

Good News Parish Magazine

for Eastling, Otterden,
Stalisfield and Throwley

www.goodnews.rf.gd

St. Mary's Church Stalisfield Service for All Souls

Sunday 2nd November, 4pm

Join with others in quiet
remembrance of loved ones
we see no longer



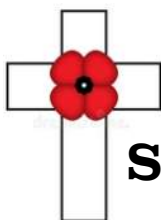
NOVEMBER 2025



- 2nd Service for All Souls'
Stalisfield Church 4pm
- 5th Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 9th Remembrance Service
Throwley Church 10.45am
- 12th Egerton Arts Society
Egerton Millennium Hall 2.30pm
- 12th Youth Group
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 13th History Society meeting
Charing Parish Hall 7.30 for 8pm
- 10th & 24th Faversham Foodbank at
Eastling Village Hall 1.30 - 3.30pm
- 16th Carols Choir practices begin
Eastling Church 5-6pm
- 20th Deadline for December Good News:
goodnewsmagazine@me.com
- 22nd QUIZ NIGHT
Stalisfield Village Hall 7pm
- 26th Youth Group
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 28th Together in Boots
Doddington Church leave at 2pm
- 29th Christmas Singing Workshop
Norton Village Hall 2 - 5pm

DECEMBER

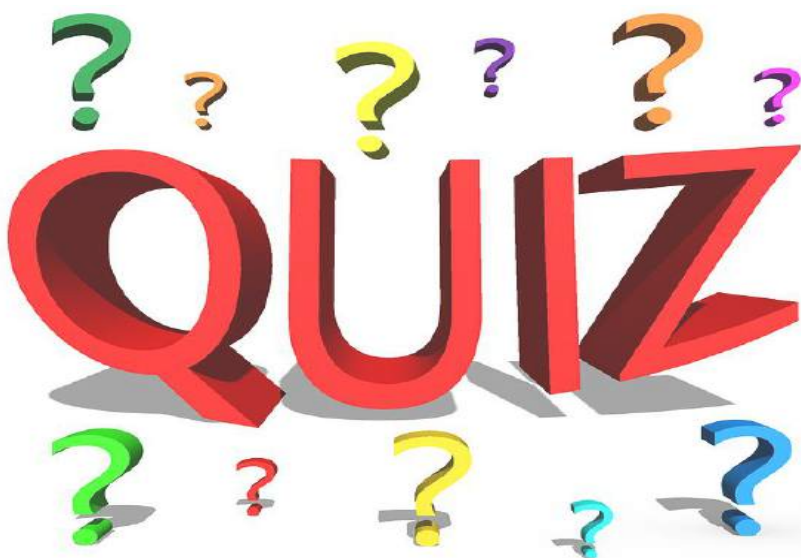
- 3rd Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 5th & 6th Pantomime
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 7th S and O Children's Christmas Party
Stalisfield Village Hall 2pm
- 14th Carols at Stalisfield Church 5.30pm
- 19th Cantiana Christmas Concert
Newnham Church 7.30pm
- 20th S and O Seniors' Christmas Dinner
Stalisfield Village Hall 4 - 6pm
- 21st Carols at Throwley Church 5pm
- 24th Carols at Eastling Church 4pm



Service of Remembrance Sunday 9th November

St. Michael and All Angels, Throwley
at 10.45am

Beginning in the churchyard with the reading of the
names of those who died in the two world wars from
Throwley, Eastling and Stalisfield and the laying of
wreaths on the Commonwealth War Graves, before
we move into the church for the service.



Q: When?

A: Saturday 22 November 2025, 7pm

Q: Where?

A: Stalisfield Village Hall

Q: Cost?

**A: £5/head, tables of 6-8 people
(cash only please)**

**Q: How do you
book a table?**

**A: Email Chrissie at:
tabard.webster@icloud.com**

Q: Refreshments?

A: Bring your own food and drinks

Q: Why?

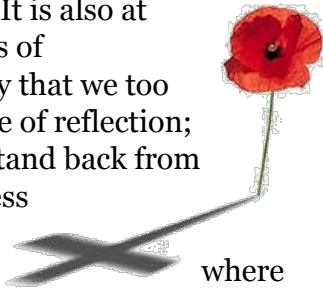
**A: Have some fun and raise some funds to
fix the church roof.**

Message from our Rector

November is one of those odd months where we start to think about Christmas, but we are also very much in the moment of Remembrance. The clocks have changed, and the dark evenings are with us once again reminding us that the seasons have changed and we will be getting into colder weather.

When we look at the world around us, that is changing too, with wild weather around the world, war and conflict, people displaced from their homeland and a general feeling of uncertainty.

It is amid this, that we gather to remember the ones that served their country as part of the armed services; those whose lives were given so that we could have freedom. It is at these times that we pause and take a breath. We have a time of silence as a mark of respect, but also a time to consider who they were and what they did for us. It is also at these times of uncertainty that we too need a time of reflection; a time to stand back from the busyness of life and consider



we are in life and where we are heading.

Service for and with others is something that is a strong element with our church family but is also reflected in the wider community. People serve others. We come together and come alongside those who need a bit of help either with the practical everyday tasks or aspects of their wellbeing or something more spiritual or faith based.

At this time of year, we perhaps give more thought to those who are stuck in their houses or perhaps have no shelter at all, we consider how we might be able to help, or conversely, we might be the ones who are in need of assistance.

So I leave you with the suggestion of pausing, taking a breath, remembering those who served us, but also to consider where you currently are in your life. Are you able to serve others by volunteering or by helping a neighbour, or are you the one that needs help?

You may remember the song 'When I needed a neighbour' by Sydney Bertram Carter. Our life of faith points us to the

comforting fact revealed in the final verse. It reminds us that Jesus accompanies us on our life journey, but also that we should strive to be like him, by serving others here on earth.

*Wherever you travel
I'll be there, I'll be there,
Wherever you travel, I'll be there,
And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter,
I'll be there.*

May God bless you.
Rev. Paula



Augustine Camino

Talk on the Augustine Camino

Andrew Kelly — joint founder of the Augustine Camino pilgrimage route — will give an introduction to this beautiful long-distance path which passes through Kingsdown, Doddington and Newnham. The Augustine Camino celebrates the mission of St Augustine to convert the English to Christianity in 597 AD. It is 65 miles long and usually takes a week to walk. It visits the two oldest cathedrals in the English-speaking world — Rochester and Canterbury — both founded by St Augustine, passes two working monasteries, four shrines and many beautiful village churches. Most days there is a café or pub for lunch and always a cosy place to stay the night. This now includes "Sanctuary," where pilgrims can sleep on a church floor, including in Doddington. There are currently 43 pilgrim stamps to collect in the guidebook/pilgrim's passport. Pilgrims completing the route are issued with a Compostela at St Augustine's. Hundreds of pilgrims are already walking the route — many from the US — drawn by our heritage, churches, pubs and friendly people. The talk will showcase the beauty of the Camino and the pilgrim experience.

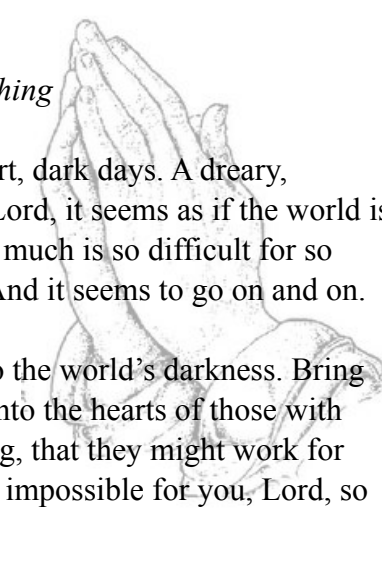
Doddington Church
Sunday 16th November at 2pm
Free entry with tea and biscuits

Prayer for November 2025

By Daphne Kitching

Heavenly Father,
Here we are in November — the month of short, dark days. A dreary, difficult month, unless you have a birthday! Lord, it seems as if the world is permanently in November at the moment. So much is so difficult for so many people, through no fault of their own. And it seems to go on and on.

Lord, would You bring your healing light into the world's darkness. Bring transformation, compassion and a softening into the hearts of those with responsibility for the conflict and the suffering, that they might work for peace for all people. We know that nothing is impossible for you, Lord, so we pray in faith — and in the name of Jesus.
Amen.



Eastling Church

Flower Rota



November

2nd / 9th - Steph

16th & 23rd - Bay

30th Advent Ring - Leigh-Anne

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

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Mob: 07592 511612

Email:
mandjelec@gmail.com



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Stalisfield Harvest Celebrations

What a brilliant Harvest weekend!

Over 50 hungry villagers piled in for cottage pie and apple crumble on Saturday night — no one went home peckish. Same Genes got toes tapping, and the line dancing that followed proved we've got some hidden talents (and a few two-left-feet!).



St. Mary's looked absolutely gorgeous on Sunday, thanks to the Holy Bloomers' beautiful harvest displays. Mark Harlow led a lovely, upbeat service, and the generous food donations will boost the local food bank. Huge thanks to everyone who cooked, decorated, sang, danced, or simply cheered us on — proof that no one does Harvest quite like our village!



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Eastling Harvest Flower Festival

Huge thanks to all our wonderful flower arrangers for their amazing floral displays which were admired by all who came to Eastling church in early October.

The display of colourful artworks drawn by the children of Eastling school were a great sight to behold, such imagination.

Thank you to the village cooks for their excellent refreshments, the sale of which added to the magnificent sum of £725 raised over the weekend.



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The Plough Inn

Offering lunch & dinner Wednesday to Saturday and amazing Sunday Roast at our family run, independent pub & restaurant, with an extensive menu boasting pub classics and 2 AA rosette specials.

We also offer a Take Away Menu Wednesday - Friday from 5 - 7pm - preorder required; please call 01795 890256

Celebrating or holding a special event? We offer buffet, afternoon tea and sit down menus too.

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

Christmas Events:

Sustainable Festive Wreath making at The Plough with Suzannasflowers. Contact Suzanna, suzannasflowers25@gmail.com for more details. Join a session 10th/11th December or even create your own. Option then to make a Christmas party of it with lunch or dinner at the Pub.



GREEN MOLE GARDEN MAINTENANCE

- X Lawn mowing
- X Hedge trimming
- X General garden maintenance
- X Power wash for Patios & Decks

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the over
60's**

At Eastling Village Hall

9.30 - 10.30am

from Thursday 23rd October

£36 for 4 sessions or £10 drop in

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**Ostier at Faversham
Golf Club Restaurant**

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

Private events at FGC individually tailored & catered for.

Bookings now being taken for Sunday Lunch and Christmas.

To reserve please call 01795 890561 option 1.

FGC, Belmont Park, Throwley Road, ME13 0HB



The menu is subject to change, please view the QR code.



*Christmas At
Faversham
Golf Club*

To Start

Chalk Stream Trout Gravlax, Pickled Cucumber & Soda Bread

Chorizo Scotch Egg & Piccalilli

Pumpkin & Sage Soup

Prawn Cocktail

Main Course

Roast Turkey & All The Trimmings

Beef Bourguignon & Mustard Mash

Salmon En Croute & Dill Caper Sauce

Potato Pithivier & Mushroom Truffle Sauce

(All mains are served with seasonal vegetables)

To Finish

Christmas Pudding & Custard

Chocolate Marquise, Cherry & Almonds

Clementine Sorbet & Lime Shortbread

Cheese, Membrillo & Crackers (£3 Supplement)

2 courses 27.50 / 3 courses 32.50





Christmas Party

The Seniors'
Christmas Dinner
for Stalisfield &
Otterden Residents

Saturday, 20th
December
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Stalisfield Village Hall

Pre-book only

contact Bridget at
bawithell@yahoo.com
or on 01795 892125

**BOOK EARLY TO
AVOID
DISAPPOINTMENT**



Eastling Christmas Choir

Come and join our choir for the

Christmas Eve Carol service.

Practices in Eastling church, on Sunday evenings, 5 - 6pm from 16th November.

Just come along or, for more information, call Andrew on 07749 403727

Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.

Jan Napper from Simply Chocolate visited our W.I. Group at the beginning of October. She brought all her equipment required to show us how to make chocolate from cacao chips purchased online. Jan went through the tempering process, obtaining the required consistency to produce chocolates in moulds or as a slab that can be broken into random shards. Decorating the chocolates using edible transfers and various sprinkles were also demonstrated. Jan is a fellow W.I. Member from Tankerton who conveyed her subject in a conversational manner. We then came to the part we had all been waiting for - tasting the end results, which were lovely!



Our Craft Fair on 18th October was incredibly successful with 20 tables taken providing a wide variety of produce and crafts for people to purchase, many ideal for Christmas presents. This is a fundraiser to enable our Group to keep functioning and provide a variety of good quality Speakers each month for our Members.

Several of our Members will be attending the Lifestyle Annual Day at Ditton Community Centre on 22nd October, which will feature a variety of three Speakers covering very different topics, with Country Market and Independent Stalls at which to shop. W.I. Members from all over the Kent area attend so it is a good day at which to socialise and swap ideas for forthcoming events and meetings.

Wednesday 5th November at 7.30 p.m. is our next Meeting at Stalisfield Village Hall, featuring 'Having a go at Painting on Silk' with Elitta Fell. Guests are always welcome, so please contact Helen Brooks on 07477580727 or Ellie Cameron on 07775649337 if you would like to join us.

The Stalisfield Pantomime:

The Emperor's New Clothes



Politics, power, and pantomime collide in this year's riotous Village's Production of The Emperor's New Clothes — an irreverent romp through village life, where egos are big, promises are empty, and clothes are... optional!

When a blustering would-be leader storms the parish council election with big talk and even bigger trousers, the village soon discovers that vanity and vision aren't the same thing. But can the locals expose the emperor's, ahem, shortcomings before it's too late?

Packed with laughter and mischief this year's panto guarantees a night of irreverence and pure Stalisfield fun.

Performances: Friday 5th & Saturday 6th
December 7pm, Stalisfield Village Hall

Tickets: £7 (£4 children) from Sharon
01795 890415 or

tickets@stalisfieldvillagehall.co.uk

It's the show everyone will be talking about — because in Stalisfield, even an Emperor can't hide behind his robes forever!

EASTLING VILLAGE HALL

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Parties & Weddings



We have pretty grounds and a lawn with room for a marquee; a large car park, fully equipped kitchen and a meeting room available for separate hire.

To book, email Annie:

jacksonandadams@btopenworld.com

07754 114670

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

Services in our Benefice

2nd November All Saints' Sunday

Ephesians 1. 11 - 23, Luke 6. 20 - 31

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Stalisfield 4pm All Souls Service

9th November Remembrance Sunday

2 Thessalonians 2. 1-5, 13-17, Luke 20. 27 - 38

Throwley 10.45am Remembrance Service

Oare 10.30am Holy Communion

16th November 2nd before Advent

2 Thessalonians 3. 6 - 13, Luke 21. 5 - 19

Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship

Norton 10.30am Holy Communion

23rd November Christ the King

Colossians 1. 11 - 20, Luke 23. 33 - 43

Throwley 10.30am Holy Communion

Newnham 10.30am Morning Worship

30th November Advent Sunday

Romans 13. 11 - 14, Matthew 24. 36 - 44

Norton 10.30am Benefice Communion

7th December Advent 2

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

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

Online Daily Worship Continues

9am Morning Prayer every day 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/>

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 07799 538 809

High Downs Parish

Rector Revd Paula Jardine-Rose

07516 411269 paula.jardine.rose@kc-hd.org.uk

Parish Administrator Joyce Warren

01795 521831 joyce.warren@kc-hd.org.uk

Associate Priest Reverend James (Jim) Pye

01795 890726 jim.pye@kc-hd.org.uk

Reader Caroline Ramshaw (07799 538809)

Anna Chaplain Caroline Ramshaw

ramshawcaroline@gmail.com

Reader Pim Baxter (07710 116269)

Church Contacts

Eastling Andrew Baxter, Warden (07749 403727)

Administrator E mail: 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

High Downs Parish Safeguarding Officer

Mark Harlow (07979 864000)

E mail: mark.harlow@kc-hd.org.uk

From The Registers

Baptism

Amelia Isla Pask

5th October 2025 at Eastling

CONTACT THE *GOOD NEWS* EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like to submit articles, or to advertise in the December 2025 magazine, send your submission by 20th November to: goodnewsmagazine@me.com.

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

Cantiana Christmas Concert

Friday 19th December - 7.30pm

A candlelit evening of music and congregational carols

Newnham Church

Tickets: £10 (includes festive refreshment)

Available from Doddington Service Station

Or email cantianachoir@gmail.com



Updates from Citizens Advice Swale

We can all face problems that seem complicated or intimidating. At Citizens Advice Swale, we believe no one should have to face these problems without good quality, independent advice. We're here to give people the knowledge and the confidence they need to find their way forward – whoever they are, and whatever their problem.

General advice

We offer advice on a wide range of issues including debt, benefits, housing, employment, relationships, discrimination, healthcare, education, cost of living and energy. We're also a referral agency for local food banks. We can discuss your situation with you and supply you with a food bank voucher where appropriate.

Housing

Are you having problems with rent or mortgage payments? Been threatened with eviction? Experiencing problems with your landlord? We can help you understand your rights and responsibilities.

Gypsy, Roma & Traveller project

Our GRT adviser can give advice on a wide range of issues impacting the community.

Debt advice

Each year, our specialist debt team deals with over 2,500 debt issues and helps manage total indebtedness of over £1.5 million. We understand there are many reasons people get into debt. The advice we provide is non-judgmental and is focused on exploring ways to manage your finances.

Energy

Our Energy Team can give advice on how to save energy at home, and how to maximise your income. We're also able to supply fuel vouchers where appropriate.

How can we help you?

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: 10am-12pm, 43 Stone Street, Faversham

Thursday: 10am-12pm, West Faversham Community Centre

Friday: 10am-12pm, 43 Stone Street, Faversham

Telephone advice

Call Adviceline on freephone 0808 278 7979 (Mon-Fri 10am-3.30pm)

Email advice

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

Debt advice. Request a call back from our specialist money advice team at www.citizensadviceSwale.uk/debt
To stay up to date with our opening times, please visit www.citizensadviceSwale.uk or follow us on Facebook.

citizens
advice



But Love Remains

by Audrey Keen

Best clover gone,
Wheat cut and only brown earth clods live on.
The clouds like junket,
Swirl and sweep and move
As wood rooks come observe, approve.
And trees unnerved by winds that call
Cannot console the dying leaves which fall
As shapeless paths acquire their covering,
And bracken bends to touch in love
The bare trees' dismal colouring.



Together in Boots

Join us for a monthly mindful walk through woodland

Leaving Doddington Church at 2pm and returning for tea & cake at 2.45pm

Humans and well-behaved dogs all welcome

On Fridays 26th September, 24th October, 28th November,

Enquiries to Lissie on 07790 287878
lissie1710@gmail.com



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Christmas Trees 2025

Christmas trees are available again this year. The arrangement, unchanged over the last 35 years, is for you to contact us by email, phone or text to book a time for a visit here to inspect and select your tree. - then to return and collect it from late November or nearer Christmas.

Trees vary in size between 5ft and 16 ft in different shapes, colours and aroma with the larger sizes suitable for schools, churches, village halls and outside spaces.

The arrangement is for you to make a donation for your tree. This year 70% will be returned to your nominated Parish Church or charity of your choice, with the balance being divided between the listed 25 charities.

Last year, a total of £14,035 was donated to 50 local Parish Churches and all the charities.

Please contact us:

- By email on nashsfarmhouse@btinternet.com
- By phone on 01795 532596 or 07910 248 308

Many thanks.

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



A VERY BRITISH ART FORM - THE STORY OF PANTOMIME

Pantomime has been an essential part of the theatrical repertoire for over 300 years. Drury Lane

Theatre performances in the 18th century developed from the Italian Commedia dell'arte and later became opportunities for political satire. But during the 19th century the fairy-tale story plots we are familiar with were established and the introduction of Music Hall entertainers into panto created many of the traditions that we know as the Christmas pantomime today.

Speaker: Malcolm Jones

Thursday 13th November 2025 in the Parish Hall, Charing



Doors open at 7.30pm, Talk starts prompt at 8pm
CHARING AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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



Throwley Carol Service Choir

The annual Carol Service will be held at St. Michael & All Angels in Throwley on Sunday 21st December at 5pm. Anyone interested in joining the choir for that occasion please email David Elvin at david.j.elvin@gmail.com. It will be mainly traditional congregational carols with a few pieces to be sung by the choir. There will be a number of rehearsals in December before the service.



Christmas Singing Workshop

Come and learn some lesser known carols! All taught by ear, no experience needed. Saturday 29th November from 2pm - 5pm at Norton Village Hall ME13 0SW Workshop led by Christine Adams & Lissie Bayford. Workshop fee £15 includes tea & cake. Booking and enquiries to adamsbayford@gmail.com 07790 287878



THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

Wednesday 12th November at 2.30pm in Egerton Millennium Hall, Elm Close TN27 9DS

EVERY COLOUR UNDER THE SUN: an insight into the colours used in dyeing.

Our lecturer SUSAN KAY-WILLIAMS is President of the Society of Dyers and Colourists and was previously Chief Executive of the Royal School of Needlework.



Visitors are always very welcome at £8 (just turn up and pay on the door), refunded if you join. Membership costs £45 for 10 lectures. For further information please contact Christine Willis, our Membership Secretary via cmwillis75@gmail.com or 01233 756377.

Visit our website

www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk

Image provided by lecturer



NEW FOODBANK LOCATION!

**EASTLING VILLAGE HALL,
KETTLE HILL ROAD,
ME13 0BA**

**STARTING MONDAY,
15 SEPTEMBER**

Every two weeks

1.30pm to 3.30pm

Monday, 15 and 29 September; 13 and 27 October;
10 and 24 November; 8 and 22 December.

If you are struggling financially, we're here to help.

**If you have any questions, please call our
answerphone: 0793 872 0604**

Our main Foodbank centre continues every
Wednesday and Friday, 1.30-4pm, Gospel Mission,
Tanners Street, Faversham ME13 7JL



Charity registration number 1085413



**Faversham Foodbank will also
accept donations of food at the hall
during the above open hours,
OR they can be left on the back pews
in Eastling Church, open every day
9am - 4pm.**

Eastling Parish Council

The Parish Council Meeting
will be held on Tuesday
11th November at 6.30pm
in Eastling Village Hall,
committee room.
All are welcome to attend.

Defibrillators in our Villages

Ready for anyone to use in an
emergency, please find the
nearest to you:

Eastling sited at 1 Manor
Lees, the Street, Eastling.
ME13 0BE

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

Eastling Neighbourhood Watch



Village Warden 07794 010 394
or 01795 890848

Police 101 Emergency 999

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

The curse of hare coursing is still heavily
around; there was a really nasty occurrence in
the Stalisfield area. If hare coursing is seen
please ring 999 giving location and vehicle
number if possible.

There has been an instance of two teenagers
lighting an unauthorised bonfire on private
residential property, fortunately the contents
were damp and no great damage was caused.
The police have been informed and the names
of those responsible passed on.

There are still many scams doing the rounds,
so please be very careful about any information
that you pass on over the telephone. The police
or banks will never would ask for your bank
details and, unless you are 100% sure, never
pass your details over the phone landline or
mobile.

The dark afternoons and evenings are now with
us so please take extra care whilst driving.

Have a good month, take care, Alan

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Stalisfield and Otterden Children's Christmas Party Sunday, 7th December 2:00pm at Stalisfield Village Hall

Festive fun and games start at 2pm - PROMPT!
All children are invited for Prizes, Presents and Party
Food plus a visit from Father Christmas!
Pre-booking required contact Julie at
julie.beames@hotmail.co.uk
Text - 07584 798415 (evenings)
BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

The Stalisfield Pantomime: The Emperor's New Clothes

Performances: Friday 5th & Saturday 6th December
7 pm in Stalisfield Village Hall

Tickets: £7 (£4 children) from Sharon 01795 890415 or
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More information inside on centre pages



Youth Group in Stalisfield

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, craft table, tuck shop (everything 10 - 50p), free cake and drink.
- Wednesday 12th & 26th November
- Contact Catherine 07929 928 046 or clnwood@doctors.org.uk or see our Facebook page.

**New Members
Welcome**



Eastling Primary School News

Eastling Primary School have had a fabulous first term of the new academic year. Our new Reception children have settled very well into school life in Acorn class. We were delighted to welcome a number of other new children who have joined us across the school. It is lovely to see how they have quickly become part of our school community.

Willow class started their weekly swimming lessons at Faversham Pool and it is great to see the progress they are all making and how much they enjoy this part of the school curriculum.

The school enjoyed their first outdoor learning day of the year on Thursday 25th September. The weather was kind to us which always helps and all the children worked with Wild Classroom as part of the day. Acorn, Maple and Birch classes

made apple crumble and custard using the apples which had been harvested from Joe's Garden. Acorns went for a walk to the woods where they collected sticks and autumn leaves to create their own tree sculptures. Maple and Birch classes used natural materials to do some place value work and also went to the woods where they collected leaves. The children then used the leaves to make their own creatures for the church display.

Willow class re-enacted spear fishing, had a bow and arrow hunt, created cave paintings using natural pigments, made stone bracelets and cooked venison on skewers. Oak class re-enacted the Battle of Bosworth, made Tudor chicken stew and used water colours to paint purple headed mountain designs for the church display.

On Thursday 16th October Maple and Birch classes visited Teynham church as part of their Religious Education learning about stained glass windows. They were shown around the church by Mr Baxter.

The school annual Harvest Festival took place on Monday 6th October at St Mary's. The children donated food for the Faversham Food Bank. The whole school also created artwork based on the hymn 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' which were used to decorate the church for their flower festival.

Our Friends of Eastling School (FOES) have already been very busy holding weekly ice cream sales; organising a Macmillan coffee and cake sale raising an incredible £312.34 and the school Halloween disco.

Update from local MP Helen Whately

This year's Remembrance Day will commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II.

I wish I had asked my Grandparents how they felt when the war ended. Sadly, they're no longer alive and with them their memories of that day.

As the years go by fewer people are around who can tell us what that time was like - the sacrifices, the sadness and the relief when loved ones made it home safe.

It's all the more reason to make sure we take the time on Remembrance Day to recollect the horrors of the two world wars and why people made the ultimate sacrifice.

It comes down to freedom. Fighting for our freedom and independence as a country. And backing our allies in the face of aggression, because we know countries who value freedom must stick together.

We entered the First World War when Germany violated Belgium's neutrality, and we entered the Second World War after Nazi Germany invaded Poland. We knew full well Hitler's ambitions would not stop there.

Eighty years on, once again there is war in Europe and once again Britain

has been at the forefront of standing up for freedom. I am proud that the UK is one of Ukraine's strongest allies as they defend themselves against Russian aggression.

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 the UK has provided Ukraine with military, financial and humanitarian support and welcomed over 200,000 Ukrainian refugees. This war is causing tremendous suffering, and like most people I want it to end.

But it shouldn't end on Putin's terms. That will simply embolden him. The lesson of the past 20 years is clear that appeasement does not work with Putin, as he only comes back for more.

Two days after Hitler invaded Poland, Churchill, as the newly appointed First Lord of the Admiralty, said:

"This is not a question of fighting for Danzig or fighting for Poland. We are fighting to save the whole world from the pestilence of Nazi tyranny and in defence of all that is most sacred to man."

In the same way, by supporting Ukraine we are helping to defend Europe from Putin's aggression.



This Remembrance Day I will be reflecting on the service and sacrifice of all those who have defended our freedoms and our way of life.

Last year I joined the congregation of St Peter and St Paul's church in Lynsted on Remembrance Sunday; the year before that I was in Faversham and in 2022 I went to St Mary's and All Saints Church in Boxley. This year I will join a congregation in another part of my constituency. I am always struck by the number of people, of all ages, who attend Remembrance Sunday services to remember those who died for our freedom.

As ever, if there is anything I can do to help you, please contact me.

helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk / 0207 219 6472

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Wonder and Worship

"I was travelling, and out early in the morning: at first there was a vast fog; but, by the time that I was seven or eight miles from home towards the coast, the sun broke out into a delicate warm day. We were then on a large heath or common, and I could discern, as the mist began to break away, great numbers of swallows (*hirundines rusticae*) clustering on the stunted shrubs and bushes, as if they had roosted there all night. As soon as the air became clear and pleasant they all were on the wing at once; and, by a placid and easy flight, proceeded on southward towards the sea".

How many church leaders today have time to enjoy their surroundings? Gilbert White was a vicar who became famous for his observations about the flora and fauna of his parish. His letters about the local wildlife through the seasons were so beautifully written that they are still in print today, more

than 200 years after they were first published as *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selbourne*.

White is a great example of someone who saw science and faith in harmony. He writes that he hopes his readers will be inspired to "pay a more ready attention to the wonders of the Creation". His stories are often so vivid that he gets away with packing in quite a bit of scientific detail, painting a more accurate picture of the wonderful events he observed as he travelled around the countryside. White's book is one of the classics of nature writing, and there's even an apocryphal story online that this is one of the most printed books in the country, after the Bible and Shakespeare.

White may have been one of those people with a capacity for endless activity, or perhaps he took rather more care over natural history than his vocation. Either way, I do think that

anyone - from the parish priest to the youngest member of the congregation - could learn from his appreciation of creation. It is well worth spending ten minutes every now and again staring into a bush, pond or tree - especially in winter when it's easy to hurry indoors and put the kettle on. Experiencing wildlife first-hand is wonderful fuel for our worship of God and care for His creation. As Psalm 111 says, "Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them" (NIV).

*(White's book can be downloaded for free at <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1408>)

Dr Ruth Bancewicz is based at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge, and writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.


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