

Y-Generation

Youth Club
Starting again on
Sunday 7th January
6.30-8pm in
Eastling Village Hall
Year 7's +
For more info contact Jo
07857 896 664 or email
eastlingyouthworker@hotmail.co.uk

*Why is it difficult to keep a secret at the North Pole?
Because your teeth tend to chatter.*

S Club

meets in Eastling Village Hall
Sunday 21st January
10am
All primary school aged
children welcome.

*What do they sing at a snowman's party?
Freeze a jolly good fellow.*

Youngstyle

in Eastling Church
Sunday 28th January
10am
Half an hour of fun and
teaching. All welcome.

*One Eskimo asked another where his
mother came from. 'Alaska,' was his reply.
'Oh, never mind,' said his friend. 'I'll ask
her myself!'*



Craft Club

5th & 19th January
6.15 - 7.15pm
Champion Hall
50p a session.
Contact number 532756.

NEW SATURDAY CLUB @ Eastling Village Hall

10.00am - 11.00am on 13th & 27th January 2007

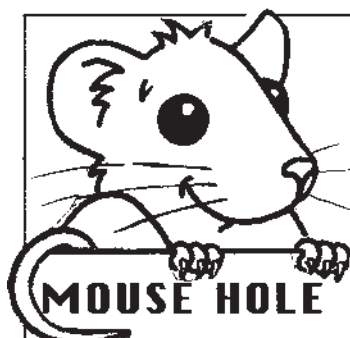
NEW

4 U

School Year 3 & above.

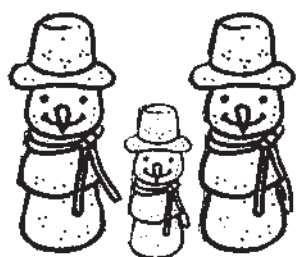
Have fun doing different stuff each week
with your mates.

More info contact Jo 07857896664



Edible Snowmen

Make edible snowmen with large white marshmallows. Stack three on top of each other holding them together through the centre with a cocktail stick. *(Be careful, the sticks are sharp, you may need an adult to help you)* Cut a circle from edible rice paper to make a hat brim, thread onto the stick and finish with another marshmallow. Make a scarf by plaiting together different coloured sweetie bootlaces.



Make tiny snowmen from mini marshmallows!

'Praise the Lord!
It is good to sing
praise to our God,
it is pleasant and
right to praise him...

...He gives a command
to the earth,
and what he says is
quickly done.
He spreads snow like
a blanket and scatters
frost like dust.
He sends hail like gravel,
no one can endure the
cold he sends.

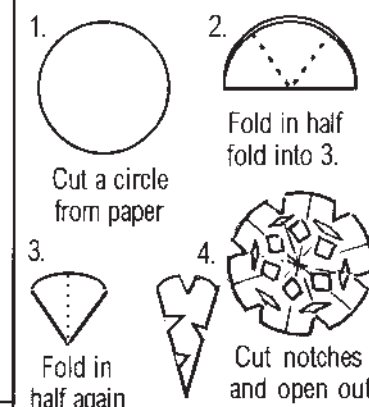
Then he gives a
command and the
ice melts, he sends
the wind and the
water flows.'
-from Psalm 147

Snowflakes
are six sided
ice crystals

25cm
snow is about
the same as
3cm rain

No two
snowflakes
are the
same

CUT A SNOWFLAKE



CATCHING
SNOWFLAKES
Put a sheet of dark paper in a freezer to chill. Take it outside as the snow falls and look at the snowflakes through a magnifying glass as they fall onto the paper.

Behold I stand at the door ...

My Granny was always very superstitious. Every year, my brothers who are dark and 'handsome' (!) had to undertake "First Footing". The custom of "First Footing" is for a dark haired man to enter the house with coal, food and symbols of plenty and they have to be the first to enter the house at the beginning of the year. It was always a nightmare for us to ensure that no-one visited my Granny before my brothers.

The beginning of a new year seems to be regarded by all with an air of enormous expectation. The coming of the 1st January is going to transform everything for the better. Human nature seems to dictate that we must challenge ourselves to begin afresh, to turn over a new leaf and be the person we have always wanted to be. This is the time that we are really going to achieve our goals, that we are really going to kick our worst habit, and that we are really going to be the new 'me'. Unless we have enormous amounts of will power, human nature also seems to dictate that by the 7th January our new regimen evaporates as we get back into our normal routine. Yet, for another year we have managed be filled with hope, joy and expectation. If you need extra encouragement, St Paul writes to the Romans (Chapter 12 verse 3) that we are advised to "be transformed by the renewing of our minds".

After our post-Turkey Torpor, we might still recall that hope, joy and expectation are the message of Christ's birth into our world. This is the child who is the Messiah, the Wonderful Counsellor, and the Prince of Peace.

Over two thousand years, the birth of a child in a stable has moved generations of people to hope again in the midst of a seemingly hopeless world. The expectation of the Advent period is transformed into a celebration of joy and hope in the birth of Christ. It still has the power to transform us today.

Good News Parish Magazine January 2007



The year 2007 is a new beginning for this magazine "Good News". It will now be covering solely the parishes of Eastling, Stalisfield and Otterden. We give thanks for those who have worked tirelessly in the past to edit, produce and distribute this magazine. We also encourage those who are working now with its new remit. We hope that you will feel encouraged to add and share your Good News about the communities we live in by contributing to this magazine, for we all make it what it is.

This year is also a time of reflection for the churches in Eastling and Stalisfield. We will be welcoming Bishop Graham, Bishop of Maidstone on 31st January to the parishes for a visit. If you are around in the villages that day you will see him visiting the some of the highlights of the parishes. It will also be a time for the churches to reflect on their outreach and ministry in our communities. So we ask, please remember Bishop Graham and his visit in your prayers on 31st January, and for all those who are involved in his visit.

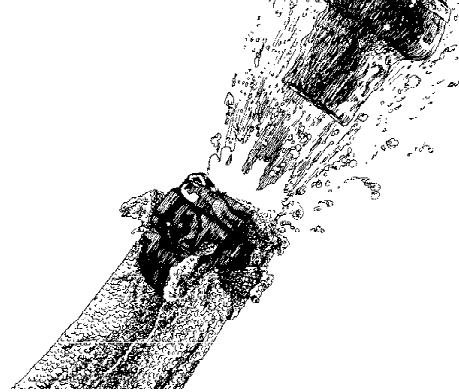
Finally, Dag Hammarskjold (former Secretary-General of the United Nations) wrote, "For all that has been thanks, for all that shall be YES"!

May God bless you richly in the coming year.

Caroline Pinchbeck

Priest-in-Charge Eastling and Stalisfield with Otterden

Happy New Year



Rural Report

In addition to ministering in the parishes of Eastling and Stalisfield, I am also Rural Advisor for Canterbury and Rochester Dioceses.

Some of the projects happening in January are -

- Sunday 14th January - Plough Sunday at Rochester Cathedral at 3.15pm Preacher - Revd Caroline Pinchbeck
- Development of Living Churchyards project which will be facilitated with the help of Pat Thompson (Stalisfield).
- Rural Practitioners Group - for all who are involved with local churches and their communities.
- Your prayers for all who work and live in the countryside, and the ongoing challenges with which it is faced.

The news magazine for the combined parishes of Eastling, Stalisfield and Otterden

The Rev Dr Roger Roberts, senior pastor of the International Baptist Church, Brussels, considers ...

St Paul's New Year resolution – for you

Ever wonder what St Paul would have wanted for you this coming year? His letters to the Thessalonians give us a good idea.

Paul was writing to the young Christians of Thessalonica. He had led them to faith in Jesus while he and Silas had been in Greece during Paul's second great missionary journey.

By the time Paul and Silas left Thessalonica, the little group of converts had become the fledgling church in Thessalonica, and very dear to Paul indeed. He thanks God for them as his 'joy and crown'.

And so now, separated by long miles, he sends them his heart's desire for them:

Finally brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you... to do this more and more... (I Thessalonians 4:1)

One of the great things about our loving, heavenly Father is his unconditional love for us, and his delight in us, whatever our level of attainment. He is pleased by our

progress, however small it may be. Paul would say that we can please the Father this year by bringing certain areas of our lives even more under his control.

Top of the list is to live a life of purity, and to grow in our 'sanctification' – which is a theological word that means simply letting the Holy Spirit transform our negative, unworthy behaviour patterns into patterns of holy behaviour. His long-term aim is to make us Christ-like. And as part of this, Paul urges us to do more acts of love for others.

Some of us will try and get more physically fit this year, but Paul says we need to be more and more spiritually fit. It may be good to lose pounds, but Paul urges you to GAIN - spiritually. Here is one area of life in which we can never gain too much!

In 2007, a resolution to please God will glorify him, and that makes a difference for eternity.

Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes

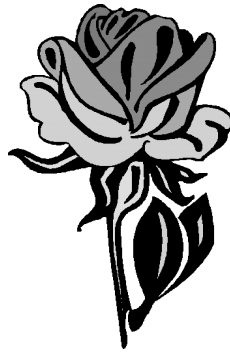
Reading the December 2006 Good News Parish Magazine and seeing my name mentioned in the letter from the Good News production team brought on a spell of nostalgia. Has it really been 21 years and one month since the first plucky group gathered to write, edit, print, fold and distribute the first issue of what developed into a free, benefice-wide monthly newsletter aimed at all the residents of Ospringe, Eastling, Stalisfield and Otterden. (Were you aware that the name of the Good News was suggested by a pupil from Eastling School?) By the by, there were 11 advertisers in the Dec. 2006 issue that had the faith and interest to offer their support in December 1985.

A bit of sadness at the dissolution of the benefice as we knew it then, but with a feeling of joy that the idea of a magazine for all would continue although in different bailiwicks. After all I thought, when cells mature, do they not divide and multiply? And isn't reaching one's majority a time for moving out and

and forward for new fields to conquer? All that accumulated wisdom and skill to be devoted to two publications, not only the one. Who knows what further mutations may occur in the future as there are additional divisions and more readers to hear the "Good News"?

So may I say thank you to all those who have had anything to do with helping to raise the baby to maturity and that definitely includes those who read this monthly offering. In December we celebrated the birth of another baby who lived so many years ago and who lives in ever so many people today through their faith in Him. May the rebirth of the two Benefice magazines continue to carry the message of the real "Good News" to all who turn the pages. Belated greetings and wishes for a happy, healthy 2007 to all.

From the Revd Paul S. Mayerson, Rector of the former benefice of Eastling with Ospringe and Stalisfield with Otterden, 1985-1990.



Thank you

May I say a heartfelt "thank you" to all the kind people who have sent cards and flowers, visited, phoned, done my shopping and prayed for me during the last 6 weeks while I had a knee replacement op and recovery. I feel very blessed to have such kind and loving friends.

I look forward to seeing you as I return to duties over Christmas.

God bless you.

with love

Angela Cheeseman.

a picture of England or a tea cloth. It so happened at this hospital our leader produced a tea cloth from Aylesbury, which included a picture of Stoke Mandeville in the corner. I quickly whispered to him that this was the top Paraplegic hospital in the world, which he pointed out to the interpreter. You could see the eyes of our hosts popping out of their heads at the prestige accompanying this delegation!

Now we come back to the missionary foundation of this large modern hospital, because in the foyer is a beautifully laid out permanent exhibition in recognition of its founders. In glass cases are enlarged photographs of the Bible Christian missionaries, who came all the way from Jersey, with a description of their lives and work in Zhaotong. Just to make it even more interesting to me, I had been showing our party in the coach a set of 1976 Jersey postage stamps, (autographed by the designer, who had spoken at our stamp club quite recently). The stamps commemorate

the Centenary of Jersey's first woman doctor: Lilian Grandin. Born in 1876 and educated at the Jersey Ladies' College, she offered for medical work in the Bible Christian's Church Mission. Following training at

Edinburgh, Moorfields Eye Hospital and London's School of Tropical Medicine, she arrived in Shanghai following a 6-week sea voyage from Southampton. She then travelled up the Yangtze by steamer, transferring to smaller vessels on her 2000-mile river journey; followed by a week's travel on horseback, through country much troubled by brigands. In Zhaotong, her home for nearly ten years in all, she combined the duties of hospital doctor - the only one for a time in a district as large as France - with nursing training for local Chinese women. Imagine my pleasant surprise, when in the hospital exhibition I saw another set of the very stamps, which I had brought with me, depicting Lilian Grandin. Equally surprising, in the local church where we had refreshments, rather more than a banana and Chinese tea this time, we saw tombstones from missionary graves desecrated in the Cultural Revolution, but about to be restored. One of them stood out in particular: 'SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF LILIAN GRANDIN WHO DIED DECEMBER 1924 OF TYPHUS CONTRACTED WHILE MINISTERING TO THE SICK AND STARVING.' She was 48.

Coming back to the town of Luzhou, where we crossed the Yangtze on a ferry--- still a sizeable river, although 2000 miles upstream-- we continue the missionary theme. Pat Shannon, a lady in our party, specially wished to visit the village where her own father had worked and been killed by bandits in 1937. Her son, Sam, was also with us and he specially wanted to see the ongoing Christian work that had been pioneered by his grandfather in this village of Shimenkhan ('Stone Gateway'). The coach journey from Luzhou to Shimenkhan, climbing precipitous roads to 9,000 feet in the mountains was one of the most exhilarating three hours I have ever experienced! On arrival, the villagers all

turned out in their Miao national costume to greet us on the path into their little church, which has recently been re-built. After the usual greetings and songs we walked up to several missionary graves, which were situated on a mound above the church. The grave of Pat's father, the Rev. Heber Goldsworthy, now restored after its destruction in the Cultural Revolution, was clearly marked and she and Sam laid some wild flowers at its foot. The choir sang and we said some prayers. We walked on to see the large stone house which Mr. Goldsworthy had built and also the school where he was killed. It is a great joy to know that the Christian Church is thriving in this little mountain village pioneered by Methodist Missionaries. How often has the 'blood of the martyrs' been 'the seed of the Church'!

(Continued from previous pages)

One hymn which we all knew and sang, either in Chinese or English, has been a favourite of mine since school days at Eltham College, the 'School for Sons of Missionaries', 'In Christ there is no East or West,' to the tune 'Kilmarnock'.

Times and places might vary, but most evenings our cheerful, efficient leader, Simon Brown, would say something like "Cases outside your door by 7 o'clock, breakfast served on floor 28; we leave at 8." So, on by coach to Luzhou, another city in SW China, where we were to stay the next night and attend a fine service of worship on the Sunday morning. Although the sermon was in Chinese, we felt the conviction and passion of the preacher, who was one of our interpreters - a very able young pastor who lectures in the New Testament and Church History at the Theological Seminary in Hefei, where her husband is also a pastor. Having told her that I watched a table tennis match on television the previous evening, she said that she had been table tennis champion for 7 years when she was a student at the Nanjing Theological Seminary. Her husband was the men's Champion! They have one son aged 11, but no more children, because of the Government's one-child policy since 1979.

Hefei is the capital of the Province of Anhui, where I was born at Anqing. This was quite exciting news for Chen Karl-Rong (whom our leader christened Grace), because the pastor of one of the Anqing churches was her classmate, with whom she keeps in touch. I showed her many of my parents' photos and she recognized the Church of the Saviour, which was decorated for Christmas in 1930, and is still being used as a place of worship. By post or email I hope to link up with the Church in my birthplace; and also to make contact with church leaders in the town of Zaoshi, near the huge city of Wuhan. This was where my father returned to China with the London Missionary Society in 1939, until he was interned by the Japanese in Shanghai, from 1943-45.

From 1966-1976 it was Chinese Christian blood, rather than foreign missionary blood, that was shed. In several places we heard at first hand of those who suffered greatly during the Cultural Revolution. At Kunming International Church, now with a membership of several thousand, a Bible in the Miao language was carefully passed round our group. Rescued from a fire, started by the Red Guards, it was charred at the edges, but had been regularly used for worship before being returned each time to its hiding place under a large rice bowl! If only our Bibles meant as much to us! What does our faith really cost us?

Here in Kunming, in a 200year old restaurant - full of atmosphere, our evening feast was hosted by Li Congmin, Chairman of the Yunnan Christian Council and Principal of the local Theological Seminary. He had been a teenager at the time of the Cultural Revolution and his father had been put in prison for 7 years simply because he held fast to his Christian belief. When he was released he, like other political prisoners, was given a certificate by the government saying that he was a good man and not a bad man! This was also accompanied by some financial compensation, as the Government changed tack and tried to make amends. Little did those Christians who suffered then know what blessings God was preparing for the days ahead. Today, the Christian Church in China, though still critically short of Pastors, is growing fast in faith, understanding and numbers. Having said that, we must remember that in the same Yunnan province where there are something like 800,000 Christians, the population is 44 million! What a Christian challenge ahead in a rapidly changing China! Above all, it is a challenge to our informed and fervent prayer. Noel Shepherd (retired URC minister) travelled with the 'Friends of the Church in China', for 3 weeks during May 2006.

Prayer Pointers January 2007



Sundays Give thanks to God for Christian worship around the world.

Mondays For unity between Christian denominations.

Tuesdays For those suffering from seasonal affective disorder (winter depression).

Wednesdays For homeless people and the Scrine Foundation in Canterbury.

Thursdays For Archbishop Rowan, Bishops Stephen and Graham.

Fridays For our youth worker, Jo, and the work she hopes to accomplish this year.

Saturdays For families working hard to stay together.

Services in our Churches

7th January 2007 Epiphany

1 John 5. 5-13, Mark 1. 7-11

Eastling	10 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW) (Crèche available)
Stalisfield	10 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)

14th January Epiphany 2

1 Corinthians 12. 1-11, John 2. 1-11

Eastling	8 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
Eastling	10.30 a.m.	Freestyle (Crèche available)
Stalisfield	10 a.m.	Morning Prayer (BCP)

21st January Epiphany 3

1 Corinthians 12. 12-31a, Luke 4. 14-21

Eastling	10 a.m.	Morning Prayer (BCP)
Village Hall	10 a.m.	S Club
Stalisfield	10 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)

28th January Epiphany 4

1 Corinthians 13, Luke 2. 22-40

Eastling	10 a.m.	Youngstyle
Stalisfield	8 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)

4th February 3rd Sunday before Lent

1 Corinthians 15. 1-11, Luke 5. 1-11

Eastling	10 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW) (Crèche available)
Stalisfield	10 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)

(BCP) Service taken from the Book of Common Prayer, 1662.

(CW) Service follows Common Worship Liturgy, 2000

Mid Week Worship at Eastling

2.15pm Celtic Prayer every Wednesday in church -
20 minutes for prayer and reflection

Monday Prayer Group	2pm Seven Acres, Newnham Lane.
Tuesday Study Group	8pm The Barn, Pinks Farm
Thursday Prayer Group	10.15am Pinks Farm.

From the Registers

Baptisms

JOSHUA PEARCE McLoughlin
VICTORIA Farley
10th December 2006 at Eastling

Confirmation

HELEN BARBARA Fulljames
22nd November 2006 at Canterbury Cathedral

Funeral

Clara Adalaide HALES
19th December at Eastling

Ministry in our Parishes

Priest in Charge
Reverend Caroline Pinchbeck (01795 890487)
The Rectory, Newnham Lane, Eastling
Faversham ME13 0AS

Curate
Reverend Angela Cheeseman (01795 892124)
New House Farm, Eastling. ME13 0BN

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

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

Churchwardens

Eastling
Mr S. Youle (01795 890368)
Mrs. A. Smith (01795 890469)

Stalisfield with Otterden

Joint Warden {
Mrs. J. Baker (01622 858332)
Mrs S. Gaind (01622 858551)
Mrs P. Thompson (01795 890376)

Contacting the Church's staff

For general enquiries and for specific enquiries about Weddings or Baptisms please phone 01795 890487. If you would like the parish staff to conduct a funeral, either in our churches or elsewhere, please ask the funeral director to make the necessary arrangements.

February Good News

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



Helen Fulljames, supported by many friends and family members, on her Confirmation in Canterbury Cathedral on 22nd November, pictured with Bishop Graham.

When we arrived at the magnificent new Shanghai airport at Poodong there were two categories of arrivals: CHINESE NATIONALS and FOREIGNERS. The 'Foreigners' queues were overlong and we were diverted to 'Chinese Nationals'. In the truest sense I felt I had come home! Just as St. Paul, from Tarsus, was born a Roman, I was born in Anqing, Anhui province, a Chinese. (Well, not exactly Chinese, although on my RAF National Service identity card I was actually listed for over a year as Nationality: 'Chinese' --- though my parents were born in Britain and were as British as they come!

But as those two queues were mixed together, I remembered that for centuries the Chinese despised foreigners as 'Barbarians', just as the Jews looked down on foreigners as 'Gentiles'. I also remembered those words of St Paul in his Letters to the Romans, Galatians and Ephesians about the Jews and the Gentiles being one in Christ. 'He has broken down the wall of partition; and in the Saviour we are one Body - the Church.' The 'Friends of the Church in China' travel in the spirit of partnership: our Chinese friends and ourselves belong to each other in Jesus Christ and His universal Church.

In 1949 Mao tse-Tung liberated China, not only from foreigners, but also from the Nationalist Government of Chang-kai-chek, who fled to Taiwan. Very soon the Chinese Protestant Christians under Bishop Ting were reformed as the Three-Self Patriotic Movement. To be precise: 'The Christian Movement for Self-Government, Self-Support and Self-Propagation'. And that is how it is today with its headquarters in Shanghai, under the leadership of the China Christian Council. One of the happy surprises I had here was that the beautiful, newly-furnished rooms of the Council where we met, were originally the ancillary premises of the old Anglican Cathedral. For 50 years they had been local government offices for a central district of Shanghai; while the adjacent Cathedral building, no longer being a place of worship was left in a state of decay. This had particular interest for me, as my parents were married there in June 1929. I have photographs of them taken after their wedding in the Cathedral grounds with my mother's bridesmaid, May Price, her good friend from the China Inland Mission. With some difficulty I managed to get past builders' scaffolding into the darkened Cathedral, which is having a major refurbishment at the expense of the National Government. When it is opened it will, I am sure, be the centre of lively Christian worship - one of many Churches being built or reopened in China today.

Knowing that the Chinese Church is very keen to be Chinese and not dependent on for-

Christians in CHINA

(Continued from centre pages)

eigners, especially Westerners, I wondered whether it would be wise to bring photos of my parents and even to mention that they had been missionaries. I needn't have worried. At every church we visited, not only were we enthusiastically welcomed, but also the founders of their churches, including former missionaries, were highly honoured. At one little church in the town of Xinhua, Norwegian missionaries had pioneered the church. On the wall were somewhat faded photographs of the pastors who came from Norway in the early 1900's and then, a picture of a Lutheran Bishop from Oslo who, about ten years ago, had come to open their new church building. It is now entirely staffed by Chinese. As we ate our customary melon or banana, and sipped our customary hot China tea, I asked a question directed (through our interpreter) to a pleasant official, from the Government Religious Affairs bureau. Everywhere we went there was someone in this capacity, who was always friendly and practically helpful. I asked him with a smile, knowing that he could only say 'yes', whether he enjoyed working with the pastor of this church. He replied (smiles all round) 'Yes, very much' and enthused about the quality of her work, especially with the children of the neighbourhood.

In earlier years the policy of religious registration had a restrictive intention, but now the Government seems benign. There may, of course, be exceptions. The well of silence is deep. Certainly the rift between the Vatican and the Government is far from healed. At another church we were told that a local Communist party secretary had recently become a Christian. This is rather unusual and our interpreter thought it best to keep the conversation in English rather than translate it into Chinese for the benefit of the Religious Affairs advisor! (She told me afterwards that this was a 'sensitive' issue within the Communist Party, though not strictly forbidden.)

One of the projects we visited was in the hilly countryside of the Naxi district of Xinhua county. Walking up a single track through woods and fields to the village BingLing, we were told that Mr Chen Yong Cai was working in the fields. He is quite a senior man, his face bronzed with the sun, and he has been blind for the last twenty years. Along with many others he has been helped through a Christian-inspired organization called Amity, which has arranged Cataract operations, medicines and Occupational therapy such as basketball. Soon Mr Chen and his wife joined us for a simple lunch provided by the local Christians, sitting on the terrace. During this relaxed time some of us wandered into the house, which was well made with mud walls and a wooden roof with clay tiles-cool in

summer and warm in winter. Inside the house was a room, where I was somewhat surprised to find three pigs! (By the way, the Chinese consume half of the world's pork!) Next door was the kitchen with a large open stove in the centre where soup was boiling, then came the main living room opening out onto the terrace. On the left were two bedrooms, both with some bunk beds and on the extreme left a television. Amazingly, in the very poorest of places you may find power laid on for television and, more recently, thanks to Amity, piped water. Through our interpreter we heard a little about Mr Chen. He is a committed Christian and is very grateful for all that God has given to him through the church. We were able to ask questions and I had noticed there were quite a few beds in his house. Did he have a family who came to stay? He replied that he had a son. I thought there still seemed to be quite a lot of beds for one son, even if he brought his family with him. Mr Chen then said that he had four daughters (daughters are rather second class in China!). I then said to the interpreter 'I have a son and four daughters---please tell Mr Chen', which he did. Immediately, Mr Chen leapt to his feet and put out his hand. He was gently guided to where I was sitting and we shook hands. Just one little moment of affection as two Christian people met and exchanged greetings in the remote Chinese countryside.



Our next stop was the huge city of Chengdu, home to a Giant Panda Park, its shy, laid-back residents chewing their late breakfast bamboo shoots. After an encouraging visit to

the regional Theological Seminary and members of the Sichuan Provincial Council, we flew to the smaller town of Zhaotong with its mere 700,000 inhabitants. Here we visited both hospitals of the town, which originated with Bible Christian Missionaries from the Channel Islands in the 1900s. The first of these hospitals was rather run down and obviously served the poorer people, with the church going out of its way to give financial help from Amity funds. The second hospital was the pride and joy of the town. Here we were introduced to the vice-president of the hospital, a woman doctor, and the Communist Party Secretary (with his black buttoned up coat) who, we were quietly told, was once a more powerful figure than he is now! It was our custom in each place to give a present from the 'Friends of the Church in China': to Churches- a religious symbol like a Celtic cross; and to secular establishments, perhaps

Eastling Neighbourhood Watch.

Contact numbers:
 Parish/Village Warden Telephone 07794010394 (all calls taken in confidence)
 Swale NHW office 0808 100 3308 (free)
 E-mail - neighbourhoodwatch.swale@kent.pnn.police.uk
 Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 (24 hours, free and anonymous)
 NHW liaison officer 01795 419212
 Sittingbourne police station 01795 477055
 Emergencies or crime in progress always use 999
 Kent Trading Standards 08457 585 497

Following a spate of thefts from vehicles of satellite navigation systems and other electronic systems from cars it is recommended that all such items where possible are removed along with the fixings. Please lock all items in the boot where possible

There has also been a spate of broken car windows and other incidents on vehicles in the Swale area, as yet it has not spread to our vicinity but please be aware and if it does happen report it.

Please be aware of bogus callers. Anybody who purports to be from any service industry that is unable to show any ID you are happy with, if you are not sure, please call the village warden who will be quite happy to check the persons credentials or call the police.

Lets make 2007 a safe and secure year.

Happy New Year to everybody

Alan Willson



Book Review:

Closer to God for Newcomers

by Belinda Pollard, Scripture Union, £3.99

This special undated edition of 'Closer to God' will appeal to new Christians and seekers, and is ideal for use alongside or following on from an Alpha course. The 40 jargon-free notes based on Luke and Acts will encourage the reader to get to know the real Jesus, find a purpose in life and a love that doesn't wear out. Each is on a double page spread, containing the Bible text, making it extremely user friendly. It also contains helpful introductory material on the Bible and prayer: an invaluable addition for those with no prior Christian knowledge.

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FRIENDS OF EASTLING SCHOOL

Thank you to everyone who has supported the school at the various fundraising events throughout the year.

The Halloween Disco, cinema club, Christmas raffle and disco raised a total of £460 which will go towards items to benefit all the school children.

Future dates for your diaries:

Valentines Disco - Friday 9th February

Pancake Day - Tuesday 20th February

Jumble Sale - Saturday 10th March

1pm - Eastling Village Hall

Easter Egg Hunt and Raffle - Friday 30th March

Race Night - Saturday 31st March (with Painter's Forstal Amenities)

7.30pm - Eastling Village Hall . £1.00 entry. Horses, Jockeys

& Trainers - £2 each. Details to follow.

Jill Seaman, FOES Publicity

jill.b.s@hotmail.co.uk 01795 890252

New Year Freestyle

The sayings of Jesus:

"... I give you a new commandment: love one another."

Sunday 14th January, 10.30am

Eastling Church

Breakfast from 10am

All ages welcome, Crèche available
 Phone 890338 for more information.

Make your New Year's

Resolution a reality

GET FIT NOW!

Kung Fu

for fitness, peace of mind
& self defence

Tuesday 8.00 - 9.00 p.m.

Eastling Village Hall

beginners welcome anytime

(Classes are designed for adults of any fitness level)

For more information call

Laurence and Christina on

01795 890264

EASTLING VILLAGE HALL

To book ring Emma Walker

on 07940 490 896



A beautiful hall in a lovely village location for your wedding, club, sports or meetings.

The large hall has pretty grounds, car parking, meeting rooms and fully equipped facilities for professional or self catering occasion.



Thank You

The Eastling Senior Citizens' Christmas lunch was well attended with 32 members sitting down to a traditional roast followed by Christmas pud. Norman and Marina would very much like to thank everyone for their generous gifts of Christmas fare and garden vouchers, presented to them for their work in organising the event which has been running for 13 years. The gifts are very much appreciated.

May we take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Norman and Marina Neaves.

Celebrate

the new year at Eastling Gardeners' Club

New Year's Party

in the village hall on

Saturday 6th January, 7.30 pm till late.

Food and wine plus a

flower arranging demonstration.

Free to members renewing their subscription (£5)

- otherwise £2.50. Contact number 890160.

Coffee Pop-In

Open to all on Wednesdays in

Eastling Village Hall, 9 - 11am

for tea, coffee, biscuits and a chat.

No charge. Toddlers welcome.

Homemade cakes for sale on

10th January. Contact

number 890338.



Stalisfield Churchyard

Many thanks to Pat and Neal

for all your work clearing and

tidying the churchyard. It is

greatly appreciated by the PCC

and all who visit.



Charing and District

Local History Society

On Thursday 11th January at 8pm, Lea Oakley will give a talk on the History of Walle's Court, St. Margaret at Cliffe.

The story of the house visited on last summer's Cadman outing.

The presentation will be given in the Parish Hall, Charing.

Everyone who is interested will be welcomed when the doors open at

7.45pm. Non-members of the

Society pay £2.

January

2007

Diary

3rd Pop-In reopens	9 - 11am Eastling Village Hall
5th Craft Club	6.15pm Champion Hall
6th Gardeners' Party	7.30pm Eastling Village Hall
7th Y Generation starts again	6.30pm Eastling Village Hall
10th Cakes for Sale at Pop-In	9 - 11am Eastling Village Hall
10th Eastling Parish Council	6pm Eastling Village Hall
10th Fitness Classes resume	6pm, 7pm & 8pm E'ling Village Hall
11th Fitness Pilates resumes	9.15am Eastling Village Hall
11th History Society	7.45pm Charing Parish Hall
13th Saturday Club	11am Eastling Village Hall
15th Deadline for February Good News	
19th Craft Club	6.15pm Champion Hall
27th Saturday Club	11am Eastling Village Hall
30th Magazine folding	2pm Pinks Farm
31st Bishop Graham visits the parishes	
MARCH 10th Jumble Sale	1pm Eastling Village Hall
31st Race Night	7.30pm Eastling Village Hall

Christians in CHINA

Graham Galer from Otterden sent in this piece: "I thought you might be interested in the attached talk, which I have received from Revd. Noel Shepherd. I found it fascinating.

"Noel, who now lives in retirement in Wendover with his wife Ann, is an old and treasured friend, who was my URC minister in the 1970s at the church in Sanderstead I attended for many years. I was his Church Secretary. He went on from Sanderstead to Methodist/URC churches in Trowbridge, Littlehampton and Harrow and has led several 'pilgrimages' to the Franciscan sites around Assisi on which I acted as his amanuensis and interpreter. China means a lot to him and this was an amazing trip."

Please turn the page to read the story.....

Audrey Keen from Otterden has sent in some of her poems. Here is one called

'Friends'

It's always nice to see
 A kind and friendly face.
 To chat a while together
 In a warm and cheerful place.
 To talk about the things you like
 or just about the weather
 The comfort of it is, of course,
 That you two are together.
 The conversation lengthens
 With this your oldest friend
 And any troubled heart or mind
 Now has a chance to mend.