

**Good News
Parish Magazine**
High Downs Parish
Serving the villages of
Eastling, Otterden,
Stalisfield and Throwley
www.goodnews.rf.gd



**FEBRUARY
2024**

- 7th Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 8th Charing History Society
Parish Hall, Charing 7.30 pm
- 14th Arts Society lecture, Egerton
Millennium Hall, Egerton 2.30pm
- 14th Ash Wednesday service
Newnham Church 7.30pm
- 17th Holy Fools - *booking needed*
Doddington Church 10am - 12.30pm
- 20th Copy deadline for March Good News
goodnewsmagazine@me.com
- 21st Coffee/Soup morning 11.30am-2.30pm
Stalisfield Village Hall
- 22nd Arts Society lecture, Faversham
Alexander Centre 11am
- 24th Quiz Night
Eastling Village Hall 7pm start
- 28th Youth Group
Stalisfield Village Hall 7-8.30pm
- 23rd Eat, Pray, Walk
Doddington Church 1.30pm
- 28th Stalisfield Crib League starts
The Plough 7.30pm

MARCH

- 6th Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 13th Stalisfield Youth Group
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 17th Throwley Lanes Clearance
Start from Throwley Green 11.30am

APRIL

- 26th Quiz Night
Stalisfield Village Hall 7pm



QUIZ NIGHT at EASTLING VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 24th February 2024 – 7pm start

Tables of up to 8 people

Bring your own food, drink, plates and glasses
£5 per person, payable on the night.

To book, please email Annie on

jacksonandadams@btopenworld.com

(Please let us know who is in your team to avoid duplicate bookings)
To you'd like to come but don't have a team, please book anyway
and we'll try and put you in a team.

There will be a raffle on the night so raffle prize donations
gratefully received.

****And remember, the Quizmaster's decision is final –
regardless of what Google might say!!****

Coffee/Soup Morning

Wednesday 21st February

11:30 – 2:30pm

Stalisfield Village Hall

Come and meet up, warm up and
socialize with delicious soup and/or
coffee/tea.



Ash Wednesday 14th February

Holy Communion

at 7.30pm in Newnham Church

A morning of meditation for Lent

Holy Fools

Saturday 17th February in

Doddington Church 10am - 12.30pm

No charge but please book with Lissie Bayford on
07790 287878 or lissie1710@gmail.com

February Message

Hello friends

I am writing this in the middle of January – known to be the most depressing week of the year as the bling of the Christmas season has faded away and the monthly pay packet is still just out of reach. By the time you are reading this, there may be some more hopeful signs of Spring arriving and you may feel lifted by Valentine's Day approaching – or you may not. The state of the world is pretty depressing too with our news reports full of wars and increasing conflicts, troubling political decisions and the ongoing degradation of the planet. It seems to me that it's more important than ever to keep hope close to our hearts. We can think about 'hope' as just 'wishful thinking', but the verb for 'hope' used in the bible translates as 'to trust and wait expectantly'.

When we think about difficult situations and people who are lost, we shake our heads and refer to them sadly as 'a hopeless case'. And I often feel

a bit naïve when I express hope at these times. But someone who believes this world is as good as it gets will live differently from the person who believes he or she has a future full of abundance and joy. Hope has a way of getting us through whatever we are facing, although believing that change can happen does require a persistent amount of not giving up. And here is where my faith comes in. It is this faith that keeps me at it when my tiny efforts seem ineffective or when I am overwhelmed by the enormous pain that the world carries.

There is a metaphor in the story of Noah which comes to mind especially as flooding is becoming a regular event in our country! Noah had spent a long time couped up with all his animals drifting on the sea and eventually sent out a dove to see if the waters had subsided and there was any land. But the dove returned having found nowhere to build its nest. So Noah waited in hope. After some time he sent the dove again, but still



there was no sign of land. Noah waited in hope. He sent the dove out for a third time and this time it returned with a sign of hope - an olive leaf in its beak. Noah continued to wait in hope. He sent the dove out again and this time it didn't return as it had found somewhere to build its nest. When we are navigating the seas of uncertainty and the world around us looks bleak, Noah reminds us that to live hopefully is not naïve but is both healthy for us and for our world.

With love and light
Lissie Bayford
*Authorised Lay Minister &
Spiritual Director*

February Prayer Pointers

- Mondays** - Give thanks for the earth God created and pray for peace in our lives.
- Tuesdays** - Pray for missionaries and all who spread God's word.
- Wednesdays** - Remember God's gift of Grace through Christ, that his light will shine brightly through us.
- Thursdays** - Pray for all we know who are sick, lonely or in need of help.
- Fridays** - Give thanks for new lives and pray for parents and their children in this uncertain world.
- Saturdays** - Pray for charities caring for those who are homeless.
- Sundays** - Praise the Lord for our families and friends, our schools and work places, our emergency services and all who help us everyday.

Holy Fools

a quiet morning of
meditation for Lent
at Doddington Church on
Saturday 17th February
from 10am - 12.30

*'God chose what is foolish in the
world to shame the wise'*

An invitation to explore our
calling to be holy fools

Led by Lissie Bayford

There is no charge for this morning but please book
your place with Lissie Bayford at
lissie1710@gmail.com or 07790 287878





Sellout Success for Stalisfield Pantomime

Set during the days when Stalisfield was ruled over by a benign but stuffy royal family, Cinderella at Stalisfield Village Hall was an absolute triumph! The exceptionally talented local cast, from the youngest stars to the seasoned performers, delivered the rip-roaring rags-to-riches tale with great panache. The wonderful scenery, flawless lighting and sound and spirited choreography all came together to transport us to a fairy-tale world of wizards, evil step-mothers, pantomime dames, lovelorn servants and hard done by heroines. But in the end, everyone got to marry whomsoever they loved!

We are so lucky to have an amazing script specially written for us each year which enables everyone to play to their strengths. With performers coming from Stalisfield, Charing, Throwley and Eastling, several memorable theatrical debuts were made. Thanks and appreciation must go to all the gifted actors both

young and old(er) who put in many hours of rehearsal; the choreographer who put together some truly brilliant dance routines; to the stage managers who made the role their own; to the extraordinarily talented design team for the beautiful scenery and props; the make-up artist who ensured that the multitude of dames looked suitably outrageous and to the sound and lighting designers who gave the whole production a thoroughly professional polish. Thanks also to the incredibly organised box office; the programme and ticket designer; the production co-ordinator who kept everyone organised and to the barkeepers who kept the audience extremely well hydrated!

As the director I am so grateful to the nearly forty people who were involved in making this production happen. I think the audience would agree, we are very lucky to live in such a talented community.

If you would like to take part in the next Villages Pantomime, either onstage or backstage please get in touch with Cat at cat1@totalise.co.uk. All are welcome and no prior experience is necessary.



THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON



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

We meet at Egerton Millennium Hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 2.30pm (doors open from 2.00). Our next lecture will be:

Wednesday 14th February at 2.30 p.m.

THE HISTORY OF THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF NEEDLEWORK.

This lecture goes behind the scenes to tell the story of the last 150 years and of the School's changing fortunes.

Our lecturer is Susan Kay-Williams, Chief Executive of the Royal School of Needlework, Fellow of the Royal School of Arts, the Chartered Institute of Marketing and of the Society of Dyers and Colourists.

Visitors are always very welcome at £6, refunded if you join. For further information please contact Christine Willis, our Membership Secretary via cmwillis75@gmail.com or 01233 756377.

See also our website www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk

SUNDAY 17TH MARCH

**THROWLEY
PARISH
LANES
CLEAN UP**

**PLEASE COME ALONG TO
THE VILLAGE GREEN AT 11.30**

**MORE
INFORMATION
WILL FOLLOW
SHORTLY**

Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.

Several of us gathered for a very welcome and leisurely post-Christmas get together lunch on a lovely sunny but cold afternoon. Everyone enjoyed meeting up again and this will probably become an annual event to start the year.

We are all looking forward to our planned events for 2024, and we start the year off in February with some exercise with choreographer and fitness trainer, Leigh Miles, who will get us moving with Bollywood style dance. Our March meeting is with Yvonne Fernando, our local NLP practitioner, when we will be focusing on keeping mentally healthy with relaxation techniques and guided meditation. Mental wellbeing was a major WI campaign a few years ago so we are delighted to welcome Yvonne back again to our group.

During the coming year our monthly meetings will include 'Letters of a Wartime romance'. a line dance taster session, and a practical Handbell Workshop. If you would like to join our small village group please come along to Stalisfield Village Hall where we meet on the first Wednesday of each month ready to start at 7:30. For any further information call president Helen Brooks on 07477 580727 or secretary Ellie Cameron on 07775 649337.



Stalisfield Crib League

The 2024 Stalisfield Crib League starts on Wednesday 28th February. We meet at The Plough Inn every other Wednesday at 7.30pm for an enjoyable social evening of cards.

New members, either individuals or teams of two, will be most welcome. Please contact Jayne 07951 411337 or Barrie 07802 331469 for further details.



The Arts Society Faversham

We run regular monthly lectures on the fourth Thursday at the Alexander Centre, Faversham. Subjects cover all aspects of the Arts in its widest sense and are given by experts in their chosen field and include university lecturers, broadcasters and tour guides. Come along to a lecture as a guest or join for a year's lectures.

Our next lecture is on Thursday 22nd February at 11.00am on

"The Nocturne in 19th Century Music and Art"
by Peter Medhurst.

Coffee and biscuits will be served from 10.20am.

The lecture portrays how the term nocturne originated from the Irish composer John Field creating atmospheric and meditative night pieces but this term was also used in title of paintings by the American painter – James Whistler. The lecture explores the history of the musical nocturne and its relationship with the world of art.

Biography

Peter appears in the UK and abroad as a musician and scholar, giving recitals and delivering illustrated lectures on music and the arts. He studied singing and early keyboard instruments at the Royal College of Music and at the Mozarteum in Salzburg.

For further information contact us at info@theartsocietyfaversham.org.uk.

'Our World Turn'd Upside Down': religious revolution in mid-17th century Charing.



From abolishing bishops and Book of Common Prayer to the emergence of extreme religious sects, two decades of Cromwell's revolution changed the life in Britain forever. This talk looks at these changes through the experiences of ordinary people, whose lives were disrupted and challenged by extraordinary 'goings on'.

Speaker: Rebecca Warren

When: 8th February 2024

Where: Parish Hall, Station Road

Time: 7.30pm doors open

Talk starts promptly at 8pm



**CHARING & DISTRICT LOCAL
HISTORY SOCIETY**
www.charinghistory.co.uk

Off to the vet....

In his younger days our golden retriever Catcher often ran away when he had the chance. The vet's surgery was about a mile down the road and Catcher would usually go there. The nursing staff knew him and would call me to come pick him up. One day I called the vet to make an appointment for Catcher's yearly vaccine. "Will you bring him," asked the receptionist, "or will he come down on his own?"



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07754 114760

See our availability here: <https://www.eastlingvillagehall.co.uk/calendar>

STALISFIELD VILLAGE HALL - Message from the Trustees

In July 2022 the trustees responded to some residents' concerns about noise and disturbance in the summer months from what was considered a high number of wedding and party bookings. It was agreed that Stalisfield Village Hall Trustees would restrict further bookings for the remainder of 2022 and 2023 and trial one large event booking per month in 2024; this to continue if the income from hires and fundraising covered costs. Unfortunately due to a significant decline in bookings, combined with the current rise in expenditure on utilities and maintenance, it has become clear that this policy will not cover the day to day running and upkeep costs of the hall going forward.

We have therefore taken the decision to allow two event bookings per calendar month in 2025 onwards. This will ensure that we can continue to run community events and keep the hall open for villagers. We hope that the village understands that this is not a decision that has been made lightly and should anybody wish to go through the budget/costings etc we are happy to do so – please contact Tracy on 0771 736 7936.



Events at the Village Hall

Wednesday February 21st – Coffee/Soup morning
11:30 – 2:30pm

Come and meet up, warm up and socialize with delicious soup and/or coffee/tea.

Devious, devilish, delightful Quiz Night
on Friday 26th April, 7pm

Book tickets or tables of up to 8 £7.50 a head ...
katejamiesoncornhill@gmail.com 07810721125

Regular classes and meetings:

Relaxation, Mindfulness, Meditation with Yvonne Fernando, Mon 5.30 - 7pm, 4 Mar – 29 Apr (exc 1 Apr)
£195. 07968 785714 www.yvonnefernandonlp.co.uk

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Line Dancing class every Wednesday 10 -11.30am

Stalisfield & Otterden **WI** first Wednesday in the month 7:30pm

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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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Taster Thurs 22 Feb | 9.30-11am

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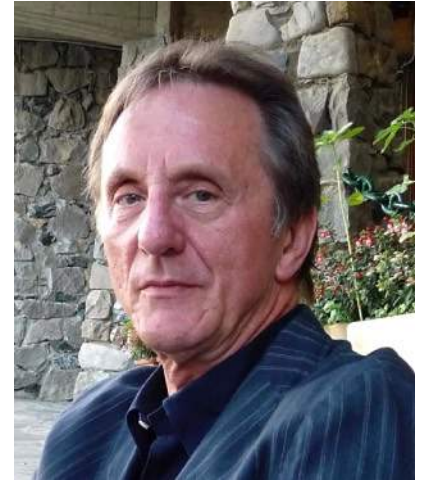
Following a long, painful illness, good friend and neighbour David Leland passed away on Christmas Eve at home in Otterden, his beloved wife Sabrina by his side, caring for him to the end.

David's life and distinguished career has been written about extensively these last few weeks, with Obituaries in the Press or social media. Sabrina has received many personal messages from those he worked and collaborated with - Michael Palin, Liam Neeson, Olivia Harrison, Charles Dance; those whose careers he helped launch including Pierce Brosnan, Tim Roth, Cathy Tyson, Emily Lloyd. "Grittiness and compassion" were hallmarks of his work

After training at the Central School of Speech and Drama London and following numerous television plays and mini-series David moved to Sheffield as resident director at the Crucible Theatre for 3 years. Here he commissioned two of the

"Pythons" Terry Jones and Michael Palin to write the series of short plays "Their Finest Hours"; also Victoria Wood's first play, "Talent" on the strength of its plot which she scribbled on an envelope posting it through his letterbox.

Back in London he directed at the Roundhouse and Royal Court Theatres. Music related work included creating/directing videos for The Travelling Wilburys in the US, working with good friend George Harrison, Bob Dylan, Roy Orbison, Tom Petty and Jeff Lynne. In 2003 he filmed and directed "Concert for George" at the Albert Hall for which he won a Grammy and was recently shown on TV. His tv productions and films include The Big Man, Land Girls, Personal Services, Wish You Were Here (BAFTA), Mona Lisa, The Borgias. It is difficult to condense his output in a short article, among many outstanding productions was the "Bastogne" episode of Spielberg/Hanks'



acclaimed series Band of Brothers winning him an EMMY. Although frail he was still creating and writing until last Summer.

David and Sabrina have been part of Otterden and wider community life since 2011; he was a lovely man with quiet, easy humour; together with Sabrina's warm and delicious hospitality they were a great team, valued neighbours and friends.

Julia Miller

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As winter drags on... try and look on the bright side.

Winter Now

'Tis winter now; the fallen snow
Has left the heavens all coldly clear;
Through leafless boughs the sharp
winds blow,
And all the earth lies dead and drear.

And yet God's love is not withdrawn;
His life within the keen air breathes;
His beauty paints the crimson dawn,
And clothes the boughs with glittering
wreaths...

O God! Who giv'st the winter's cold,
As well as summer's joyous rays,
Us warmly in thy love enfold,
And keep us through life's wintry days.

*From a poem by Samuel Longfellow
1819-92*

Updates from Citizens Advice Swale

citizens
advice

People get into debt for all sorts of reasons. The start of a new year can be a time when people are particularly worried about their finances and feel unable to cope. It's important to know you're not alone and help is available.

Each year, our specialist debt team deals with over 5,000 debt issues and helps manage total indebtedness of over £3.8 million. The advice we provide is non-judgmental and is focused on exploring ways to manage your finances.

When you contact us for advice, we'll assess your circumstances and advise you of the most appropriate course of action based on your situation, capacity and needs.

Some of the things we can help and advise you on:

- Identify ways in which you may be able to increase your income and reduce your expenditure. We can carry out a benefit check so you know if there are any benefits you're entitled to.
- Help you understand the difference between priority and non-priority debts and the implications of not maintaining payments. You'll then know what your most important debts are and may dispel some myths and ease any anxiety you may have around what creditors can do.
- Explore options to deal with your debts. You may be surprised at the options that could be available to you.
- Provide guidance and support to help you put a debt solution in place.

How can we help you?

Debt:

- Request a call back at <https://citizensadvice.org.uk/debt/>

General Advice:

- Drop in at Swale House, Sittingbourne (Mondays, 10am-12pm), Sheppey Gateway (Tuesdays, 10am-12pm) or 43 Stone Street, Faversham (Wednesdays and Fridays, 10am-12pm).
- Call Adviceline on Freephone 0808 278 7979.
- Send an online request at <https://citizensadvice.org.uk/email-general-advice/> (Monday-Wednesday).

We offer free, confidential and impartial advice to people living or working in and around Faversham, Sheppey and Sittingbourne. In addition to general advice we offer specialist advice services including debt and benefits. We're an independent charity and we rely on donations and grants to make a difference to people in our community.



BENSTED'S CHARITY, FAVERSHAM

The Trustees will be meeting in February 2024 to consider applications for assistance.

Our area of benefit is all parishes to the east of Teynham within the boundary of the Borough of Swale.

Grants are awarded for (1) relief for the old, sick and infirm persons, (2) the provision of education or recreational facilities, and (3) educational bursaries, support and equipment.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from our website:

<https://www.benstedscharity.org.uk>

or from The Clerk to the Trustees

Tel: 01795 859704 Email:
office@benstedscharity.org.uk

Applications for grants to be received before
Monday, 12th February 2024

NB: Applications for individual assistance
may be submitted throughout the year.

Eastling Church Flower Rota



4th & 11th February - Bay
18th - LENT, no flowers

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



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The Pride of The Plough



We pledge for 2024 to gift two Sunday roast lunches on a fortnightly* basis to someone who really deserves it; an unsung hero whose act of kindness, commitment and passion to the community or a

person in the community means they deserve to get something back, please see our catchment area.

Send your nominations to community@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk before Thursday 5pm to add them to the following weeks Sunday lunch booking at 12.30pm, check out our social media & website for the dates and a list of the winners.

Please include the following to add your nomination to the list

- The name of the person
- Postal address, email address & mobile phone number
- The reason for the nomination
- How they have made a difference
- Any supporting information
- Your contact number

NB for nominations under 18 years olds please confirm that you have obtained consent from the parent of guardian of the nominee to nominate them and add their details to the nomination information for us to contact them first.

Catchment area includes all of the villages but not as far as Faversham.

*may exclude some dates but we will offer alternative

Can't wait to hear from you all!

The Plough Inn, Stalisfield;

a family run, independent, award winning pub & restaurant offering an extensive menu of both 2 AA rosette dishes and your traditional pub classics.

Tuesday night is our curry night, authentically prepared & presented served with naan, rice & a pint for £16, don't forget to book!

Mental health is so important we are offering a free tea/coffee on Wellbeing **Wednesdays** between 4.30pm & 6pm & 10% off drinks to encourage everyone out to chat with friends or make new ones.

Tournament **Thursday** from 6pm we'll have the board games etc out for anyone who'd like a game.

Don't forget that we offer a take away Fish & Chip service Wednesdays & Thursday 5.30 - 6.45pm

Keep up to date by following us on Facebook, Instagram or X (twitter)

Stalisfield Road, Faversham, Kent, ME13 0HY

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Services in our Benefice

4th February 2nd Sunday before Lent

Colossians 1. 15 - 20, John 1. 1 - 14

Doddington 10.30am Benefice

Holy Communion

Lynsted 4pm Cornerstone

11th February Sunday before Lent

2 Corinthians 4. 3 - 6, Mark 9. 2 - 9

Throwley 10.30am Morning Prayer

Newnham 10.30am Holy Communion

Lynsted 10.30am All Together Now

14th February Ash Wednesday

2 Corinthians 5. 20b - 6. 10, Matthew 6. 1-6,16-21

Newnham 7.30pm Holy Communion

18th February Lent 1

1 Peter 3. 18 - 22, Mark 1. 9 - 15

Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship

Norton 10.30am Holy Communion

Lynsted 4pm Cornerstone

25th February Lent 2

Romans 4. 13 - 25, Mark 8. 31 - 38

Throwley 10.30am Holy Communion
with Baptism

Newnham 10.30am Morning Worship

3rd March Lent 3

1 Corinthians 1. 18 - 25, John 2. 13 - 22

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

Lynsted 4pm Cornerstone

Online Daily Worship Continues

As well as the services in our churches, the daily 9am Morning Prayer at Lynsted will continue at Lynsted and 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/>



High Downs Parish

Rector Vacant

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If you would like to submit articles, or to advertise in the March 2024 magazine, send your submission by 20th February to: goodnewsmagazine@me.com.

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

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.

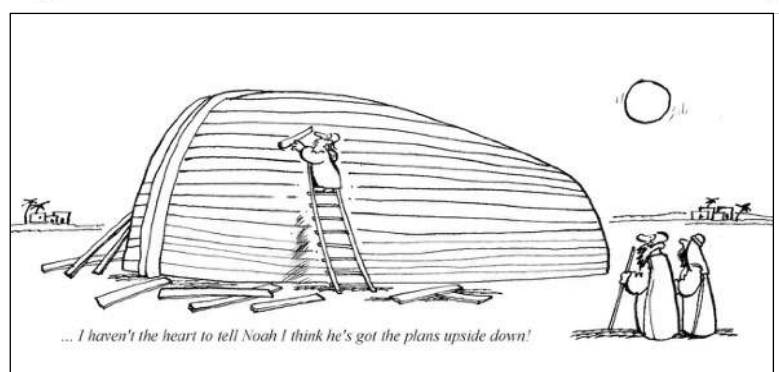
Communion can be brought to you in your own home.



Contact your local Anna Chaplain on:

annachaplaincy@outlook.com

07799538809



What is the point of temptation?

'Happy is the man who doesn't give in and do wrong when he is tempted, for afterwards he will get ... his reward....' James 1:12

Temptation becomes a stepping stone rather than a stumbling block, when you realise that it's *just as much an opportunity to do the right thing, as the wrong thing.* Temptation just gives you the choice!

It's helpful to remember that God develops the fruit of the Spirit in us by allowing circumstances in which we're tempted – to express the exact opposite quality! For instance, He teaches us to love by bringing unlovely people into our lives. It takes no character to love people who are lovely and loving you. God teaches us joy in the midst of sorrow by causing us to turn to Him for comfort and strength, when all our other supports are gone.

He develops peace within us, not by making things go the way we planned, but by allowing times of chaos and confusion. Peace comes when we choose to trust God in situations where we're tempted to worry or be afraid.

Likewise, patience is developed through circumstances in which we're forced to wait and are tempted to be angry or have a short fuse.

You can't claim to be good, if you've never been tempted to be bad; or be faithful if you've never had the opportunity to be unfaithful. Integrity is built through defeating dishonesty; humility grows as you refuse to give place to pride; endurance develops as you reject the temptation to give up. The truth is that each time you defeat a temptation, you become more like Jesus.

Adapted from: UCB, The Word for Today.

'Lenten Valentines'

By Canon Paul Hardingham

This month both Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fall on the same day! The link between the two can be summed up in terms of the nature of real love! Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, focuses on learning to love God more, as we give Him space in our lives. This is what Jesus found when He was led into the desert by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan. (Luke 4:1-13).

Jesus was tempted to turn stones into bread. Yet loving God and His word comes before satisfying physical desires.

Satan tempted Jesus to worship him. However, worshipping God is an expression of loving God and serving Him.

Finally, He was tempted to put God to the test, by jumping off the Temple. Real love for God does not put Him to the test, but wants to obey Him.

Lent also teaches us how to live out the love of God in practical ways, as we follow Jesus in the in the way of

the Cross. We see this clearly demonstrated in the life and death of Saint Valentine.

Valentine was a Christian who demonstrated the importance of sharing God's love with others. We know little about him, except that he was a priest who lived in the 3rd Century AD and that he was martyred on 14th February.

Emperor Claudius felt that soldiers in the Roman Army were distracted from their duty by their wives, and so had attempted to outlaw marriage. It is believed that Valentine married

couples in secret, which is why today we celebrate our love for one another on his day.

In trying to understand the meaning of her revelations from God, Julian of Norwich found:

'What, do you wish to know your Lord's meaning in this thing? Know it well, love was His meaning.'



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News from Rich Lehmann, Swale and Kent County Councillor

In late November I had the chance to visit a place I'd been wanting to see for years. Nothing as exciting as the Taj Mahal or the Sydney Opera House though, this was a visit to the Material Recycling Facility in Crayford where all of our dry recycling is sorted to be sent on for recycling and re-use.

Way back in 2017 when I was involved with the Plastic Free Faversham campaign group, I visited the incinerator at Allington where our rubbish is burned to generate electricity, and on another occasion we visited the site where our food and garden waste is turned into compost. I never managed to make it to the place which arguably held the answer to the most frequently asked questions around our household waste.

Questions like 'how clean does food packaging need to be before it's put in the recycling?' (quite clean, but it doesn't need to be spotless), 'can black plastic actually be recycled now?' (sometimes), and 'can I put tetrapak cartons in the recycling?' (sadly, not at the current time, but soon!).

The visit was prompted in part by the fact that Swale Borough Council is about to start a new contract for household waste collection. From late March, our bins will all be collected by Suez instead of Biffa, and our collection days *may* change – a letter will be going out to all households in the coming weeks to confirm whether your collection day will be the same or not, and I will aim to provide this information in the piece I write next month if I can.

The new contract gives us a chance to try and redouble our efforts to improve the rates of dry recycling we collect across Swale which, over the last few years, have remained fairly flat and well below where they could potentially be.

There are two issues which cause our recycling rates to be lower than they could. The first is the more obvious one, that people are putting perfectly recyclable items in their household waste. The second, less obvious but more harmful one, is that residents are putting non-recyclable items into their blue recycling bins. This is far more problematic as it can cause entire

lorry loads full of recyclable waste to be rejected when they reach the transfer station in Sittingbourne, which means (literally) tons of paper, plastic and glass is sent for incineration rather than recycling.

On the same day as the visit to Crayford, we visited the transfer station at Sittingbourne and saw two lorry loads of recycling unloaded. Unfortunately both loads were rejected as the levels of contamination within them were too high. Most of the items responsible for the loads being rejected were clearly not appropriate to go into the recycling.

There were used disposable nappies, an old pillow, and a large amount of the material was shiny and stuck together with something that may have been used cooking oil.

A large part of our work in the coming years will be trying to get the message out about the harm putting non-recyclable items in your blue bin, and our comms team have already put together a video with footage filmed at the transfer station - <http://tinyurl.com/sbc1223>

Officers within the council often use the term 'dry recycling' when referring to the materials that are suitable to go into blue bins, and I think if we could use this term publicly more often it may help to shift perceptions a little and start to reduce this problem.

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

Although it applies throughout the year the following becomes more prevalent this time of the year as we are now entering the lambing season. A reminder that the attacking or worrying of any livestock by any animal, mainly dogs, that the farmers have the legal right to either shoot or report to the police the incident and through the courts have the animals destroyed. I assure you that is not a course of action that the farmers enjoy. So please keep your animals on a lead in the vicinity of farm livestock; make sure that they are unable to get access to any field by making sure your garden is secure. Also inform any person with dogs staying at your property of rules. I would certainly advise anybody walking, not only with dogs, that you keep out of fields where there are cattle as they are likely to attack at this time of the year so take care.

The scammers are having a field day at the moment with their special offers, especially on Facebook, so unless on a secure website that you would normally use a excellent deal is usually a scam.

Again, with the adverse weather the potholes are getting worse so please be very aware.

Have a good month
Take Care, Alan

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Stalisfield sited at Stalisfield Village Hall, ME13 0JE

Throwley sited in the old Telephone Box outside the Old Post Office, ME13 0HY

Eastling Primary School News

A belated Happy New Year from Eastling Primary School. At the beginning of Term 2 Eastling Primary School held open days for prospective Reception children for September 2024 which were very well attended. It was lovely for our staff and children to share our wonderful school with prospective families.

In term 2 Willow class continued to visit Faversham Pool for their weekly swimming lessons and Oak class went to Faversham gym for gymnastic sessions. This term Willow class are enjoying weekly sessions at Faversham gym. There is a group of fifteen children from Willow and Oak classes who are having improvers swimming lessons for the next two term.

The infant nativity took place in school on Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th December it was really special and well attended. On Friday 8th December the school supported Christmas jumper day.

In the morning of Monday 11th December Acorn class visited Beechfields where they sang Christmas songs and delivered Christmas cards to the residents. The whole school then enjoyed watching the Shooting Stars Robin Hood pantomime. Mr Glazier hosted the school Talent Show on Tuesday 12th December. There was a wide range of entrants from gymnastics to dance, singing, comedy and musical acts. The next day the school had Christmas dinner and after school FOES held a Christmas craft club. The term ended with the Christingle Service held at St Mary's. It was a lovely end to the term with the church filled with parents and a special visit from a donkey.

Willow and Acorns had class assemblies where they shared their learning with their parents. Willow class was on the theme of bees and Acorns on Remembrance Day, Fireworks and Diwali. Maple and Birch classes travelled to Herne Bay for a free school's cinema showing Julia Donaldson stories.

As previously shared with Eastling the school holds the platinum award for OPAL (Outdoor play and learning) and is always looking for additional resources. The school currently needs wheeled suitcases, pushchairs/buggies, toy cars and barbies. If you are able to donate any of these items, please call the school office.

We only have a couple of spaces available in the school for an immediate start in Reception, Year 1 and Year 4. Any prospective parents are welcome to call the office on 01795 890252 for further details. More information can be found on our school website.



Stalisfield Youth Group

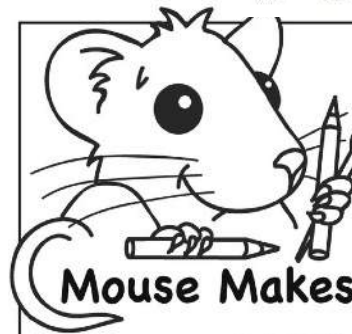
Future dates:

28th February (no group on 14th)
13th & 27th March in
Stalisfield Village Hall, 7 - 8.30pm
Free to all 11-18yr olds.

We have table tennis, craft, games, summer outdoor sports equipment, music, Wii and Xbox gaming, tuck shop and free cake!



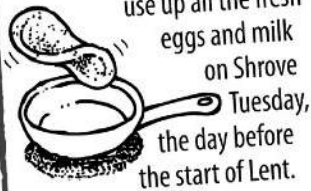
Any questions please contact Catherine on 07929 928 046



Mouse Makes

SHROVE TUESDAY

During **Lent** some Christians eat simple food or go without food for a while like Jesus did. Pancakes are often made to use up all the fresh eggs and milk on Shrove Tuesday, the day before the start of Lent.



ASH WEDNESDAY

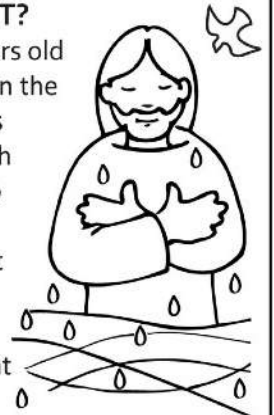
The first day of **Lent** is called **Ash Wednesday**, it is a day for saying **sorry** to God for any wrong things you have **said or thought or done** and to ask for God's help to live in the right way.

In bible times people would cover themselves with ashes as a sign of repentance. In some churches today on Ash Wednesday the minister will draw a cross shape on our foreheads with ash.



WHAT IS LENT?

When Jesus was 30 years old he was baptised by John in the River Jordan. Before Jesus began to preach and teach and heal he went out into the wilderness alone. For 40 days he did not eat but spent time praying and talking to God, preparing himself for what God had sent him to do.



Remembering those days Jesus spent in the wilderness, the Christian Church set aside the 40 days before Easter as a time to pray, read the bible and learn more about God.

This time is called LENT



While Jesus was out in the wilderness he was tempted by the Devil **three** times.

Look up the bible verses to see how Jesus replied.

- 1 The devil said, "If you are God's Son order this stone to turn to bread."
Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 4** and **Deuteronomy 8: 3**
- 2 The devil said, "I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."
Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 7** and **Deuteronomy 6: 13**
- 3 The devil said, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down, the Scriptures say God will take care of you."
Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 12** and **Deuteronomy 6: 1**



Dear Lord,
Please forgive me for

Amen