually to a sense that they share common ground, and hence to an acceptance that there are many paths to God. Each path has its own uniquely valuable insights, but none of them - including Christianity - is exclusively 'right' or inevitably 'better' than the others.

We are grateful to our good friend Dr Raghu Gaiand for proposing this interesting and valuable meeting, and to all those who helped organise it and provide the excellent tea which followed. Copies of the full text of Marcus' talk are available, and if you would like one, please phone me on 01795-890780, or email graham@galer.demon.co.uk.

Graham Galer





## Services in our Benefice

### 30th November 2003 Advent Sunday

Ospringe	8 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
Eastling	10.30 a.m.	Special Advent Service Benefice Service

### Tuesday 2nd December

Whitehill Chapel	2.15 p.m.	Holy Communion
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### 7th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

Philippians 1. 3 - 11, Luke 3. 1 - 6		
Ospringe	8 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
Eastling	10 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)
Whitehill Chapel	10.40 a.m.	Sunday School (8-13s)
Whitehill Chapel	11 a.m.	Family Service
Ospringe	11 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Stalisfield	3 p.m.	Crib Service

### 14th December 3rd Sunday in Advent

Philippians 4. 4 - 7, Luke 3. 7 - 18		
Eastling	8 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
Stalisfield	10 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Eastling	10.30 a.m.	Newstyle
Ospringe	11 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)
Ospringe	11 a.m.	Sunday School
Whitehill Chapel	6.30 p.m.	Carols by Candlelight

### 21st December 4th Sunday in Advent

Hebrews 10 5 - 10, Luke 1. 39 - 45		
Ospringe	8 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
Eastling Hall	10 a.m.	S Club Nativity Play
Stalisfield	10 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)
Ospringe	11 a.m.	Christmas Family Service
Eastling	4 p.m.	Nine Lessons and Carols

### Christmas Eve

Ospringe	4 p.m.	Come to the Manger
Ospringe	11.30 p.m.	Holy Communion (CW)
Stalisfield	11.30 p.m.	Holy Communion (CW)

### Christmas Day

Ospringe	8 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
Eastling	10 a.m.	Family Communion (CW)
Ospringe	10.30 a.m.	Family Service

### 28th December Sunday after Christmas

Ospringe	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
Ospringe	11 a.m.	Family Communion (CW)
Whitehill Chapel	11 a.m.	People's Choice

### 4th January Epiphany

Ospringe	8 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
Eastling	10 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)
Stalisfield	10 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)
Whitehill Chapel	10.40 a.m.	Sunday School (8-13s)
Whitehill Chapel	11 a.m.	Family Service
Ospringe	11 a.m.	Morning Prayer

## Sharing Ministry in our Benefice

Priest in Charge	Reverend Penny Fenton	(01795 536366)
	9 Brogdale Road, Faversham. ME13 8SX	
Curate	Reverend Patricia Pollard	(01795 535407)
	7 Arthur Salmon Close, Faversham.	
Reader	Mr. Hugh Perks	(01795 890603)
	Weald Cottage, Kettle Hill Road, Eastling.	
Reader	Mr. Norman Fowler	(01795 890412)
	4 Meesons Close, Eastling.	
Methodist Minister	Reverend Chris Esgate	(01795 532461)
	Chris@Esgate.plus.com	

### 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.

### January 2004 Good News - Early Deadline

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 13th December to Hilary Harlow, Pinks Farm, Eastling, Faversham ME13 0BA. Tel: 01795 890338. Where possible, please submit your entries by e-mail: h.f.harlow@talk21.com



## From the Registers

### Baptism

CAITLIN ELEANOR Whitelock  
26th October 2003 at Eastling

### Funerals

Edith Joyce WATTS  
Cremation at Charing on 23rd October 2003

Christopher Thomas (Chris) REYNOLDS  
Cremation at Barham on 28th October 2003

Jean Monica SIMMONS  
Cremation at Charing followed by  
Thanksgiving Service at Ospringe  
on 5th November 2003

Jeffrey Clive BUTLER  
Cremation at Charing on 14th November 2003

Ruth FREWIN  
Cremation at Charing on 19th November 2003

## EASTLING PARISH COUNCIL

Among the matters discussed at the November meeting of Eastling Parish Council were water leaks, bottle banks and local road problems. Invited to comment on water supply strategy for Kent, Councillors decided to raise the question of delays in attending to water leaks. They recalled the slow response to complaints about three serious leaks on local water mains in recent months. Councillors agreed that one villager's suggestion for introducing a glass recycling bank at Eastling would be worthwhile but might produce problems through vandalism or inconsiderate use. They decided to consult owners of potential locations for a bottle bank before progressing the idea. Councillors were pleased to note that the damaged halt sign at the junction of Newnham Lane and The Street had been replaced and a number of local potholes had been repaired. However, there were several matters awaiting answers from the Swale Highways Unit and the parish clerk was asked to write again.

### Village Design Statement

A small group of residents has taken up Eastling Parish Council's challenge to produce a Design Statement for the village. This will involve identifying the best and worst features of the village and what should be developed or protected in the future. Villagers will be asked for their views and help with the project. The resulting Design Statement should become an important reference for Swale Council when it considers local planning. Members of the working party are Julia Bailey, John Darlington, John Payne, Mike Thomas, Roger Turner and Gill Willoughby.

### Wanted! Ideas for Projects

Eastling Parish Councillors are inviting residents ideas for projects to improve facilities or sort out problems in the parish. Chairman John Payne says it is important that people tell him right away, so ideas can be discussed at the Council's January meeting and

included in next year's budget if any costs are involved. He says: "Last year, several villagers identified problems in negotiating a couple of stiles on a local footpath. The parish council arranged with the landowners for replacement kissing gates. A good result!" To contact John, call 01795 890793.

### Broadband for Eastling?

Eastling Parish Councillors are seeking support from Internet campaigner Derek Wyatt MP and neighbouring parishes served by the Eastling telephone exchange to encourage British Telecom to introduce Broadband Internet connections locally. Currently, BT demands at least 300 local requests for the faster connections before it will convert an exchange. Small rural communities - like Eastling - are unlikely to meet this requirement. Internet users can help by registering their interest in Broadband services through their Internet Service Provider. Expressing interest does not mean they are committed to take the service if it becomes available.

### Glebe Cottages Bus Shelter

Bus passengers using the very exposed Glebe Cottages stop could have their long-awaited shelter by the New Year! Swale Council has offered a £2,866 grant towards the cost and, at their November meeting, Parish Councillors agreed the scheme should go ahead using a local builder.

### PARISH CLERK VACANCY

Applications are invited for the post of Parish Clerk with effect from July 2004. This interesting and varied post involves taking minutes at evening meetings (12 per annum), dealing with all correspondence, e-mails, planning matters and responsibility for the Council's financial records and audit. Secretarial skills are essential.

Salary as per recommended scale. Please apply, giving details of experience and qualifications, to the Clerk to Ospringe Parish Council, 1 Little Kennaways, Stalisfield Road, Faversham, ME13 0AB.

### Learn About Computing

Supported by government and local authority funds, the Training Highway organisation is offering to run practical training in computing and using the Internet for people over the age of 50 at local venues. Successful courses have already been held at Wye, Biddenden, Rolvenden and Tenterden.

Eastling could be next and the Parish Council has agreed to see if there would be sufficient demand. The sessions can be tailored to suit absolute beginners as well as those who want to improve their skills. Anyone who is interested is asked to contact Parish Council Chairman John Payne on 01795 890793 or Parish Clerk Carol Butterfield on 01795 539148. Given a good response, a meeting will be arranged for Training Highway to explain the scheme and learn exactly what people want.

### Tree Warden

Parish Councillors have renewed their call for a local Tree Warden for the Eastling area. Free training is offered, enabling volunteers to play an active part in helping property owners with successful tree planting and management and encouraging public awareness of the environmental benefits of trees and woodlands. For more details, contact Council Chairman John Payne on 01795 890793.

### Next Meeting

Eastling Parish Council's next meeting is on Monday, 12 January 2004 at 8pm in Eastling Village Hall. As always, the public is invited to attend.

## Ospringe Parish Council

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Wednesday 10th December 2003 at 7.30pm in Whitehill Chapel, Painters Forstal. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

The Council is urgently seeking volunteers to run a Youth Club in Painters Forstal. This will be a paid position. Please contact the clerk for details.

## Neighbourhood Watch Information

master system. Indeed details of some reported crimes will be suppressed by the system to avoid compromising ongoing investigations. You can help by making your own Watch personnel aware of all incidents which you report to the Police or other notable items of which you become aware.

The Police, Swale Neighbourhood Watch Office, and local watches can only be effective if the public report all crimes and suspicious activities. It is recognised that contacting Kent Police with their new Force Communication Centre has been a

problem area in the past, but we have been assured by senior Police Officers that past problems have now been addressed. We are anxious to monitor this and so I would be grateful if you will advise me of any of your recent and future experiences, good and bad, in contacting the police.

The new incoming Chief Constable is known to value Neighbourhood Watch as an effective tool in crime fighting and we hope that all matters relating to Community Policing will receive a higher profile in 2004.

Please contact me for any information on Neighbourhood Watch matters.  
Brian Wimlett, Whitehill Cottage, Brogdale Road, Faversham, Kent, ME13 0DN  
Tel / Fax 01795 532747 email brian.wimlett@whitehill-intl.com



## Diary December 2003

5-7th Festival of Carols	11am - 4pm	Eastling Church
6th Concert	7.30pm	Eastling Church
6th Christmas Fair	11am - 1pm	Ospringe School
8th P.F. Gardeners' Club Party	7.30pm	Champion Hall
9th Eastling Senior Citizens Lunch	12.30pm	Eastling Village Hall
10/11th Carol Singing	early evening	around Ospringe
11th Afternoon Club (Fish & Chips)	2pm	Champion Hall
11th Children's Shopping Afternoon	3pm	Eastling Village Hall
12th Music Theatre		Stalisfield Village Hall
13th Deadline for January 2004 Good News	890338	/ Pinks Farm.
13th Stalisfield Over 60's Tea	4pm	Stalisfield Village Hall
13th Christmas Celebration	7pm	Ospringe Church
14th Carols by Candlelight	6.30pm	Whitehill Chapel
16th Women's Institute	2.15pm	Champion Hall
16th Eastling Gardeners' Christmas Party	7.30pm	
17th Carol Sing-Song	approx 10.30am	Eastling Village Hall
18th Afternoon Club (Party)	2pm	Champion Hall
19th Club 8 - 13	6.15pm	Champion Hall
21st Nine Lessons & Carols	4pm	Eastling Church
30th Magazine Folding	2pm	Usual Venues

### Doddington Buddies

#### Parent and Toddler Group

We meet every Thursday, during school term time, 1.30pm - 3.00pm at Doddington School Hall. All Babies and Children aged 0-4 years with their carers are very welcome. Come for a cuppa and a chat while the children play. For further information please contact Amanda Tel: 01795 886277.

### Travel Cot with mattress

looking for a good home  
Phone 01795 890780

### Eastling Short Mat Bowls Club Eastling Cherries

The club plays a very good game of Short Mat Bowls. If you do not know this game, please come along and watch, you might then want to join the club; membership is only £10 a year. You will soon be hooked like the rest of us!

For those new to the village, this club has been running for three years and our membership has gone from strength to strength. So, if you would like to try your hand at the game, come along, age is not a problem and can be played with male and female on equal terms.

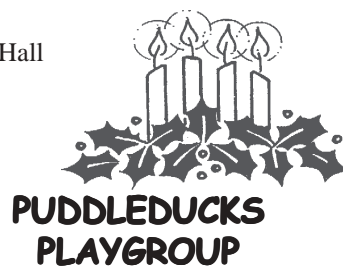
The Cherries are now meeting on Wednesday afternoons from 2.30 - 4.30pm, this will go through until spring. So, if you want something to do through the winter months, come and join us in Eastling Village Hall.

We still hold club meetings on Fridays, afternoons 2.30 - 4.30pm, and evenings 7.30 - 9.30pm.

After the introduction with the school, we are still hoping to have a youth section. We can run from 5.00 - 7.00pm on a Friday, with a playing fee of just £1. Some of the other club we play against have younger members playing and they are very good. Please contact Roy Piles on 537162, or Norman Fowler on 890412.

### Eastling Gardeners' Club Christmas Party 16th December

All welcome (including non-gardeners) to the Christmas Party at Eastling Village Hall from 7.30pm onwards. Wine and home-made food plus whisky tasting. Renew your membership at £5 per person or £2.50 for the party only.



Our jumble sale raised £90 to go towards our annual insurance. Thanks to all those who supported us.

The children are now working on decorations and cards in readiness for Christmas. Their Christmas party will be held on the last day of term Friday 19th December. All the Playgroup children are invited.

A superb Hamper will be the first prize in our Christmas Raffle with lots of other prizes including wine, books and chocolates. Tickets - 50p for 5 - will be on sale from 8th December and will be drawn on Thursday 18th December. Do please buy some tickets to help with our running costs.

Please phone for further information. Jill Seaman, 01795 890519.

### The Good News Magazine

The cost of printing this magazine is funded almost entirely by our advertising revenue, but each year we need a little extra to balance the books. All production and delivery is completely voluntary and we are very grateful to all who help with the folding and delivery.

We now send out 1365 copies each month which we hope you enjoy reading.

If you are able to contribute towards our costs, please send your donation to Mr R. Tumber, 8 Briton Road, Faversham. ME13 8QH. Please make cheques payable to *Good News Church Magazine*.

Thank you.



### Painter's Forstal Gardeners' Club

The Club is holding their Christmas Party on Monday 8th December, 7.30pm SHARP, in the Champion Hall. Happy Christmas to you all. Further details from Faversham 533608.

### Stalisfield Footlights

It is with some (but not too much) regret that we have to advise that all tickets for the December performance of THE TIME OF OUR LIVES MUSIC THEATRE in the historic Stalisfield Hut have been sold. The only possibility now, if you have missed the boat, is to hope for a cancellation. The list is held by Ian on 01795 890475.

### Stalisfield Highlife

The Christmas tea party for the Stalisfield/Otterden over 60's is on Saturday 13th December at 4 o'clock. Most will have already been invited but if anyone has been overlooked, please phone Ko-ordinator Kim on 01795 890691.

Please note that 60 is the qualifying age for both men and women - there is no discrimination.

### Coffee Pop-In Wednesdays 9 - 11am, Eastling Village Hall

We would like to thank everyone for their on going support for the Coffee pop-in. During the seven months we have been up and running, we have had many of our community pass through our doors, from babies and beyond, male and female. We have sold hundreds of cakes, cards and raised money for charities. Our current venture is for the Pilgrims Hospice in Canterbury. Some of our braver ladies are participating in a sponsored diet and we will be holding a raffle mid December. So please do call in for a cuppa and a chat, and help us to support other such worthy causes.

The POP-IN Team.

### Carol "Sing Song"

There will be an informal carol singing time on Wednesday 17th December, Eastling Village Hall, towards the end of the Pop-in.

Do come and sing your favourite carols and bring your children (toddlers) to sing us their favourite carols too. Coffee and Mince Pies provided.

### Painter's Forstal with Ospringe Women's Institute

Tuesday 16th December

Talk: Flowers for Christmas  
by Mrs Burns

Competition: Pot Plant

2.15pm in the Champion Hall  
New members welcome, phone  
532756 or come to a meeting,  
on 3rd Tuesday each month.

### Ospringe School Association News

What a display! The fireworks night on was a fantastic success. The event was sold out by Friday morning and most people observed our request to leave the cars at home, so there was no congestion in Water Lane. Apologies to anyone who came on the night but we limited the number of tickets for safety reasons. Now we know the field capacity there will be more tickets on sale next year so hopefully we will not have to turn anyone away. We have booked the same organisation for next year, so some along on the 6th November 2004 for another fantastic display.

We are now looking forward the Christmas Fair. The reply has come back from the North Pole and Father Christmas will definitely be there. There will be plenty of stalls, games (including dance mats) and things to do, in fact lots of fun for everybody. See you there on Saturday 6th December 11am - 1pm.

The infants are busy practising for the Christmas Production, and the Choir is practising carols so all is set for a Very Happy Christmas. Can't believe that the next time I write for the magazine it will be for January 2004!

Jill Fagg



### Having a Party? Planning a Wedding?

#### Venue for your Club ...

Half and smaller rooms available  
with kitchen facilities at

### Eastling Village Hall.

For more information please  
contact Mary Eagleton on 890436.