

Advent
Children's Club
 in Ospringe Church
 December 2nd, 9th & 16th.
 10am - 12 noon
 Refreshments available for parents
 who wish to stay
 Carols, Crafts and Company
 Open to all school age children.
 Culminating in
Come to the Manger at 4pm
 on Sunday December 24th
 Contact no. 531960

Kids' Club
Craft Club
 1st & 15th December,
 5th January
 6.15 - 7.15pm
 Champion Hall
 50p a session.
 Contact number 532756.

Newnham
Brownies and
Guides
 Meet on Tuesdays
 in Newnham Village Hall
 (term time only)
 Brownies 5.30 - 7.00pm
 Guides 7.00 - 8.30pm
 Contact on: 01795 830285.

What did Santa say to the little
 chimney?
 "You're too young to smoke!"

What do you give a houseproud
 ghost for Christmas?
 An Ooooooover!

What do you get when you cross
 a snowman with a vampire?
 Frostbite!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS
@ Christmas Craft Club

Saturdays 2nd and 9th December
 in Eastling Village Hall.
 All school age children and
 young people welcome make
 Christmas Crafts and have fun
 with your mates.
 10.30am till 12 noon.
 Refreshments available.

Come along to
 St. Mary's, Eastling on 16th
 December to decorate the
 tree between 2 and 3pm.
 Refreshments available for all!
 Contact number 07857 896 664



JO'S CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CLUB

Eastling Village Hall
 For all school age children.
 18th - 22nd December
 10am - 12 noon.
 £2 per session
 or £7.50 for all 5.
 Family discounts available.
 Call Jo on 07857 896 664 to book.

HELPERS NEEDED

Can you spare a few hours?
 HELPERS (adults and older
 children) wanted for Christmas
 Clubs. Please contact Jo on
 07857 896 664



Crèche at Eastling Church

A Crèche will be available in
 church during the mid morning
 services on 1st and 2nd Sundays
 each month.



Y-Generation

Youth Club
 Due to high demand,
year 7's now welcome!
 Eastling Village Hall,
 Sundays
 3rd December - 6.30-8pm
 10th December - 4-6pm
 17th December - 6.30-8pm
 or check times with Jo on
 07857 896 664

CHRISTMAS COMPETITION

Make your own Christmas
 themed model using natural
 resources.

Three age groups:

- 1) Under 5's (parents can help)
- 2) 5 - 9's
- 3) 10 - 16's

Hand in to Eastling School
 before 15th or Eastling church
 by 16th December. Prizes
 available for all. Woolworths
 vouchers for overall winners.
 Contact number 01795 890719.

Everyone Welcome
S.Club Christingle Party
 Join in the Christmas fun, quiz,
 games, giant pass the parcel &
 make your very own Christingle
 17th December 2.45pm @
 Eastling Village Hall.
 Followed by candle lit
Christingle Service 4.00pm
 Eastling church.

What is christingle? Come along
 and find out or look at
[www.childrenssociety.org.uk/
 get+involved/christingle](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/get+involved/christingle)

Celebrate
The Birth Of Christ



Christingle Service

Sunday 17th December
 4.00pm
 Eastling church.

Crib Service

Sunday 10th December
 3pm
 Stalisfield Church

CAROLS BY
CANDLELIGHT

followed by light refreshments.
 Sunday 17th December,
 6.30pm
 Champion Hall, Whitehill Chapel
 Readings by the young people.
 Collection in aid of NCH, the
 children's charity.

*He had no royal palace,
 Only a stable bare.
 He had no watchful servants,
 An ox and ass stood there.
 But light shone forth from where He lay;
 The King of Love upon the hay!*

Nine Lessons and Carols

led by Kent Chorale
 Thursday 21st December
 7.00pm in Ospringe Church
 All welcome

Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve
 4pm at Eastling Church
 Traditional readings tell the
 Christmas story, illustrated
 with new and familiar carols.

Come to the Manger

Christmas Eve
 4pm-4.45pm
 Ospringe Church
 A short nativity service for
 families and children



Good News Parish Magazine December 2006

*Happy Christmas to all our Readers.
 This will be the last Good News Magazine to cover Ospringe as well as Eastling,
 Stalisfield and Otterden. More details overleaf.*

The Snow Geese

There was a farmer who did not believe the Christmas story. The idea that God would become a man was absurd to him. He would scoff to his wife: ‘Why would God lower himself to become a human like us?’

It was near Christmas, and the weather finally turned from unseasonably warm to very cold. One day while his wife was out, the weather deteriorated into a blinding storm. Then the farmer heard a loud thump against the side of the house. Then another thump! He ventured outside, and to his amazement saw a flock of geese. They had been migrating south but had become disorientated by the storm. They were stranded on his field, unable to fly further, and helpless.

The farmer had compassion on them, and realised that his barn would give them shelter for the night. He opened the barn doors and stood back, but they did not understand. So he tried to shoo the geese in, but they ran in all directions. Perplexed, he got some bread, but still they would not follow him into the shelter of the barn.

Feeling totally frustrated, he shouted at them: “Why won’t you do what you are supposed to do? Why won’t you save yourselves?” But the geese ignored him. The farmer thought for a moment: how could he possibly get the geese to follow him into the barn? Then it dawned on him: “The only way would be for me to become a goose. If only I became like one of them, then I could save them. I would lead them to safety.’

At that moment he stopped and realised what he had said. The words reverberated in his head. ‘If only I could become like one of them, then I could save them.’ Then, at last, he understood God’s heart towards mankind. He understood why God had sent his son. The farmer fell on his knees in the snow and worshipped him.

His new understanding of how salvation works gave the farmer an idea. He tied a string around the foot of one of his tame geese, and let it out of the barn for a few minutes. Then gradually, sprinkling lots of grain along the way, he pulled it back in again. The wild geese began to follow....

New service times at Ospringe and Davington

As a result of the new parish partnership of sharing me with Davington, the PCC's have (in consultation with as many as possible) discussed how best I may be used between the two Churches on Sunday, as the times of services 'clashed'. This has not been at all easy as we all like what we know. As a result we are now able to say that there will be a slightly different monthly pattern next year. Excluding festival time etc, on the first Sunday we will have 8.30am 1662 Holy Communion, followed by Oasis at 11am. The second Sunday will continue with 11am CW Holy Communion, the third Sunday will have just the 11am Family Service and the fourth will have an 11am Family Communion. During the summer months (between Easter and Harvest), we will be holding Sung Evensong which we intend to start with tea and refreshments, and involve visiting choirs to make each service a real occasion. When there are 5 Sundays in the month we may be able to hold a Sung Morning Prayer.

This new pattern will start in January with the help and assistance of Revd Pat Pollard, Revd Jacqui Henry, Reader Norman Fowler, Mr Mark Cheesman and Mr Michael Batey and, I hope, the whole Ospringe congregations. I am very grateful to all, and in particular to the ministers who have made this possible. Thank you.

Davington will be changing their service time every week from 10.30 to 10 am and also changing one Eucharist to a non Eucharist service every month.

Change is never easy or comfortable and it is unfortunate that it is necessary, but I do hope you will understand and we will be able to move forward, facing new challenges and exciting new horizons together. So I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and an exciting New Year! With grateful thanks to all those involved in the consultation and decision making process. Love Ali. Priest in Charge Ospringe and Davington

CHOIR



First I want to thank Hilary and Mark for all they have done to make the Good News such a wonderful vehicle for all for God's work that is going on in Ospringe, Eastling, Stalisfield and Otterden. It has been for me a great privilege to have contributed, thank you. Good luck to both parishes in their work carrying God's message.

Now the Choir are well into relearning many Carols. There is such a wealth of them and each year I thoroughly enjoy getting out my Christmas boxes of music and adding to them!

On 5th November, Carolynne, Stella, Lauren, Vicky and Hannah with Peter from Davington took part in the RSCM Festival of Psalms with 300 others in the Quire at Canterbury Cathedral. We have been practising since September and the result was well worth the effort. We sang Psalms in different styles from Plainsong to an African version of Our Father and Mozart's Laudate Dominum. It was Hannah's first time and she was singing away and watching the conductor. Thank you to them all for the work and enjoyment they gave.

At our Remembrance Service Rev. Ali presented MUSEA certificates to Vicky, Hannah and Lauren as a thank you for being part of that wonderful afternoon on 15th October. Vicky told the congregation about the afternoon. Gill Wilson sang Mozart's Laudate Dominum at our Morning Prayer Service on 6th November and the Choir followed her singing in our RSCM Books. Thank you Gill.

Lauren and Vicky and Gill have been invited to sing in Canterbury Cathedral on Friday, 1st December, at 11 a.m. for the Mothers' Union Diocesan Advent Service. Vicky and Lauren will start the Service singing the Taizé, *Wait for the Lord* with a flute accompaniment and, later in the service, the anthem we have sung at Ospringe, *Make me a Light to lighten the world* by Philip Wilby who is the organist I think of Harrogate Parish Church. Gill is singing some Taizé in between prayers and also *This is the truth sent from above*, with the Ralph Vaughan Williams accompaniment on the organ. I am very excited they have been asked and so are they! Long may we all enjoy spreading God's word through the vehicle of singing. God bless, Vicky Shepherd.

This is from Vicki Peuple out in Rwanda.

I write to tell you a bit more about what I am doing and tell you my impressions of the country. I had the opportunity to visit Cyangugu which was beautiful - it is on the border with the Congo and on the shores of Lake Kivu, the largest lake in Rwanda, as I'm sure you know. The drive there from Kigali is fantastic and very dramatic. The scenery changes a lot from rolling hills, to forest and then to very lush tea plantations near the town. With my work I am based in Kigali, the captial city, but I do have the chance to visit other parts of the country.

I am working as a VSO volunteer, but am based with a Rwandan volunteering organisation who are basically trying to build a network of volunteering organisations in the country and raise the profile of volunteering in a number of fields, such as health, education, disability and HIV and AIDS.

At the moment our main task is organising a week of volunteering celebrations at the end of November, beginning of December. One of the days we will be in Cyangugu, so no doubt will come across some of the volunteers from MU.

It is exciting and a very beautiful country which is making a huge effort to overcome its past and the problems of poverty which unfortunately abound across the continent. Maybe you will have the chance to visit yourself one day!

R.H.SERVICES

MAJOR DOMESTIC APPLIANCE
SALES & REPAIRS

Tel: Faversham (01795) 535616

1 Queens Parade
East Street, Faversham
Kent. ME13 8AQ

Ray Huntley

FROM THE ORGAN LOFT

There will be many occasions to listen to and join in Carol Singing. Saturday, 2nd December, 3 p.m: At the Almshouses Chapel with Faversham Choral. All welcome for this early sing and a cuppa afterwards! Saturday, 16th December, 7.45 p.m: At the Alexander Centre Carols with the Choral. Wednesday, 20th December: An evening a Carol Concert by Cantiana at Davington. Thursday, 21st December: At Ospringe in the evening, Nine Lessons and Carols led by Kent Chorale, of which Carolynne is a member. I am sure there will be a time afterwards to enjoy a chat and something to nibble. Saturday, 23rd December, 7 p.m: Carols in the Market Place. Sunday, 24th December, Christmas Eve 4 p.m: *Come to the Manger* especially for our families at Ospringe.

At the moment, the Choir plan to sing at The Cottage Hospital and around the Wards on 2p.m. Monday, 18th December. Isn't it wonderful that the Schools have a week's holiday before 25th. I loved having many Christmases when I was teaching but found breaking up very near 25th just exhausting!

I know Lorenden and Ospringe School Infants and Juniors will be holding their Carol Services in Ospringe Church. Think of all the singing that has gone on and is continuing. Keep singing and praying.

Thank you to all the Good News team and to all who have told me they enjoyed reading Vicky's pieces. God bless, Vicky Shepherd.

Canterbury Cathedral
Christingle Service
Thursday 28th December
3pm
All welcome



Prayer Pointers



December 2006

<u>Sundays</u>	For a sense of God’s peace amidst the excitement of Christmas.
<u>Mondays</u>	For all those who might find it difficult to rejoice at this time.
<u>Tuesdays</u>	Advent and Christmas services in our parishes.
<u>Wednesdays</u>	Children’s clubs this Advent.
<u>Thursdays</u>	All those who spend Christmas caring for others.
<u>Fridays</u>	Those whose loved ones are far away from home.
<u>Saturdays</u>	For all who seek to bring about peace and reconciliation.

Grateful thanks to Stella Friar for writing *Prayer Pointers* for many years.

Four Things you may have wondered about Christmas (but didn't like to ask)

Why do we keep Christmas on 25th December?

Christmas is what is known as a fixed or immovable feast, though Christ's birth has never been understood to have actually happened on 25 December. Around the year AD 200, the scholar Clement of Alexandria wondered if Jesus was born on 20 May (it would have been warmer then for the shepherds!) It is likely that the day was chosen at Rome during the 4th century to provide a Christian alternative to a local pagan festival.

The birth of Jesus is commemorated each year in special carol services, the most famous of which is the 'Service of Nine Carol and Lessons' at King's College, Cambridge. The nine lessons (that is, readings from the Bible) are designed to trace the steady progress of God's work of redemption in the world, beginning with the call of Israel, and culminating in the coming of Jesus Christ.

Why do we have Christmas trees?

Prince Albert (Queen Victoria's husband) of Saxe-Cobourg brought over the tree and the custom from his native Germany. Many

centuries before, the first Christian missionaries to Germany had discovered the pagans there worshipping the spirits who lived in trees. But ever since Adam and Eve, trees have been strong religious symbols.

If Joseph was not the father of Jesus, why is his family tree in the Bible, and not Mary's?

If you read the first chapter of Matthew, the first 17 verses tell you exhaustively about Joseph's genealogy, and then Matthew immediately goes to describe how Jesus was born of a virgin - and not related to Joseph at all. So what was Matthew up to?

Matthew was writing his gospel for the Jews, to show them that Jesus was the Messiah. And so he wanted to establish Jesus legal genealogy - which would have been important to the Jews. Legally, Jesus belonged to Joseph's family, and Matthew was saying what a 'pure' line this was - it stretched back to the royal family of David. Women's genealogies were not viewed as of the same importance, hence the lack of interest in Mary's family.

As for Jesus actual (though not legal) father, that was God - for He was 'conceived of the Holy Spirit'. Nowhere in the Bible is Joseph referred to as 'the father of Jesus', despite the numerous references to Mary as 'the mother of Jesus'

The verse in Matthew runs, according to the best Greek texts: Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. That says it all.

Why was Jesus born at Bethlehem?

Because his mother was there at the time! But this is a moment when human plans and divine purposes interweave. The human thread was the famous 'census'; bureaucracy is not a 20th century invention. If the population must be counted, we can't make exceptions for one village carpenter and his teenage bride.

But Bethlehem was where great King David had been born, and the prophets had foretold that from Bethlehem one day would come the Messiah. This is why later, when people met Jesus 'of Nazareth' they wondered how he could be the Messiah.

Dear Reader,

You may know that, following the retirement of Revd. Penny Fenton in September 2005, the church benefice of Ospringe, Eastling, Stalisfield and Otterden has ceased to be served by one Priest in Charge.

In March this year Revd. Ali Duguid became Priest in Charge of Ospringe and Davington, and, in September, Revd. Caroline Pinchbeck became Priest in Charge of Eastling and Stalisfield with Otterden.

Although the monthly delivery of the **Good News** to the three parishes has continued during 2006, it is now time to part.

From January 2007, the magazine will serve only Eastling, Stalisfield and

Otterden. Ospringe will be continuing a monthly magazine, albeit on a smaller scale than Good News, which will be delivered around the Parish as before.

We would like to say a big 'Thank You' to everyone who has delivered, folded, edited or contributed to the **Good News**, or helped in any way. We include in that thanks our advertisers (some of them continuing since 1986 when Revd. Paul Mayerson initiated the free magazine), and our printers.

Without everyone's help - and without you, the reader, - the **Good News** would not have been such a success.

Thank you,
from the Good News
production team.



"I have come in order that you might have life - life in all its fullness." John 10:10

Christmas Freestyle

Sunday 10th December
10.30am on Eastling Church.
All welcome
Breakfast from 10am.

Crèche available.
Traidcraft cards, gifts and foods
for sale or order.

Phone 890338 for more details.

OASIS
Sunday 3rd December
11am
Ospringe Church
A Service of Songs,
Readings and Prayers
for Advent.
All welcome.

Thank You

January 2007

If you would like anything included in the new Ospringe Magazine, please contact Jill Fagg on 01795 590507, or e mail jillfagg@tiscali.co.uk by 15th December. For Eastling, Stalisfield and Otterden send to h.f.harlow@btconnect.com or phone 01795 890338 by 15th December.

Mothers' Union News.

Our annual meeting and Autumn market, held in the Westgate Hall, Canterbury last month, was a great success. Ospringe shared the Toiletries stall with Sittingbourne, Teynham and Faversham and we took about £179. The whole day made well over £1,300.

It was with sadness that we said good-bye to Trish Heywood, W.W. President and Brenda Lawson, Diocesan President, both having served us all wonderfully these past 6 years. Our love and best wishes to them both.

Those who were at our October meeting were enthralled with the talk by Helen Leaf, the Honey Lady. We sampled her honey cake and on sale were honey, marmalade, candles and beeswax. Such an exciting subject.

I hope we all have lots of ideas for our next year's activities!

We won't meet in December, a very busy month for us all, but I look forward to seeing you at our lunch in January 2007 at the Dover Castle in Teynham. My thanks to all for your love and support through this year.

My greetings to you all over the Christmas Season. May you all share with those you love a peaceful and joy filled holiday.

God Bless
Brenda.

Eastling Neighbourhood Watch.

Contact numbers:

Parish/Village Warden Telephone 07794010394
(all calls taken in confidence)
Swale NHW office 0808 100 3308 (free)
<neighbourhoodwatch.swale@kent.pnn.police.uk>
Crimestoppers 0800 555 111
(24 hours, free and anonymous)
NHW liaison officer 01795 419212
Sittingbourne police station 01795 477055
Emergencies or crime in progress always use 999
Kent Trading Standards 08457 585 497

There has been a large increase in reports made to Trading Standards regarding "Cold Calling". This is valuable information enabling monitoring the activities of doorstep criminals. Be wary of adverts in new spapers offering work at modest prices. Do not agree immediately to have work done on your property, ask friends and family to recommend reliable traders, also try to get at least 2 quotes before agreeing to have work done.

Kent Trading Standards will shortly be launching the 'Buy with Confidence' good trader scheme to traders who wish to join. The scheme will provide consumers with a list of reliable local businesses that have proved their commitment to trading fairly. Every business will undergo a series of detailed checks before being approved as a member of the scheme. Full details of the scheme can be viewed at www.buywithconfidence.info If you know of any reputable traders who would like more information please ask them to contact Sharon Salisbury either by e mail to buywithconfidence@kent.gov.uk or phone to 01233652385

There has been a spate of animal thefts in the Swale area . Please keep a check on your animals at all times and if you are offered any animal especially young dogs please advise the Police or your parish warden.

There has been a report of two young girls being followed recently in the Brogdale Road area of Faversham, a timely reminder for parents to remind their children of "Stranger Danger" and warn them to be vigilant.

With the Festive Season upon us in a few weeks let us not make it a festive time for the criminals. Please make sure that your home is secure at all times, windows are securely shut, lights are left on when you are out and that where lights are on timers, adjust them as the days shorten. If you are out shopping make sure that your purse or wallet are kept in a secure place on your person .

There is a Parish/Village CommunityWarden within the Eastling Parish who is available for the benefit of all sections of the community for advice and assistance on all matters which will enhance the quality of life in the Village/Parish. Please contact him, Alan Willson, on 07794010394. Have a safe and enjoyable December.

Factory Trained Audi - VW Technician	 MOBBS Motor Repairs 32 years experience For a friendly personal service, Phone Clive or Vera on 01233 712506	Automotive Servicing and Repairs
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From Nuala Brenchley-Sayers,
Scheme Manager ,
ECHG Waterstone Place

I would be very grateful if you could pass on my thanks on behalf of the tenants of Waterstone Place to the Staff, pupils and families of Ospringe School for their generous gifts they delivered from the harvest festival. These parcels are a great moral boost and welcomed by the tenants, great fun is had sharing them out and going through the items. We would all like to thank Ospringe School for their continued support including the annual Strawberry Tea that many of the tenants enjoy very much. This must take a huge amount of work and organising. Well done!

Also our thanks go to Luddenham school (I am sure many of the children and their parents live in Ospringe) for their lovely Harvest Gifts.

We would also like to thank Reverend Ali Duguid and the team for their support over the years.



Lost in Wonder
new online space for you

A new online space, created by the Methodist Church, invites visitors to join a pilgrimage of discovery, freeing the mind from clutter, calming the spirit and strengthening awareness of and openness to God.

Based on an ancient design, www.lostinwonder.org.uk is an online labyrinth that invites visitors on a spiritual journey of encounter and challenge. A labyrinth is a metaphor for the spiritual journey into death and out again into life.

Lost in Wonder has ten interactive 'stations' that can be visited in any order, each with images, a Bible text, a prayer and a guiding voice leading the guest into the theme of that place.

"A labyrinth is an ancient way to journey deeper into God's presence and then to travel out again into God's world . This is a place of change and challenge as well as rest and contemplation. We hope that people will find in it a freedom that helps them to connect with others who want to learn about God's love".

In case you are not aware who we are, Waterstone Place is a sheltered housing complex off Grove Place with 47 flats mainly for the over 60's. We do have younger tenants, our youngest is 52 and oldest 93. Please do not confuse this with an "old people's home", We encourage privacy and independence and all flats are self contained with their own bathrooms, kitchens and front doors. We have a social committee that organises events within the scheme and trips to local hostels for meals etc, and a bus that takes



some of the tenants to Tesco's and occasionally other supermarkets out of the town. I would be happy to show around anyone interested in finding out more about us. I can be reached on 01795 539202 in office hours. Although we have a waiting list, points are allocated according to a person's housing needs, therefore a new applicant can go to the top of the list. Sheltered housing is not what many people imagine and ours is especially nice with a high standard of communal areas and lovely landscaped grounds. Please feel free to call for a chat.

God's Indescribable Christmas Gift

Paul has one of Scripture's great, if brief, doxologies in
2 Corinthians 9:15:
"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"

The gift of Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate this month, is a gift that lasts forever. Not like the gifts we will soon give and receive.

The gift of God's Son, our Saviour, is the perfect gift, unlike the gifts we buy. Jesus, the Son of God, who was conceived miraculously and lived a sinless life, was perfect in every way. Yet he gave himself to die for us as the sinless Sacrifice, to save us from the penalty and power of sin. But that was not the end of the story, for Jesus was raised again, and he now reigns in heaven as the King of kings.

One day, he will come again. And for those of us who believe in him, his presence in us, through the Holy Spirit, is our hope of glory.

The gift of the Father's love is a gift of grace. That means it's a gift we desperately need but could never earn or deserve. Most gifts we'll be given this Christmas we can perhaps use, but also, most of them we can live without.

But the greatest gift is truly one we can't live without. Without a personal relationship with Jesus our lives are missing the reason for which we were created—to know and to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

Some gifts can make a difference. A workout machine could launch you into new habits of exercise, diet and fitness. (If you use it!) The greatest gift of all is a gift that will most assuredly change your life.

But it's not your gift until you're willing to receive and open that gift, letting Christ Jesus be Lord of your life.

St John wrote of Jesus Christ: "He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:10-12).

This Christmas you can receive a personal gift from God. He offers you his Son.

FRIENDS OF EASTLING SCHOOL

The Rural Food Fair held on 5th November was a great success and over £250 was raised. Thank you to all of you who helped on the day, including parents who organised the activities for the children and those who provided the food and drinks and especially thanks to Sandi Winn for arranging the whole event.

Christmas Raffle tickets are now on sale at school and in the Carpenters Arms. Some really good prizes so make sure you buy your tickets in time for the draw on 13th December.

A range of chocolate (Chocolate for Chocoholics) will be available to purchase at the Pop-in at Eastling Village Hall on Wednesday 6th and 13th December, 9am - 11am.

The Christmas Shopping afternoon for Eastling School children is on Friday 1st December. This is an opportunity for the children to buy their Christmas presents and have them gift wrapped ready to put under the tree!

Cinema Club finishes for this term on Friday 8th December and will start again on 12th January.

The Christmas Disco is on the last day of term - Friday 15th December. Tickets will be on sale soon!

Future dates for your diaries:

Jumble Sale - Saturday 10th March

Race Night - Saturday 31st March

Jill Seaman, FOES Publicity

jill.b.s@hotmail.co.uk

01795 890252



CHRISTMAS TREES
available now.

Potted rooted trees -3ft, 4ft and 5ft at £3.00 per foot plus £1.00 delivery
Cut trees - from 3ft to 8ft at £2.00 per foot plus £1.00 delivery

Please contact Emma Turner at Eastling School for any larger trees.
Deliveries will take place on Wednesday & Sunday evenings with a last delivery on Friday 22nd December.

Order forms available from Eastling School, the Carpenters Arms and Eastling Village Hall.

Christmas Trees
from Nash's Farm, Luddenham

All you need to do is visit us, select and reserve a tree for collection nearer Christmas. The trees are growing and will not be cut or dug until collected so they will remain fresher for longer. Trees will be available for selection from mid November. You are recommended to come early but **please contact us in advance of your visit.**

Some the funds collected are returned to your own church, the remainder goes to other charities.

Phone 01795 532596

Email: nashsfarmhouse@btinternet.com

Ospringe School Association

Thanks to all the people who joined us at the Fireworks Night last month.
We Hope that you all enjoyed the entertainment.

A reminder for the

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

at Ospringe School
will be on 9th December
starting at 11 am.

This may well be your best opportunity of meeting Father Christmas, and our many other attractions. Our renowned Cake Stall will once again be open for business All of the usual Tombolas and the other events.

Attractions and Activities for all ages
Our teas, and seasonal snacks, will be available for your delight. Help us to help the children's education at the other centre of our community.



MOUSE HOLE

Christmas Windows

Make stained glass decorations for your windows:
Pour P.V.A. white glue into a pot and colour with a few drops of food colouring. Make several pots of different colour glue. On a sheet of acetate or a clear plastic pocket file use your glue paint to paint a Christmas picture, like an angel or a star. (A simple design can be copied by putting it underneath the acetate or in the pocket file.) When completely dry cover the design with a thick layer of plain P.V.A. To add sparkle sprinkle over with a little glitter then leave overnight. When dry, your design can be peeled from the plastic sheet and will stick to the window.

God had a message for **Mary**- she was going to have a very special baby!

God had a message for **Joseph**- God's angel spoke to him in a dream.

God had a message for the **shepherds**- **Jesus our Saviour is born!**

Look up the verses on the cards above to find out what God's message was for Mary, for Joseph and for the shepherds.

Christmas Angels

1. Wind wool or raffia 30 times around a small book.
2. Tie the top loops together slide off, cut at the bottom.
3. Cut shorter 10 strands on each side then tie to make arms.
4. Tie again at the waist. Glue on paper wings and a golden halo.



Services in our Churches

Ministry in our Parishes

3rd December Advent Sunday				Priest in Charge of Ospringe and Davington	Reverend Ali Duguid The Vicarage, Brent Hill, Davington, ME13 7EF (not available Fridays)	(01795 533272)
Ospringe	8 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)		Priest in Charge of Eastling and Stalisfield with Otterden	Reverend Caroline Pinchbeck The Rectory, Newnham Lane, Eastling ME13 0AS	(01795 890487)
Ospringe	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer (BCP)				
Ospringe	11 a.m.	Oasis				
Davington	10.30 a.m.	Parish Communion (CW)				
Whitehill Chapel	10 a.m.	Brunch followed by				
	10.40 a.m.	Family People's Choice				
Eastling	10 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)				
Stalisfield	10 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)				
Tuesday 5th December						
Whitehill Chapel	2.15 p.m.	Holy Communion				
10th December Advent 2						
Ospringe	11 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)				
Davington	10.30 a.m.	Parish Communion (CW)				
Eastling	8 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)				
Eastling	10.30 a.m.	Freestyle				
Stalisfield	3 p.m.	Crib Service				
17th December Advent 3						
Ospringe	8 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)				
Ospringe	11 a.m.	Family Service				
Davington	10.30 a.m.	Parish Communion (CW)				
Whitehill Chapel	6.30 p.m.	Carols by Candlelight				
Stalisfield	10 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)				
Eastling	4 p.m.	Christingle				
24th December Christmas Eve						
Ospringe	8 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)				
Ospringe	4 p.m.	Come to the Manger				
Ospringe	11.30 p.m.	Midnight Mass				
Davington	11.30 p.m.	Midnight Mass				
Eastling	4 p.m.	Carol Service				
Stalisfield	11.30 p.m.	Midnight Communion				
Christmas Day						
Ospringe	10.30 a.m.	Family Service with shortened Communion				
Davington	10.30 a.m.	Communion with Nativity				
Eastling	10 a.m.	Family Communion				
31st December Christmas 1						
Ospringe	11 a.m.	Family Communion (CW)				
Eastling	10.30 a.m.	Benefice Service				
7th January 2007 Christmas 2						
Ospringe	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)				
Ospringe	11 a.m.	Oasis				
Davington	10 a.m.	Parish Communion (CW)				
Whitehill Chapel	10 a.m.	Brunch followed by				
	10.40 a.m.	Family People's Choice				
Eastling	10 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)				
Stalisfield	10 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)				
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(BCP) Service taken from the Book of Common Prayer, 1662.						
(CW) Service follows Common Worship Liturgy, 2000						
				Curate	Reverend Angela Cheeseman (01795 892124) (Eastling & Stalisfield) New House Farm, Eastling. ME13 0BN	
				Reader	Mr. Norman Fowler (01795 890412) (Eastling, Stalisfield & Ospringe) 4 Meesons Close, Eastling.	
				Reader	Mr. Hugh Perks (01795 890603) (Eastling, Stalisfield & Ospringe) Weald Cottage, Eastling.	
				Methodist Minister	Reverend Philip Barker (01227 463180)	
				<b>Contacting the Church's staff</b>		
				For general enquiries and for specific enquiries about Weddings, please telephone Faversham 533272, for Baptisms please phone 531044, for Ospringe and Painter's Forstal. For Eastling and Stalisfield please telephone 01795 890487. If you would like the parish staff to conduct a funeral, either in our churches or elsewhere, please ask the funeral director to make the necessary arrangements.		
<div><b>From the Registers</b></div>						
				<b>Baptisms</b>		
					EDWARD Oliver 22nd October 2006 at Eastling	
					FAITH Bryant-Gidlow 29th October 2006 at Ospringe	
					NATHALIE IMOGEN Maslen 12th November 2006 at Ospringe	
					SUMMER MARGARET DRUSILLA Shepherd 19th November 2006 at Ospringe	
				<b>Funerals</b>		
					Lionel CHRISTMAS 15th November 2006 Cremation at Charing	
				<b>Internment of Ashes</b>		
					Allan George HANN 21st October 2006 at Ospringe	
				~~~~~		
				Mid Week Worship at Davington		
				8 a.m. Morning Prayer will be said Monday - Thursday		
				9.30 a.m. Holy Communion every Thursday		
				Mid Week Worship at Eastling		
				2.15 p.m. Celtic Prayer every Wednesday - 20 minutes for prayer and reflection.		

EASTLING PARISH COUNCIL

From bi-monthly meeting on 8th November 2006.
The Treasurer gave the financial report and the Council agreed to make to donations of £26.00 to the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England and £50.00 to the Kent Tree Warden Scheme.

Alan Willson, Village Warden commenced his duties on 12th September and has taken over the running of the local Neighbourhood Watch. He has contacted the Statutory Authorities with whom he will need to liaise, has purchased a fluorescent jacket and now has a dedicated mobile phone: 07794 010 394. He feels his role is now being accepted by the community and already has been of some assistance. He has made patrols through the Village on a regular basis and reported on some vandalism at the Church. There have been concerns expressed about the lorries driving through to and from the water board site in Kettle Hill Road. A storage container in Tong Lane had been broken into and valuable equipment stolen.

The concept of the Village Sign was again discussed and the Council agreed to explore the possibilities of obtaining external funding to assist with the cost: Clerk to submit applications.

The draft of the Village Design Statement has been slated by Swale Borough Council. Swale was totally unimpressed with the submitted document. Cllr Bailey and the Clerk will rewrite the existing piece and submit photographs showing the 'Good, Bad and the Ugly' around the village. The Youth Club will be invited to take the pictures and offer their comments. Cllr Bailey to report back in March.

The footpath between Tong Lane and the Carpenters Arms has been cleared by the Highways Department and is now in a reasonable state. The Church Path remains in a satisfactory condition and Alan Willson indicated that he intends to plant daffodil bulbs to enhance the edges.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 10th January 2007 at 6.00 pm.

Ospringe Parish Council news

Ospringe Parish Council met on the 15th November.

Parish Council Christmas Card. The Council selected a drawing done by a local school pupil for this years card. Congratulations have been sent to the pupil for the excellent work. Those who live in the Parish will see when the card when it is printed and delivered.

Lorenden School. Mr Taylor the new Headmaster of Lorenden School attended the meeting. The school is making every effort to encourage parents who bring pupils to school to car share. This would reduce the traffic flow in the Parish and lessen the impact of travel on the environment. Mr Taylor stressed the importance of protecting the environment, and said this is reflected in the teaching at the school.


Good News. The Parish Council would like to record there thanks to the Editor, Hilary, and the volunteers and helpers for the good work over the years. The council looks forward to the appearance a new magazine for Ospringe in the New Year.

Web site. Work has progressed over the Autumn and the web site has more content . Comments and suggestions are welcomed. The web site address is: www.ospringepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/

Next meeting 10th January 2007

EASTLING VILLAGE HALL

To book ring Julia Bailey on 01795 890746



A beautiful hall in a lovely village location for your wedding, club, sports or meetings. The large hall has pretty grounds, car parking, meeting rooms and fully equipped facilities for professional or self catering occasion.

Painter's Forstal Village Amenities Committee

Craft Fayre

A colourful array of stalls filled the hall on 11th November. A wide range of goods were on offer, many suitable for Christmas decorations or as presents. With thanks to Angela Macey, Pat Griffin, Jacky Searley and Ann Gillat, a hot lunch of baked potatoes, cheese and salad was available . Refreshments were served throughout the day for the steady stream of visitors.


carpets direct


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- Over 200 carpet and Vinyl ranges
- Quality British made underlay and accessories
- No obligation FREE estimating and measuring
- See samples in the comfort of your own home
- Professional installation by our own fitters
- All carpets vacuumed with our compliments

01233 714999


OPEN MON - SAT 9am - 5pm

Selecta House, Charing Hill, Charing





"Thank you Everyone!"



I would like to thank all clients of my Pilates Classes and elsewhere for their loyalty and friendship over the past year.

It's wonderful to see the progress you have all made.


I wish you and every member of the Parish an uplifting Christmas and a fulfilling New Year.


Louise Seymour, IHHT Dip., PT Dip., MPTI

Tel: 070-500-84739

Email: LCS@LifecareFitness.co.uk

Lifecare Fitness - "Helping people feel fit for life."







Celebrate
the new year

at Eastling
Gardeners' Club

New Year's Party

in the village hall on
Saturday 6th January, 7.30 pm till late.

Food and wine

plus a flower arranging demonstration.

Free to members renewing their subscription (£5)

- otherwise £2.50. Contact number 890160.

The Wit and Wisdom

held in the village hall on
Saturday 11th November
in aid of the Senior
Citizens' Christmas
Lunch, attracted 11 tables
and raised £216.00
towards club funds.
Thanks to everyone who
attended or helped in any
way.

Norman Neaves.

Eastling Senior Citizens

would like to say thank you
to Sandra (Licensee),
customers and staff of the
Carpenters Arms for their
very generous donation of
£200 towards our annual
Christmas Lunch.

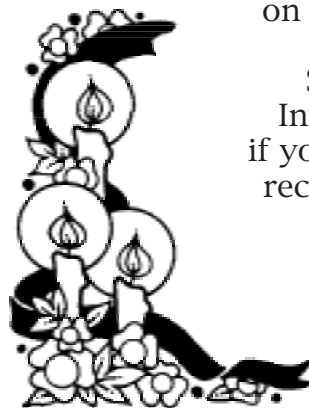
Mrs M. Neaves & Mrs
O. Simmonds, Treasurers,
Eastling Senior Citizens'
Club

Painter's Forstal Gardeners' Club

Monday 11th December
Christmas Social

7pm SHARP

in the Champion Hall
further information from
Noreen, 533608.



Urgently required

- a cordless hand held
hoover and a 3-5 step
ladder for cleaning
those up high and diffi-
cult parts of Ospringe
Church. If you can help
with either of these
items please contact
Revd Jacqui Henry on
01795 538785.

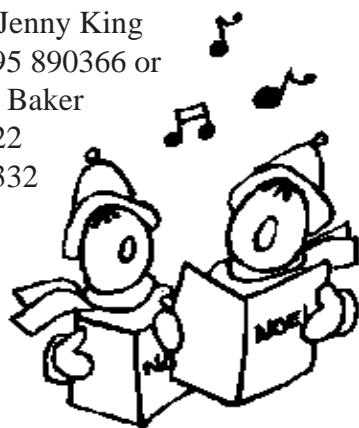
PUDDLEDUCKS PLAYGROUP

in the Champion Hall,
Painter's Forstal

Our Christmas Raffle will be
drawn on Tuesday 12th
December. Tickets available
now - 50p for 5.

The children will be making
decorations and calendars
during the sessions this month
and the Christmas Term will
finish on Friday 15th
December with a party for the
children.

Spring Term will start on
Friday 5th January at 9.30am
to 11.25am. There are lots of
interesting activities planned,
as well as free play.
For more details call in to a
session or phone Jill on 01795
890519.



Merry Christmas

Stalisfield Over 60's Christmas Tea

on Saturday 16th December
4 till 6pm in

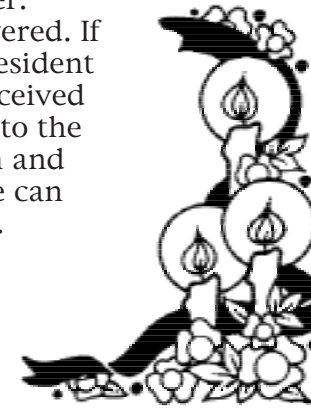
Stalisfield Village Hall.

Invitations have gone out,
if you are eligible and haven't
received one, please call Ian
on 01795 890475.

Eastling Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 5th December.

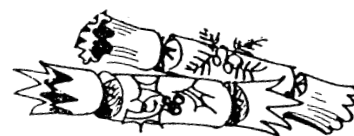
Invitations have been delivered. If
you are a Senior Citizen resident
in Eastling and haven't received
one, or require transport to the
hall, please ring Norman and
Marina on 890242 so we can
make arrangements.



Afternoon Club Activities

December 7th Christmas Party

A happy get-together
for all members.



The Invicta Singers Christmas Concert Friday 8th December 7.30pm

in Doddington Church

Admission £7.50

To include refreshments in the interval.
Proceeds to Wychling Church Funds
Tickets available from PCC members
or phone 01622 859834.

Pre-empt your
New Year's Resolution
GET FIT NOW!
Kung Fu
for fitness, peace of mind
& self defence
Tuesday 8.00 - 9.00 p.m.
Eastling Village Hall

beginners welcome anytime
(Classes are designed for adults of
any fitness level)
For more information call
Laurence and Christina on
01795 890264

Whitehill Methodist / Anglican Chapel,
Painter's Forstal

Welcomes you to a

YULETIDE

COFFEE MORNING

'Steaming Coffee', (and Tea!)

Warm Mince Pies and Brandy Butter
and Christmas Good Cheer,

**on Wednesday 13th December
in the Champion Hall**

between 11.00 am and 12.30pm (after Yoga).

The funds raised will go towards the running of the Champion
Hall for all villagers and the Methodist Homes for the Aged.

Come and relax from the Christmas rush and
chat to your friends.

Homemade cakes for sale! Christmas Raffle
Please support this worthwhile cause.

Alison Tracey

December



2006

1st MU Advent Carol Service	11am	Canterbury Cathedral
1st Craft Club	6.15pm	Champion Hall
2nd Advent Club	10am	Ospringe Church
2nd Christmas Craft Club	10.30am	Eastling Village Hall
2nd Carol Singing	3pm	Faversham Almshouses
5th Eastling Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch		E'ling Village Hall
6th Cakes for Sale at Pop-In	9am	Eastling Village Hall
7th Afternoon Club	2pm	Champion Hall
8th Christmas Concert	7.30pm	Doddington Church
9th Advent Club	10am	Ospringe Church
9th Christmas Craft Club	10.30am	Eastling Village Hall
9th Christmas Fayre	11am	Ospringe School
10th Crib Service	3pm	Stalisfield Church
11th Gardeners' Christmas Social	7pm	Champion Hall
13th Yuletide Coffee Morning	11am	Champion Hall
15th Deadline for January magazines.		
15th Craft Club	6.15pm	Champion Hall
16th Advent Club	10am	Ospringe Church
16th Tree decorating	2pm	Eastling Church
16th Over 60's Christmas Tea	4pm	Stalisfield Village Hall
16th Carols with the Choral	7.45pm	Alexander Centre
17th Christingle Service	4pm	Eastling Church
17th Carols by Candlelight	6.30pm	Champion Hall
18th - 22nd Holiday Club	10am	Eastling Village Hall
19th Carol Singing	from 6.30pm	Painter's Forstal
21st Carol Singing	from 6pm	Stalisfield Green
21st Nine lessons & Carols	7pm	Ospringe Church
23rd Carols in the Market Place	7pm	Faversham Market
24th Come to the Manger	4pm	Ospringe Church
24th Carol Service	4pm	Eastling Church
28th Christingle Service	3pm	Canterbury Cathedral
JANUARY		
6th Gardeners' Party	7.30pm	Eastling Village Hall
10th Eastling Parish Council	6pm	Eastling Village Hall
10th Ospringe Parish Council	7.30pm	Champion Hall

Coffee Pop-In

Open to all on Wednesdays in Eastling
Village Hall, 9 - 11am for tea, coffee,
biscuits and a chat.

No charge. Toddlers welcome.
Homemade cakes for sale on 6th De-
cember. Mince pies and carol singing on
13th.

Pop-In takes a Christmas break and will
NOT open on 20th or 27th December,
back on 3rd January 2007.

Cakes for sale on 10th January.



Christmas Keep Fit Classes @ Eastling Village Hall Wednesdays

6.00pm Gentle Exercise
7.00pm Bums Legs & Tums
8.00pm Dance Fatburner
Last classes on 13th December
& return on 10th January 2007

Thursdays

9.15am Fitness Pilates
Last class on 14th December
& return 11th January 2007

A big THANK YOU to everyone who
has attended this year. Wishing you a
very Happy Christmas & looking
forward to keeping fit with you in 2007

Leigh 890149

leigh.fitness@btinternet.com

CAROL SINGING

Painter's Forstal

The Village Committee and
friends will be singing
carols round the village on
Tuesday 19th December,
in aid of the
Cottage Hospital.

If you wish to join the
singing, meet at the
Champion Hall at 6.30pm.
The singing will be
followed by mince pies
and mulled cider / apple
juice for all who take part.
We ask residents not to
give to casual callers that
night, but to wait for the
official collectors who
will have a Cottage
Hospital tin.

Stalisfield and Otterden

Come and join us for

Carol Singing

on Thursday 21st December
starting at 6pm on Stalisfield
Green singing in Stalisfield and
Otterden - all money raised goes
to Cancer Research

Wear warm clothes, boots and
bring torches - all ages welcome
- you are especially welcome to
join us if you are new to the
area. For more information
call Jenny King
01795 890366 or
Jane Baker
01622
858332