

Good News Parish Magazine

High Downs



Serving the villages of
Eastling, Otterden,
Stalisfield and Throwley

www.goodnews.rf.gd

Christmas Services

Carols by Candlelight

12th December	Stalisfield Church	5.30pm
19th December	Throwley Church	5pm
24th December	Eastling Church	4pm

Christmas Eve Midnight Communion
Stalisfield Church 11.30pm



Christmas Day Family Communion
Eastling Church 10am



Follow the Star to Christmas



Rev. Caroline Turvey has prepared an

Advent Calendar

especially for our parishes, with daily reflections
submitted by parishioners.

Copies are available in our churches and online from
1st December. Go to www.kingsdowncreekside.co.uk

DECEMBER 2021

- 1st Hymns, Bangers and Wine
Doddington Church 7.30pm
- 4th Children's Christmas Party
Stalisfield Village Hall 12.30-3.30pm
- 8th Youth Club
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 11th Quiz Night
Stalisfield Village Hall. 7pm
- 12th Carol Service
Stalisfield Church 5.30pm
- 15th Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 16th Christmas Carols
Throwley Forstal 6.30pm
- 18th Seniors' Christmas Party
Stalisfield Village Hall 4pm
- 19th Carol Service
Throwley Church 5pm
- 22nd Youth Club at Christmas
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 24th Carol Service
Eastling Church 4pm
- 24th Midnight Mass
Stalisfield Church 11.30pm
- 25th Christmas Communion
Eastling Church 10am

JANUARY 2022

- 12th Youth Club
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 15th Gardeners' New Year Party
Eastling Village Hall 7.30pm
- 26th Youth Club
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm



Christmas Carols at Throwley Forstal

Thursday 16th December, 6:30 – 7.30 pm

Get together with mulled wine and mince pies
Traditional Carols round the Christmas tree
Bring your family and join your friends and
neighbours in Christmas cheer!
gaynoremoss@hotmail.com



**Quiz
Night**
At Stalisfield Village Hall
Saturday 11th December
7pm

Contact Kate Jamieson:
katejamiesoncornhill@gmail.com
to book a table of 6 or to join
another table.

Bring your own food and drink and
exercise the old grey matter!
£5 per person.



**BANGERS &
BANGERS**
AN EVENING OF YOUR FAVOURITE HYMNS,
FOLLOWED BY SAUSAGES AND WINE!
WEDNESDAY 1ST DECEMBER, 7:30PM
AT DODDINGTON CHURCH

E-MAIL: gaynoremoss@hotmail.com IF YOU WOULD
LIKE TO ATTEND OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

Advent reflection.

John 8:12

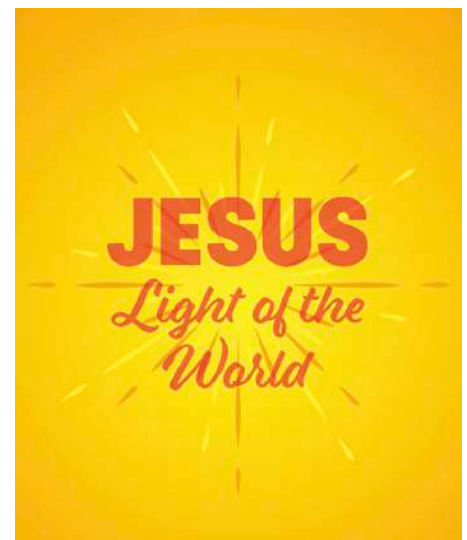
Once again, Jesus spoke to the people and said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life."

The period leading up to Christmas is one that I think we probably all enjoy to some extent. There are wonderful opportunities for communities to gather together to celebrate, to party, to share, to sing and to worship. Churches use this time to connect with those from the entire community because there is a need to celebrate good news of Jesus' birth with everyone. You may be involved in some of the events around the Benefice – singing under a Christmas tree, Christmas mingle, carols by candlelight, Christingle – all of which enable us to be together both physically and spiritually.

There is a sense of anticipation through Advent. There is a sense of wonder for children which can be lost as we grow older. There are difficult times in our lives which can

overshadow the joy. It can be hard for families to think about Christmas without a loved one. Many families this year across the globe will be experiencing this sense of loss as we join together after this long time of living with the reality of Covid. This will be part of our Christmas experience as a family as we continue to mourn the loss of Dan's Mum to Covid in January this year. In my years of working within a church context, I have seen people in my church family struggle through Christmas, but there is within them something that is strong, that keeps hoping and won't let the light of Christ be extinguished, even in their grief.

That childlike wonder at the life of Christ is a reality for those whose lives have been enriched and blessed by God who made himself known in this human being, Jesus. Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day because we know the reality of Christ, not just as a historical figure, but deep within us. We know that this baby grew up to understand his calling as an adult to bring all of humanity into relationship with the God who isn't a far off, untouchable,



distant figure, but a Father, who longs to connect with us all.

Connecting with God in sorrow and in joy gives strength and hope. When we grasp the reality of God through Christ, wonder at the enormity of God's love is once again a possibility. In this countdown to Christmas, this Advent 2021, take this opportunity to ask questions about faith and perhaps even challenge God in prayer over things you're struggling with. We are here to help you find those answers so do seek us out if you need to talk. It's always a privilege to hear from and to pray for you.

Advent is a time of waiting, so what are you waiting for?

There is no time like NOW to discover what Christmas is actually all about. The invitation is open to everyone in the community to join in and celebrate with us this Advent and Christmas, that we may all discover and know the light, the joy, the love and the hope of Christ in our lives together this year.

Caroline Turvey, Curate

Prayer Pointers

December 2021



Mondays - Give thanks for Joseph and Mary travelling to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus, fulfilling the prophesy of Micah given seven centuries earlier; pray for all expectant parents as they prepare for the miracle of birth.

Tuesdays - Praise the Lord for the Angel's message to guide the Shepherds; pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us on our Advent journeys.

Wednesdays - Give thanks for the gifts of the Magi, expensive gifts; we pray for those who will receive no gifts this Christmas

Thursdays - Rejoice for John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world; we lift to Him our own sins and ask forgiveness.

Fridays - We pray for those who mourn the death of a loved one, as we know the family of Jesus mourned at his death.

Saturdays - Especially at Christmas time, we pray blessings for family members or friends who live far away.

Sundays - Give thanks and praise for that baby Jesus is now our Risen Lord who reigns with His Father in Heaven, Hallelujah!

Eastling Church

Decorating the Church for Christmas

All hands please at

10am on Thursday 16th December

If you would like to join the flower arranging rota, please call Bay on 01795 892036.





Eastling Gardeners' Club

New Year's
Party on
Saturday 15th
January 2022
at 7.30pm

in Eastling Village Hall

There will be a wine tasting
organised by Andrew Higgs, to
accompany a hot meal.

The party is free to members, non-
members pay £5



Christmas Mingle

Saturday 4th December 11am – 1:30pm
Newnham Village Hall

A festive opportunity to meet your friends & neighbours
in an informal setting

- Teas & Coffee • Homemade Soup •
- Bottle Stall • Raffle •
- Homemade Cake Stall •

Contact Bruce Leckie on 890550 if you can help
Proceeds to Newnham Church Building Fund



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Stalisfield Village Hall

Saturday 4th December
12.30pm to 3.30pm

The children of Stalisfield, Otterden and
surrounding areas are invited to the Hall for the
Annual Christmas Party.

From littlies to biggies, every child is welcome. There will be food and
drink aplenty, games galore, and maybe a surprise visitor

Please register with Debbie at watlingdebbie@hotmail.com or on
07926 275 697. The more the merrier....



Otterden with Stalisfield W.I

We had a good gathering of Ladies for our
November Meeting, which made for a very convivial
evening. Rose West, our neighbour and local Artist
kindly stepped in at the last moment to guide us
through our artistic skills. We commenced by
drawing a plant without looking away from the
subject with one pencil and then with two - it was
surprising that the results actually did resemble the
subject when we were able to look at our paper!
Then it was on to draw an orange and lemon placed
on the tables, taking into account the shadows. It
was an enjoyable time finishing the evening with
beverages and homemade
cake, of course.

The final Meeting for this
year is on Wednesday 15th
December at 7.30 p.m. at
Stalisfield Village Hall as
usual. We will be creating
our own Christmas Wreaths
from foliage, flowers and
decorations we provide. It is interesting how varied
the results are at the end of the evening. The
Committee will be supplying a festive drink and
nibbles.



Christmas Party

Stalisfield and Otterden Seniors

Stalisfield Village Hall

Saturday 18th December
from 4pm

Stalisfield is pleased to
announce the annual seniors'
Christmas event will be taking

place on Saturday, December 18th from 4pm. A welcome drink
followed by full Christmas dinner will be enlivened by
Christmas carols. Any contributions to the usual raffle would
be appreciated. It would be great to see a few more of the "just
eligible" guests so send an email to Anna

anna@stalisfieldvillagehall.co.uk or call her on 01233 712 918

Places **MUST** be pre-booked with **Anna**



Sunday Services

subject to Covid restrictions and
ministry team availability

5th December Advent 2

Philippians 1. 3 - 11, Luke 3. 1 - 6

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

12th December Advent 3

Philippians 4. 4 - 7, Luke 3. 7 - 18

Throwley 10.30am Morning Worship

Newnham 10.30am Holy Communion

Stalisfield 5.30pm Carol Service

Saturday 18th December

Wychling 5pm Carol Service

19th December Advent 4

Hebrews 10. 5 - 10, Luke 1. 39-45 (46 - 55)

Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship

Throwley 5pm Carol Service

24th December Christmas Eve

Isaiah 52. 7 - 10, John 1. 1 - 14

Eastling 4pm Carol Service

Stalisfield 11.30pm Midnight Communion

25th December Christmas Day

Isaiah 9. 2 - 7, Luke 2. 1 - 20

Eastling 10am Holy Communion

26th December Christmas 1

Colossians 3. 12 - 17, Luke 2. 41 - 52

Newnham 10.30am Benefice Communion

2nd January 2022 Christmas 2

Ephesians 1. 3 - 14, John 1. (1-9) 10 - 18

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Online Daily Worship Continues

As well as the services in our churches, the daily
9am Morning Prayer at Lynsted will continue
and be live online on

www.kingsdowncreekside.co.uk - also on the
YouTube Channel 'Breakthrough at Lynsted'.

More information is updated weekly on

St Mary's Eastling 'A Church Near You':

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

High Downs Parish

Rector Reverend Canon Dr. Steve Lillicrap
01795 522510 steve.lillicrap@kc-hd.org.uk

Associate Priest Reverend James (Jim) Pye
01795 890726 jim.pye@kc-hd.org.uk

Curate Reverend Caroline Turvey
01795 886351 caroline.turvey@kc-hd.org.uk

Reader Caroline Ramshaw (07799 538809)

Churchwardens

Eastling Andrew Baxter (01795 890598)

Administrator Janet Payne
E mail: eastlingchurch@gmail.com

Stalisfield with Otterden

Jenny King (01795 890366)

Administrator Shirley Pritchard
Email: Stmarystalisfield@gmail.com

Throwley Gaynore Moss (01795 890995)

Parish Office Email: eastlingchurch@gmail.com
facebook.com/highdownsbenefice

CONTACT THE GOOD NEWS EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like to submit articles, or to advertise in
the January 2022 magazine, send your submission by
20th December 2021 to:
goodnewsmagazine@me.com.

Past and current issues of the Good News may be
viewed on ccgi.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews or
www.goodnews.rf.gd

We wish a very **Happy Christmas** to all our readers
and volunteer deliverers, with Thanks to our
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Good News production costs.



Joe McCarron

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When someone you loved is dead.

By Tony Horsfall

Following on from last month, the other lessons that I learned following my wife's death were:

11. That it helps to talk about your loss and the person you have lost. Sharing helps you to put things together in your mind, and is healing in itself.
12. Don't be afraid of pain, and don't anaesthetise it or avoid it – acknowledge it, face it, and you will heal more quickly.
13. That crying is normal, even for men, and it is a healing part of the grief process. Don't be afraid of this, even in public.
14. It may surprise you, to discover which people draw near to you in your grief, and who steps away. Appreciate those who come closer, without judging those who hold back.
15. Not everything people say to you about grief and your response will be helpful. Decide for yourself what is important for you, and let the rest go.
16. That grief may expose some of your inner fault-lines, but don't be afraid of this – learning more about

yourself is a gift that comes with grieving.

17. No-one grieves perfectly. Following the death of your loved one, you will make mistakes, bad choices, and errors of judgment. This is normal, so forgive yourself.
18. That hope will rise again within you. The human spirit, in combination with God's grace, has its own remarkable resilience.
19. Don't be afraid to live again. God has a good purpose for you, and a plan for your life.
20. That your faith is an asset, not a liability. When you are tempted to be angry with God, remember that He is an ever-present help in time of need. Lean on Him.
21. That you have a part to play in your grief journey, so don't be passive and allow it to overwhelm you – begin to do what you can to rebuild your life.



Extract from 'Kent's Treasured Countryside' by Audrey Keen

Otterden Park

Drizzle drips through the oak and falls to the ground. Sounds carry. Voices raised in the distance mingle with the sound of a red bus as it moans and moves slowly along the lonely park road. The noise of the engine fades, swallowed up by distance and fog. Some miles away, in the next village, bloodhounds bay near to the church and this sound is brought to me on a tremble of wind. It sounds eerie. A blackbird cries, a cock pheasant runs, stretches his wings and glides across the road to disappear into a bank of bracken, instantly concealed.

'And when the wind comes
And gathers leaves to brown
The woodland floor.
When the holly shines
Her berries as yet green,
When the crooked path
Beneath the yew is
Sticky with wet earth
And the remaining leaf
Above this yellow and bright,
And the haws blush red
And the pheasants collect
On the wooden fence,
These things together
Verify that autumn has come.'



Jesus, our companion,
when we are driven to despair,
help us,
through the friends and
strangers
we encounter on our path,
to know you as our refuge,
our way, our truth and our life.
Amen.

Prayer from the Church of England

Trees of Love  We invite everyone across east Kent to dedicate a dove to your loved one, and join us for festive remembrance services, with carols, throughout December.

www.pilgrimshospices.org/treesoflove 

Pilgrims Hospices

Every December we hold our Trees of Love festive

Remembrance with Carols.

As you may know, last year the event was solely online and 'at home', but this year we are pleased to offer our remembrance events once again. We are still including an online element, in that we are producing another film, to replace the live service that would have been taking place at our three hospice events, but supporters will be able to come and view their dedicated doves on the Trees between 4pm and 6pm on Saturday 4 December at our hospices in Canterbury, Ashford and Thanet. Alternatively there will also be services at indoor venues across east Kent including Tuesday 14th at Barham Crematorium and Wednesday 15th at Charing Crematorium.

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WEDNESDAY 8th DECEMBER at 2.30 pm
(doors open at 2.00)

Egerton Millennium Hall, Elm Close, TN27 9DS

Find out, in this very light-hearted lecture, about the various ceremonial events that take place around Christmas time. Carol services, concerts and even Changing the Guard at Buckingham Palace and Windsor all play their part. How do the Chelsea Pensioners prepare and celebrate the festive season? All will be revealed so, come along and feel wrapped in a blanket of Christmas loveliness

Dr Graham Jones, after a glittering career spanning nearly 40 years, retired in 2012 as Senior Director of Music, Household Division and Director of Music, Coldstream Guards a position unequaled throughout military music in Great Britain. During his illustrious career he has recorded over 40 albums and been responsible for the largest commissioning programme of wind band music in recent history commissioning over 30 new works. In 1993 Graham was made a Member of the British Empire for outstanding service to military music. Having retired from military service, in 2012, Graham is enjoying a second career as a guest conductor, adjudicator, guest speaker, lecturer, clinician, recording consultant and educator.

For further details about this and other lectures see our website at <https://theartssocietyegerton.org.uk>

Our Society has a membership of c170 from across a wide area of the Weald and North Downs.

Visitors are welcome at £5. If you join the money will be refunded. Membership costs £40 per annum for individuals and £70 per annum for couples. For further information please contact Christine Willis, our Membership Secretary via cmwillis75@gmail.com or 01233 75637.

Short Mat Bowls

Now open on Wednesday evenings in Eastling Village Hall, 7 - 9pm.

New members are very welcome, equipment is provided, all we ask is for you to wear flat soled shoes.

Membership fee is £5.00 and we charge £2.00 for the 2 hours.

Come along and have a go.
 Yours in sport Roy Piles



Stalisfield Village Hall

(All events pending Covid restrictions)

- 4th Dec Children's Christmas Party
- 11th Dec 2021 Quiz Night
- 18th Dec Seniors' Christmas Dinner
- 2022**
- 11th March Quiz
- 2nd June Golden Jubilee Celebration
- 16th July Treasure Hunt
- 8th October Harvest Supper
- 9th & 10th Dec Panto
- 11th Dec Children's Christmas Party
- 17th Dec Seniors' Christmas Dinner



Volunteering at Belmont

We are always looking for people to join our friendly team. There are a range of roles to suit everyone; so please ring us to see if you could help. Volunteering throughout the main visitor season can be for as little as a couple of hours per week. Full training and support will be given.

What can we offer you?

A chance to meet new people, learn more about your local area and learn new skills. No experience is required, just a passion for sharing with others, enthusiasm and energy. We currently have volunteering roles which cover

- Room stewarding
- Tour guides

Interested? We would love to hear from you.

Please call 01795 890202

or email administrator@belmont-house.org

Belmont House & Gardens, Throwley, Nr Faversham, Kent ME13 0HH

www.belmont-house.org



Eastling Foodbank Collections for December 2021

Dear Generous Residents please can you help?

There are more and more families living with food poverty and more and more parents going without meals themselves to give their children food. This seems especially tragic at Christmas time. The items below are currently required urgently:

Tinned potatoes; instant mash; sponge cakes/puddings; tinned ham; squash; powdered milk; hot chocolate; hair conditioner; razors; antibacterial spray; fabric conditioner

For further updates please go to: <https://www.facebook.com/faversham.foodbank>
Please leave your contributions at the back of Eastling church which is open daily from 9am till dusk, or in the porch at Throwley Church.



FoodCycle is a national charity that puts on weekly, **free** community meals for people in need. These meals are cooked by volunteers with surplus food that would otherwise go to waste, and our volunteers serve a delicious three-course vegetarian meal to our guests, as well as share in the meal and conversation with them – we believe no one should be hungry or lonely!



We have a project in Sittingbourne that takes place **every Tuesday 10pm - 3pm** and we are on the lookout to welcome new Volunteers and Project Leaders.

For this, we are looking for volunteers as well as senior volunteers (Project Leaders) who would be keen to get stuck in either as a cook (no experience needed) or a host! If you think you would be able to help us advertise this or know people who may be interested please do let me know and I can send over more information and resources.

If you would like to help as a volunteer, you can sign up one to become one and then you can sign up to the session you'd like to attend. Go to <https://volunteer.foodcycle.org.uk/volunteer-sign-up>

If you would like to become a Project Leader please go ahead and complete the Project Leader application form on our website: <https://volunteer.foodcycle.org.uk/projectleader>. We will then be in touch have a chat about the next steps.
Stella Skye, Project Support Officer.

Just up the road in Stalisfield; we are a family run independent, award winning pub & restaurant with rooms.

We are pleased to be open again and are currently recruiting for

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- Casual cleaners for our bedrooms (midweek & weekends) £8 - £10.20p/h
- Casual pot wash (weekends) includes holiday pay + tips

Some previous experience is ideal, but willingness to work & a good personality is essential, we can teach you the rest!

Also great opportunity for full time supervisor! (previous experience in the industry required)

Please send your CV to info@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk

The Plough Inn, Stalisfield;

a family run, independent, award winning pub & restaurant offering an extensive menu of restaurant quality food and pub classics as well as a large range of unique & locally produced drinks, but don't forget to book your table in advance if you wish to eat with us.

Got friends visiting? Then don't forget we have beautiful bedrooms too.

Also, dare I say it but, Christmas Day book early to avoid disappointment.

Keep up to date by following us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram
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Kent Surrey Sussex.
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During an interesting and inspiring presentation, you will get an insight into how we work, innovate and save lives.

As a charity we would welcome an opportunity to raise awareness of our work and to explain how your members can get involved in supporting us.

If you would like to know more, we would love to hear from you. Get in touch now to book a talk at a time and place that suits you.

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www.aakss.org.uk/about-us/talks/

*All in person talks will adhere to government guidelines.

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Church launches consultation on plans to get to net zero carbon in just nine years

The Church of England is consulting dioceses, cathedrals, national institutions, parishes, schools, and other interested parties on a proposed route map to achieve net zero carbon by 2030.

The draft route map suggests how all parts of the Church of England can make changes together, in order to achieve the ambitious target set by General Synod in 2020: to be net zero carbon 20 years ahead of the Government's targets.

It includes recommendations for building maintenance, heating and the availability of specialist advice for each, setting alongside how the central Church and dioceses can offer support.

The draft net zero carbon route map was written by a sub-committee of the Church of England's Environmental Working Group, chaired by the Bishop of Selby, Dr John Thomson.

He said: "God's creation is in crisis, and there is an urgent call to address this at every level of our global community.

"Synod has set an ambitious target. We recognise this will be challenging, however many adaptations can also be made simply and quickly, such as switching to a green energy provider, filling gaps in windows, and changing lightbulbs, all of which can help to reduce energy costs.

"I encourage individuals and communities to engage with these consultation proposals and to think at every level

what can be done to be part of the change. We need to safeguard and care for all of God's creation."

The Government has committed to a target of net zero carbon by 2050, with an interim target of a 78 per cent reduction, set in April 2021.

Anyone can respond to the consultation online before the closing date of 28 February 2022, with responses particularly requested from Dioceses and Cathedrals.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/net-zero-consultation>



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Are you tired?

How tired are you? As this Christmas approaches, many of us feel more than tired – we feel utterly drained. We have found that despite being less active than we used to be, we have far less energy. Months of anxiety, rising bills, Covid confusion, and erratic sleep patterns have not helped. Here are some tips of how to improve things:

Increase your light, especially in the morning. Scientists say that daylight clears melatonin, the tiredness hormone, and produces instead the brain's happy chemicals, dopamine and serotonin. As one scientist from Sleepstation.org.uk advises, "Throw open your curtains the minute you wake up, and don't start work without exercising outside first."

Increase your joy through human contact. A German study found that people who are most socially isolated are also the most exhausted. Social media doesn't count – it can make you feel even more tired. Instead, get out and meet up with some friends, and "do whatever makes you smile, or simply feel good."

Eat right. Nutritionists warn that diets high in starchy carbs and sugar mean fluctuating energy levels. At least half of each meal should be vegetables, fruit or salad. And keep your alcohol intake under control - it can compromise your sleep quality.

Consider vitamins - new research from the Health and Food Supplements Information Service (hsis.org) advises that Vitamin B can help reduce tiredness and

fatigue. Make sure you are eating eggs, dairy products, legumes and seeds regularly. If you are still really exhausted, consider a blood test to check your iron levels.

Exercise. We all know this is good for us, but it is also important to stay hydrated as you do it. Water makes an enormous difference to your energy levels.

Take time to stop and breathe deeply, and slowly. Anxiety can keep us in a chronic fight-or-flight mode, which drains our energy. Calm, deep breathing can halt the stress response.

Be grateful. Make a list of things that you have to be thankful to God for – practise a mental attitude of praise and gratitude towards Him. You will be amazed at the difference it makes!



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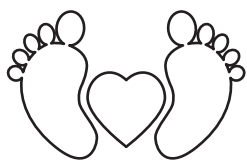
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KCC Member for Swale East - November Report

Back in June when I was still settling into my role at KCC and learning the (many) ropes involved, the pace of things in many ways felt very fast. One area in which I had to get used to a very different pace was the rate at which much of KCC's work gets done. Having never worked in the public sector before, this took some adjusting to. Where my previous roles have largely involved tasks being completed in a matter of hours or days, suddenly I was having to get used to the fact that some things - especially those involving Highways - take months or even years.

In the first parish magazine piece I wrote in May, I mentioned that I was working with a number of Parish Councils who were interested in having 20mph zones installed in their areas. At that point I imagined (somewhat naively, as it turned out) that one or two of these might be in place by the end of the year. In reality most of them are still not even halfway towards completion. That's not to say that nothing has happened. Many parishes have had the necessary traffic surveys to see if a 20mph scheme would be viable in their community. If current traffic speeds are too fast then other measures, such as speed bumps or road narrowing, need to be considered. Some parishes have also undertaken informal consultations to get a better picture of the local support for a scheme. In short, things are ticking along, just not at a pace I was previously used to!

The reason I've struggled to adjust so much is that I've always been one to micro-manage projects. Which is fine, and even necessary, when you're

a self-employed sole trader dealing directly with members of the public and you alone are responsible for delivering a service to them - but it's an unhelpful approach when things are very much out of your control.

One local case brought this change of pace into focus for me recently. I was contacted by a resident in the first week of June to request a safety barrier be installed by a dangerous bend near their house. I chased up the request with the Highways team and followed up with the resident a month later to see if the work had been completed. It hadn't. I chased up Highways again and followed up a month later. Again no barrier, but an inspection of the site had at least taken place now. Months passed, and then, seemingly out of the blue, I received a mail last week from the resident with a photo attached of the new safety barrier. It was great to know that I had played a small part in making it happen, but at the same time I wasn't the one that installed it; and even though it took months I'm sure there were a lot of very necessary steps taking place behind the scenes to make it happen.

This role feels akin to being the only visible cog of an enormous machine. It can be frustrating to not have control over the pace at which things happen, and even more so to have to say no to people making very reasonable requests (usually on the grounds that the budget simply doesn't allow it), but on those occasions where you play some small part in improving things for residents, it can feel incredibly satisfying.

Rich Lehmann -
rich.lehmann@kent.gov.uk

Eastling Neighbourhood Watch

Village Warden

07794 010 394

or 01795 890848



Police 101 Emergency 999

Christmas is with us once again and the usual message is no drink/drug driving please.

It is not necessary for anybody to drive under the influence there are too many accidents caused by people being selfish and families having to suffer the consequences.

There has been many instances in local area of persons either hare coursing or poaching please report any instances of this on 101 or 999.

There has been a recent incident at Otterden where persons were hare coursing and being chased by the police, they abandoned their vehicle and left 3 dogs inside which were passed onto kennels by the police.

Please do not let your guard down over the holiday period to the threat of covid, it is still with us quite prevalent so take all precautions.

May I wish you all and your families a merry Christmas and
Take care
Alan

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!"

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Eastling Primary School

We were delighted to be able to hold the annual Harvest Festival service in St Mary's church this year. It was a wonderful event with the children giving donations for Faversham Food Bank.

Willow class have been learning about the Vikings and on Thursday 30th September they travelled to Pegwell Bay to visit the Viking ship. On Monday 11th October Willow class took part in a Viking Day at Kent Life. The children all dressed up and had a wonderful educational day full of learning and fun.

Silver Birch class visited the Gunpowder Mill, Standard Quay and Faversham Recreational Ground on Wednesday 13th October, to look at features of the local area for geography.

On Thursday 14th October Oak class visited Leeds Castle for a Tudor day. They took part in several workshops and made some fantastic memories.

On Tuesday 19th October, Acorn class visited the pumpkin farm at Sevington where the children all picked their own pumpkins to bring back to school. The children then decorated the pumpkins in class and entered them into the FOES competition.

The Friends of Eastling School's (FOES) annual Pumpkin decorating competition took place on Friday 22nd October with Mrs Youle, one of our school governors, having the difficult job of judging the entries. Term 1 ended with the Halloween disco which was very well supported by both the children and parent volunteers.

The school football team have had a mixed start to the season with some wins and some losses. They are a determined group of children and we look forward to seeing them go from strength to strength as the season progresses. Willow class pupils have started visiting Faversham gym on a weekly basis where they are learning new gymnastic skills. It was lovely for a group of Year 1 and 2 children to visit Herne Bay High to participate in Basketball training on Wednesday 20th October.



Eastling Primary School's annual Christingle Service will be held at St Mary's on Friday 17th December. We look forward to a wonderful afternoon.

The school has a couple of spaces available for an immediate start. Any prospective parents looking for a Reception place for September 2022 are welcome to call the office on 01795 890252 to arrange a visit.

For further information please visit our school website where photographs and newsletters are displayed and updated regularly.

Melanie Dale, Head Teacher

Youth Group Y7 to 13 7.00-8.30

All 11-18 year olds welcome to our new local youth group on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. December dates are 8th and 22nd (with a Christmas Party!) 7-8.30pm at Stalisfield Village Hall.

We had 18 young people at the first session in November and enjoyed a mix of music, cake, table tennis, Wii, games, craft and chilling out with friends! Come and join us!

Free entry for your first week then £1 which includes cake. Tuck shop available too!

Contact Catherine for further details or just turn up!
Clnorwood@doctors.org.uk

Mouse Makes
Colour the tree then colour in one star each day until Christmas. Leave the large star at the top of the tree to colour in on Christmas day!

What's on the Christmas Tree?

Presents at Christmas under the tree,
A red Christmas stocking waiting for me,
But what really is Christmas,
What is it about?
Just look and the Bible and you will find out!
It's about **JESUS** - the best present of all,
JESUS our Saviour,
God's gift to us all!

A STAR shows the way to Jesus
Read Matthew 2:1-12

ANGELS bring messages from God
Read about Gabriel's message in Luke 1:26-38
Read the shepherd's story in Luke 1:26-38

LIGHTS AND CANDLES remind us that Jesus lights our way to God
Read Luke 2:29-32

PRESENTS remind us of God's special gift to us ... **JESUS!**

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