

# LIFESTYLE

## New Year New You?

EASTLING CHURCH  
10AM  
SUNDAY 10TH JANUARY

*All Age  
Worship*

Canon David Winter on how little things  
lead to big things...

### The Way I See It:

#### 'minute particulars' change lives

I was struck last Autumn by the way public reaction to the news was shaped by apparently small events – small, that is, against the backdrop of the 'big' news of the refugee crisis. One photo – of a Greek soldier carrying the body of a tiny boy who had drowned when a refugee boat sank – literally transformed public opinion in Britain.

The man leading the prayers in my church, who had pleaded with God to help us to wake up and do something about the plight of these people, admitted to me after the service that he had originally felt that stronger measures should be taken to limit this mass migration from Middle East war zones. 'What changed your mind?' I asked. 'Simple', he said. 'That picture. Instant conversion!'

I thought of that when I watched an elderly woman putting a bag of pasta in the food bank bin in our local Co-op store. Such a small gesture, but full of profound intent. And then I remembered the words of the poet William Blake: 'He who would do good to another must do it in minute particulars'. That's profoundly true, because our lives are built of 'minute particulars'. Jesus pointed out to the crowds on one occasion that He, and the prophets of old, dealt with individuals. Not everyone was being healed, not every blind person restored to sight. If minute particulars would change things to the extent He did, then I'm all for them.

As the saying goes, I can't do everything, but that's no reason to do nothing'. There's probably a New Year resolution there somewhere.



Help feed local people in crisis

## Faversham Foodbank on Facebook!

As we begin a new year, we learn that there has been a significant increase in the numbers of people applying for help from the Foodbank so our contributions are even more essential. The new list of urgent items is below. Do visit Faversham Foodbank's facebook site periodically for extra updates on the Foodbank's work.

**Please continue to give generously .**

### Food list for January

**Urgent items: nappies (all sizes); toilet rolls; tinned stewing steak**

**Also needed:** tinned ham; tinned tomatoes, tinned mince; tinned fruit; biscuits; cereal bars; chocolate bars; cooking sauces; tinned corn; tinned green beans; instant coffee.



**Mouse Makes**

### THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

John appeared in the desert baptising and preaching and many people confessed their sins and were baptised. Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the river Jordan. As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, He saw heaven opening and the Spirit coming down on Him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you".

Can you find these words from the story in the grid above?

BAPTISE • WILDERNESS • WATER  
FORTY DAYS • NAZARETH  
FORGIVENESS • GALILEE • SINS  
JOHN • JESUS • RIVER  
JORDAN • REPENT • TURN  
BELIEVE • HEAVEN • OPEN  
HOLY SPIRIT • GOD • DOVE • VOICE  
SON • LOVE • PLEASED • LORD

READ Mark 1: 1-13

# Good News

Parish Magazine January 2016

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

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### How to keep those New Year Resolutions

*We are full of good intentions at the start of each year.*

*How come we fizzle out by February?*

*Here are some tips to keep you going ...*

#### Be realistic.

If you have a number of goals, do NOT attempt them all at once. Research has found that if you stagger your goals, you will have more success. So for example, if this year you want to spend less money, do more exercise and spend more time with your family, start one change this month, another in February, and start the third in March.

#### Be specific.

For example, don't tell yourself: Lose weight. Decide exactly how much you want to lose. When do you want to lose it by? How will you do it? If you want more time with your family, how and when will you do that? The more exact you can be, the more likely you are to succeed.

#### Write it down.

There's something about committing thoughts to paper that helps to cement your resolve. Why not start some sort of journal this year, to track your thoughts, your hopes, your goals – and your successes!

#### Tell other people.

If you intend to do something, tell someone, and therefore you will feel more obliged to get going with it... your pride may keep you going when all else fails!

#### Focus on GAIN, not loss.

Ever notice how many resolutions are about giving

something up? Why not put it the other way round - instead of saying you will eat less, tell yourself you are headed for those skinny jeans....

#### Give yourself rewards.

If you are quitting smoking or sweets, for example, put the money you would have spent in a jam jar, and treat yourself to something nice (and healthy) with it.

#### Break your resolution into steps.

Some goals will take months to achieve. So – break each one down into tiny steps, and simply head for each step. Build in some time frames, to prevent you procrastinating.

#### Finally, don't let failure defeat you.

You will make mistakes. But the secret is to simply get up again, and keep going. Only if you stop are you *really* defeated. None of us are perfect, and the Bible encourages us to always start again.



**Epiphany** - the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus. But who were these wise men?

### Services celebrating Epiphany

Sunday 3rd January

8am and 10am Holy Communion at Eastling

10am Morning Prayer at Stalisfield

## QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 16th January

Eastling Village Hall,  
start 7.30pm

Raising funds for more defibrillator training.

Entry will be £4 per person, bring own nibbles and drinks.

To book tables 6-8, please call Alan on 01795 890848.

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

[www.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews](http://www.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews)



# Canon's Column

One of the ongoing questions I am asked is, “What is going to happen to our church (churches)?” Sometimes it is in the negative, “You aren’t going to close my church, are you?” I would regret the closure of any of our village churches, but there can be no guarantees. I once had a Bishop in Canada who had a simple statement when he was working with a church on its last legs. “You can stay open as long as you can pay your bills.” And this has been true for many of our village institutions.

Roy Strong in his book, *A Little History of the English Country Church*, wrote “but while in the second half of the twentieth century many villages would progressively lose their shop and post office, doctor, school, garage, and pub, the rural parish church remained as some kind of aberration awaiting its fate. If it had been subject to normal commercial pressures, the country church would have been abandoned years ago as unviable. That they are still there is largely due to voluntary local efforts – but how long will that last?”

What exactly is the village church? And does it have a place in our world today? The origins of the village parish church relate to the life of the village itself. In a society of class and privilege, it was the democratic place open to all people without reference to class, position or wealth. It was a place of gathering, not only for worship but also for business and play. It was also the earliest place

of education within a village. Until the time of the Puritans, the secular and the sacred were both part of the identity of the village parish church. The Victoria influences seemed to cement this attitude of the village church as a solely spiritual space. But is that really a sensible reality? But the nature of our villages and the people has changed as well. Our villages have become dormitories rather than working integrated communities. Does our village church still have a place in our world?

I am deeply impressed with the spirituality of the many churches I have visited in my travels and have often found the presence of God in churches of all types and denominations. But the village church is a witness not only to the presence of God in a community, it witnesses as well to the life of the community, to its very existence. The rough wooden shanty that was a church in the ghost town of an abandoned silver mine or river landing/trading post in Yukon and the stone and mortar Norman or Saxon church in the centre of, or outside, an English village are both a witness to human presence, life and society in that location. Whether there are memorials or not, the buildings themselves speak to the lives of people who built, maintained and used them. “We have been here in community”, the village church says, in a way that has ceased to exist in any other form in our villages.

It might be helpful to know that our churches cost about £200- 350 per week per church to run, counting our Diocesan share, ministry and administration costs, plus electrical, maintenance, and other costs for each church. If we had a full time Rector in the



Benefice, the added cost would be about £ 160 per week per church.

If our village churches become nothing more than locations for the gatherings of faithful Christians, they will eventually close because no one can afford to spend thousands on something used only occasionally. But if the village church becomes the focus of multiple community activities and gatherings, it becomes a place that is alive and brings life to the community and to individuals. And in bringing life back to the community it brings the life changing and life enhancing Spirit that has been at its foundation and existence for most of its history. But for this to happen will mean some changes need to take place. How can we make them comfortable, welcoming and useful places for people in our communities?

Blessings,  
Rev'd Canon Donald Lawton

## Throwley, Stalisfield and Eastling

*Prayer and blessing for healing*

Available at the 10am Communion services. In January this will be on 3rd at Eastling, 17th at Stalisfield and 24th at Throwley.

During the service, we pray for people known to us. We also pray for some that may be unknown to us, who have left a request for prayer in our book of intercessions. It does not matter whether any or all of us know the person personally - all are known to God and held in the palm of his hand. We simply lift these people to God in prayer, asking him to bless them, to intervene in their suffering or illness, and we leave the rest to God. Also during the service, is a time where anyone can come forward for prayer or blessing, whether for themselves, or for someone known to them.

# Refugee Crisis

interest and commitment to help shown resulted in the formation of our group, The ‘Faversham and Villages Refugee Support Group’. We have now held two meetings in the Eastling Village Hall.

Members of our group have visited the main camp of five to six thousand refugees in Calais, and taken Donations including money, clothing, building materials and toiletries. Another trip is planned before Christmas. We have started an online petition asking Swale Borough Council ‘To demonstrate its humanitarian spirit by responding positively to the Government’s invitation to play its part in the International Relief Programme’ and offer to support an appropriate number of refugees in the Swale area (**search for Faversham and Villages Refugee Support Group via change .org: this will take you to the page where Swale residents can sign the petition**). Ashford and Tunbridge Wells councils in Kent have already taken the lead on this. This would be part of the Government’s commitment to relocate in Britain 20.000 refugees within a five year period. The scheme commits central government to proving homes, necessary funding and support.

Accommodation would be accessed through the private sector and would not be taken from the pool available to local homeless people.

Throughout Britain local people have lobbied their elected representatives to agree to accommodate refugees in their area. In addition spreading the commitment, enabling cities, towns and villages to accommodate and integrate appropriate numbers, It sends a clear message that people throughout the country care, and are horrified at the conditions in the camps that people are forced to live in (whether in France or nearer to the conflict zones) and the circumstances forcing men women and children to leave their homes and

everything that constitutes ‘normal’ life.

While our group supports the above initiative we believe that the government’s plan to take 20,000 refugees within five years is wholly inadequate (look at the numbers some of our European neighbours are committing themselves to). Not without political and social consequences of course! but we must find appropriate ways of responding to this major human crisis in our midst. We will continue to meet and discuss ways in which we can continue to support refugees and encourage our local and national politicians to do much more.

Our group is meeting again on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016, 7.30pm in the Carpenters Arms pub in Eastling** (tea & coffee available). Please join us.

Greg, Janice & Sue, Eastling (Faversham & Villages Support Group)

## Prayer

## Pointers

### January 2016



Sundays	For refugees and the homeless.
Mondays	For Peace in our strife-ridden world.
Tuesdays	For Peace in our hearts
Wednesdays	For those who suffer because of their faith
Thursdays	For Christian leaders throughout the world
Fridays	For all who minister to the sick and dying.
Saturdays	For our families and loved ones.

## Eastling Church

### Flower Rota

Thank you to everyone who decorated the church for Christmas- it looked wonderful. Particular thanks to Steph and Steve who organised the splendid tree. Bay

### January 2016

3rd - Christmas Flowers  
10th & 17th - Pippa and Gaby  
24th & 31st - Emma Norwood  
February 7th - Sue Chandler

## Eastling Neighbourhood Watch

### Contact numbers:

Village Warden 07794 010 394 or 01795 890848  
Police 101                      Emergency 999



As was probably noticed by everybody, there was a white van dumped in the road opposite Glebe Cottages. This van has now been taken away for scrap and the police are still investigating as it was believed to be involved in criminal activity. If anybody has any more information on this van please give me a call.

There were two dogs found in the area within the last month. One, after various phone calls, was traced back to its owner. The other had turned up outside one of the houses in a pretty bad state and enquiries have been made.

Kent Police have issued their normal warning about drink driving at this festive time and will be taking a zero tolerance attitude towards this. So please be sensible and make sure that we can all enjoy a happy time.

During the week end beginning the

13<sup>th</sup> November there were a few criminal acts within the locality. A break-in at The Tapster in Newnham when copper tanks and piping were stolen, 2 break-ins at Brogdale and a trailer and bicycles stolen in Throwley. Anyone with any information regarding these acts should contact the police or give me ring.

There was a sighting on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> late at night of three suspicious characters carrying orange lights in the Newham Lane area. Should anybody have seen these people please give me a ring.

Especially at this time of the year the con merchants are out there trying to get their hands on our money so please take care and again do not give any bank details away.

Happy Christmas  
Have a good month  
Take care, Alan.

## Men Get Singing!



Do you sing in the shower?  
Do you sing in the car?  
Do you sing at the footie?  
Do you never sing because it's only for girls?

Then this singing workshop is for YOU!

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January at  
Newnham Village Hall ME9 0LL

Coffee & Tea at 9am  
Bacon rolls at 10.30  
Go Home at 12.00

Oh yes, and only men singing together in between!

Workshop costs £10.00  
To book your place email Lizzie – music@canfiana.co.uk  
or ring 01795 886392



Services in our Churches

The High Downs Benefice

3rd January 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 Morning Prayer

10th January Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 43. 1-7, Acts 8. 14-17, Luke 3. 15-17, 21-22

Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)

Eastling 10 am LifeStyle

Throwley 10 am Morning Prayer (BCP)

17th January Epiphany 2

Isaiah 62. 1-5, 1 Corinthians 12. 1-11, John 2. 1-11

Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)

Eastling 10 am Morning Prayer (BCP)

Stalisfield 10 am Holy Communion (CW)

24th January Conversion of St. Paul

Jeremiah 1. 4-10, Acts 9. 1-22, Matthew 19. 27 - end

Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)

Eastling 10 am Morning Praise

Throwley 10 am Holy Communion (BCP)

31st January Candlemas

Malachi 3. 1-5, Hebrews 2. 14-end, Mark 5. 21-end

Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)

Eastling 10 am Benefice Service

7th February Sunday next before Lent

Exodus 34. 29-end, 2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2, Luke 9. 28-36 (37-43a)

Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)

Eastling 10 am Holy Communion (CW)

Stalisfield 10 am Morning Prayer

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

(CW) Service follows Common Worship Liturgy, 2000.

Rector Revd Canon Donald J. Lawton (01795 890487)  
The Rectory, Newham Lane, Eastling ME13 0AS

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

Reader Hugh Perks (01795 890603)  
Weald Cottage, Eastling

Reader Caroline Ramshaw (01795 892088)  
4 Glebe Cottages, Eastling

Churchwardens

Eastling Andrew Baxter (01795 890598)

Assistant Warden Steve Youle (01795 890368)

Parish Administrator Janet Payne (01795 890487)  
E mail: eastlingchurch@gmail.com

Stalisfield with Otterden Jean West (01233 712270)

Parish Administrator Sheila Moger (01233 713212)  
E mail samhawksnest@aol.com

Throwley Glynn Howland (01795 890094)

Barbara Elliott (01795 890020)

From the Registers

Funeral

Martine Karen Sarah Styles

2nd December 2015 at Eastling

Midweek Groups

Tuesdays: Monthly study group, on 12th January,  
10am at Garden Cottage, Eastling. 01795 890368

Tuesdays: Weekly study group, 7.30pm Pinks Farm,  
Kettle Hill Road, Eastling. 01795 890338

Thursdays: Weekly prayer group, 10.30am Pinks Farm,  
Kettle Hill Road, Eastling. 01795 890338

Fridays: Weekly study group 10.45am, New House Farm,  
Eastling. 01795 890629

You will be welcome at any of our groups.

Stalisfield Footlights

Robin Hood - The Pantomime  
by Maud Dromgoole

Framed by a magnificent proscenium arch and against fabulous backdrops, the 2015 Stalisfield pantomime careered chaotically through its plot in the best of panto traditions. Plot and sub-plot provided scope for characters which only pantomime could carry. Actors clad in costume of professional quality brought the script to hilarious life. Hallowed pantomime lines brought enthusiastic audience response as the evil sheriff employed bribes, coercion and corruption to further his aim to redevelop Stalisfield for his own ends.

The “baddies” were deliciously evil barely counterbalanced by the virtuous Robin Hood and his very young band of “goodies” in the fight to dissuade a suitably regal and golf crazy King John from declaring the village of Stalisfield worthy only of razing to provide space for a shopping mall and golf course.

In the end, Maid Marion vacillating throughout the evening between the factions, saved the day when a bunch of wildflowers she carried was deemed to include an endangered species. As a consequence Stalisfield became an Area of Special Scientific Interest and as such received legal protection from disturbance. All the shenanigans thus came to nought. Miraculously everyone claimed to be happy with the result just in time for director Cat Horn to introduce to the acclaim of the audience, the author followed by those responsible for the functions without which the production could not have been staged.

They included: Alan and Maggie Greenwood for Lighting and Sound  
Nick Ford for Set Design and Props. Kay Ford for Costume and Props.  
Hannah Baker for Choreography. Nina Williams for Coordinating Production. Tracy Dove and Tracey Smith for Stage Management. Sharon Carter for Box Office Services.

Cat herself was not allowed to leave without recognition.

Everyone went away happy to have been part of another demonstration of the best of Stalisfield village.

Both nights played to capacity audience and a very healthy receipts figure approaching £1600 resulted. Bar receipts added further to the total.

Stalisfield Security

Neighbourhood Watch

Sharon Carter has volunteered to fill the position of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator left vacant when Phil Thorpe left the district. Thanks are due to Phil for his tenure and to Sharon for voluntarily taking over.

She is happy to receive reports of suspicious incidents, vehicles or characters preferably with identity detail. Her contact telephone number is (01795) 890415 and her email address is sharoncarter01@gmail.com



Stalisfield Highlife

Santa Comes to Stalisfield

A multitude of helpers prepared the village hall for the children of Stalisfield to enjoy an afternoon of fun at the annual Christmas party. The party itself was a model of organisation throughout a packed programme of games and activities enjoyed by some 20 remarkably well behaved children of very mixed ages. A fine spread of party food disappeared with alacrity and there was no shortage of sweet treats as reward for winners of games or compensation for everyone else. The “secret room” where children exchange £1 for a gift to be given to a parent was a great success.

At 2.30 a jingle of sleigh bells announced the appearance of Santa accompanied by helper elves on his sleigh cleverly adapted to cope with the absence of snow. The “reindeer” were resplendent in antlers and sparkly red hooves. Once inside Santa dispensed a sack-full of gifts to appreciative recipients who themselves dispensed with the concept of waiting for the official day and tore open the wrappings on the spot.

Shortly afterwards the partygoers dispersed bearing their gifts and happy.



Party organiser Su can be congratulated on a splendid success. She has expressed thanks to all those involved in preparation and decoration, games, music providers, helpers, photographer, post party clearers and, of course, to Santa and his helpers. The participation of so many in ensuring the success of this event makes it difficult to avoid missing out on gratitude.

We are grateful for the support of Nicholas Ford Limited for providing Santa’s sleigh and to The Linda Hogan Trust for the grant which covered a substantial proportion of party expenses.

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24 Hour Service



## THROWLEY WALKERS

Walks on the Kent Downs on Wednesdays and Fridays. All start at 10.30am

**NEW! Slower, shorter walks** on alternate Wednesdays

**Wednesday 6th January** SLOW pace, about 1 hour. Meet by the A251 at Badlesmere Lees, near The Red Lion ME13 ONX

**Friday 8th January** Medium pace, about 3miles / 1.5 hours. Start from Throwley Forstal Green, ME13 OPJ

**Wednesday 13th January** FASTER pace, 4 miles / 2 hours. Meet at The Bowl, Egg Hill Road, Charing, TN27 OHG. And a drink/meal later!

**Wednesday 20th January** SLOW pace, Park at Eastling Village Hall, Kettle Hill Road ME13 OBA

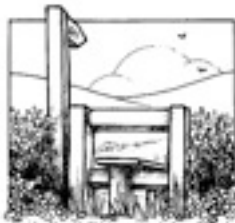
**Friday 22nd January** Medium pace, from Towne Place Orchard car park, Bagshill Road

**Wednesday 27th January** Faster pace, from opposite The Alma, Painters Forstal

**Wednesday 3rd February** SLOW pace, from The Plough car park, Stalisfield Green

**Friday 5th February** Medium pace from Challock Village Hall, TN25 4AU.

01795 892037; 07948 038993  
annhutt@hotmail.co.uk



## Eastling School News

Welcome back to a brand new year at the local village school! This month our activities move on to their 'winter mode' with lots of exciting activities both inside and outside of the school. Eastling returns on Tuesday 5th January for its run up to Easter and immediately starts Swimming sessions for its Lions class on Wednesday 13th. We've also arranged for 'Flu vaccinations for children, just in case! (14th Jan)

Two major charities are involved with us this term- the NSPCC for whom we are doing a sponsored event after an introductory assembly (20th Jan) and the PDSA who are coming in to talk to use about pet care, health and understanding (19th Jan). Our internal clubs will be 'up and

running' from the 5th January with a new, exciting Science club in addition to our usual fare of sports, arts and crafts and cultural activities after school

Activities come to a crescendo at the end of the month (Friday 29th) with the Tiger's Class brilliant assembly which will showcase all their hard work and effort to parents and friends of the school.

Dave Walsh, Head Teacher

### The Story of Gold:

From Midas and King Croesus to the Brown Bottom and beyond, via Isaac Newton and the Wizard of Oz, this talk explains why gold has played the role it has and appealed to people across civilisations and throughout the ages.

Speaker: Jill Leyland  
14th January in Charing Parish Hall, Station Road  
Time: 7.45pm for 8pm.

## Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.

The WI do not have a meeting in January, but we had a busy December with our Christmas Meal at the Plough, Christmas Table Floral decoration, and then our Wreath Making on the 16th.

Anyone wishing to join us please contact Stephanie Culver on 01795 890748 or Lesley Andrews on 01795 890581.



### Poppy Collection 2015

Thank you to everyone for their contributions to the Eastling house to house collection, a record £115 was collected.

Also to Ann Morgan for her knitted poppies, raising a further £30.

The Faversham area collection was an amazing £30,000.

## Eastling Seniors' Christmas Lunch

Thank you all for making this year's Christmas Lunch such a wonderful occasion. The lunch was superb and a huge thank you to Linda and her team for conjuring up 68 lunches from the village hall kitchen. It was lovely to see people who were not well enough to attend last year back amongst us once more.

Also thanks to everyone, including local businesses, who contributed to the raffle and to Lucy who delivered lunches to those not well enough to attend and all who helped on the day. Lastly our gratitude to West Faversham Community Choir for both entertaining us with their Christmas repertoire and leading us is some festive carols and music. Dorothy, Pam and Marion

### A reply to the organisers:

64 of us gathered in the village hall for another fantastic Seniors' Christmas lunch. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Pam, Marion and Dorothy for all their hard work throughout the year, and on the day, that made such a splendid occasion possible.

## Stalisfield Longerlife

### Over 60s' Celebration

Having reached or surpassed the required degree of maturity, 44 citizens attended the Stalisfield Over 60s Christmas Party in the village hall. Festive decorations and a beautifully laid table welcomed them to what must be described as a feast. Justice to the repast duly followed. Conversation flowed throughout until Ray and Alan on melodeon led the wine and dined assembly in traditional carols.

Time passed quickly and the celebration progressed by the drawing of the raffle and the presentation of a card and gift to each participant. Before the close the assembly approved of a speech of thanks in which the efforts were praised of the many helpers involved in setting up the event. These included invitations, organization, procurement and preparation, set-up and clearing of the hall, serving of wine and food at the table and our wonderful musicians. Those responsible were happy that the function had fulfilled or exceeded expectations.

## Jo's Diary of Country Walks

(A dog tells the story of her life in the countryside)

*A new series from Audrey Keen*

My name is Jo, I am a Welsh Terrier and live with Elliot and Rhoda who look after me and my friend Connie.

Connie is black and tan and much like me, although slightly taller and much older. In earlier days Connie's special joy had been rabbit hunting with Elliot but age and failing health had all but stopped this, 'though I never heard Connie complain. She spent most of her life with Rhoda and Elliot and had enjoyed every minute of her youth. While in old age she found pleasure in mouse hunts in the garden, her comfortable bed, food and of course the walks in the countryside.

Although I had felt strange and unsettled at first, I discovered with

time that on my walks through the woods and fields of Debsbury, with Rhoda and sometimes Connie for company, there was to had a life of happiness and quiet adventure. We would walk to Elm Tree woods where Rhoda would pick wild flowers and Connie and I would look for hedgehogs. Sometimes all three of us would sit on Gunners banks and, whilst Rhoda wrote poems, we watched for anything that moved. It was here that I noticed that the changing seasons so obviously brought pleasure to Rhoda and, in time, I too found and interest in nature....



## Short Mat Bowls

On November 17th, in East Kent League, the Eastling Cherries lost at home to Capel, gaining just 2 points, followed by a further defeat on the return match away to Capel returning with our tails between our legs and nothing to show for the visit.

Next in the Swale League on December 4th, at home to the very good Teynham side, they had a convincing win against us and went home with 10 points leaving us with 4 points.

Then came some good news, our team of Vic Morley, Des Briggs and John Graham won the East Kent Oyster Cup at West Faversham Centre, well done to them.

Our next game was away at Newington where, back to our losing ways, they won 12 points to 2. On the 10th December away to Minster (Thanet), again our team did not preform at all well - 6 points to them and we came back with nothing. BUT... on 15th December, a very wet evening, Minster visited us at Eastling, and both our teams of Bryan Searly, Des Briggs & Roy Piles and Vic Morley, Eileen Piles & John Graham had a very convincing win all the 6 points going to Eastling. We have got to try much harder to get off the bottom spot in the East Kent League. We are doing a little better in the Swale League.

We are looking for new members so come and give it a try on Fridays 2.30 - 4.30pm then 7.30 - 9.30pm in Eastling Village Hall. Roy Piles, 01795 537162.

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**Eastling Village Hall**  
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9.15am FITNESS PILATES



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www.milesdanceandfitness.com

### EASTLING VILLAGE HALL

To book ring Alan Willson  
on 01795 890848



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.



|                                      |                   |                            |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 5th Mobile Library                   | 10.50 - 11.05am   | Glebe Cottages, Eastling   |
| 6th Throwley walkers                 | 10.30am           | Badlesmere lees            |
| 6th Parish Council meeting           | 6.30pm            | Eastling Village Hall      |
| 6th Refugee Crisis group meeting     | 7.30pm            | Carpenters Arms            |
| 7th Fitness Pilates resumes          | 9.15am            | Eastling Village Hall      |
| 7th Mobile Library                   | 11.55am - 12.10pm | Throwley Forstal Green     |
| 8th Throwley walkers                 | 10.30am           | Throwley Forstal Green     |
| 10th LifeStyle                       | 10am              | Eastling Church            |
| 13th Throwley walkers                | 10.30am           | The Bowl, Charing          |
| 14th The Story of Gold               | 8pm               | Charing Parish hall        |
| 15th Deadline for February Good News |                   | See below                  |
| 16th Quiz Night                      | 7.30pm            | Eastling Village Hall      |
| 19th Mobile Library                  | 10.50 - 11.05am   | Glebe Cottages, Eastling   |
| 20th Throwley walkers                | 10.30am           | Eastling Village Hall      |
| 21st Mobile Library                  | 11.55am - 12.10pm | Throwley Forstal Green     |
| 22nd Throwley walkers                | 10.30am           | Towne Place car park       |
| 26th Magazine Folding                | 2pm               | Pinks Farm                 |
| 27th Throwley walkers                | 10.30am           | The Alma, Painters Forstal |

### FROM THE EDITOR

If you would like to advertise in the February 2016 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

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