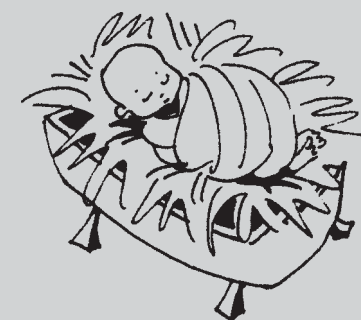




## Come to the Manger

4pm - 4.45 pm  
Ospringe Church  
Christmas Eve  
Carols and readings for the whole family. All welcome.



## Crib Service

3pm  
Stalisfield Church  
Sunday 12th December  
All Welcome

## S Club

### Christmas Party

10 am  
Eastling Village Hall  
Sunday 19th December  
Everyone is welcome to the S.Club Christmas Party.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Join in the fun with songs, games, refreshments and a special **Nativity Play** performed by The Puppet Club.



## Christmas Fair Ospringe School

Come and join us in the School Hall on Saturday 4th December from 11am - 1pm.

Live music

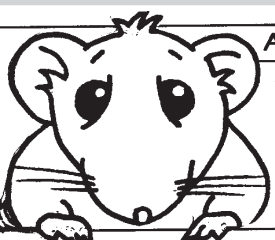
Stalls

Refreshments

Father Christmas

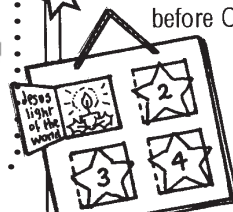
Games

Crafts



### MOUSE HOLE

Make an ADVENT calendar to count down the four Sundays before Christmas.



Get an adult to cut windows in the front of a folded card. Number them, write a bible verse on the back and decorate on the front and behind each window.

'ADVENT' comes from the Latin 'AD VENTO' and means 'ARRIVAL'.

### MERRY CHRISTMAS

from all over the world  
★ GOD JUL (Swedish)  
★ JOYEUX NOEL (French)  
★ FELIZ NAVIDAD (Spanish)  
★ BOUN NATALE (Italian)

A Happy Christmas to all!

Eastern Star,  
White and bright,  
In deep darkness,  
Shining light.  
Points to Jesus,  
God's precious Son,  
Lord and King,  
Our Saviour has come.

Angels sing  
And shepherds hear;  
"Come see Jesus,  
Do not fear,  
Peace on earth,  
Goodwill to all."  
Come to Jesus,  
Saviour of all.

"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

### JINGLE BELLS

Make Christmas stars from lengths of twig, lolly sticks, or wooden skewers. Glue or tie together and decorate with glitter and sparkly Christmas shapes.

Decorate a small flower pot and thread with large beads on thin ribbon.



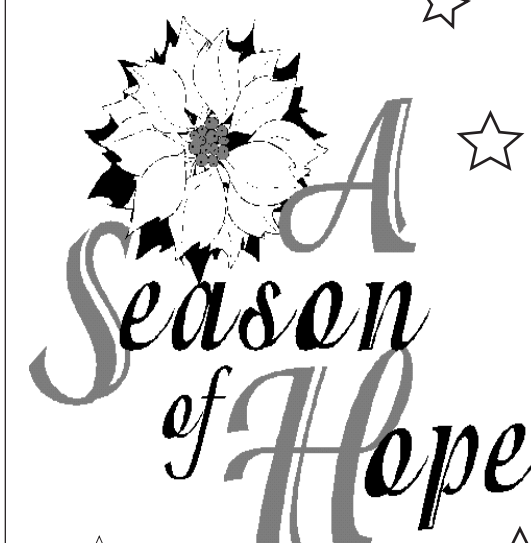
# December

## 2004

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Saturday 11th December 7pm Ospringe Church

An evening of seasonal readings and music followed by refreshments including mince pies. There will be no tickets on sale in advance, but donations will be invited afterwards. Donations of refreshment items gratefully accepted.



### Carol Singing around Eastling

You are invited to come carol singing around Eastling Village in aid of the Pilgrims Hospice on the evening of December 21st (the Tuesday before Christmas) Children welcome but please wear warm clothes and bring torches(or lamps!) if possible. Please meet at Eastling Village Hall at 6.30 on Dec 21st  
Angela Cheeseman 890629

### Ospringe Carol Singing

There will be Carol Singing outside Ospringe School on 16th and 17th December as part of the School Association fundraising.

### Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 19th December 4pm  
Eastling Church  
Come and join a full church to sing traditional carols and hear the familiar readings. Stay for coffee, or tea, and mince pies.

### Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 19th December 6.30pm  
Champion Hall, Painter's Forstal  
Led by Revd. Penny Fenton and Revd. Chris Esgate  
Readings by young people. Collection for the National Children's Home  
Followed by light refreshments.

### Stalisfield Carol Singing.

This will take place on Wednesday 22nd December, starting off from The Plough at 6pm. Meet outside, all welcome.

### Painter's Forstal

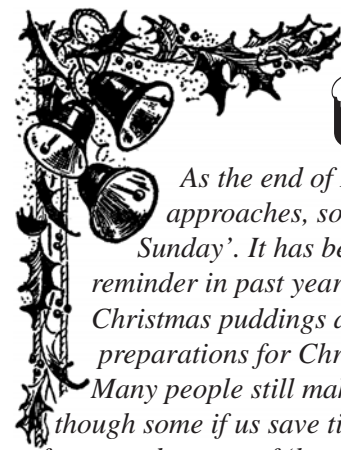
Amenities Committee  
Carols round the Village  
21st December  
meet at 6.45pm in the Champion Hall. Do come and join in.

### Carols in the Market Place

Faversham  
Thursday 23rd at 7pm







# CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

As the end of November approaches, so does ‘Stir Up Sunday’. It has been a timely reminder in past years to make the Christmas puddings and begin the preparations for Christmas itself. Many people still make their own, though some if us save time by looking for a good source of ‘home made’ ones or make that difficult choice of ‘will it be the one in the red - or gold- or green wrapper from the shelves of the shop! Yet the special prayer set for ‘Stir Up Sunday’ makes no mention of puddings! In the prayer, God is invited to ‘stir up’ our hearts. As we approach Christmas, we are reminded of that very special event, around 200 years ago, when God intervened in the world and a tiny baby - named Jesus - was born. Not in a palace or surrounded by wealth, but into very ordinary, perhaps humble, circumstances. What that child grew up to teach and to be and to do changed the world. There were no big preparations, no safe place, no Superstar lifestyle prepared for

the baby. In fact the only people who were first told of the birth were shepherds, people on the edge of town and on the edge of society, going about their ordinary business. It is God’s way to come quietly, humbly, to human beings. To those who do not think themselves ‘special’. To those who are willing to receive him. Perhaps it is one of the mysteries and miracles of the Christmas story that God comes to us as he finds us. The manger, it seems, was good enough for the one who made stars and seas. Our hearts are good enough places for God to dwell this Christmas time. There will be many distractions in the days ahead not least, the next showing of The Vicar of Dibley Christmas episode! Why not try to keep a few moments quiet and special to reflect on the real meaning of Christmas. Or even try to make time to come to one of the Christmas time services - you will be very welcome. May God bless you this Christmas time. Revd. Penny Fenton Priest-in-Charge.



## Prayer Pointers December 2004

<u>Sundays</u>	For a sense of peace at this busy time.
<u>Mondays</u>	Those for whom this season will be a sad or lonely time.
<u>Tuesdays</u>	For all our worship and activities during Advent and Christmas.
<u>Wednesdays</u>	All for whom Christmas has no spiritual meaning.
<u>Thursdays</u>	Those who will spend Christmas in hospital.
<u>Fridays</u>	Those whose loved ones may be in danger.
<u>Saturdays</u>	For a lessening of world tensions.

## Deanery Confirmation March 13th 2005

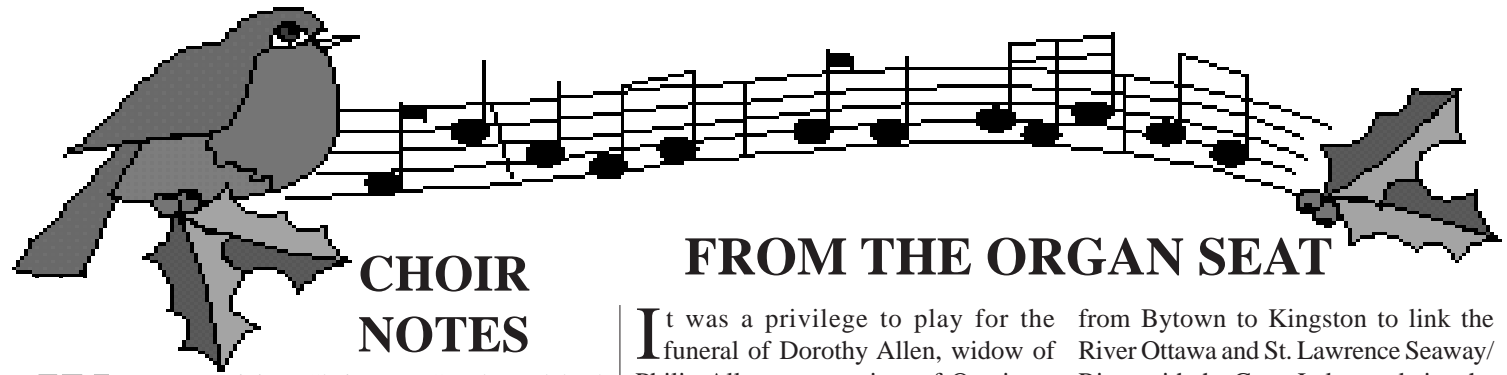
There will be a confirmation service at St. Mary of Charity. Bishop Graham will confirm candidates from various parishes (they will be accompanied by their own clergy). Preparation will be organised (separate groups) for any interested teenagers and adults from our own benefice. Please contact Penny 536366 if you would like to be involved.

Granny taught her. Thank you, Caroline, for sharing your interesting life with us. At the Diocesan Christmas Market and AGM at Westgate Hall we sold the Raffle Tickets and did a roaring trade. Our Advent Service is at Canterbury Cathedral at 11 a.m. on Monday, 6th December. Carol will be leading us to plan our 2005 Diary starting with our Post Christmas Lunch at The

Alma in January. We have the opportunity to join the Diocesan Coach to the World-wide M.U. Annual Meeting at Ipswich Stadium on Saturday 25th June, 2005 for just £15. I went to Cardiff in 2002 with Peggy Partis and would recommend the Annual Meeting. Thank you to everyone who contributed to and took part in Pat’s Special ‘Thank You’ service. It was great and so wonderful that Pat could share with us her recent troubles with thankfulness and praise to God for feeling so much better. Keep up all the prayers and messages and visits. Well done Pat! God bless, Vicky and Carol.

## Mothers Union Report.

We met for our October meeting at Pam Bell’s, thank you, Pam. Pam led our short Service and we were brought up-to-date with M.U. activities. Caroline Holt was our speaker and she shared with us her joys and sorrows of her life. What a full one she has had and is still enjoying. Her early education was at Boughton and Gravesend followed by Dartford Grammar School. She had a spell at ICI, was a Cook at a house in Ascot and was at a Sales Office in Mill Hill where she saw the first piece of nylon. Her desire was to join the Land Army and she drove a tractor at Pluckley. Her marriage to Clifford took her to Todmorden, the Yorkshire side of the Pennines, where they had many happy years bringing up their daughters. Clifford’s death and her Dad’s failing health brought her to Kent in 1970. Peter Head told her, "I think you may find what you want in Faversham" and that brought her here. Many girls are grateful to her for their Domestic Science training at Lady Capel. Since retirement she has been busy helping with lots of charity work and she continues to crochet her rugs, just like her



## CHOIR NOTES

We are practising Christmas Carols and look forward to sharing them with you. I am hoping to take some of the Choir to join in the procession with St. Nicholas on Saturday, 4th December, 1 p.m. from Westgate and 2 p.m. at the Cathedral and afterwards we can meet Saint Nicholas himself. This is the third year of this Canterbury initiative and we have enjoyed it before. We have learnt the Saint Nicholas Carol. We plan to sing for the Christmas Celebration and some of us to join Andrew at Eastling’s Carol Service on the Sunday 19th December. St. Mary’s, Eastling have had for a very long time a tradition of Nine Lessons and Carols, for which they have a ‘Get-Together’ Choir. Since we became a Benefice in 1985, Eastling have welcomed us to join them. Rehearsals at 5 p.m. on Sundays at Eastling, but not on 5th December. (Thank you, Andrew, for playing for Ospringe whilst I was on holiday). The last Choir Practice of the YEAR will be at 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 15th December, when we will sing our Carols and lots more for the patients and nurses at our Cottage Hospital. If anyone would like to join us please do let me know, you will be welcome. It is usually very warm around the Wards so be prepared to “strip off” a layer!!! The Adults have been invited to sing for the Help the Aged Christmas Party and at Carnalea. Christmas here we come, tra-la-la! During half-term we were made very welcome for an Impromptu Concert in the Almshouses Chapel. This was followed by drinks and cakes which the Residents had made especially for us. “Mrs. Shepherd, the Choir get better and better, please when can they come again?” February half-term? I was thrilled with you all, thank you.

## FROM THE ORGAN SEAT

It was a privilege to play for the funeral of Dorothy Allen, widow of Philip Allen, a past vicar of Ospringe. They both worked hard in the Parish. I know Penny’s Mum and Dad were as grateful for their wise counsel as I was. When Mr Shepherd arrived in 1972 they organised a party at the Vicarage, now part of Carnalea, for us to meet the adults of the Parish. I had been praying for us to join a Christian Anglican Church and my prayer was answered. I must thank everyone who joined the robed Choir and led the singing for the Thanksgiving and Funeral Service for Dorothy Rosamund Allen.

On our recent visit to Canada we were delighted to visit the Canadian Anglican Cathedrals of Toronto, Montreal, Quebec and Halifax. We met the Dean of Toronto after joining in their 8 a.m. Communion and the following Sunday were with our cousins at 8 a.m. Communion at Halifax and we gave their community the Greetings from the Dean of Canterbury Cathedral. I took photos of the Canterbury Cross in each Cathedral given to them by our own Canterbury Cathedral as a Thank You for supporting the restoration in 1935. This is recorded by the South West Door in our Cathedral. We had 36 hours in Ottawa and I was thrilled to visit their BYTOWN MUSEUM. John By founded Bytown when he was commissioned in 1826 to lead the building of the Rideau Canal

from Bytown to Kingston to link the River Ottawa and St. Lawrence Seaway/ River with the Great Lakes and give the British this means of transport when fighting America. It is a great feat of engineering and well used today for pleasure trips and 9 miles of it as an ice rink during their winter. John By “cut his teeth” in Ospringe when he was Storemaster of the Gunpowder Works, a son of whom we should be proud. He mapped out Bytown, now Ottawa to garrison our troops and there are many plaques and statues recording his achievement.

I have been given a wonderful bound copy of the organ music Charlie Drake used when he was Organist here in Ospringe. It has his beautiful copper-plate handwriting and is dated 1888. It is kept on the organ stand. Do look at it as you will recognise many of the pieces.

A Prayer of Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa. C.M.S. Prayer for Remembrance Sunday, 2004. *Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death; victory is ours through Him who loves us. AMEN.*

God bless and Happy Christmas  
from Vicky Shepherd.

My brother’s sister-in-law enjoys writing poetry and she is pleased for me to share it with you.

## CHRISTMAS THOUGHT

At the top of my tree, would be peace  
The branches laden with love  
My stocking resplendent with gifts,  
A token from Him up above.  
My heart would be filled with the memories  
Of halcyon days long gone -  
Carols in clandestine cloisters  
Blithe children on sledges, toes numb!  
In my garden a tree of white holly  
Snow bearing on frozen slope,  
Its thorns would be my Calvary  
And its berries my symbol of hope.

Christmas 2003. Elizabeth Scholes.

## Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who in any way contributed towards making my retirement service so successful. It was wonderful to see so many people from the benefice whose lives I had touched in some way and in turn had greatly affected my life also. Believe me, service goes both ways and I have received so much from you all. Thank you. Not least, I want to thank you for all the cards and prayers sent to Norman and me over the last few weeks. They made such difference. I hope you all managed to have a piece of cake. Thank you, Stephanie. Thanks also to Penny for arranging such a thoughtful service and to all those who came, thank you and I hope you all had a really good sing. I hope to continue with my recovery and I am quite sure I will see you again in the not to distant future. I cannot finish without thanking you for your very generous gift, and when I have chosen something that will be a permanent reminder of the parishes, then I promise I will let you know.

With every blessing  
Pat Pollard (Revd)

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# Christmas - Good News!

Canon David Winter, former head of Religious Broadcasting for the BBC, considers Christmas.

We could all do with some good news, I imagine. Certainly the 'official' news on television and radio and in the papers is almost uniformly black. If it's not wars and terrorism it's murder and mayhem, and if it's not murder and mayhem then it's the latest health or dietary scare. It's a wonder we dare venture out of our houses sometimes.

Christmas, however, is absolutely meant to celebrate good news. I suppose the birth of most babies is just that for parents, families and friends. A midwife told me that there was no moment in her working life to equal the joy on the face of two young parents when they first hold their new-born son or daughter. Perhaps because we have to wait nine months for the arrival, perhaps because a birth is still a slightly risky and certainly painful experience, the actual moment of the infant's arrival



## A Great Idea

Instead of sending Christmas cards to individual church and village friends around Eastling, how about joining with others and place one card on the display board provided inside Eastling Church, signed by you to all your friends, and donate the money saved to Christian Aid.

## Simple!



**Funeralcare**  
part of the Co-operative Group

- Memorial masonry
- Floral tributes
- Private chapel of rest
- Funeral pre-payment plans

6 Limes Place  
Preston Street  
Faversham, Kent

Telephone: Faversham 532498  
24 Hour Service



is always special. Jesus made the point that even the pain of labour is forgotten by the mother in the joy of the birth of her child (John 16:21).

If all births are moments of celebration, then the one we mark at Christmas is doubly so. After all, it was an angel of the Lord who described the event as 'good news', and not just for the parents and family. This would be good news for everybody - 'all the people' (Luke 2:10). No one is outside the circle of celebration, because the birth of Jesus has changed history, changed the world, changed our lives.

The reason for this was also given by the same angelic messenger - the baby to be born would be the long-promised 'Messiah', God's chosen one, and, best of all, a 'Saviour'. Of course, only people in some kind of need or peril require a rescuer, a 'saviour'. But when they are, the saviour is very welcome!

A friend of mine fell off her horse and broke her leg in two places. She was lying by a gate in a field, half a mile from any road. A fellow-horse rider phoned for help, and within minutes the helicopter was landing beside her and the paramedics were strapping her leg and giving her a pain-killer before whisking her off to hospital. She certainly understood the significance of a saviour in a new way!

At Christmas, so can we. The world we live in and its residents need a saviour, someone to offer not endless questions and problems and challenges but some answers. At Bethlehem God's 'answer' was born. 'You are to call him "Jesus",' the angel told Joseph, 'for he will save his people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21). Through this baby, and what he would bring about through his life, death and resurrection, the dire consequences of human sin would be reversed. That is the 'good news' of Christmas, which makes it truly an occasion to celebrate - whatever kind of news the world around is thrusting at us.

David Winter

## Angel Tidings

The little boy was to be an angel in the Christmas play and his one line was:

"Behold, I bring you good tidings." He asked what 'tidings' were and his mother explained that the word meant news.

On the night of the play, the youngster had stage fright and, after a long silence, blurted out: "Hey, have I got news for you!"



# Were the Magi astrologers?

**Question:** This Christmas I've heard the wise men, who came to see the infant Jesus, described as astrologers. But I've always understood astrology and divination by the stars to be occult in origin. Can you help?

You are perceptive to have been thinking along these lines. The Scriptures are indeed consistent in their hostility to all occult activity. (Isaiah 8:19)

However, we may – in fact we must – investigate those things that God has chosen to reveal, and not least in prophecy.

The birth of Jesus – and the star which heralded his birth – was the activity of God himself. This was nothing to do with horoscopes. At significant stages of Jesus' life, certain phenomena featured – the dove at his baptism, the light at his transfiguration, the darkness and earthquake at his death, the cloud at his ascension. These occurrences attested Jesus to those who had minds to understand. Similarly then, at his birth, there was a star.

The significance of the wise men – the 'Magi' as they have been termed – is that they were Gentiles, probably from Mesopotamia. They would not have benefited directly from the privileges of Judaism or its Scriptures. It is, however, very likely that they would have taken note of a prophecy that had been uttered centuries earlier – by a Gentile prophet, Balaam by name.

In fact he was from their own area, Pethor, by the river Euphrates (Numbers 22:4,5). His words would have been remembered down the ages.

The star stood for regal power and splendour; the second couplet here is a firm indication of kingship. Further lines point to the widespread rule of this coming individual. Consequently, when a special start came to the attention of the Magi, they decided to investigate further.



1. Their sensitivity to revelation

Traditionally it seems that the Magi (who were a kind of priestly tribe) were to the Persians what the Levites were to Israel; they were respected instructors of the Persian kings. Their enquiring minds predisposed them to recognise and then follow the star, when it appeared.

2. Their persistence in the search

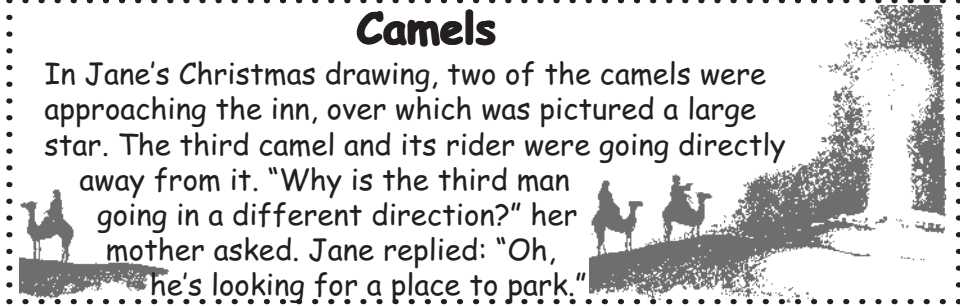
On reaching Jerusalem, the Magi cause great disruption with their enquiry as to where the new king has been born. Herod's advisers look up the prophecies, and announce Bethlehem as the location (Micah 5:2). But none of them make the journey to Bethlehem. It is left to these Gentile enquirers to go and pay homage to Israel's king.

3. Their reverence for the infant

Worship – not power – was their aim. Simon Magus (Acts 8:9-11) was in a lower order altogether, through his exploits he wanted to be 'great' – and that is the approach of occultism. Not so, the Magi of Matthew 2. They were wise with the wisdom that seeks God, and were obedient to him.

## Camels

In Jane's Christmas drawing, two of the camels were approaching the inn, over which was pictured a large star. The third camel and its rider were going directly away from it. "Why is the third man going in a different direction?" her mother asked. Jane replied: "Oh, he's looking for a place to park."



Faversham Choral Society  
Conductor Peter Litman  
presents  
**Carols with the Choral**  
with guests  
1st Whitstable Scout Group Band  
7.30pm

Friday 17th December  
Alexander Centre  
Tickets £6 (includes a glass of wine or soft drink and mince pie)  
Available from Wyn's Flowers, Preston Street, or telephone 01795 539669 or at the door. Under 16's free.

**Faversham Choral Society**  
Faversham Choral Society is an open-access mixed voice choir. We present 3 concerts a year under the leadership of our young conductor, Peter Litman. Rehearsals take place on Wednesday evenings, 7.45 - 9.45pm at the United Church Hall, Preston Street, Faversham. (opposite the Chimney Boy)  
We currently have vacancies in all parts, no auditions and no experience necessary. If you enjoy singing, come along and give us a go!  
Contact no: 01795 530573 - Stella Glenn.

## Pilgrims Hospice Trees of Love 2004

The joy and celebration of Christmas often involves the gathering together of family and friends. This can make it a very poignant time for those who face Christmas without a loved one who has died. "Trees of Love" provide an opportunity to remember loved ones we will not see at Christmas. A Christmas tree will stand in the garden of each of the three Pilgrims Hospices over the Christmas Season. The trees will be illuminated and will bear tags dedicated to those being remembered.

Eastling Church will also have a tree standing in the Sanctuary. If you would like to remember someone, tags will be available at service times during December, or from church wardens. All donations received will go to Pilgrims Hospice.

**HAIRDRESSING**  
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Please ring Pat on  
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## Rainer Kent Mentoring

Kent Youth Mentoring Service is presently undertaking a recruitment campaign for volunteers to work in the Swale area.

Rainer Kent Mentoring is a project of the National Charity Rainer, which recruits, trains and supervises volunteers to work with a young person aged 10-17 who is under supported and living in the community. We offer a comprehensive training, through support and supervision and the opportunity of gaining a B-Tec qualification.

Many volunteers come to Rainer to advance their career prospects, or simply feel that they are contributing to helping a young person in their community.

Any enquiries that parishioners may have about becoming a volunteer may be taken on the telephone number below.

If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01227 - 831555 or e-mail [mandy.glen@raineronline.org](mailto:mandy.glen@raineronline.org) [www.rpsrainer.org.uk](http://www.rpsrainer.org.uk)

### FROM POSTMAN TO ISSP CO-ORDINATOR

For me it began 3 years ago. I was aware that an interest in working with young people was stirring in me. I decided to seek advice and get lots of information which eventually lead me to mentoring.

A few weeks later I was interviewed and met a mentoring co-ordinator. Mentoring was explained to me and I found it very inspiring. I found that it was well supported and I was encouraged to attend the training days. I found the mentoring workers very warm and helpful.

I thought the training was delivered brilliantly and I learnt a great deal about mentoring, issues facing young people and ways in which I could help and make a difference.

I first met with the young person with my mentoring coordinator. I expected to be more nervous than I was, but the meeting went well. We met regularly over a 6 month period, we would go bowling, swimming and sometimes simply for a coke and a burger or fishing. I don't fish so he taught me a few things. I believe we built a good relationship. I remember one incredible moment whilst talking with my mentee, I happened to mention that as a volunteer I didn't get paid to spend time with him. He thought this was the most amazing thing. It was as if he was shocked and could not believe

that someone wanted to spend time with him and help him for free and because they wanted too. I remember him saying "So you don't get paid for being with me", and the look on his face as he tried to work this out. This showed me the powerful impact that a volunteer mentor can have. I think the young person truly appreciated this.

In all I spent about 18 months as a mentor. I went on to work as a permanent relief staff with the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance programme. Following this I worked in one of the Youth Offending teams as a care support officer. This was great experience and it helped me to draw upon my mentor training and experience.

I am currently employed by local authority, and thoroughly enjoy it. I cover the county and work with the most prolific and serious young offenders. The post means I can refer young people to the mentoring scheme and I have done so. I recognise the value of mentoring and am glad to offer that chance to the young people I work with.

Mentoring helped me a lot. To identify strengths and qualities about myself and identify the career direction I wanted to take, which was to work with young people.

Ian Snowball



DIANA PACKER-FOR KENT YOUTH MENTORING.

In 2001 I was working as a Telephonist/Trainer for a large communication company during the day, and I was also studying to become a professional counsellor in the evenings.

To become a counsellor I had to undertake voluntary work to practice skills and to gain experience.

While I was encouraged to use my counselling skills at work, I also wanted to work specifically with young people, on a 'one-to-one' basis.

I began the Mentor training program for Rainer. I really wanted to work with Young People and make a valuable difference, with support and listening skills; I even hoped that I could support a young person to make a meaningful and positive change to their lives.

It was whilst working as a Mentor for Rainer Kent Mentoring service that I realised that I needed more specialist knowledge and background support for some of the experiences the young people had.

Due to the mentoring training, support and experience, I have had the opportunity to change my employment and work within a field that I really enjoy. I feel that I can really support and make a difference with young people in my every day work. I still mentor in my free time and thoroughly enjoy this voluntary work.

Di Packer

## New Band

Are you under 16 and can play an instrument? We're looking for youngsters to form a new band in Eastling - phone Steve on 890368 or Angela on 890629 for more information.



### Prescription

for a good start to Sunday.

You will be welcome in Eastling Church, 10.30am on Sunday 12th December for

## Freestyle.



This month: God's Medicine Bottle!

Fresh Coffee and Hot Croissants served from 10am. All welcome.

Children's corner available.



On Saturday it was the Faversham Carnival. I was on my School Float with my friends. I was a chicken on the float. It was very fun. After the Carnival I went to the fair with my family. I went on the dodgems with my dad. And I watched the fireworks.

Lauren Gridley

## Ospringle School Carnival Success

We are extremely proud of our recent success in the Faversham Carnival. Our 'Jack and the Beanstalk' float won 'Best School Float' and the 'Spirit of the Carnival' award. Our year 3 and 4 children sang brilliantly. They will be performing the whole story as their Christmas Pantomime in December.



I went to the carnival. It was a really good day and I loved it.

I saw lots of my friends. Then I went home and I heard the fireworks.

Katie Rickman

It was 1974. I was Minister of the Dewsbury Road Church of the Nazarene in Leeds and two days before Christmas I was driving through the city, making some pastoral calls.

It was late afternoon and getting dark. All the lights were coming on in Leeds, from the usual street lighting to the illuminated Christmas trees, fairy lights and all the flashing, coloured neon signs along the streets and in the shops. Heading for the city centre, I drove into the Headrow and there in front of me was Leeds' largest store, Schofields. It was a very prestigious shop with five large display windows. All the windows that December evening were bright with Christmas goods and twinkling lights.

But there was something more than just sparkling decorations in Schofield's windows. There was a Bible text displayed! Yes, right along all five of the windows were the words from Luke 2:14, 'GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST.' Each letter

## Glory to God - in Your Street - and Mine!

A Christmas Meditation by the Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle, former Principal of Nazarene Theological College, Manchester

was at least three feet high and they were hung inside, across the five windows, to spell out the words of the angel on that first Christmas night in Bethlehem, long, long ago.

The text in Schofield's store, however, actually read a little differently. What I saw was startling. One of the letters, the 'E' from the word 'HIGHEST,' must have lost its support for it had dropped down. Now the words read, 'GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGH ST.'

What a text! God's glory in the High Street! - in the Headrow in Leeds! I thought about that all the way home, and the more I meditated on it, I thought how right it was. Yes, that's what Christmas really means! God came into our world! The Saviour of the world was not born in a grand palace, or a five-star hotel, but in a cattle shed in a street in Bethlehem. The Lord of

the universe came into the world He had made by the back door.

That evening experience in the Headrow in Leeds twenty-nine years ago was very special to me. Glory to God in the High St! And why not? That's exactly what Christmas means. God came into our world on that first Christmas night and 'glory shone around.'

But, and this is the truly wonderful news, His glory was not confined to Bethlehem. It was meant for all the world. It was meant for Leeds and for Lahore; for Birmingham and for Budapest; for Manchester and for Marrakech; for the whole wide world. The Bible text in Schofield's windows lost nothing by dropping the letter 'E.' It preached a great truth that never changes. Glory to God in the High St! and in the side street, and in the back street - and in your street, and in mine!

## ADVENT FESTIVAL IN SHELDWICH CHURCH

Flower Festival, drama productions and musical events, mainly to the theme 'A Boy Is Born' and suitable for all ages. From Saturday 11th December to Twelfth Night, 6th January 2004 for the FLOWER FESTIVAL. We expect most visitors at weekends and will open accordingly, but are happy to open on weekday evenings by request. Visitors will be able to use a pre-recorded commentary as they follow the exhibits which tell the Christmas story in a contemporary way. In any case each exhibit has a title, biblical text and description. Telephone or Email for more detail. Entry is free, exit by donation!

The DRAMA will be performed after the manner of a Mystery Play on 12th December at 6.30 pm, 18th December at 2.00 pm and 2nd January at 6.30 pm. A sound recording of the drama can be played at any time by request (for instance for a school visit). There will be a small entry fee for the main productions but refreshments will be provided afterwards.

At 10.00 am. On Sunday December 19th we welcome back the PROTEUS BRASS ENSEMBLE who will play at our Christingle service which will be augmented by extra carols. This is always a fun event for the family. No entry fee, just a collection!



MORE DETAILS will be made available on our web site as they become available, or by contacting Mike Johnson. Tel 01795 536583 E<[onehalke@aol.com](mailto:onehalke@aol.com)> Website:[www.stjames.sheldwich.org](http://www.stjames.sheldwich.org)



## Services in our Benefice

### 5th December Advent 2

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

Ospringe	8 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
Ospringe	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer (BCP)
Stalisfield	10 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)
Eastling	joins Stalisfield	
Whitehill Chapel	10 a.m.	Breakfast followed by
10.45 a.m.	Family People's Choice with Children's Nativity	
Ospringe	11 a.m.	Oasis

### Tuesday 7th December

Whitehill Chapel 2.15 p.m. Holy Communion

### 12th December Advent 3

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

Eastling	8 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
Eastling	10.30 a.m.	Freestyle
Ospringe	11 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)
		+ Baptism
Stalisfield	3 p.m.	Crib Service

### 19th December Advent 4

Ospringe	8 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
Eastling	10 a.m.	S Club Christmas Party and Puppet Nativity Play
Ospringe	11 a.m.	Family Service
Eastling	4 p.m.	Nine Lessons and Carols
Whitehill Chapel	6.30 p.m.	Carols by Candlelight

## 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

Eastling	10 a.m.	Family Communion
Ospringe	10.30 a.m.	Carols with Communion

### 26th December Christmas 1

Ospringe 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)  
Said service - no hymns and short address

### 2nd January 2005 Epiphany

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

Ospringe	8 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
Ospringe	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer (BCP)
Stalisfield	10 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)
Eastling	10 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)
Ospringe	11 a.m.	Oasis

(BCP) Service taken from the Book of Common Prayer, 1662.  
(CW) Service follows Common Worship Liturgy, 2000

## Sharing Ministry in our Benefice

Priest in Charge Reverend Penny Fenton (01795 536366)  
9 Brogdale Road, Faversham. ME13 8SX

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

### Churchwardens

Ospringe Miss C. Brightman (01795 531960)  
Mr. P. Larter (01795 531044)

Eastling Mr S. Youle (01795 890368)  
Mrs. A. Smith (01795 890469)

Stalisfield with Otterden  
Joint Warden Mrs. J. Baker (01622 858332)  
Mrs S. Gaind (01622 858551)

Whitehill  
Steward 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.

### Good News - January 2005 Early deadline: 13th December

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@btconnect.com

## From the Registers

### Funerals

Dorothy Rosamund ALLEN  
25th October 2004 Funeral at Ospringe

Alice May PAY  
1st November 2004 Cremation at Charing

.....  
Lilian Harding,  
previously of Tabard, Stalisfield Green,  
died on 26th October 2004 and was cremated  
at Bury St. Edmunds on 8th November 2004.

## Eastling Neighbourhood Watch.

Contact numbers:  
Swale NHW office 0808 100 3308 (free)  
Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 (24 hours, free and anonymous)  
NHW liaison officer 01795 584143  
Sittingbourne police station 01795 477055  
Emergencies or crime in progress always use 999

Christmas is coming for everyone including criminals. We have been advised of a couple of precautions we can take at this time.

1. Wrapped presents left in the view of accessible windows is an encouragement to opportunist burglars.

2. As you may have seen in the press cash machine fraud is increasing. Criminals are attaching equipment to ATMs to read inserted cards. This is usually the addition of something over the original card slot. If you suspect that the card slot is different from what you normally expect do not use the machine, find a different one and let the Bank or Building Society know of your concern. This scam is not yet prevalent outside cities.

Eastling Neighbourhood Watch messages are also posted on the village notice boards (at the Village Hall and the Parish notice board in The Street).

Anyone in Eastling wishing to receive alert information by e-mail please send a message to eastlingnhw@tesco.net

## Eastling Parish Council

The November meeting was a routine one, and in addition to the staple fare of planning applications and highway defects, we discussed the future of the Eastling website in terms of resource to keep it updated, progress on the Village Design Statement, the incidence of power cuts in bad weather, and the re-instatement of footpaths in the Parish after ploughing.

The next meeting will be on 12/01/05 when the main agenda item will be the Budget for the Parish for 05/06.

## Job Vacancy

Our Clerk wishes to retire, and the Parish Council are seeking a replacement. The hours average about 2 per week, although they are concentrated around the six meetings annually. The job can be a paid one, in accordance with nationally recommended rates. Clerical and typing skills are essential, as is computer literacy, as communications between Councillors are e-mail based. Anyone interested should call the Chairman, John Payne, on 890386, to discuss in more detail.



A little of what you fancy

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Locally Produced \* Additive Free  
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Grass fed, supplemented with natural feed,  
free from GM foods, growth promoters or routine antibiotics.

ORDERS NOW BEING TAKEN FOR  
CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR

Tel: 01622 858253

## Ospringe Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th December at 7.30pm in Whitehill Chapel.

The Council have continuing concerns regarding the damage caused to grass verges by parking Overhanging hedges - the PC receive number of complaints regarding hedges overhanging roadways as this is a safety hazard

The Parish Council were in receipt of a grant from KCC for a strimmer for the Allotments

Trees - Mike Barnett has been appointed as deputy tree warden - Derek Macey is the tree warden. The Parish Council will be making representations to Swale Council to request tree planting alongside the Motorway.

## Craft Fair Saturday 13th November.

My wife, Patricia, is a member of the Amenities Committee that arranged the fair. The proceeds from the fair will part fund the Panto outing to Sleeping Beauty at the Marlowe Theatre in January - I expect that you have had separate notice of this. The Craft fair went well. Given the very cold weather and that rugby was on TV the turn-out was good. There were about a dozen stalls, ranging from local earrings and local Teddy bears, products from Puddleducks and the Craft Club - greetings cards and potted Iris bulbs - to wood-turning, pottery, glassware, greetings cards, book stall and soft toys. The refreshments - home made cakes, sausage rolls, jacket potatoes and teas, coffee and soft drinks were very popular.

John Griffin

## 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.



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## CHRISTMAS

Gift Vouchers  
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## FRIENDS OF EASTLING SCHOOL

I will have a range of chocolate for sale at the Coffee Pop-in on Wednesday 1st December which is also the last date for ordering from the 'Chocolate for Chocoholics' catalogues. All orders will arrive before the end of term. We raised £54.20 from the sale of books, videos and CDs - to be split between FOES and the Pop-in.

The ardent shopper had a good range of stalls to purchase their gifts at the Shopping Evening - a total of £193 was raised from tables and sales of refreshments, chocolate and other goods.

Don't forget to place your order for **Christmas Trees, wreaths & poinsettias** by 3rd December latest. Details of prices available in the school office. All orders will be ready for collection on Friday 10th December in the Village Hall car-park.

**Children's Shopping Afternoon** is on Friday 10th December in the school hall. We have a nice range of gifts for the children to choose from. Any parents or relatives willing to help sell gifts or to assist with wrapping should contact the school office.

Parents and children will be able to buy 'last minute' presents on Wednesday 15th December from 3.20pm in the school hall.

**The Christmas Disco** will be held on Friday 17th December in the School Hall - 6.30pm - 8.30pm. Tickets will be on sale from 9th December. All Eastling School children and their families are welcome.

Jill Seaman, FOES publicity  
Tel: 01795 890519



## Eastling Short Mat Bowls Club

The Swale short mat bowls league is now under way and we have played three games so far in our division. The first was away to Borden, a very competitive game from which we came away with six points. The last two games have been at home against Warden Bay, a long travel for them, we had a good win, but Tunstall brought a very strong team, played very well and went home with the biggest share of the points. All games so far have been most enjoyable. We play away to UK Leisure on 16th November and at home to Rodmersham on 24th. We will keep reporting on our progress from time to time.

The Cherries Wednesday afternoon's session are now underway and we start play at 2.30pm.

We still have club meetings on Fridays; afternoons are 2.30 - 4.30pm and evenings are 7.30 - 9.30pm. New members of all ages are welcome. If you would like to see what it is all about, come along and have a look.

Some of the clubs we play against have younger members and we would like to run a Youth session between 5 and 7pm on Fridays. There would be a small playing fee, but no special equipment, apart from flat soled shoes, is needed. Please contact Roy Piles 537162.

## PUDDLEDUCKS PLAYGROUP

An exciting time for the children as we lead up to Christmas. They will be busy making decorations, winter pictures and calendars amongst other creative activities.

Our Christmas party will be held on the last day of term Tuesday 21st December. All the playgroup children are invited, as well as parents if they wish to help!

**Christmas Raffle** - tickets on sale now - 5 for 50p.

1st prize is a scrumptious hamper and other prizes include bottles of wine, chocolates and Christmas bouquet. The draw will take place on Friday 17th December. All proceeds will be spent on playgroup equipment. We wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and look forward to New Year when Spring Term commences on Thursday 6th

January at the usual time of 9.30am.

Jill Seaman, Playgroup Manager  
Tel: 01795 890519

## Ospringle School Association

What a night! About a thousand people filled the school playing fields for a fantastic display by Selstar Fireworks. Hot dogs and soup, toffee apples and candy floss, and of course light tubes and sparklers all added to the atmosphere, and a brilliant time was had by all, as well as the event being a useful fundraiser for the school.

Plans are now well under way for the Christmas Fair. Father Christmas has us in his diary, and stalls are being planned. Come and join us in the school hall on Saturday 4th December from 11am - 1pm.

The school is busy preparing for the Christmas productions, Jack and the Beanstalk (of course) and Donkey for Sale. There will also be carol singing outside school on the 16th and 17th December.

Some of the money raised from all these events will go towards a new scheme within school to support reluctant readers, including the purchase of lots of new books for the school library.

## Eastling Gardeners' Club Christmas Party

Wednesday 8th December  
at 7.30 pm

in the Village Hall

Wine and home made eats  
plus a cheese tasting

The cost is £2.50 or renew your membership at £5 for free entry to all the meetings for the next year

## Painter's Forstal Gardeners' Club

The Anniversary Buffet Supper was a great success with 33 members attending, including Lionel and Kath Clark from Redruth, Cornwall.

Monday 13th December is the Christmas Social, starting at 7pm.

This is being held in the Champion Hall.

Further details from Fav. 533608. Wishing everybody a Very Happy Christmas.

# Merry Christmas



## Stalisfield Footlights

Friday 17th December

We proudly present the  
**TIME OF OUR LIVES**  
**MUSIC THEATRE**

in their acclaimed musical  
comedy revue entitled:

## Two for the 1/9d's

"A brilliant evening of sheer entertainment" - not my words but those of the theatre critic in the Kent Messenger.

The Company promises to parade the British cinema experience in a hilarious mix of music, dance, stand-up and sketch comedy.

Remember last year?

Tickets flew out of the box office, so lose no time in phoning your priority booking to Ian on 01795 890475.

Light refreshment is included in the ticket price of £6.50. The show starts at 8 o'clock, doors open at 7.30pm in Stalisfield's historic Hut.

## Eastling Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch

on Tuesday 7th December at 12.30pm in Eastling Village Hall. By now all of you should have received your invitation. If not and,

either you or your partner, are in the age group of 60 for women, 65 for men, and would like to come, please give us a ring on 890242. If you require transport please ring.



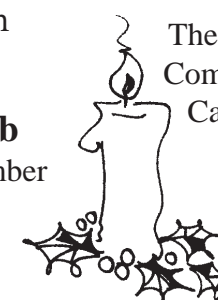
## Stalisfield Over 60's Christmas Tea

on Saturday 18th December at 4pm in Stalisfield Village Hall. Invitations have gone out, if you are eligible and haven't received one, call Ian on 01795 890475.



## Afternoon Club

Thursday 9th December  
Christmas Party  
1pm start.



Painter's Forstal  
Village Amenities Committee

## Panto Trip

to see

## SLEEPING BEAUTY

At the Marlowe Theatre  
Friday 7th January

7.30 performance

Only £15 including Coach

Contact 01795 536548

to book and for all details -  
*Places Limited*

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

December meeting: Tuesday 14th,  
2.15pm in Champion Hall.

The Joys of Christmas - Mr Masters  
Competition - a decorated Christmas  
Candle plus flower of the month.

## Coffee Pop-In

Open Wednesdays 9-11am  
in Eastling Village Hall.

The Pop-In will have cakes and  
Traidcraft goods for sale on 1st  
December, Jill Seaman will have  
Chocolates for Chocoholics as well.

The last one before Christmas will  
be 15th December when we shall

have a short an informal  
carol singing time 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.

Pop-In reopens on 12th January 2005.



## December 2004

## Diary

1st - 4th Art Exhibition	Alexander Centre
4th Christmas Fair	11am - 1pm Ospringle School
7th Eastling Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch	12.30pm Village Hall
8th Eastling Gardeners' Club	7.30pm Eastling Village Hall
8th Ospringle Parish Council	7.30pm Whitehill Chapel
9th Afternoon Club Party	1pm Champion Hall
10th Children's Shopping Afternoon	
10th Craft Club	6.15pm Champion Hall
11th Christmas Celebration	7pm Ospringle Church
12th Crib Service	3pm Stalisfield Church
13th Early Deadline for January Good News	
13th Gardeners' Christmas Social	7pm Champion Hall
15th Last Pop-in before Christmas	9-11am Eastling Village Hall
17th Carols with the Choral	7.30pm Alexander Centre
17th Two for the 1/9d's	7.30 for 8pm Stalisfield Village Hall
18th Stalisfield Over 60's Tea	4pm Stalisfield Village Hall
19th S. Club Party & Nativity Play	10am Eastling Village Hall
19th Carol Service	4pm Eastling Church
19th Candlelit Carols	6.30pm Whitehill Chapel
21st Carol Singing	6.30pm from Eastling Village Hall
21st Carol Singing	6.45pm from Champion Hall
22nd Stalisfield Carol Singing	6pm from The Plough
24th Come to the Manger	4pm Ospringle Church
28th Magazine folding	2pm Usual Venues
January 7th Trip to Sleeping Beauty	7.30pm Marlowe Theatre

## Tony and Mary O'Regan

wish all their friends

and acquaintances

**A HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

and

**JOYOUS NEW YEAR**