Good News

Parish Magazine

High Downs Parish

Serving the villages of Eastling, Otterden, Stalisfield and Throwley

www.goodnews.rf.gd



DECEMBER 2022

Christmas Lights and Carols 1st The Plough, Stalisfield 5.30pm 1st History Society Christmas Social

Charing Parish Hall 7.30pm

Stalisfield Youth -7th

Venue to be confirmed 7 - 8.30pm

8th Singing Kettle song group Newnham Village Hall

2 - 3pm

Eat, Pray, Walk 9th

Doddington Church 1.30pm

9th& 10th Pantomine

Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm

11th Stalisfield Carol Service

Stalisfield Church 5.30pm

14th Arts Society lecture, Egerton

Millennium Hall, Egerton 2.30pm

14th Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.

> Stalisfield Village Hall 7pm

16th Christmas Carols at

> Throwley Forstal 6.30pm

17th Children's Christmas Party

Stalisfield Village Hall 12.30 - 3.30pm

18th Stalisfield Seniors' Party

> Stalisfield Village Hall 4pm

20th Copy Deadline for January G.News goodnewsmagazine@me.com

Throwley Carol Service

Throwley Church 6.00pm

21st Stalisfield Youth - Christmas Party Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm

22nd Cantiana Christmas

Newnham Church 7.30pm

24th Eastling Carol Service

Eastling Church 4.00pm

HRISTMAS SERVICES

in HIGH DOWNS PARISH

Sunday 11th December

Stalisfield 5.30pm Carol Service

Wednesday 21st December

Throwley 6.00pm Carol Service

Christmas Eve 24th December

Eastling 4.00pm Carol Service Stalisfield 11.30pm Holy Communion

Christmas Day 25th December

Throwley 10.00am

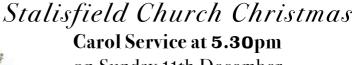
Holy Communion

CAROLS for **CHRISTMAS**

St Michael & All Angels Church, Throwley Wednesday 21st December at 6pm

Jointly with the choir of **Boughton Church**





on Sunday 11th December

Christmas Eve

11.30pm Midnight Mass



Christmas Carols at Throwley Forstal

Friday 16th December, 6:30 - 7.30 pm

Traditional Carols round the Christmas tree, bring your family and join your friends and neighbours in Christmas cheer!





CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

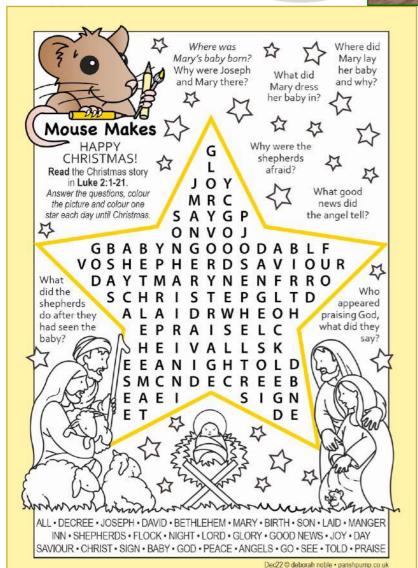
Stalisfield Village Hall Saturday 17th December 12.30pm to 3.30pm

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 visitorPlease

register with Debbie at watlingdebbie@hotmail.com or 07926 275 697.

The more the merrier....





Stalisfield Village Hall
Presents
GREASURE
ISLAND

A Villages' Production

When a map is found at the bric a brac stall marking the spot where locals buried the booty from the first ever Stalisfield Treasure Hunt, pirates from all the surrounding villages gather to discover the whereabouts of the loot.

Adventures, double-crossings and intrigue abound as they travel as far away as Eastling to find the treasure and claim the prize!

December 9th & 10th at 7.30pm Tickets £7 (£4 children) from 01795 890415 or

sharoncarter01@gmail.com



Message for the Month

from Revd Caroline Turvey

Advent is the time of the year in which we anticipate all that is to come, with Christmas fast approaching and the month of December hailing the end of the year and the beginning of the new.

And it would be remiss not to highlight something which I have been made all too aware of and of which I'm sure we will have many reminders in the coming weeks. The WORLD CUP!

Are you a footie fan? Or are you like me – you have an ear out to who's at the top of the league, and then watch the big matches – I'll be glued to this if England stay in!

I do hope we'll bring it home this time! Won't that be good news at Christmas.

It reminds me of the angel talking to the shepherds to break the good news of the Messiah being born:

'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all peoples'

We'll be reminded of these words through our Benefice services this Christmas – words

from God's messengers to the shepherds, who may have felt uninvited or unwelcome at the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. A song of invitation that has echoed through the ages, that each year we are invited afresh to join.

Following a series of difficult Christmases, we are hoping that 2022 offers a chance to welcome people back to services and events that may not have been possible previously.

This year, we want you to know how welcome you are by extending God's invitation to know the hope and the love that Jesus offers to each one of us.

With the World Cup final taking place the last Sunday before Christmas. Why not combine the joy of both with us at one of our services this year. Who doesn't love to sing a Christmas Carol? You are so welcome and we'd love to see you. For times and dates of our

services across Kingsdown, Creekside and High Downs, please go to our website: Home | Kingsdown Creekside & High Downs (kc-hd.org.uk)

I can't be sure of the outcome for our England players, but I am sure that the joy God brings through His Son Jesus Christ is far more transformative, long lasting and impactful than any football result we could hope for.



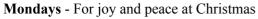
Prayer for this Advent

Holy Jesus, by being born one of us, and lying humbly in a manger, you show how much God loves the world.

Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts, until we reach our home in heaven and see you on your throne of glory.

Amen.

Prayer Pointers December 2022



Tuesdays - For an end to the war in Ukraine and persecution around the world.

Wednesdays - For families living in poverty, bad housing or on the streets.

Thursdays - Give thanks for those who volunteer to help others.

Fridays - For those who are unwell or in hospital over Christmas.

Saturdays - Give thanks for the joy of Jesus in your life.

Sundays - Praise our Lord God for the birth of Jesus, his only son.

Eastling Church Flower Rota December 2022



4th & 11th December - Mel Thursday 15th - Christmas communal decorating - all hands please.

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



Stalisfield and Otterden Seniors

Stalisfield Village Hall Sunday 18th December from 4pm



Places MUST be pre-booked with ANNA



The Stalisfield 2023 Calendar has arrived!

This has been a community project over the last year with local residents capturing photos of Stalisfield

It was a hard task to narrow it down to the photos that made it onto the calendar.

Why not buy one or two as beautiful Christmas gifts? It's A4, double sided and costs £10 - the proceeds are going to St Mary's Church, Stalisfield building repair fund.

Please contact Catherine on 07929 928 046 clnorwood@doctors.org.uk if you would like one or they are available to buy at The Plough Inn







Christmas Trees 2022

Raise funds for your local church and other charities by contacting Peter and Alison Howard to arrange selection and collection of your special Christmas tree.

To book a time and date to come to choose your tree, please email, text or phone. (Please postpone your visit if you have covid or suspect you have it).

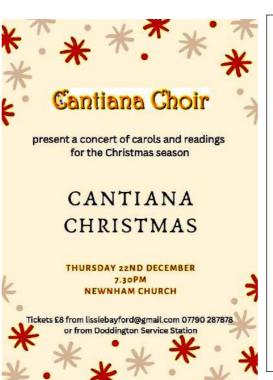
Email nashsfarmhouse@btinternet.com Landline 01795 532596. Mobile 07910 248 308 Many thanks for your support

Peter and Alison Howard, Nashs Farmhouse, Luddenham, Faversham ME13 0TO

Decorated Christmas Tree Auction

The decorated Christmas trees will be on show to view on Sat & Sun 10th/11th in St Peter, Oare These trees will be auctioned off to raise money for Oare Church on Sunday 11th December







FOR CLASS DETAILS

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Join me at:

Stalisfield Village Hall, ME13 0HY - Thursdays 18.30 - 19.30

Lenham Community Centre - Tuesdays 6.45 - 7.45pm and Saturdays 9-10am

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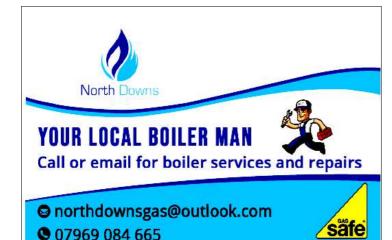
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Can you help? We are looking for a treasurer

Eastling church's present treasurer is going to retire and we need to replace her.

Can you add up? Is the Lord prompting you to offer your time and skill to fill this opportunity? A small salary (honorarium) is attached to the post.

If you feel you could help or want more information, please contact Andrew Baxter - afbaxter 47@gmail.com



"Look's like he's heard that our Treasurer is retiring."



The Ride in Winter

by Audrey Keen

And on the ride, beside the wood Where dead leaves rustle. I saw a rabbit's seat. And in a hazy warmth Of summer months unhurried I saw the same small rabbit eat.

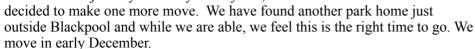
Now nothing save the snowy grass Shall claim attention from my eye, Except the quick and momentary sight

Of one grey squirrel in a tree nearby.

Janet Payne - Fond Farewell

Many of the Good News readers will know my name as it has been my pleasure and privilege to be the High Downs Parish Administrator for nearly 10 years but I haven't met many of you.

Our younger son, Timothy, moved to Blackpool in late June and we have travelled up to see him several times. Keith will be 82 yrs in January and we know that we cannot do that journey for many more years, so we have



Firstly, I want to thank Caroline Ramshaw, who told me about the job in the first place. I worked in the Rectory while Rev Caroline Pinchbeck was still living there, although she had moved on from Eastling Church at the time. I really enjoyed working in that office. Eventually Rev Donald Lawton and Norma Lawton came to live in the house. I really enjoyed working with Donald and Norma always made me feel welcome in their home. They were both such kind and considerate people.

Eventually, when the Rectory was rented out, I moved offices to the Barn at Rev Angela's. Angela – you have always made me feel so welcome – Thank you. Finally, I would like to thank Andrew Baxter for all your support over the last few years. I have really enjoyed working with you in the love of Christ.

God Bless to you all.



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Don't forget to book a table for those pre & post Christmas get togethers with friends and family

Kick off the December celebrations at 5pm on Thursday 1st December with The Grand switching on of the Stalisfield tree light with carols around the fire

We are now open for breakfast on Saturdays 9.30am - 11am

See our Facebook page and our SHINY NEW website for opening hours over the Festive period

Keep up to date by following us on Facebook or Instagram

Stalisfield Road, Faversham, Kent, ME13 0HY Tel: 01795 890 256 Email:

info@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk

Eastling Primary School

We were delighted to be able to reintroduce class assemblies in October which parents were able to attend. These assemblies are an opportunity for the children to share their learning with the rest of the school and their families.

On Thursday 6th October Years 1 and 2 visited Otterden where they took part in a variety of woodland activities. Our Reception class, travelled in the school minibus for the first time, to the Pumpkin Farm on Wednesday 19th October. The children all picked a pumpkin which they brought back to school. The next day the parents were invited to come into class to join their children to carve and decorate their pumpkins. Also, on Wednesday 19th October PCSO Ian Henderson came into school to talk to the older children. The first term ended with a Halloween Disco which was organised by the Friends of Eastling School (FOES).

Term two got off to a spectacular start with the pumpkin competition which was organised by our FOES. There were lots of amazing creative entries and Rev Caroline kindly judged the competition. FOES have introduced cake sales which are very popular and coffee mornings for parents.

On Tuesday 8th November Willow class visited Brogdale as part of their learning comparing contrasting locations. On Friday 11th November all the junior children took part in Remembrance Day, reflecting in the school's Peace Garden. Mr Glazier played The Last Post on the euphonium which was very moving.

The football team played their first match of the season against Whitstable Endowed School on 12th October. They then took part in a tournament on Friday 14th October where they reached their group final. On Tuesday 8th November we hosted Bysing Wood Primary school and beat them 4-2. A group of children from Birch class took part in a basketball event at Herne Bay High School on Wednesday 19th October. Oak class are now visiting Faversham gym on a weekly basis where they are learning and developing new gymnastic skills.

The school governing body has a vacancy for a local governor. If this is something which you would like to learn more about or are interested in supporting your local primary school please contact the school office for further information.

The school has a couple of spaces available for an immediate start in Reception class. Any prospective parents looking for a Reception place for September 2023 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, Headteacher

Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.

Sadly our original Speaker for November was unable to attend, so at the very last minute - 5 p.m. - our President was ringing around trying to find a replacement. Thankfully Shelia Farmer and her husband Tony were able to come along to give us a presentation of What Women Wore, which although an unexpected change of subject, it was a most enjoyable and informative talk. The first slide of the talk was of a sewing needle that predated modern man, so our species have been making clothing for considerably longer than you would expect. Sheila took us through the various ages of women's clothing, of both under and outer garments, explaining the various fashions and supports required in the Victorian and other eras.

The last Meeting of the year will be on Wednesday 14th December at Stalisfield Village Hall, a little later in the month due to the scheduling of the

Village Christmas Pantomime. We will be commencing at 7pm that evening as we will be creating our own Christmas decorations, such as swags, table decorations or wreaths. Please bring all materials necessary to make your individual decoration. Festive nibbles and drinks will be supplied by the Committee. Guests are welcome at a small charge.

The Committee are in the process of compiling the events for 2023, which will be published when complete. The first Meeting of our Group in 2023 will be February.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.

Contact our President Helen Brooks on 07477580727 or Secretary Ellie Cameron on 01795 892016 if you wish to join our Group.

'Happy times with old songs,' tea & chatter'

Come and join us in singing for fun on Thursday 8th December from 2pm – 3pm at Newnham Village Hall £5 per person pay-as-you-go

Enquiries to Lissie on 07790 287878 or email lissiebayford@gmail.com

These are particularly aimed at our elderly folk and suitable for people with early-stage dementia.

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CHARITY RECYCLING BINS and WINTER SALT SUPPLIES

EASTLING VILLAGE HALL

The attention of all villagers is drawn to a "builder's bag" full of winter salt stored next to the recycling bins at the village hall. This salt is available to all residents to de-ice paths/driveways/roadways. Help yourselves!

A polite reminder is also issued to everyone about use of the charity recycling bins at the hall. Please ensure that only appropriate items are placed in the bins, usually clothes and shoes. One of the bins also accepts sleeping bags, blankets, towels and curtains. If the bins are full, please do not leave anything beside the bins. New arrangements have been put in place by the village hall Trustees to monitor the bins and ensure they are emptied promptly.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Trustees of Eastling Village Hall

Kent County Councillor's Report

As we gradually head into winter, I am feeling grateful for the delayed arrival of the colder weather. Temperatures in October were so mild that the government saved £260m on price cap payments to energy companies. Many families will be better off too as a result of this, and the continuing mild weather in the first half of November will have helped lower people's bills too.

BUSES

Sadly the administration at KCC voted to push through the bus subsidy cuts at the most recent full council meeting. This means that many bus services across our area will stop next February. In Swale East the affected services are Chalkwell services with the following route numbers 8, 9, 343, 344, 345, 662, 664 and 666 (the Stagecoach 666 from Faversham to Ashford will continue running).

I met with KCC transport officers this week to see if anything could be done to save the services, even on a reduced frequency, but unfortunately was not able to make much progress. I will next be contacting the bosses at Chalkwell buses to try and work out a financially viable route which could perhaps cover more of the villages than the previous routes did.

As things stand, from February onwards, the Kent Karrier will be the only bus option for the

majority of adults in Bredgar, Rodmersham, Tunstall, Lynsted, Doddington, Newnham, Conyer and Oare. It only serves villages on 2-3 days of the week, costs £3.50 for a return journey and needs to be booked in advance. I will share more information on this service in future columns, but if you would like to know more, please search 'Swale Kent Karrier' on Google for information relating to this service

WINTER

As noted last month, I have arranged for an organisation called Green Doctors to visit some of the parishes across the area in early December. They will be holding five drop in sessions to give energy advice and money saving tips. The sessions will take place at the following locations

Thursday 8th December

10am to midday – Newnham Village Hall

- 1.30pm to 3pm Sheldwich Village Hall
- 3.30pm to 5pm Oare Village Hall **Friday 9th December**
- 9.30am to midday Teynham Community Hall
- 2.30pm to 4pm Boughton Village

More information on Green Doctors can be found at www.groundwork. org.uk/greendoctor/

I will be attending all of these sessions too, so please feel free to come along if you have any other local issues you'd like to discuss.

Rich Lehmann rich.lehmann@kent.gov.uk http://kentgreencouncillors.news/

Eastling Neighbourhood Watch

Village Warden

07794 010 394 or 01795 890848

Police 101 Emergency 999

With the arrival of Christmas check that all your property is secure as I am sure that the criminals will be about and make sure when you are shopping online that you are on a secure site. Do not make it a happy Christmas for the scammers. I would suggest that if you are away for the holiday just let your close neighbours know, do not broadcast the fact on any media site and this would include New Year.

Again a reminder that all dogs should have a collar with tag attached. It makes it so easy to return dogs to the owner and not having to call the dog warden, there could be a large fine as it is illegal for a dog not to be tagged.

There is still hare coursing and the catapulting of birds happening in and around our location so, please if any instances are seen, contact the police or my number and I will pass it on.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Alan.



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Alternatively you can call Adviceline on 0808 278 7979 (10am-4pm Mon-Fri) or email us at www.citizensadviceswale.uk/get-advice



News from Citizens Advice Swale

Since our Faversham drop-in service reopened on Fridays we've had a fantastic response from members of the community.



Our advisers have helped clients calling in with a variety of issues including employment, relationships and money worries. In addition to this our debt and benefit specialist advisers have met with individuals for pre-booked appointments.

To meet demand we're delighted to announce we're extending our drop-in service at 43 Stone Street to Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10am-12pm, from Monday 28 November.

Those who are unable to attend these sessions can still call Adviceline on freephone 0808 278 7979 10am-4pm Monday-Friday or email us at www.citizensadviceswale.uk/email-generaladvice, or request a call back from our money advice team at www.citizensadviceswale.uk/ debt

Follow us on social media for more information on opening times and additional services:

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HAVE YOU SEEN THE FOODBANK REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR?



The Foodbank supports individuals and families who are having to make hard and sometimes impossible choices to buy food, pay their rent/ mortgage, energy bills, or other essentials

Your donations can make a huge difference

Download a pdf of the calendar from faversham.foodbank.org.uk.

Please donate the following items:

15th: Strong carrier bags/Bags for

16th: Chocolate 17th: Bleach 18th: Cooking oil

19th: Children's sweets

20th: Instant noodles/instant pasta

21st: Canned cold meat 22nd: Tinned carrots

23rd: Crisps 24th: Dried pasta 25th: Mayonnaise 26th: Deodorant 27th: Tinned hot meat 28th: Cereal bars/snacks 29th: Shaving foam

December

1st: Brown sauce 2nd: Biscuits 3rd: Razors

30th: Hot chocolate

4th: Tinned potatoes 5th: Long life milk

6th: Shampoo

7th: Laundry detergent 8th: Sponge puddings 9th: Pasta sauce 10th: Fruit squash 11th: Washing-up liquid 12th: Fabric conditioner

13th: Fruit juice

14th: Anti-bacterial spray cleaner

Where can you drop off your donations?

At the Foodbank - Gospel Mission Hall, Tanners Street, Faversham between 12.30 and 4pm, Mondays and Wednesdays.

Foodbank collection points in the Faversham branches of Aldi, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, and Tescos and please put them in a bag marked 'Foodbank Reverse Advent Calendar'

Eastling Church on the back pew St Mary of Charity Church. John High Opticians, 8 Market

Street. Faversham.

Thank you for anything you can

donate.

It means so much to local people who need a helping hand.

Get help with Food, Gas, Electric and Water Household Support Fund

Funded by UK Government, this scheme is for those most in need of support to help with significantly rising living costs.

Residents can access support through the following organisations:

- Access to food parcels
 - Family Food Bank
 - Swale Food Bank
 - Diversity House (Multicultural)
- Food support being provided to vulnerable young people at West **Faversham Community Association**
- Access to fuel vouchers for those on pre-paid meters
 - Fuel & Water Home Advisor
 - Citizen Advice Swale
- Access to £100 Mastercard voucher for those on billed accounts
 - Children & Families
- Support for pensioners (hot meals, shopping & digital support)
 - Age UK Faversham & Sittingbourne

Details of how to access these services are available on our webpage: www.swale.gov.uk/hsfe





THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

The Arts Society brings people together through a shared curiosity for the arts

THE TWELVE PLANTS OF CHRISTMAS

Lecturer: Timothy Walker

Wednesday 14th December 2022

at 2.30 p.m.

The Millennium Hall, Egerton TN27 9DS

Timothy Walker will present a very personal take on the plants that feature in the celebration of Christmas as well as those plants that turn up in the Bible account of the birth of Jesus. The 12 Plants of Christmas will focus on the natural history, botany, and folklore of the plants that surround us at Christmas. Apart from the pear tree in which sat the partridge, there are no plants in the 12 days of Christmas according to the folk song. Sadly, even that reference is erroneous, because partridges are ground dwelling birds. And yet at Christmas we are surrounded by plants. This talk puts the record straight and rewrites the zoocentric song replacing partridges with poinsettias, and maids with mistletoe.

Timothy Walker, was Director of the University of Oxford Botanic Garden. He is currently a lecturer and tutor in Botany and Plant Conservation at Somerville College Oxford

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

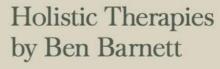
Visitors are always very welcome at £5, refunded if you join. A year's membership, including 10 lectures and Arts Society magazine, costs just £40 (£70 for For further information please contact Christine Willis, our Membership Secretary via cmwillis75@gmail.com or 01233 756377.

> See also our website www.theartssocietyegerton.org.uk









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Sunday Services

4th December Advent 2

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

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

11th December Advent 3

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

Eastling 9am Holy Communion BCP Throwley 10.30am Morning Prayer Lynsted 10.30am All Together Now Stalisfield 5.30pm Carol Service

18th December Advent 4

Romans 1, 1 - 7, Matthew 1, 18 - 25

Newnham 9am Holy Communion BCP Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship

Wednesday 21st December

Throwley 6.00pm Carol Service

Christmas Eve 24th December

Isaiah 9. 2 - 7. John 1. 1 - 14

Eastling 4.00pm Carol Service Stalisfield 11.30pm Holy Communion

Christmas Day 25th December

Titus 3. 4 - 7, Luke 2. 1 - 20

Throwley 10.00am Holy Communion

1st January Christmas 1

Hebrews 2. 10 - 18, Matthew 2. 13 - 23

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Online Daily Worship Continues

As well as the services in our churches, the daily 9am Morning Prayer at Lynsted and Sunday Breakthrough at 6pm, will continue and be live online on https://kc-hd.org.uk.

More information is updated weekly on St Mary's Eastling 'A Church Near You':

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

Anna Chaplaincy

Please contact our Anna Chaplain, Caroline Ramshaw, if you know of someone who is isolated, alone, or unable to attend church.

An Anna Chaplain can offer a listening ear and company.

Communion can be brought to you in your own home.







Contact your local Anna Chaplain on: annachaplaincy@outlook.com

07799538809

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 (07799 538809) Caroline Ramshaw

Anna Chaplain Caroline Ramshaw

AnnaChaplaincy@outlook.com

Reader Pim Baxter (07710 116269)

Church Contacts

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Administrator Janet Payne

E mail: eastlingchurch@gmail.com

Stalisfield with Otterden

Jenny King, Warden (01795 890366)

Administrator Shirley Pritchard

Stmarystalisfield@gmail.com Email:

Throwley Alison Young (01795 890213)

Parish Office Email: eastlingchurch@gmail.com

facebook.com/highdownsbenefice

From The Registers

Funerals

Jean Kennedy 25th November at Eastling *****

CONTACT THE GOOD NEWS EDITOR

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If you would like to submit articles, or to advertise in the January 2023 magazine, send your submission by 20th December to: goodnewsmagazine@me.com.

Past and current issues of the Good News may be viewed on www.goodnews.rf.gd

