

Sunday School Lesson

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan, in which a man was beaten, robbed and left for dead. She described the situation in vivid detail so her students would catch the drama. Then she asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?"

Jenny, a thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd be sick!"

S Club

Thank You to Leigh and Steph for all the years you organised S Club, introducing Jesus to so many primary school aged children.

S Club will take a break for the time being; new volunteers to help run the club should speak to the church wardens or Canon Lawton.



Mouse Makes

BIBLE NAME WORDSEARCH

ABRAHAM =father of many
ADAM =man
ANDREW =strong man
AMOS =burden bearer
ANNA =gracious
BENJAMIN =son of the right hand
EVE =to breathe
ELIZABETH =fullness of God
ESAU =hairy
DEBORAH =bee
DANIEL =God my judge
DAVID =beloved
GABRIEL = man of God
GAD =fortune
HANNAH =gracious
ISAAC =laughter
JESUS = God is saviour
JOSEPH = increase
JOSHUA = saviour
MATTHEW =gift of God
MOSES =deliverer
NAOMI =beautiful
NATHANIEL =gift of God
PAUL =small, humble
PETER =a rock
PHOEBE =bright, pure
JOHN =God is gracious
PRICILLA =ancient
RUTH =friend
SARAH =princess
SHEM =name
STEPHEN =crowned
TAMAR =palm tree
THOMAS =twin
TIMOTHY =valued of God

Can you find all these bible names in the grid?

Eight days after he was born, Mary and Joseph named their baby with the name the angel Gabriel had given them. It was a special name for a very special baby.. the name JESUS which means GOD IS SAVIOUR

Read: Matthew 1:21 and Luke 2:25-38

Does your name have a meaning?

St Mary's Church presents...

CAFESTYLE

Sunday 26th January 2014
10am - 11am
Eastling Village Hall

A creative time of worship:
Church in a Café setting.
worship discussion reflection
prayer fellowship

Tea, coffee & yummy nibbles will be available throughout the service, which will include sung worship, times of prayer, with opportunities for discussion & reflection, and space for the youngest & oldest to worship altogether

Eastling School News

A very happy and prosperous new year to you all from Eastling School. The start of 2014 is a great time to reflect on how lucky we are as a village to have such a super little school so locally when the move generally is for bigger and bigger town schools! Once more we are in the season of attracting new entrants to the school so , if you have a neighbour with small, school aged children, please recommend us to them. We can provide tours of the school and information at any point during the month!

This month our full range of activities continues and we hope that inclement weather won't cause any cancellations. For the first time we have a "Health and Food" week at school with children involved in healthy food choices and learning about different types of food. This includes a visit from the famous Billingsgate fish market, a cool milk show and a sports tournament as well as a range of other activities in school. These include a visit by the Quantum Theatre group with their production "Invasion of the Summer Puddings" (about health and diet) which has been kindly sponsored by SE Water.

January is also the month for our valiant football team to take part in the next local schools football tournament to retain their champions' title.

School starts after the Christmas break on Monday 6th January.

Dave Walsh

Good News Parish Magazine January 2014



The Stalisfield Hut

Shortly after the end of the 1914-18 war had ended a group of worthy people in Stalisfield raised the sum of £80 to buy a wooden accommodation hut from the Royal Flying Corps airfield at Throwley. The building was then transported to Stalisfield and erected on a small strip of ground leased from the Wheler Estate, with the intention of providing an assembly hall for the purpose of improving the social life of the village.

Mrs Florence "Cissie" Harrison, the church organist for sixty years, was a young woman at the time and left us with an account, penned in 1984 when she was in her 80s living in one of the pair of dwellings then called Oak Cottages. She recalled that the group of benefactors included a number of farmers, the head school teacher, the vicar, the blacksmith, the charcoal burner and a couple of families. She relates that the building was named "The Stalisfield Memorial Hall" in memory of the young lives lost to the village in the conflict. "The Hut" became a common affectionate alternative..

The widely spread village had for the first time a social centre for their parties, whist drives, meetings, dances and concerts. This function was interrupted in 1939 when requisition by the military resulted in a halt to

such activity and much damage to the hut, as Cis Harrison recalls. (She was then Hon. Secretary to the responsible committee). A typed transcript of her account is in the village archive and is reproduced in the Stalisfield Millennium Scrapbook. After the war the Hut was repaired and improved and resumed the function of social hub. Activity dwindled as modern developments brought about a loss of the trades associated with agriculture and then the school, the post office and shops, and the young.

It looked as if the old hut was destined to go the same way but in the last decade social life has taken an upswing. The village developed a new vigour. The dear old Hut is indeed going but only to be replaced by a brand-new bigger village hall. After several years of enthusiastic fund raising we have found favour with the Big Lottery Fund and the rebuild of the Hut is about to start.

We look forward to our new hall as we shed a metaphoric tear for the old and offer the following as a tribute to the old Hut. We include in our thoughts our predecessors who despite the times had the foresight to bequeath us an institution still going strong after close to a century, together with those stalwarts active in the intervening years with its upkeep.

Roy Okell

- ★ The Stalisfield Village Hall

★ Requiem for a WW1, RFC Mess Hut

★ Full ninety years it stood it's ground,
★ At the edge of the village green.
★ Many a time it rocked with sound.
★ Many a sight it's seen.

★ Birthdays, weddings. quizzes, plays,
★ It's seen them all and some,
★ Since our old hut in earlier days,
★ Made brave airmen a home.

★ We loved our hut with its history,
★ The ghosts who'd left their mark.
★ We loved the hint of mystery,
★ Of times lost to the dark.

★ But time and the power of nature's force,
★ Worked tireless on and on.
★ We painted, patched, repaired, of course,
★ But age had finally won.

★ From footings through to leaky roof,
★ From wall to flapping door,
★ Our hut was barely weather proof,
★ Never mind the sagging floor.

★ And so it was with saddened heart,
★ We were forced at last to try
★ To raise the funds for a brand new start
★ Bid our old love "goodbye".

★ The coin has spun, the die is cast.
★ The shadows flit no more.
★ For now has come the time at last,
★ To close the final door.

★ Farewell old friend,
★ you have served us well.

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

The Canon’s Column

I want to do two things in this column for this issue. First of all, I want to share with you some of what I talked about at the Friends of Throwley Church annual reception so graciously hosted by Ronnie MacIntosh. Secondly, I want to say thank you to two committed ladies who have ministered for twelve plus years in the Eastling Church.

Sir Roy Strong, in his 2007 book, A Little History of the English Country Church, has written, “we urgently need to address the impending crisis of the English country church and explain to a large audience what will be lost forever if we fail to act now.” The English country church has been a place where people’s lives have found expression and meaning. It has been at the centre of community; it has been for centuries the centre of the English country village along with the village store, the village post office, the village black smith, the village school and of course the pub. The world has changed and most villages no longer have a shop or a blacksmith or a post office. And fewer and fewer have village schools and pubs. Times have changed and what isn’t used or has been superseded has disappeared.

One of the things we need to remember is that the interior of our churches has changed several times during the 800-1000 year history of the buildings and that seating was added at later times with first of all benches and stools, then later private box pews and finally the arrangement of pews we currently use which in many cases are Victorian. The seating changed to meet the changing needs of the congregation and the changes to the way the liturgy was celebrated.

Prayer Pointers January 2014

Sundays	For peace on earth to all.
Mondays	For the oppressed.
Tuesdays	For the hungry or homeless.
Wednesdays	Give thanks for our wellbeing.
Thursdays	Praise You for Your love and forgiveness.
Fridays	Give thanks for families and friends.
Saturdays	Pray for all who care for others.

The twentieth century was a century of preservation. Various societies were set up to protect ancient buildings and in many cases have locked or frozen us in an era out of step with our present reality. We need to remember that conservation and preservation do not indicate organic life. Life always involves growth and adaptation. The question facing us today is how are we in our churches going to adapt to meet the needs of our current and future congregations? In an age of electronic media, how are we to adapt our churches to projectors and screens, electronic music and more flexible seating?

The Throwley church congregation is beginning to look at some of these questions with their discussions about removing some pews to create a community room at the back of the church. The question then comes – how can the church be adapted to meet the worship and the social needs of the villages of Throwley, or Stalisfield or Eastling?

The second thing I want to do is to thank Leigh Dyson and Steph Youle for the twelve years of dedicated work they have put in with the S Club programme at Eastling Church. This programme has reached out to the community and many children have benefited from the spirituality and Christian faith of these two ladies. It has been with some regret that they have felt it is time to resign from the leadership of this activity. I understand their concerns and appreciate their need to step down. The PCC for St. Mary’s, Eastling, has decided to suspend the S Club for the present time. The wardens will be open to suggestions and commitment for future children’s programmes in the church and will be willing to support anyone who is ready to become involved with such programmes. All programmes connected with the church must follow the safeguarding standards of the Diocese of Canterbury and Church of England and all volunteers must go through the appropriate screening process just as is required for most community volunteer and professional activities today.

Finally, let me extend to you all a Happy New Year and encourage you to make a commitment to do something new and life affirming this year.

Blessings,
Canon Donald J. Lawton

Friends of Throwley Church.

The Friends of Throwley Church have members from all faiths & none, their aim is simple; to keep St Michael & All Angels as a living church. So far the 'Friends' have funded the restoration of the Porch and have just completed the move and restoration of the Vestry. There are around 60 'Friends' despite only being formed a few years ago. If you are interested in joining us please contact Ray Dennis on 01795 890125 or by e mail on ray.dennis1@btinternet.com



Eastling Church January 2014 Flower Rota

- 5th Pippa West and Gaby Turner
- 12th Pippa West and Gaby Turner
- 19th Steph Youle
- 26th Steph Youle
- Feb 2nd Bay Lees

Thank you to everyone who made the church look so spectacular for Christmas and for Eleanor's and Philip's wedding on the 21st December, especially to those who arranged the flowers so magnificently and also to those who helped to polish the brasses and made the church spick and span for the celebrations. Your help is very much appreciated. As the New Year begins, please can I also thank everyone who has contributed to the church by doing flower arrangements throughout last year. Thanks to you, Eastling Church always looks welcoming and beautiful. Bay Lees

A Message from Your County Councillor – December, 2013

After writing my last report in early November I went into a very busy weekend. On Saturday the 9th November some 70 plus residents of Swale East County Division gathered in Boughton Village Hall to hear presentations from various Community and Voluntary Groups. After hearing all presentations a vote was taken and 10 organisations received grants up to £2000 each from my Member Grant Fund. These included Faversham Scouts for a toilet block at their site in Sheldwich, Newnham Parrish Council to support the shopper bus serving Newnham, Doddington and Lynsted and Boughton Park Supporters.

Each year the County Council allocates a sum of money to be spent in each individual County Division at the discretion of the elected County Councillor for that Division. I choose to distribute my Funds in the above manner, known as participatory budgeting, so that taxpayers’ money is, as far as possible, spent in line with the wishes of those residents sufficiently interested to take the time to attend. I feel this is a fairer reflection of the wishes of my electorate than making the decisions myself.

Sunday the 10th November I laid a wreath on behalf of the Mayor and Community of Swale at the War Memorial in Selling and took part in the Remembrance Day Service which followed.



On the 11th November I accompanied the Mayor, Councillor Sue Gent, and students from all seven Swale Senior Schools to Ypres in Belgium for the Remembrance Day Service. We joined the march from the Cathedral to the Menin Gate and laid wreaths on behalf of the people of Swale. Anyone lucky enough to have heard the broadcasts on Radio Kent who travelled with us will know that the students were a credit to their schools and to the Borough. We hope to repeat this trip each year at least up to the centenary on the end of the First World War in 2018.

Our coach emerged from the Channel Tunnel to the news of the intention of the Canterbury and Coastal Clinical Commissioning Group (C4G) to close the Minor Injuries Unit at Faversham Cottage Hospital. This issue then dominated the rest of the month. Both I and our MP Hugh Robertson expressed

our amazement that we had reached this point without being consulted. We demanded and achieved an early meeting with the Leadership of C4G. The matter was referred to both the Full Council Meeting at Swale and the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee at Kent County Council. I spoke extensively at both, and twice we had unanimous all Party support deploring the decision and asking the Secretary of State to intervene. Despite initial intransigence from the Trust we eventually secured a six month extension for the Minor Injuries Unit and an agreement to sit down with us and review the procurement and tendering exercise.

I have to say my article last month on ‘The Bee Summit’ brought forward my largest ever postbag of replies. Highways schemes I referred to in that report at Boughton & Teynham have now received approval after discussion with the respective Parish Council’s.

Since penning last month’s report I have attended Parish Council meetings at Boughton (twice), Oare, Dunkirk, Graveney, Teynham, and Doddington.

There have also been Full Council meetings at both Swale and County, various Kent County Council Committee meetings, 2 Board meetings of the South East England Local Enterprise Partnership, held in Essex, and London meetings of South East England Councils, Local Government Association Rural Commission, Local Government Association Councillors Forum, and District Councils Network and District Councils Network Executive. I have been re-elected Vice Chairman of Thames Gateway Kent Partnership at their AGM and Chaired a meeting of the Mid Kent Improvement Partnership where Swale Borough Council is joined by Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Councils.

Wishing you all the very best in 2014
Andrew Bowles

Eastling Parish Council

The next meeting of Eastling Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 8th January 2014 at 6.30pm in Eastling Village Hall. The precept for the year will be discussed. Residents are always welcome to attend any meeting.
Jill Seaman, Clerk to the Council
jseaman444@btinternet.com



Eastling Neighbourhood Watch

Village Warden 07794 010394 or 01795 890848
Crimestoppers 0800 555111
Swale Police 101
Emergency 999

There have been reports of dogs running off the lead in the vicinity of where sheep are grazing. Especially as at the moment, when the sheep are expecting their young and the fields will soon be full of lambs, it is a priority that your dog is kept on a lead, even if not within sight of sheep. As I have pointed out before, the farmer has the right to shoot any dog harassing his sheep and we know one was shot earlier this year for that reason.

We are now into the new year so please remember the drink driving code.

Some drivers are still ignoring the 30mph speed limit in the village. It is there to protect the children and make it a safe environment for everybody, so whilst the majority of the offenders are from outside the village, let us show them a good example.

Have a happy New Year
Have a good month
Take care, Alan.



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A wife texted her husband on a cold winter morning: "Windows frozen." Her husband texted back: "Pour some lukewarm water over it." The wife texted back five minutes later: "Computer's completely not working now."

Services in our Churches

Ministry in our Parishes

5th January 2014 Epiphany

Isaiah 60. 1 - 6, Ephesians 3. 1 - 12, Matthew 2. 1 - 12
Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)
Eastling 10 am Holy Communion (CW)
Stalisfield 10 am Holy Communion (CW)

12th January Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 42. 1 - 9, Acts 10. 34 - 43, Matthew 3. 13 - end
Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)
Throwley 10 am Holy Communion (CW)
Eastling 10.30 am Freestyle

19th January Epiphany 2

Isaiah 49. 1 - 7, 1 Corinthians 1. 1 - 9, John 1. 29 - 42
Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)
Eastling 10 am Morning Prayer (BCP)
Stalisfield 10 am Holy Communion (CW)

26th January Epiphany 3

Isaiah 9. 1 - 4, 1 Corinthians 1. 10 - 18, Matthew 4. 12 - 23
Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)
Eastling 10 am CaféStyle in Village Hall
Throwley 10 am Holy Communion (BCP)

2nd February Candlemas

Malachi 3. 1 - 5, Hebrews 2. 14 - end, Luke 2. 22 - 40
Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)
Eastling 10 am Holy Communion (CW)
Stalisfield 10 am Holy Communion (CW)

(BCP) Service taken from the Book of Common Prayer, 1662.
(CW) Service follows Common Worship Liturgy, 2000.

From the Registers

Wedding
Eleanor Jane Bailey and Philip James Carrotte
21st December 2013 at Eastling

Midweek Groups

Tuesdays: monthly, Study Group - 14th January
10am at Garden Cottage, Newnham Lane.
Tuesdays: weekly, Study Group 7.30pm Pinks Farm
Thursdays: weekly, Prayer Group 10.30am Pinks Farm
You will be welcome at any of our groups.

Priest of the Parishes	Revd Canon Donald J. Lawton (01795 890487) The Rectory, Newham Lane, Eastling ME13 0AS
Non Stipendiary Minister with Permission To Officiate	Reverend Angela Cheeseman (01795 892124) New House Farm, Eastling ME13 0BN
Reader	Norman Fowler (01795 890412) 4 Meesons Close, Eastling
Reader	Hugh Perks (01795 890603) Weald Cottage, Eastling
Churchwardens	
Eastling	Steve Youle (01795 890368) Audrey Smith (01795 890469)
Parish Administrator	Janet Payne (01795 890487) E mail: eastlingchurch@gmail.com
Stalisfield with Otterden	Jean West (01233 712270) Gillian Wallace (01233 714904)
Parish Administrator	Sheila Moger (01233 713212) E mail samhawksnest@aol.com
Throwley	Barbara Elliott (01795 890020) Maggie Scutt (01795 890312)

Reader Debut

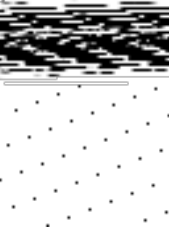
Caroline Ramshaw made her first debut as Trainee Reader, wearing a cassock and surplice for the first time, on Sun Dec 1st at a “commentated service” at Stalisfield Church. The Revd Angela Cheeseman conducted the Common Worship Communion service and, at intervals, Caroline read out a commentary, written by Revd Canon Donald Lawton, explaining step by step the background and underlying reason for each part of the service. Caroline read clearly and with delightful enthusiasm, and everyone enjoyed the explanations saying they added depth and meaning to the service. The training for a Licensed Reader is a 4 year in depth study of the Bible and the development of the Christian Faith and the Church. Readers are able to conduct most Anglican services except the Communion service. We look forward to Caroline taking an increasing part in the services in our benefice and every third month is already leading the Young Style service for young people, held on the 4th Sunday of each month at Eastling Church. Thank you Caroline for training to become a Reader, your input will support and help us all in the growth of our faith.



THE WAR TO END ALL WARS:

Part 1: Tensions in Europe

On July 28th 1914 the continent of Europe was at peace, though riven with tensions between the great powers (Germany, Russia, France, Austria-Hungary and Britain). That Sunday morning, however, a sniper, probably a Serbian activist, shot and killed the Archduke Ferdinand of Bosnia-Herzegovina outside Sarajevo railway station.



For a month Europe held its breath as diplomats and politicians from the major nations went into crisis mode. Those involved mostly knew each other - in fact, several were related. Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany, after all, was a grandson of Queen Victoria! Yet longstanding feuds in the Balkans, fierce nationalism, new ‘Ententes’ between some of the powers, swollen arsenals of weapons and - perhaps most of all - fear of one another paralysed their approach. July passed, and with it the hope of peace.

No one knew, of course, what dark and appalling forces they were about to unleash, but on August 4th the most terrible war of European history erupted. Not surprisingly it has become known simply as the ‘Great War’. By the time it ended four years later it had involved 65 million troops, brought about the deaths of twenty million soldiers and civilians, and injured another 21 million people. It’s a truism to say that it changed history, but a glance at any war memorial in Britain is a constant reminder of its cruel cost in human terms. Many villages lost almost all their young men. Families were decimated, children lost fathers, women lost their boy friends. Those who lived through it - my parents’ generation - would never forget its consequences.

Throughout this year the story of that dreadful conflict will be re-told as we mark the centenary of its outbreak. It’s surely pointless, so long after the event, to attempt to apportion blame. Thoughts of military conflict between the nation-states involved seem remote and ridiculous today. Yet whatever its immediate trigger, that War, and its strange child, the Second World War, have shaped the modern world.

It must all seem a long while ago now to school children studying it as history, but for many of us older people it was a conflict that involved our parents or grandparents, and changed their lives for ever. My father enlisted in 1914. He and millions like him had been told they were fighting ‘the war to end all wars’. Sadly, it wasn’t.

By David Winter, a former Head of Religious Broadcasting at the BBC.

2013 Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Eastling house-to-house collection; £128.83 was the donated.
Over 17.5k was raised in the Faversham district.
Hilary Harlow



Stalisfield Limelight
Cinderella, The Pantomime

What a production! The magic came again to Stalisfield with the performance of “Cinderella” when the cramped stage in the old village hall burst through the walls to encompass anything from ballroom to open landscape. Fabulous scenery and settings created illusions of space in which the cast were able to carry us along with their tale of rags to riches; with love conquering convention. Lighting and sound were superb, thanks once again to equipment provided and fitted by Maggie and Alan.

The plot followed the original story in principle but the ingeniously written script swerved along the way to allow asides highlighting local characters and happenings to be gently lampooned, to the delight of the audience. Humour ranged from corny to witty greeted with groans or laughter as appropriate. Scenery changes for the multiple scenes tested the stage crew and they passed with flying colours. The beautifully designed backdrops came and went almost unseen. Stage props included an ingenious solution to the problem of a golden coach by providing one, propelled by Cinders herself.

Characters there were aplenty, including six pantomime dames playing a pair of burly fairy godmothers, two ugly sisters, a cook and a reigning queen. Costumes throughout were superb. The cast incorporated, seemingly, most of Stalisfield including all age groups with quality of performance matching that of the costumes. All gave their best from the principals right down to the smallest and youngest urchin. Unsuspected qualities of voice were revealed in the musical accompaniment. The performance was a thoroughly good romp in the best pantomime tradition.



Much credit must be given to the unseen performers who provided the framework for the stage actors. Some of the work was visible, much was hidden. The story, written tailor-made to the character of the village, the lyrics and choreography, the scenery and props, box office and front-of-house services represent weeks of dedicated effort. Skilful production and direction brought it all seamlessly together. Stalisfield is so lucky to be served by all this talent. The sight of packed audiences two performances running, provided an insight into the appreciation of such effort. In monetary terms the appreciation added around £1200 to the village hall funds.

Roy Okell.

Stalisfield Highlife
Over 60s’ Tea Saturday 14th
December

Some forty guests were greeted by beautifully laid tables in the Hut on the Green, to be regaled with splendid festive fare at the Stalisfield Over 60s’ Christmas Tea. Good company made a convivial atmosphere certain. When the last mince pie had disappeared Ray on melodeon and the Stalisfield Songsters led the audience in carols to further enhance the Christmas atmosphere. After a thoroughly enjoyable experience enhanced by the distribution of presents, festivities drew to a close but not before Ian, speaking on behalf of the company, had thanked the Stalisfield Hall committee members responsible for providing the food and the occasion. Roy Okell.





VOLUNTEER GUIDES REQUIRED

All the tours at Belmont House are led by an experienced volunteer guide. From time to time we do have vacancies and seek to recruit new members to join our team. If you feel that you would like to be considered when vacancies occur, please ask our Administrator Andrea Davies or one of the Guides for further details.

What would this commitment as a guide involve?

During the course of the six month season (Apr - Sept) at weekends and Bank Holidays we take approximately one hundred tours, and around the same number for mid-week tours. An average group is fifteen visitors. Our guides need to be available up to three times a month for periods of around two hours.

If you feel you might like to be considered for training as a guide and live within a short distance of Belmont, we would, when a vacancy occurs, be pleased to invite you for a short probationary period when you would accompany several of our guides on their tours to understand what is involved.

If you are then comfortable, and we were confident in you, the next step is to join our team on a permanent basis.

All you need is confidence, a good clear voice, plus a degree of humour, stamina and patience!

Belmont House & Gardens, Throwley, Faversham, Kent ME13 0HH
T: 01795 890202 or email: administrator@belmont-house.org



Mobile Library

This free service, run by Kent County Council, visits Eastling on Tuesdays; January 7th and 21st between 10.50 - 11.05am at Glebe Cottages, and Throwley Forstal Green on Thursdays; January 9th and 23rd, 11.55am - 12.10pm. Visits are fortnightly thereafter and the vans are open to all ages.

FRIENDS of EASTLING SCHOOL

The school children had some great events for December with the Christmas Craft Club enjoyed by them all. The children happily purchased their Christmas Gifts for family and friends at the Christmas Shopping afternoon, all gift wrapped for them ready for Christmas Day.

The term finished on Friday 20th December with a 'Dress Down Day' plus a Disco in the evening when everyone danced to Christmas songs!

FOES wish you all a Happy New Year!
Jill Seaman, 01795 890252.

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All work on the Good News is done voluntarily, our only main cost being the printing. The Advertising revenue covers most of that but donations are welcome to top up the difference. Please contact Hilary, the Editor, 01795 890338, or Pam the Treasurer, 01795 892194.

The Madagascar School Project

It is one of the poorest regions, in one of the world's poorest countries.

Yet, amid the extreme poverty of central Madagascar, a remarkable project provides education, nutrition and hope to hundreds of children who had none.

In the summer of 2007 a Canadian elementary school teacher from Maxville, Ontario - Kathy Lucking - was volunteering in an orphanage in central Madagascar. She was struck by the hopelessness of the situation facing a great many of the region's children. Unable to go to school due to lack of family funds they couldn't seek opportunities to break out of the cycle of malnutrition and poverty.



Kathy resolved to confront the education problem directly, by building a school and staffing it with competent, Malagasy teachers. Returning to Canada she established the Madagascar

School Project Inc., a registered charity, headquartered in Eastern Ontario, which supplies schools and teachers to children who otherwise would have no real education opportunities - and no chance to better their lives.

Kathy Lucking will be visiting Canon and Norma Lawton in early January and will be available to speak at meetings and services in the area. She will be our special guest at FreeStyle at Eastling on Sunday 12th January.

Join us for Epiphany

FREESTYLE

Sunday 12th January,
10.30am in
Eastling Church,
as we give thanks for
visitors from afar.



Eastling Gardeners' Club

Saturday 11th January at 7.30 p.m.

New Year's Party

In Eastling Village Hall

Wine tasting provided by Andrew Higgs

Followed by a buffet supper with wine.

Contributions for the buffet meal will be very welcome.



Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.

We have had a good year in 2013 and are currently planning the 2014 programme to include Theatre trips, Garden visits etc. as, while the new Village Hall is being built, we will have no permanent meeting place.

Anyone wishing to join us please contact Kim Curtis on 01795 890691.

The Painters Forstal COFFEE CLUB



Join us in Whitehill Chapel,
11 am - 12.30pm on 29th
January. All welcome.

January

His name is Jesus

Craft Club

Painters Forstal Craft Club will be holding its first meeting of the year on Wednesday 8th January 2014 at 11.15am - 1.15pm at The Champion Hall, Painters Forstal. Please bring along any craft you wish to finish off or try, and we will discuss the forthcoming year of craft making. As usual the cost will be £3 per session which includes tea, coffee and slice of home made cake! We are a very friendly small group of crafters, and welcome newcomers to our group. Please contact Pat on 01795 539629 for further information.

EASTLING VILLAGE HALL

To book ring Julia Bailey
on 01795 890746



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 occasions.

7th Mobile Library	10.50 - 11.05am	Glebe Cottages
8th Craft Club	11.15am	Champion Hall
8th Parish Council meeting	6.30pm	Eastling Village Hall
8th Zumba classes resume	7pm	Eastling Village Hall
9th Pilates classes resume	9.15am	Eastling Village Hall
9th Mobile Library	11.55am - 12.10pm	Throwley Forstal Green
11th Gardeners' New Year party	7.30pm	Eastling Village Hall
12th FreeStyle	10.30am	Eastling Church
14th Monthly Study Group	10am	Garden Cottage
15th Deadline for February Good News		See below
21st Mobile Library	10.50 - 11.05am	Glebe Cottages
23rd Mobile Library	11.55am - 12.10pm	Throwley Forstal Green
26th CaféStyle	10am	Eastling Village Hall
28th Magazine Folding	2pm	Pinks Farm
29th Coffee Club	11am	Champion Hall

Deadline for the February **Good News** will be 15th January

If you would like to advertise in this magazine, submit articles or stories for publication, or would like any forthcoming events publicised, send your contribution by 15th January to: Hilary Harlow, Pinks Farm, Eastling, Faversham, ME13 0BA. Tel: 01795 890338. Where possible, please submit your entry by email: goodnewsmagazine@me.com

Past and current issues of the Good News may be viewed on www.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews