

In the Wilderness A course for Lent

Why not consider joining one of the 'Churches Together in Faversham' groups? - or one in our own benefice? In Faversham - 'Churches Together' groups:

Wednesday Morning at Old Wives Lees (a Methodist group)- Revd. Chris Esgate. Transport available from Faversham: Contact 532461.

Wednesday 8pm St. Catherine's Vicarage - Fr. Stephen Wilson.

Friday 2pm 'Atherfold' St. Catherine's Drive - Roz Graham.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Tanner Street - Fr. Tony Pelan (day tba.)

If you would like to join any of the above groups, please forward your name and telephone number, by 10th February to Revd. Penny Fenton, Tel: 536366.

In our own parishes or housegroups.

Monday (starts 18th Feb.) 10am
9 Brogdale Road (Penny's home)

Wednesday (starts 20th Feb.) 8pm
127 Athelstan Rd. (Cheesman's home)
& 8pm Woodbine Cottage, Newnham Lane, Eastling (Leigh's home)

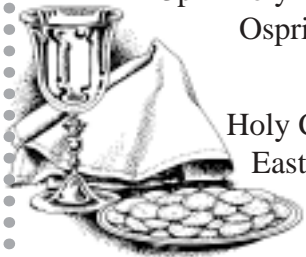
'In the Wilderness' consists of short talks on tape and Bible studies in the New Testament. We are looking for people who do not normally come to a Bible study group to 'try it out' for 5 weeks!

There will also be a time of prayer during Lent in Eastling at 11.30am in Eastling Church Wednesday mornings, from 20th February.

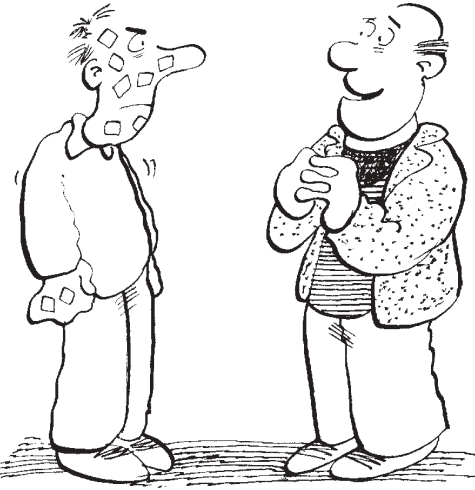
Services on Ash Wednesday 13th February

3pm Holy Communion
Ospringle Church

7.30pm
Holy Communion
Eastling Church



Lent Lunches in the Alexander Centre, Faversham 12noon - 2pm every Friday from 15th February. All welcome.



...I understand you've bravely given up smoking for Lent!

So what's so special about Lent, anyway?

Lent begins on 13 February. It begins with Ash Wednesday, which always falls in the seventh week before Easter. Lent is of course the time of the Christian year which leads up to Easter. It is widely observed by Christians around the world as a time of fasting or meditation.

Why 'Ash Wednesday'? What do ashes have to do with anything? This goes right back to the Old Testament custom of putting ashes on one's face or clothing as a symbol of repentance or remorse. (eg. Esther 4.1; Jeremiah 6.26). When the early Church began to observe Lent as a period of preparation for Easter, repentance and remorse played a key part. Therefore the wearing of ashes was adopted as a proper external sign of this inward attitude of remorse or repentance.

So the early Christians, especially during the Middle Ages, used the first day of Lent to impose ashes on the heads of the clergy and the people. In more modern times, the ashes used come from the burning of the palm crosses that were handed out on Palm Sunday during the previous year's Lent.

Some churches continue this theme of repentance by the symbolic use of purple clerical dress during Lent. What about the custom of giving up things for Lent? In the past, Lent was a time for fasting, because it is based on the period of 40 days spent by

Jesus in the wilderness before the beginning of his public ministry in Galilee. Jesus fasted for 40 days, and so his followers were encouraged to do the same thing. The early Church recommended a fast of two or three days, but by the fourth century, people were encouraged to fast for the full 40 days.

The precise nature of this 'fasting' varied. In general, the western church understood 'fasting' as a reduced intake of food, and eating fish rather than meat. It encouraged Christians to spend time in devotional reading or attendance at church rather than fasting.

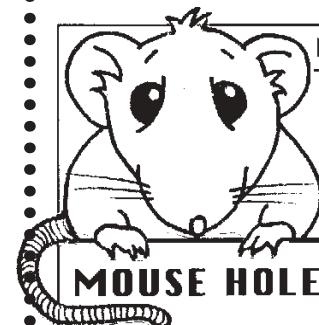
But what about the length of Lent? The numerically able reader will have worked out by now that the period between Ash Wednesday and Easter Day is actually 46 days. So why not the 40 days that Jesus fasted? Again, we go back to early church tradition. In the early Church, every Sunday was regarded as a celebration of the resurrection of Christ. So fasting was forbidden on a Sunday! So the period of 46 days thus consists of 40 days of fasting, plus the six Sundays which fall between Ash Wednesday and Easter Day.

Finally, just before Ash Wednesday, we have **Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Tuesday**. This custom comes from the many thousands of Christian housewives down the centuries who cleared out their larders immediately before the fast of Lent. The simplest way of using up all their eggs, flour and milk was to make pancakes. In some countries the day is known as Mardi Gras, and is marked by major carnivals, most famously in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



Good News Parish Magazine

February 2002



MOUSE HOLE

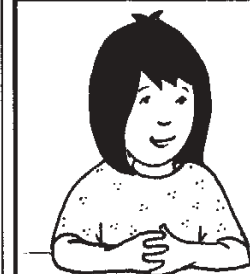
From my home in the church I learn about all sorts of things...

It's not much fun being ill, especially when all your friends are out playing without you. In the Bible Mark wrote about a girl who was very, very ill. Her father, Jairus, went to Jesus, threw himself at his feet and begged him to come and place his hands on his daughter so that she would get well and live. But, by the time Jesus arrived at the house, the girl had already died. Jesus went into the room where she was lying, took hold of her hand and said:

"Little girl, I tell you to get up!"

and she got up at once and started walking around... and they were all amazed.

Read the story for yourself in Mark, chapter 5, verses 21 - 43



Don't forget to pray for your friends and family when they are ill... it is amazing what Jesus can do!

IT'S HOT!
Ask someone older to help.

1. Put 250g / 10oz of mini marshmallows [or large marshmallows cut up into smaller pieces] and 125g / 4oz of cut up glace cherries and 50g / 2oz of desiccated coconut into a bowl and mix together.

2. Melt 350g / 12oz of chocolate in a bowl over a pan of boiling water. 3. Pour the chocolate over the mixture and stir in. 4. Spoon into a 20cm / 8" cake tin lined with foil and press down until flat. 5. Put in the fridge for 2 hours, cut into pieces and eat!

Store in a container in the fridge

CALLING ALL PARENTS: Ospringle Family Service is a child friendly zone!

We understand how difficult it can be to take children to church. That is why we aim to make our Family Service enjoyable for kids, with stories to entertain them and activities for them to join in.

If you are looking for a friendly, unthreatening environment in which the whole family can worship together and grow in the Christian faith, why not give our Family Service a try. Who knows, you might even enjoy it!

Michael Batey.

An area, with toys, is available for small children every Sunday at the back of Ospringle Church. Sunday School meets in church during the 11am services on 10th & 24th Feb. New children welcome.

The Sunday School at Eastling meets in the Village Hall at 9.30am on 3rd & 24th February. Family Service starts at 10am on 24th February. All ages welcome.



Club 8 - 13yrs

Friday 22nd February 6.15pm

Craft and Games

Friday 8th March 6.15pm

Craft and Games

50p per session.

Champion Hall,

Painter's Forstal



The Quilt Squares of our Lives

As I faced my Maker at the last judgment, I knelt before the Lord along with all the other souls. Before each of us laid our lives like the squares of a quilt in many piles.

An Angel sat before each of us sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry that is our life. But as my angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty each of my squares was. They were filled with giant holes. Each square was labelled with a part of my life that had been difficult, the challenges and temptations I was faced with in everyday life. I saw hardships that I endured, which were the largest holes of all.

I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Other than a tiny hole here and there, the other tapestries were filled with rich colour and the bright hues of worldly fortune. I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened. My angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, threadbare and empty, like binding air.

Finally the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the light, the scrutiny of truth. The others rose, each in turn, holding up their tapestries. So filled their lives had been.

My angel looked upon me, and nodded for me to rise. My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes. I had love in my life, and laughter. But there had also been trials of illness, and death, and false accusations that took from me my world as I knew it.

I had had to start over many times. I had often struggled with the temptation to quit, only to somehow muster the strength to pick up my life and begin again. I had spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help and guidance in my life. I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully, each time offering it up to the Father in hopes that I would not melt within my skin beneath the judgmental gaze of those who unfairly judged me. And now, I had to face the truth. My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it was.

I rose and slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light. An awe-filled gasp filled the air. I gazed around at the others who stared at me with wide eyes. Then, I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded the many holes, creating an image, the face of Christ. Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in His eyes.

He said, "Every time you gave over your life to Me, it became My life, My hardships, and My struggles. Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let Me shine through, until there was more of Me than there was of you.

May all our quilts be threadbare and worn, allowing Christ to shine through.

New Electoral Roll 2002

A new electoral roll must be compiled by churches every six years. What is it, you might ask? The electoral roll is the 'membership list' for a church. Belonging to any organisation brings with it rights and responsibilities. Membership of the electoral roll entitles people to vote in church meetings. It is also very much hoped that those who join the roll of their church will be prepared to support the church, in whatever ways they can. Application forms will be in our churches shortly and should be returned to the appropriate Church Electoral Roll Officer

Ospringe	Bill Lusted
Eastling	Liz Bell
Stalisfield	Dorothy Murray.

Don't forget - everyone who wishes to be on the new Electoral Roll must apply. The 'old' roll, compiled in 1996, ends this spring. The new roll must be complete by two weeks before each Church's AGM. 'Do it now'!

FROM THE ORGAN SEAT

If you get the opportunity to visit Ospringe Church, do look at our two new Choir Pew Runners. They have been stitched by Mrs. Jan Bullard. I was privileged to teach their two boys and although now Jan has difficulty walking, she felt it was an honour to do it for Ospringe Church. In future years I can imagine the Wine and Wisdom question, "So where will you find the Lancashire red rose and the Yorkshire white rose together in Ospringe?" A mirror has been added to the organ console to help the organist see what is happening in the body of the Church and for when he/she needs to watch the conductor. I wanted to cover it and found just the right material at The Cherry Orchard Quilting shop in Cress Way. Pam Clark has masterminded the purchase and stitching of over 80 Kneelers and these are lovely. A hundred years ago several Altar Frontals were given and they are works of art. I particularly love the white one which is on at the moment and that has been renovated beautifully by Pam Thompson and Sally Wheatley. On our Faversham Town Walks I tell our visitors that Faversham is well blessed with people of talent who readily share their expertise.

On Christmas Day I had a most cheerful time going round The Cottage Hospital with Father Christmas. One of those people who enjoyed talking to all the visitors was the well-known Johnny Jackson who died this week. The week before, I had taken Ospringe Church Choir to sing around the Wards and J.J.'s Ward requested that we returned at the end to sing some more! It was a privilege and the four gentlemen in his Ward were delightful and appreciative.

I saw Tiny Kite and we had a long chat about the Holy Land tour which she and Frank had enjoyed in 1984 with Ian and Dot Hawkins and their two "boys", Reg, Andrew and Pim, Ray, Madge and John, Penny, others and me. It was a great tour with laughter and fellowship all the time. It was a privilege to play for Frank's funeral.

Vicky Shepherd.

CHOIR REPORT

We will continue to have short Choir Practices before the Services, 10.15 a.m. on the 1st Sunday in February, and 10.25a.m. for 10.30 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. We are having Choir Practices on Wednesdays, 6 to 6.45 p.m. and they are in Church in the Parish Room where it will be warm. We are working on several songs; John Rutter's "I believe in Springtime", "Joshua fought de Battle of Jericho", Psalm 34 to Jeremiah Clarke's "Trumpet Voluntary" tune, Vaughan Williams "The Old Hundred", Martin How's "Day by Day", The Caribbean version of "Our Father" and "We are going to see the King". Quite a repertoire! We are progressing through our Sight Singing books too and enjoying the bars of chocolate Father Christmas left for the youngsters!

Vicky Shepherd.

OSPRINGE NEWS EXTRA!

Last week I popped into Cooksditch to see Elsie Green and Edie Dungeat. I told Elsie what I had written in last month's magazine and have sent a copy of January's Good News! Edie Dungeat is enjoying the Old Faversham Calendar.

My friend has a bigger than usual card table and a glass and metal cloche. I have a Sony Radio but the cassette bit does not work. If anybody would like them we will give them away. Do ask me.

I get the quarterly magazine, "Anglican World" and have for 3 years now. I am very impressed with it and all it tells about the work and witness of The Anglican Communion worldwide. If you would like to borrow my copy, do ask me please. I met the Editor the other day and told him how impressed I was.

Vicky.

	ALVA EVANS
Funerals	
HORSEDRAWN CARRIAGES	Weddings
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Walnut Tree House, Otterden, Faversham, Kent. ME13 0DB	



Confirmation

There will be a Confirmation Service in the benefice in September 2002.

If you would like to consider being confirmed, please let the clergy know. There will be separate preparation sessions later in the summer for teenagers and adults. To register an interest at this stage....

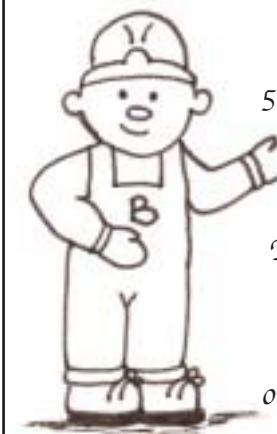
Adults - please contact The Revd. Penny Fenton (536366)

Teenagers - please contact The Revd. Pat Pollard (535407)

Sunday Newstyle

10.30am
10th February
Eastling Church
Guest Speakers:
Mike & Paula Mullins
This month's theme:
The Return of the Merciful.
Coffee & Croissants served from 10am. ALL WELCOME.
More details tel: 01795 890338

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Prayer Pointers

February 2002

<u>Sundays</u>	For perseverance in the life of faith.
<u>Mondays</u>	Those who no longer worship with us.
<u>Tuesdays</u>	For a good response for Lenten activities.
<u>Wednesdays</u>	For those planning and leading Lent groups in the town.
<u>Thursdays</u>	The police force.
<u>Fridays</u>	Those working for peace in war torn countries.
<u>Saturdays</u>	Christians in Thailand and Burma.

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Services in our Benefice

3rd February 2nd Sunday before Lent

Romans 8. 18 - 25, Matthew 6. 25 - 34

Ospringe	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Eastling	9.50am	Sunday School
Eastling	10am	Holy Communion (CW)
Stalisfield	10am	Holy Communion (CW)
Ospringe	11am	Morning Prayer (BCP)
Whitehill Chapel	11am	Family Service

5th February

Whitehill Chapel	2.15pm	Holy Communion
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10th February Sunday before Lent

2 Peter 1. 16 - end, Matthew 17.1 - 9

Eastling	8am	Holy Communion(BCP)
Stalisfield	10am	Morning Prayer (BCP)
Eastling	10.30am	Newstyle
Ospringe	11am	Holy Communion (CW)
Ospringe	11am	Sunday School

13th February Ash Wednesday

Ospringe	3pm	Holy Communion (BCP)
Eastling	7.30pm	Holy Communion (CW)

17th February 1st Sunday in Lent

Romans 5. 12 - 19, Matthew 4. 1 - 11

Ospringe	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Eastling	9.50am	Sunday School
Stalisfield	10am	Holy Communion (CW)
Eastling	10am	Holy Communion (CW)
Ospringe	11am	Family Service

24th February 2nd Sunday in Lent

Romans 4. 1 - 5& 13 - 17, John 3. 1 - 17

Stalisfield	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Eastling	10am	Family Service
Whitehill Chapel	11am	People's Choice
Ospringe	11am	Family Communion
Ospringe	11am	Sunday School
United Church, Preston St.	6.30pm	Taizé Style Service

3rd March 3rd Sunday in Lent

Romans 5. 1 - 11, John 4. 5 - 42

Ospringe	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Eastling	9.50am	Sunday School
Eastling	10am	Holy Communion (CW)
Stalisfield	10am	Holy Communion (CW)
Ospringe	11am	Morning Prayer (BCP)
Whitehill Chapel	11am	Family Service

Sharing Ministry in our Benefice

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

Curate Reverend Patricia Pollard (01795 535407)
7 Arthur Salmon Close, Faversham.

Reader Mr. Hugh Perks (01795 890603)
Weald Cottage, Kettle Hill Road, Eastling

Reader in Training Mr. Norman Fowler (01795 890412)
4 Meesons Close, Eastling, Faversham

Methodist Minister Reverend Chris Esgate
esgate@bluecarrots.com (01795 532461)

Churchwardens

Ospringe Mr. G. Shepherd
Mr. P. Larter (01795 531044)

Eastling Mr. N. Fowler (01795 890412)
Mrs A. Cheeseman (01795 890629)

Stalisfield Mrs J. West (01795 890285)
Mrs H. Galer (01795 890780)

Steward Whitehill Miss B. Richards (01795 532756)

Contacting the Church's staff

For general enquiries and for specific enquiries about Baptisms and Weddings, please telephone Faversham 536366. If you would like the parish clergy to conduct a funeral, either in our churches or elsewhere, please ask the funeral director to make the necessary arrangements.

NEWS FOR INCLUSION

If you would like to advertise in this magazine, submit articles, features or stories for publication, or would like any forthcoming events publicised, please send your magazine contribution by the 15th February to Hilary Harlow, Pinks Farm, Eastling, Faversham ME13 0BA 01795 890338 (e-mail: h.f.harlow@talk21.com)



From the Registers

Funerals

31st December 2001 Funeral at Ospringe followed by Cremation at Charing Frank Albert KITE

14th January 2002 Cremation at Charing Marjorie FARBRACE

22nd January 2002 Cremation at Charing Alec Charles PILES

Interment of Ashes

13th December 2001 at Stalisfield Pamela Jean SHEPHERD

30th December 2001 at Ospringe Norman Arthur BRIDGEN

Eastling Parish Council

PARISH CLERK

Eastling has a new parish clerk. She is Mrs Carol Butterfield of 12 St Nicholas Road, Faversham ME13 7PG (telephone (01795) 539148).

COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Councillor Oliver Allen has resigned from Eastling Parish Council, following his family's move from the village. This leaves a vacancy on the Council which Members are keen to fill by March. A formal notice giving details will be displayed on parish noticeboards. Villagers who would like more information should contact the Clerk, Mrs Carol Butterfield, on (01795) 539148; or the Chairman, Mr Harold Wyld, on (01795) 890413.

FOOTPATHS' MAN

There's a new man in charge of local footpaths. He's Mr Michael Ellis, the KCC's Public Rights of Way Officer for Swale, who will be based at the KCC's offices in Ashford Road, High Halden. His telephone number is 01233 850629. EASTLING'S PARISH RATE

Eastling Parish Councillors have agreed that the Eastling parish precept for the year 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003 will be £17.50 on an "average" Band "D" property.

NEW VILLAGE SIGNS?

If they can obtain sufficient help through grants and local support, Eastling Parish Councillors are hoping to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee Year by installing new village entry signs for Eastling. At the Parish Council meeting on Monday, 14 January, they agreed to investigate designs, suppliers and likely costs.

HELP FOR FLOODING

Eastling parish councillors have praised the quick work by Kent Highways engineers to meet their concerns over flooding outside Goosemeadow in Newnham Lane. The Highways engineers have carried out a full inspection and ordered their contractors to carry out work to improve drainage.

WEB VOLUNTEERS WANTED

As part of a major redevelopment of the award-winning Faversham Website, the search is on for a team of volunteers. They will play a crucial role in helping to run the site when it is re-launched early in the Spring. People with an interest in computing and keen to use their skills to help the local community could prove a vital part of making the Faversham Website one of the best in the country. Anyone who would like more information or wishes to help with operating the website, should contact Peter Faulkner on 01795 530710 or e-mail him at peter@faversham.org .



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Fancy a Weekend Away?

The Date: 3rd - 6th May 2002

The Place: Ashburnham Place,
East Sussex

Website: www.ashburnham.org.uk

What Is It?

We have been invited by St. Michael and All Angels' Church, Blackheath, London, to join them for their parish weekend. This is a break organised by St. Michael's led this year by Revd. Gary Jenkins of Holy Trinity, Redhill, (www.htredhill.freereserve.co.uk) and the theme is

"How to be a Christian at home and at work" .

It is a chance to relax, spend time with friends and family, attend the talks and events or just do your own thing. There is no pressure and there are lots of organised activities for the kids and a crèche for the little ones, so you don't have to worry about them.

Ashburnham Place is set in 220 acres of woodland, gardens and lakes. It is near Battle, Hastings and Bexhill. Arch and I have visited Ashburnham three times with St. Michael's and we are sure you will have a good time. I am waiting for St. Michael's to let me know the cost of the weekend but it is always very reasonably priced. All your food is included. I assure you there is plenty of it, and NO washing up!

Put the date in your diary. Go on - treat yourself!

If you are interested or have any questions, please give me a ring on 01795 890149 (answer machine, please leave a message).

More details in next month's magazine or in the church notices. Leigh Dyson

OSPRINGE PARISH COUNCIL

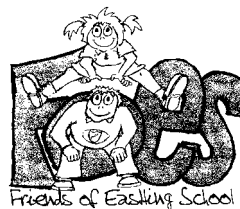
The next meeting of Ospringe Parish Council will be on Wednesday, 13th March 2002 in Whitehill Chapel, Painter's Forstal commencing at 7.30pm. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

Jill Seaman
Clerk to the Council

Diary

1st	Secrets of Syndale	7 for 7.30pm	Champion Hall
5th	Holy Communion	2pm	Whitehill Chapel
7th	Afternoon Club	2pm	Champion Hall
11th	Gardeners' Club	7.30pm	Champion Hall
12th	Study group	8pm	Newhouse Farm, Eastling
13th	Holy Communion	3pm	Ospringe Church
13th	Holy Communion	7.30pm	Eastling Church
14th	Local History Talk	7.45pm	Charing Parish Hall
15th	DEADLINE for March Good News		
15th	Friday Lent Lunches start	12 -2pm	Alexander Centre
18th	Gardeners' Quiz	away to	Monkton and Minster
19th	Women's Institute	2.15pm	Champion Hall
20th	Prayer time	11.30am	Eastling Church
21st	Afternoon Club	2pm	Champion Hall
22nd	Youth Club 8 - 13	6.15pm	Champion Hall
23rd	Jumble Sale	1.30pm	Eastling School Hall
26th	Magazine Folding	2pm	Usual Venues
MARCH	1st Women's World Day of Prayer Services:		
	2pm United Church, Preston St.,	8pm	St. Catherine's
13th	Ospringe Parish Council	7.30pm	Whitehill Chapel
16th	Jumble Sale	2pm	Eastling School Hall
AUGUST	24-26th Flower Festival,		Ospringe Church.

Friends of Eastling School
Happy New Year to you all. At the beginning of December we held our Christmas Shopping Evening which was a very successful and enjoyable evening in which we raised £345 for the school. Oliver will be holding another dinner, 7.30 for 8pm, date to be arranged. Tickets will be £8.50 per person and you need to bring your own wine. This has always been an extremely popular and fun event so please do come. Tickets can be bought from the School Office on 890252. We are holding a Jumble Sale in the School Hall on Saturday 16th March at 2pm. We will mention this again in next month's article but please do start collecting your jumble. On a more serious note, Mrs Stone is going to be taking up a position as District Development Officer for Swale until the end of term. In her place as Acting Headteacher will be Mr David Walsh who has been a Deputy Headteacher in Deal for the last 5 years. We wish Mrs Stone lots of luck in her new position and welcome Mr Walsh to Eastling, we hope he enjoys his time here. Sadly I shall be standing down from FOES, so this is the last article from me. Jill Seaman will be taking over this column to keep you in touch with School events.
Celia Hamilton-Jones



British Humanitarian Aid

Once again, on behalf of Tony Budell and British Humanitarian Aid, I would like to offer sincere thanks for yet another tremendous response to the Christmas Aid Appeal. So many gifts came in a variety of ways, from shoe boxes, baby goods, children's clothing and toys, also donations of food and cash. All of these are so needed and will be so appreciated by the orphanages and other recipients in the area of Chernigov in the Ukraine. Thank you all for your love and generosity which means so much to people whose lives are so impoverished in comparison to our own. For them to know that others care about them makes such a difference. I am sure, like me, you wish you could do much more, but I believe that the little we are able to do, is better than doing nothing at all. In the words of Mother Theresa: "None of us can do great things, only small things with great love." Wise and true words which are so comforting. May your New Year be filled with love, joy, peace and many blessings. With warmest wishes

Pam Clark.



Afternoon Club

Activities for February

Feb. 7th Board Games

Feb. 21st Bingo

2pm, Champion Hall,
Painter's Fortsal

Painter's Forstal Village Committee

This is your chance to win the "Village Shield" for a year. Take part in a light hearted quiz (teams of 3). The quiz will start after the short AGM in the Champion Hall on Friday 1st March at 7.30pm. Tea and biscuits will be served.

National Nest-box Week



14th - 21st February

This month it's time to think about nest-boxes. Up to a million baby birds fledge from nest-boxes every year. Would you like to host a family or two in your garden? The British Trust for Ornithology on 01842 750050 can help you with information on box building and suppliers.

DOMESTIC HELP

Domestic help wanted in friendly house in Otterden. Preferred times (negotiable) Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9-12. Own transport would be needed. Please phone 01795-890780.

We are looking for people

who do not normally come to a Bible study group to 'try it out' during Lent. Details, with contact numbers, on back cover of this issue for different groups in Faversham, Ospringe and Eastling.

Ospringe School Association

Not much news this month as we have been planning rather than doing! The School Association will be supporting the school during Book Week (beginning 18th February). The theme is, appropriately, 'A touch of magic'. There will be a chance to dress up, a visit & workshops by the author Peter Corey and a bookshop. OSA events in the future include a Wine and Wisdom on Saturday 2nd March, a Bingo night on Saturday 23rd March and the ever-popular Easter Egg Hunt and decorated egg competition on Saturday 30th March. Look out for the large number of children now proudly sporting their new fleece jackets with the school logo. These are sold by the OSA on behalf of the school; along with the more traditional sweatshirts, polo shirts and cardigans.

Jill Fagg.

PUDDLEDUCKS PLAYGROUP at PAINTERS FORSTAL

Following the closure of the Playgroup at Eastling, Puddleducks Playgroup is now open on four mornings a week during term time, from 9.30am to 11.25am at the Champion Hall, Painter's Forstal. Lots of activities are planned for the remainder of Spring Term and the children are benefiting from the stability of the Playgroup being at one venue.

OUR NEXT FUNDRAISING EVENT IS A JUMBLE SALE

to be held at Eastling School Hall on **Saturday 23rd February** commencing at 1.30pm. All jumble, books, toys and bric-a-brac welcomed now. Please phone for collection of any items. We also have a number of chairs, tables and other excess items for sale. The half term break is from Monday 11th to Friday 15th February. Any enquiries to Jill Seaman 01795 890519.

Flower Festival
A Date for your Diary
August 24th,
25th, 26th 2002
Ospringe Church

Many Thanks

to all who supported the Bring and Buy Sale at Painter's Forstal Chapel in aid of the Blue Peter Wheel Help Appeal. The Sunday School raised the great sum of £43.75p. Thank You. Alison Tracey.

Charing and District Local History Society

On Thursday 14th February at 8pm, John Newman from the Courtauld Institute of Art will give a talk on the Design of Chilham Castle and other Jacobean Houses in Kent, which will be based on the work of John Thorpe and other architects. The presentation will be given in the Parish Hall, Charing. Everyone who is interested will be welcomed when the doors open at 7.45pm. Non-members pay £1.



Painter's Forstal with Ospringe W.I.

Tuesday 19th February, 2.15pm Champion Hall, Painter's Forstal. Talk: Collections and collectables (Mr & Mrs Cheeseman) Competition: A Bygone. New members welcome. Tel: 532756.



OSPRINGE CHURCH 200 CLUB

You contribute £1 a month for at least one year and you could win a prize in our monthly draw. Contact Carol or Stuart Marshall on 537873 for more details. The winning numbers for the 22nd draw in January were:
1st- 54 2nd -27 3rd - 8

Painter's Forstal Gardeners' Club

The meetings for February are:-
Monday 11th A.G.M. followed by slides on 'Alpines' - Mr. John Clarke. 7.45pm
Monday 18th Third round of Neame Cup Quiz away to Monkton and Minster - details on 11th.
Further information from 533608.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 1st March 2002
Services in Faversham
2pm United Church, Preston St.
8pm St. Catherine's Church
More details in our churches.

Roman Ospringe and the Secrets of Syndale

You are warmly invited to learn more about the Heritage of our parish. Dr Wilkinson will be speaking in the Champion Hall, Painter's Forstal, on Friday 1st February, 7 for 7.30pm. Light refreshments - More information tel: 535267.

Having a Party?

Planning a Wedding?

Venue for your Club

Hall and smaller rooms available with kitchen facilities at **Eastling Village Hall.**

For more information please contact Mary Eagleton on 890436.

Caravan for Sale Abbey



In good condition 12ft / 2 berth
Oven, fridge, internal toilet,
road worthy or can be used as office
or extra bedroom in garden.

£ 250 ono

Phone Ted Bowers 532546.

HELP NEEDED HELP NEEDED HELP NEEDED HELP NEEDED HELP

by Sarah Palmer, Eastling.

Some people may have noticed a bedraggled sack of potatoes plodding round the village recently, and if you were wondering, it is indeed me, in training for the London Marathon on April 14th. I seem to be very well at the moment (touch wood) and have been accepted on the team for 'my' charity: Colon Cancer Concern. Of course, I'm not going to break any records and I shall be delighted merely to finish, preferably all in one piece, but I am using it as a challenge and opportunity to test my own strength and fitness after all my treatment, and also, perhaps, to show that it is sometimes possible to put cancer on the back burner, if only temporarily, and 'have a life'.



However there is a snag (naturally!). I need to raise sponsorship. I am writing lots of letters to all the usual suspects (both individuals and organisations) but, remembering how magnificently the village supported me last year. I was hoping to ask for your help once again. I'm planning to organise another Easter eggstravaganza this spring (probably beginning/mid March, as Easter is so early). Plenty of people said how much they enjoyed it last year and hoped it might become an annual event. If anyone is willing to help, or has ideas on how we could make it even better or more fun, or has any other fundraising sponsorship brainwaves, please do get in touch with me a.s.a.p. on 01795 890232. Thank you very much, Sarah Palmer.