

# Good News Parish Magazine

for High Downs Parish

*Serving the villages of  
Eastling, Otterden,  
Stalisfield and Throwley*

[www.goodnews.rf.gd](http://www.goodnews.rf.gd)

**April**   
**2025**

- 2nd Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.  
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 9th Arts Society lecture, Egerton  
Millennium Hall, Egerton 2.30pm
- 9th Youth Group  
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 10th Eastling Annual Meetings  
Village Hall Trustees 7.30pm  
Parish Council 8pm
- 13th Local History Society talk  
Charing Parish Hall 7.30 for 8pm
- 21st Copy deadline for May 2025 Good  
News: [goodnewsmagazine@me.com](mailto:goodnewsmagazine@me.com)
- 21st Stalisfield Village Hall  
Children's Easter Egg Hunt 12 noon  
Fare to Share Lunch 1pm
- 23rd Youth Group  
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 27th Arts Society lecture, Faversham  
Alexander Centre 11am
- 25th Together in Boots walking group  
Doddington Church leave at 11.30am

## MAY

- 2nd Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.  
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 4th Church Tower Open Day  
Throwley Church from 3.30pm



## 13th April Palm Sunday

Throwley 10.30am Morning Prayer  
Lynsted 10.30am All Together Now  
Oare 10.30am Holy Communion

## 14th - 19th April Holy Week Services

**Monday** 7pm Reflection at Oare  
**Tuesday** 7pm Reflection at Lynsted  
**Wednesday** 7pm Reflection at Throwley

### Maundy Thursday

7pm Supper in Norton Village Hall

### Good Friday

10.30am Stations of the Cross at Doddington  
2pm Last hour of the Cross at Eastling

**Saturday** 7pm Reflection at Newnham

## 20th April Easter Day

Wychling 5.50am Sunrise Service  
Eastling 9.00am Easter Communion  
Stalisfield 10.30am Easter Service



## THE GREAT STALISFIELD EASTER EGG HUNT & COMMUNITY FARE-TO-SHARE

Bank Holiday Monday - April 21<sup>st</sup>

Join us for a fantastic Easter celebration in Stalisfield. Enjoy a fun-filled Easter Egg Hunt for the little ones followed by a delicious community lunch where we can all gather, feast and enjoy the start of spring.



**12pm: Children's Easter Egg Hunt** on the Village Green.

**1pm: Fare to Share Lunch** in the Village Hall - bring a plate of food to share with the village and your favourite tippie for yourself.

And, if you fancy it, wear your easter bonnet to win a prize!



- **Autistic Spectrum Church Service**
- 2.30pm, Sunday 6th April
- For one hour at St. Mary of Charity, Church Road, Faversham, and Online.
- A short service of words and music for neurodivergent people, led by autistic Christians.
- Everyone will be free to take part in the service and come and go as they please. Fidget toys will be available.

# Easter Message

Easter is a season of renewal, of hope, enduring love and transformation that marks the Christian faith. It tells the story of Jesus' life, his death and his resurrection, a pivotal moment in our history, 2000 years ago, that has shaped our beliefs and practices for centuries. At its heart, Easter is a celebration of faith, forgiveness and reconciliation, that shows us as much about God the Father's love and his purpose as it does in Christ the Son's sacrifice for mankind.



The story of Easter begins with Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, where he was hailed as a king by the crowds. However,

his message of love and compassion was seen as a threat by the authorities, who arrested him, tried him, and sentenced him to death, then nailed him to a cross. Despite this, Jesus remains faithful to his mission, even in the face of betrayal, pain and certain death. He forgave his enemies, prayed for his disciples, and ultimately surrendered his life for the sake of others. What love!

But the story does not end there. On the third day after his death, Jesus rose from the

dead, fulfilling all the prophecies and promises of God in the Scriptures. His resurrection is a testament to the power of God's love and grace, and it is the foundation of our hope as Christians. Through his sacrifice and triumph over death, Jesus offers each of us, those who will accept him, the gift of eternal life and the assurance of forgiveness and reconciliation with God.

So, what lessons can we learn from the story of Easter?

First, we can learn the value of faith and perseverance in the face of adversity. What appeared an unspeakable tragedy, has become a glorious victory over sin and death. Jesus' unwavering commitment to his mission, even when it meant suffering and death, is an example of the kind of faith that can sustain us in difficult times. Second, we can learn the importance of forgiveness and reconciliation, both in our relationships with others and with God. Jesus' willingness to forgive his enemies and pray for his persecutors, in spite of their hatred, shows us the transformative power of forgiveness and the potential for reconciliation even in the most difficult situations. Oh, how we need this in our world today, especially as we

think of what's happening in the middle east and in Ukraine.

Finally, we can learn the meaning of hope and renewal. Easter is a time of new beginnings, of letting go of the old and embracing the new, setting new priorities and allowing Jesus to be our Lord and example. It is a time to reflect on our lives, our faith, and our relationships, and to renew our commitment to God and to each other. In a world that is so full of pain, suffering, and despair, Easter offers us the hope of a brighter future, a future where love, justice, and perfect peace prevail - a life where we can each rise above our circumstances - even when it looks impossible.

In conclusion, the story of Easter is a powerful reminder of the enduring truths of the Christian faith. It invites us to reflect on our values and to seek the renewal and hope that come from a deeper relationship with God, in Christ Jesus. As we celebrate this season, may we be inspired by the example of Jesus, and may we be renewed in our faith, our hope, and our commitment to love and serve others. May this Easter be the pivotal and turning point for us.

Mark Harlow

## Prayer Pointers

On **Sundays** - For a deeper faith to trust in the Lord.

On **Mondays** - For all in work and for young folk seeking a career.

On **Tuesdays** - For all restricted by pain in mind or body.

On **Wednesdays** - For all living through war; civilians, aid workers and soldiers.

On **Thursdays** - For those who advertise in this magazine, thus paying for the production costs .

On **Fridays** - Give thanks for the sacrifice Jesus made for each one of us.

On **Saturdays** - For families visiting relatives over the Easter break.



## Eastling Church

### Easter Lilies

20th April 2025



Contributions to the display of beautiful Easter Lilies in memory of loved ones will be gratefully received by Bay Lees.

Your contribution and the names of your loved ones can be placed in the secure postbox outside The Manor or contact Bay on 07922 484648.



## Together in Boots

Join us for a monthly mindful walk  
through woodland

Leaving Doddington Church at 11.30  
and returning for soup & bread at 12.15

Humans and well-behaved dogs all welcome

On Fridays 24th Jan; 28th Feb; 28th March; 25th April



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lissie1710@gmail.com

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See our availability here: [https://  
www.eastlingvillagehall.co.uk/calendar](https://www.eastlingvillagehall.co.uk/calendar)

Sunday 4th May from 3.30pm

# THROWLEY CHURCH TOWER OPEN DAY

## CLIMB THE TOWER & SEE THE VIEWS

To celebrate the restoration of the bells and belfry the  
**FRIENDS OF THROWLEY CHURCH** is holding an open day  
with tours up the tower to see the bells and the view from  
the tower roof. Donations of £5 per person. Accompanied  
tours only, no under 15s. Please be aware there are three  
ladders to climb and a narrow spiral staircase.

## Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.

Steven Beck, as a volunteer of the South Foreland Lighthouse at Dover, kindly gave the Otterden & Stalisfield W.I. Group a wonderful, detailed talk with a slide show on this National Trust property. (With a little help from his wife, Sylvia!) The Lighthouse ensures that shipping is alerted to the presence of the Goodwin Sands, a 10 mile sandbank. Quite apart from the history of the building, it was interesting to hear of the personal details of the Knott family, of whom 5 successive generations with 8 family members were involved in the lighthouse keeping. It is thought by historians that during the period 1730 to 1910 that the Knott family had probably been the longest serving family of lighthouse keepers in history. We had a good turnout for this popular speaker and we will be visiting the Lighthouse later in the year for a tour conducted by Steven.

At our next Meeting on the 2nd April, a Member of the Road Safety Team from K.C.C. will be giving a presentation on Road Safety for Mature Drivers. Two short video presentations will cover motorway driving, motorway breakdowns, Smart motorways and eco driving, as well as topics specific to the over 65's, such as decline in peripheral vision, reduced mobility and impairment through prescribed drugs. All are welcome to attend, but we do need to know numbers, as there will be road safety packs given out at the end of the evening, so contact either of the telephone numbers listed below please. This is a FREE event provided by KCC but donations would be appreciated for refreshments. The evening will commence at 7.30 p.m. at Stalisfield Village Hall, so do come earlier to ensure seating.



Any ladies wishing to join our Group, please contact either our President Helen Brooks on 07477 580727 or Secretary Ellie Cameron on 01795 892016. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at Stalisfield Village Hall from 7.30 p.m.



"I'm really not sure about this trend for clergy dressing down, dear."



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## Kent Wildlife Trust Events

[www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk)

### Spring Family Fun at Tyland Barn

Date: 11 Apr 2025, 10am - 2pm  
Location: Kent Wildlife Trust, Tyland Barn, Chatham Road, ME14 3BD  
Accessible. Suggested for: Children | Families  
Price: Three activity sessions 10am-2pm, £5 each or £10 to join all three

### Go Wild with Wilder Holiday Club this Easter holidays!

16 Apr 2025, 9am - 4pm | 17 Apr 2025, 9am - 4pm  
Location: Tyland Barn Nature Park & Gardens  
Accessible  
Suggested for: Children  
Price: £40

### Wilder Kent Experiences: Nightingales at Burnt Oak Woods

Date: 19 Apr 2025, 7 - 9pm  
Location: Burnt Oak Woods, Malthouse Lane, Orlestone, Ashford, TN26 2EL  
Not accessible  
Suggested for: Adults  
Price: £35

### Wilder Kent Experiences: From Industry to Sanctuary at Oare Marshes

Date: 23 Apr 2025, 10am - 1pm  
Location: Oare Marshes National Nature Reserve, Church Road, Oare, Faversham, ME13 0QA  
Not accessible  
Suggested for: Adults  
Price: £35

### Weekend Wellness: Forest Bathing in the Blean

Date: 27 Apr 2025, 10am - 12:30pm  
Location: West Blean & Thornden Woods, Thornden Wood Road, Sturry, Kent, CT6 7NZ  
Partially accessible  
Suggested for: Adults | Beginners | Improvers  
Price: £16

### GREEN MOLE GARDEN MAINTENANCE

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### Our TAKE AWAY MENU

will be running Wednesdays - Fridays  
5-7pm, please call for details (not available  
Good Friday)

### To Celebrate Easter, on Good Friday

We will be running our traditional  
Fish special menu, book now to  
avoid disappointment.

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

Stalisfield Road, Faversham, Kent,  
ME13 0HY

Tel: 01795 890 256 Email:  
[info@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk](mailto:info@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk)



## Ostier now at Faversham Golf Club Restaurant

Open to the public for breakfast and lunch  
everyday from 9am.

Sunday Roasts  
27th April & 25th May.  
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For bookings, please call 01795 890561 option 1.  
FGC, Belmont Park, Throwley Road, ME13 0HB



**OSTIER**  
HOSPITALITY



## CHARING AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Thursday 10th April 2025  
Charing Parish Hall  
Doors open 7.30pm,  
talk will start at 8pm prompt



### Guedelon - new medieval Castle

*Guedelon is a castle being built in Burgundy using medieval methods. Sally Finn-Kelcey has worked as a volunteer on the project and will look out the practicalities of medieval building, as well as the ideas behind the project, and what Guedelon can teach us about 'genuine' medieval castles.*

**Speaker: Simon Marsh**

Members free - Guests £3  
Membership from £10/year.

[www.charinghistory.co.uk](http://www.charinghistory.co.uk)



**The Arts  
Society  
Egerton**

## 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 9<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30 pm:

**SO THEY DO COOK AFTER ALL! -**

**Ravilious, Bawden and the Great Bardfield artists**

*Jo Walton is a freelance lecturer for the National Gallery  
and was a volunteer guide at Tate Britain and Tate Modern.*

Visitors are always very welcome at £6 (just turn up and pay  
on the door), refunded if you join. For further information  
please contact Christine Willis, our Membership Secretary  
via [cmwillis75@gmail.com](mailto:cmwillis75@gmail.com) or 01233 756377.

See also our website

[www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk)



**The Arts  
Society  
Faversham**

## The Arts Society Faversham

The Arts Society is the UK's leading arts education charity that brings people  
together through a shared curiosity in the arts. We enjoy illustrated talks on a  
fascinating wide range of topics, outings to galleries and historic houses and  
an elegant annual Society Dinner. Meetings are held at The Alexander Centre  
in Preston Street, Faversham on the 4th Thursday of the month. Come along  
for a complimentary coffee at 10.20am for  
the 11am start. You can try us out for a  
modest fee and no doubt will want to  
become a member!

### Thursday 24th April 2025:

On April 24th the lecture is  
'P.G. Woodhouse and the illustrated  
magazine'. It will be given by Richard  
Burnip.

The lecture will trace P.G. Woodhouse's  
remarkable career through his work in  
popular magazines from the 1900s to  
the 1960s.



The Arden Theatre Faversham  
presents:

## Pericles

Written by William Shakespeare,  
directed by John Moss

Wednesday 2nd - Saturday 5th  
April, 7pm

Tickets: [www.ardentheatre.org.uk](http://www.ardentheatre.org.uk):  
£12, £10 (concessions and  
members).

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elements of fairy tale.*

### SPECIAL INTEREST DAY

"What do they get up to in there?" On May 8th 2025 10.30-3.15pm. Lyndon Jones,  
Roy Campbell.

Learn from two senior Masons about the history of the Masons and take a private  
tour of the Masonic Lodge of Faversham.  
£38.00 including a light lunch.

Contact Maureen Bush, Membership Secretary:  
[tolly@clara.co.uk](mailto:tolly@clara.co.uk) or visit our website: [www.theartsocietyfaversham.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietyfaversham.org.uk)

## Services in our Benefice

### 6<sup>th</sup> April Lent 5

Philippians 3. 4b - 14, John 12. 1 - 8

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

### 13<sup>th</sup> April Palm Sunday

Luke 19. 28 - 40, Psalm 118. 1-2, 19-29

Throwley 10.30am Morning Prayer

Lynsted 10.30am All Together Now

Oare 10.30am Holy Communion

### 14<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> April Holy Week Services

**Monday** 7pm Reflection at Oare

**Tuesday** 7pm Reflection at Lynsted

**Wednesday** 7pm Reflection at Throwley

#### **Maundy Thursday**

7pm Supper in Norton Village Hall

#### **Good Friday Stations of the Cross**

10.30am at Doddington

Readings, reflections and prayer at each station,  
followed by coffee & hot cross buns

**Last hour of the Cross** 2pm at Eastling

**Saturday** 7pm Reflection at Newnham

### 20<sup>th</sup> April Easter Day

Acts 10. 34 - 43, Luke 24. 1 - 12

Wychling 5.50am Sunrise Service

Eastling 9.00am Easter Communion

Stalisfield 10.30am Easter Service

### 27<sup>th</sup> April Easter 2

Acts 5. 27 - 32, John 20. 19 - 31

Throwley 10.30am Holy Communion

Newnham 10.30am Morning Worship

### 4<sup>th</sup> May Easter 3

Acts 9. 1 - 20, John 21. 1 - 19

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

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#### **Online Daily Worship Continues**

9am Morning Prayer will continue on the  
Benefice Facebook Page via <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** Revd Paula Jardine-Rose

07516 411269 [paula.jardine.rose@kc-hd.org.uk](mailto:paula.jardine.rose@kc-hd.org.uk)

**Parish Administrator** Joyce Warren

01795 521831 [joyce.warren@kc-hd.org.uk](mailto:joyce.warren@kc-hd.org.uk)

**Associate Priest** Reverend James (Jim) Pye

01795 890726 [jim.pye@kc-hd.org.uk](mailto:jim.pye@kc-hd.org.uk)

**Reader** Caroline Ramshaw (07799 538809)

**Anna Chaplain** Caroline Ramshaw  
[ramshawcaroline@gmail.com](mailto:ramshawcaroline@gmail.com)

**Reader** Pim Baxter (07710 116269)

#### Church Contacts

**Eastling** Andrew Baxter, Warden (07749 403727)

**Administrator** E mail: [stmaryeastling@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryeastling@gmail.com)

#### **Stalisfield with Otterden**

Jenny King, Warden (01795 890366)

Chrissie Webster, Administrator  
(07590 351977)

**Throwley** David Elvin, Warden (07973 837122)

E mail: [david.j.elvin@gmail.com](mailto:david.j.elvin@gmail.com)

#### **High Downs Parish Safeguarding Officer**

Mark Harlow (07979 864000)

E mail: [mark.harlow@kc-hd.org.uk](mailto:mark.harlow@kc-hd.org.uk)

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#### **CONTACT THE *GOOD NEWS* EDITOR**

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like to submit articles, or to advertise in  
the May 2025 magazine, send your submission by 20<sup>th</sup>  
April to: [goodnewsmagazine@me.com](mailto:goodnewsmagazine@me.com).

Past and current issues of the Good News may be  
viewed on [www.goodnews.rf.gd](http://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:

[ramshawcaroline@gmail.com](mailto:ramshawcaroline@gmail.com) 07799 538 809



## News from Citizens Advice Swale

citizens  
advice

Are you struggling to pay your council tax bill? It's a difficult time for people who are battling rising costs for food and essentials - as well as seeing their bills creep up.

There is support available and you might be entitled to pay less, or not at all, depending on your circumstances.

For example, if you're the only adult living in your home, your council tax bill can be reduced by a quarter.

When the council works out how many people live in a property, there are certain 'disregarded' people that don't count and this can reduce your council tax bill, such as under-18s, full-time students and people with severe mental impairments.

If you or someone you live with is disabled and your home has been adapted, you can ask to be placed down one band.

Swale Borough Council also offers Council Tax Support, which is designed for people on low incomes, and can reduce the amount of council tax you have to pay.

And lastly, if you're struggling to pay for essentials, your council can reduce your bill further, or cancel it altogether, under what's known as a 'discretionary reduction'. This usually only happens if you can provide evidence that you're suffering severe hardship and can't afford to pay council tax.

Whatever circumstances you're in, if you're struggling with your council tax payments, it's important to let your council know. Citizens Advice Swale is also here to help you find a way forward, should you need our support.

Here's how to contact us for advice:

### Drop-in sessions (no appointment necessary)

Monday, 10am-12pm, Swale House, Sittingbourne

Tuesday, 10am-12pm, Sheppey Gateway, Sheerness (except the second Tuesday of every month, which is held at Sheerness East Working Mens Club)

Tuesday, 11.30am-1.30pm, Murston Family Hub, Tonge Road  
Wednesday & Friday, 10am-12pm, 43 Stone Street, Faversham

### Telephone advice

Call Adviceline on freephone 0808 278 7979 (Monday-Friday 10am-3.30pm)

### Email advice

Contact us online at [www.citizensadviceSwale.uk/email-general-advice](http://www.citizensadviceSwale.uk/email-general-advice) (Monday-Wednesday)

### Debt advice

Request a call back from our money advice team at [www.citizensadviceSwale.uk/debt](http://www.citizensadviceSwale.uk/debt)

To stay up to date with our opening times, please visit [www.citizensadviceSwale.uk](http://www.citizensadviceSwale.uk) or follow us on Facebook.



## Nature's Love

by Audrey Keen

And I can smell the wild, wild woods  
And I can hear the wind,  
And I can touch the ground mercury  
And trees now ivy fringed.  
I can taste green hawthorn buds  
And hazel shoots that grow;  
While birds it seems,  
Sing just for me  
And flowers sway to and fro.  
And I can find sweet nature's love  
In every covered cloud  
Backed by a sky of indigo  
And round red sun so proud.

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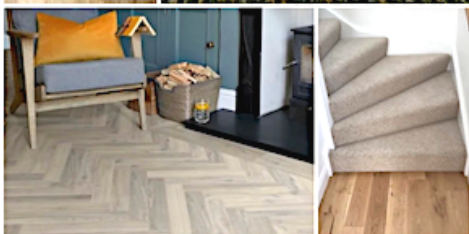
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## Local Gardens Open in April

under the National Garden Scheme

Visit [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk) for more gardens and further details

### Doddington Place

Sundays 6th & 13th April  
11am - 5pm Admin £12, children £3.

### Copton Ash

105 Ashford Road  
Sunday 20th & Monday 21st April,  
12 - 5pm.

### 1 Fox Cottages, Oversland ME13 9PG

Saturday 26th April  
12 - 4pm, Admin £5, children free.

## Easter Thoughts in a Churchyard



It's a yearly paradox. You've brought some flowers to the churchyard to lay on the grave of a loved one. All around you are graves and headstones, reminders of the inevitable end of life's earthly journey. But it's Easter Day, and from within the church you can hear the singing: 'Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!' Perhaps then you notice a few other things. You're standing among the fresh daffodils and the grass that's suddenly green and growing again. For a moment you pause and reflect on the reverse of an old saying. In the midst of death - we are in life! That essentially is what Easter is about - an annual reminder that death is not the end of the story. Cookham, in Berkshire, was once

the home of the great 20<sup>th</sup> century painter, Stanley Spencer. Perhaps his most famous painting is 'Resurrection in Cookham Churchyard', which depicts local residents - many of them recognisable village characters - rising up out of their graves to be greeted by the risen Jesus, standing in the church porch. It's a glorious, vivid, shocking reminder of a great assertion. The graveyard is not a terminus, but a junction.

The resurrection of Jesus (and hence our resurrections, too) is the defining claim of Christianity. Christians don't follow the teaching of a prophet who died many centuries ago, or of a holy man whose life is an example to follow, excellent as that may be. They put their trust in a Saviour whom they believe is alive and with them now, and they also

believe that through Him they too will move through the junction of death to the journey that lies beyond - a journey he talked about to His followers.

The annual paradox lies in the inescapable fact of death, indelibly represented by those graves and headstones, and in the equally inescapable fact that - in apparent defiance of all logic - human beings down the ages have clung to the belief that death is not the end.

Every culture has its story of the life beyond - the Elysian fields, Valhalla, Nirvana, Abraham's bosom. But only with the coming of Jesus, and the witnessed events of that first Easter morning, has our instinctive belief been given wings. The paradox is the heart of everything. Death is a fact, but life is greater than death. 'Because I live', said Jesus, 'you will also live'.



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## "TRUSTEES' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND EASTLING ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The combined Annual General Meeting of the Trustees of Eastling Village Hall and Eastling Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 10th April in Eastling Hall. The Trustees' meeting will start at 7.30pm followed by the Parish Council's meeting at 8pm.

Please do come along to support these organisations and their members who put time and effort into looking after the interests of villagers. It's a great opportunity to raise any issues and free drinks and nibbles will be served - what an incentive!"



## Eastling Neighbourhood Watch



**Village Warden** 07794 010 394  
or 01795 890848

**Police 101 Emergency 999**

For any scam or cyber attacks or calls please report it on 0330 123 2040

Another reminder about keeping your dogs away from any farm animals more than ever at this present time as the young lambs are about. Any attacks by dogs seen please contact the farmer of give me a call or the police.

Some person decided to cut the leads of one of the gas guns in a local field. This was an act of deliberate criminal damage to a necessary item. The damage to the rape caused by wood pigeons is devastating so please be tolerant and should the noise be causing any unnecessary distress please speak t o the farmer kindly.

There have been reports of garden sheds being broken into within the local area so please be alert. Bicycles seem to be a target in the Faversham area mainly being stolen from sheds.

Once a month there is a police surgery held at Painters Forstal community hall usually at the beginning of the month .

Have a good month.  
Take Care  
Alan

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**Eastling School** (School days only, 8am - 4.30pm) sited in the corridor of Main Building. ME13 0BA

**Stalisfield** sited at Stalisfield Village Hall, ME13 0HY

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

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## 24<sup>th</sup> April - Mellitus, the Saxon pagans, and St Paul's Cathedral

Our present bishops have big troubles within the Church. Mellitus had big troubles outside the Church.

It all began quietly enough in Rome, where Mellitus was born into a noble family, and became abbot of a monastic community. Then in 601 Pope Gregory the Great sent him to help Augustine, who had arrived in Canterbury in 597.

In 604/5 Augustine consecrated Mellitus to be first Bishop of the East Saxons. Mellitus settled in the capital, Londinium (London), and his wooden

cathedral stood on the site of what is now St Paul's.

Mellitus began to evangelise but struggled to make any progress. The Anglo Saxons were very attached to their pagan temples and celebrations. Then Pope Gregory had an inspiration: he told Mellitus not to destroy the pagan temples and banish the pagan feasts. Instead, he should *adapt* them. So, Mellitus simply cleansed the Saxon temples and removed the Saxon idols. He then re-dedicated the buildings to God and re-directed the pagan Saxon feasts towards Christian feast days. Bede reports that Pope Gregory had reasoned: "If the people are allowed

some worldly pleasures ... they will more readily come to desire the joys of the Spirit." The Pope was right – the new approach certainly transformed and spread missionary endeavour throughout the Saxon kingdom.

But then, in 616, Kent and the East Saxons had two new kings. These new rulers reverted to paganism but demanded that Mellitus still give them the Eucharist.

Mellitus refused, was banished, and then fled to Gaul for safety. When it was safe to return, he got as far as Canterbury, where in 619 he was chosen to be the third Archbishop of Canterbury.



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## News from our County Councillor

The deadline for Kent councils to submit their interim proposals for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) has now passed, with a joint submission being sent to the government on 21st March. While this marks a key milestone in the process, it has raised more questions than answers about how the transition will be funded and implemented.

The submission reflects the concerns of Kent County Council, Medway Council, and all district and borough councils in the county. Rather than putting forward a definitive roadmap for unitarisation, the response highlights a range of unanswered questions. Chief among them is the issue of funding. Will the government assist with the costs of transition, or will local authorities be left to foot the bill? Many councils in Kent are already facing significant financial pressures, and without government support, reorganisation could put further strain on services. There is also uncertainty around whether the government will provide financial relief to help clear existing council debts, an issue that has been exacerbated by rising demand for local services and ongoing budget constraints.

Although no firm decisions have been made on how Kent's local government should be structured, four key options are being explored in more detail. These options would determine how Kent's districts and Medway are grouped

together into new unitary authorities, potentially replacing the existing county and district system. However, with so many factors at play - including public service boundaries, local identities, and financial sustainability - there is still much to be decided before any final plans can be submitted ahead of the November deadline.

As the process unfolds, it is likely that new restrictions and challenges will emerge. The government's response to Kent's submission will be key in determining what is possible and what compromises may be required. For now, local councils and residents are left waiting for further clarity on what the future of Kent's local government will look like.

I sincerely hope Kent's response gets some clear answers from

government, as the public will finally be given a chance to have their say on these plans over the summer. I firmly believe we should all have been given more opportunity to have a say before progressing this far, and hope that the responses to the consultation will be given the weight they deserve. Time will tell.

With so much still up in the air, one thing remains clear: this reorganisation will have a lasting impact on how services are delivered in Kent for years to come. Ensuring that the new structure is properly thought through and adequately funded will be essential to avoiding unnecessary disruption and ensuring the best possible outcomes for residents.

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

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## PALM SUNDAY and HOLY WEEK

**13<sup>th</sup> April - Palm Sunday,**

**Jesus at the gates of Jerusalem**

Churches remember how Jesus arrived at the gates of Jerusalem just a few days before the Passover was due to be held. He was the Messiah come to His own people in their capital city, and yet He came in humility, riding on a young donkey, not in triumph, riding on a war-horse.

As Jesus entered the city, the crowds gave Him a rapturous welcome, throwing palm fronds into His path. They knew His reputation as a healer, and they welcomed Him. But sadly, the welcome was short-lived, for Jerusalem would soon reject her Messiah, and put Him to death. On this day churches worldwide will distribute little crosses made from palm fronds in memory of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.

**17<sup>th</sup> April – What is Maundy Thursday?**

Maundy Thursday is the 5<sup>th</sup> day of Holy Week. 'Maundy' comes from the Latin word for command, 'mandare'. On this day the Church looks back to Jesus' command to His disciples that they should: "Love one another as I have loved you."

On the evening of Maundy Thursday Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples, before going on to the Garden of Gethsemane and being arrested. It was the last evening He had with them before His crucifixion.

**18<sup>th</sup> April - Good Friday,  
the day the Son of God died for you**

Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. He was crucified at 9am in the morning, and died six hours later, at 3pm. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year and is marked by the removal of all decorations from churches. The custom of observing a period of three hours' devotion from 12 midday to 3pm on Good Friday goes back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The 'Three Hours of the Cross' often take the form of an extended meditation on the 'Seven Last Words from the Cross', with periods of silence, prayer, or hymn-singing.

**19<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Eve or Holy Saturday**

Easter Eve is the last day of Lent. It is the day between Good Friday and Easter Day, and represents the one full day that Jesus was dead. It is a day of quiet reflection and anticipation for Christians worldwide.

**20<sup>th</sup> April - EASTER, the most joyful day of the year for Christians**

Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy!  
Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.



## Stalisfield Youth Group!

Stalisfield Youth Group is for 11-17yr olds.

We meet on Wednesdays, usually twice a month, 7 - 8.30pm in the village hall AND it is free to come.

We have music, gaming, craft, table tennis, table football, outside games in the Summer, craft table, tuck shop (everything 10 - 50p), free cake and drink.

It is a time when young people can relax, hang out and catch up.

**New  
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**Upcoming Dates:**

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April

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**Mouse Makes**

On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us.  
Jesus put an end to death by dying for us,  
and showed us the resurrection to come by His raising to new life!

**Jesus is risen!**  
The angel said:  
"Jesus ...is not here, for He has risen, just as He said."  
*Matthew 28:6*

**Jesus is here**  
Jesus said:  
"Where two or three come together in my name I am there with them."  
*Matthew 18:20*

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**Jesus will come again!**  
Jesus said:  
"I will come back and take you to myself so that you will be where I am."  
*John 14:3*

**READ the story of the resurrection in:**  
*Matthew 28:1-10*  
*Mark 16:1-19*  
*Luke 24:1-49*  
*John 20:1-29 and 21:1-14*

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