



Help feed local people in crisis
faversham.foodbank.org.uk

Foodbank 2018

A very happy new year to you all. Thank you for your regular, generous support for the work of the Foodbank in Faversham. We have been delighted that contributions have increased recently providing more help for those in desperate need.

Food list for January

Urgent items: long life fruit juice; tinned sponge pudding; cooking oil; tinned custard; tinned vegetables; tinned ham; shampoo; chocolate

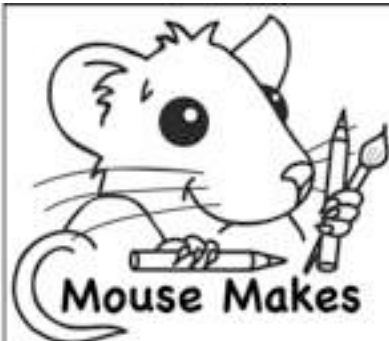


A letter of thanks from Faversham Foodbank:

Thank you for all you and the congregation at Eastling Church have done for the Foodbank over the year. Since January 1st 2017 you have donated 598.68kg that equates to 1,425 meals.

May God bless you all

Stephen
Warehouse
Manager



Words to live by
from Proverbs 3

"My child, never forget
the things I have
taught you.

Store my commands
in your heart". vs1



Don't ever forget kindness and truth
...then you will be respected and
will please both God and people.
from Proverbs 3:3-4 NCV

Trust in God from the bottom
of your heart; don't try to figure out
everything on your own.
from Proverbs 3:5 MSG



Seek God's will in all you do and He will
show you which path to take.
from Proverbs 3:6 NLT

Honour God with everything you own;
give Him the first and the best.
from Proverbs 3:9 MSG



Cut out and colour these
Scripture verse cards
to remind you this new year
of God's wise ways to live.

Happy New Year



January Charm

The jewel-encrusted branches
As hoar frost leaves its touch;
The snowscape that entrances
That's what I love so much!
The starlight's diamond splendour
The peaceful, icy calm;
It's easy to surrender
To January charm.

By Nigel Beeton

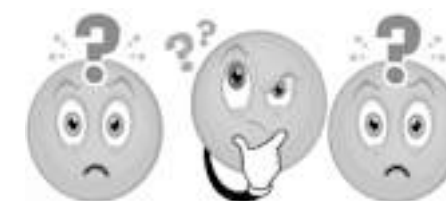


Good News Parish Magazine January 2018

High Downs Parish

Serving the villages of Eastling, Otterden,
Stalisfield and Throwley

www.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews



Quiz Night

Saturday 27th January

7.30pm in

Eastling Village Hall

Please come along to our quiz to raise funds for
the Village Hall and have a fun evening in the quiet
early days of the New Year. You also get the
opportunity to view our sparkly new stage!

£3 per head - bring your own drink and nibbles

There will be a raffle with big prizes!

Please support the hard work of the Trustees and
help to raise funds to keep the Hall in pristine
condition. We look forward to seeing you.

Book your places/tables by calling Sue on
890254 or email sueandpeter@live.co.uk

From the Editor:

In this issue you will find letters from our
County Councillor and our
MP which do take up quite a
chunk of the magazine but
they contain news very
relevant to us all, so I
hope you find them
interesting. I wish
all our readers a
Happy New Year.



St Mary's Church presents...

CAFESTYLE

Sunday 14th January
10am - 11am

Eastling Village Hall

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

Tes, 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

"Given the state of our heating system,
your name seemed rather appropriate."

Angels from the Realms of Glory ?

The topic of Angels is commonly associated with Christmas and the birth narratives of the gospels.



Angels are often a central theme in our nativity plays and on our Christmas cards. In St. Luke's gospel we discover that angels are an

integral part of the birth of Jesus, yet I suppose that when we take down the fairy lights, put the decorations away and recycle the Christmas cards, many of us will put angels out of our thinking for another twelve months. Even if we take angels seriously over Christmas, there are some people, even churchgoers, who hardly ever consider that the angels are real.

The typical debate between one Christmas and the next seems to resolve itself into a rather crude question as to whether somewhere out in the universe there is intelligent life. Whenever I hear people discussing this, I want to smile and to tell them that the Bible said, two thousand years ago, that we are not the only intelligent beings in the universe – we are limited to earth, but out there are myriads of intelligent beings. The universe is not empty, it might look empty to our telescopes, but it is not really empty.

Prayer Pointers January 2018



Sundays - Pray for the Lord to bless your thoughts and actions in 2018.

Mondays - For your family members.

Tuesdays - For your friends.

Wednesdays - For people you meet and people who help you.

Thursdays - Give thanks for your food, pray for those who are hungry.

Fridays - Give thanks for your home, pray for the homeless.

Saturdays - Give thanks for your freedom, pray for the imprisoned.

It is interesting that science fiction comes up with grotesque creatures that have far more mineral, animal and vegetable connections than spiritual, and weird creatures cross our screens in films and videos. One of the first Russian astronauts who went into space was asked by reporters, "What did you see up there?" He replied, "Well I didn't see any angels," and threw back his head and roared with laughter as he drank his vodka. But they saw him. It is laughable when people dismiss the angels as fairies, as creatures of childhood fantasy that you can leave behind with Santa Claus.

When we turn to the Bible, we find a very different attitude. From the first book to the last you will discover that angels are part of what happened. Jesus believed in angels, and he had many and varied dealings with them, and he told us what to think about them, and he talked to us about them. How can I claim to follow Jesus and never give a serious thought to the angels who meant so much to him?

The Bible tells us that we can "entertain angels unawares", and whilst we are told that angels are spiritual beings, they can appear in human form. Sobering thought to think that we might meet an angel unawares, and yet, sometimes when our needs are met and our prayers find answers, and when all other explanations for this happening eludes us, we can accept the timely presence and work of the angelic - God's holy messengers and ministers. God works in marvellous and mysterious ways.

May 2018 bring you blessing and a mind open to all possibilities.

Mark Harlow

Included are thoughts from David Pawson's book "Angels".

Pest Control Services

All pest problems dealt with including: Wasps, Rats, Mice, Insects, Rabbits, Bee Swarms, Bed Bugs etc.

Discreet & Prompt Service

Local Tradesman

Contact Andy Pink

01622 884774 / 07761 559 744

Repair work at Eastling Church

The church has been awarded a grant towards some essential maintenance to the guttering and bird prevention measures. This was from The National Churches Trust. They have given us £1500 which is 50% of the total bill.

You may have seen local Eastling builder Steve Parker working outside the church in the past few weeks. Steve was making repairs to the brick-paved gutters round the church's perimeter, removing vegetation and taking up parts of the gutter along the south side of the church. This was in very poor condition and some defective paving bricks were discarded and replaced with good matching bricks. During the work, he discovered an unexpected continuous void running below the south wall. It must have been built at a much earlier time in connection with drainage from the south wall and roof slopes.

Steve also inserted wire mesh to prevent damage by birds and other wildlife along the north eaves and within the belfry openings.

We are very grateful to Steve for work well done.

Stewardship Day

High Downs Parish will be hosting a stewardship day and this was to be held on Sunday 4th February, however, it will now be rescheduled for later in the year. Further information will be posted in due course.

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A Message from your County Councillor (written in early December)

My best wishes for a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

I had intended to start this month's Report with some views on our local Health Service (more later). However, the explosion of comments on social media and elsewhere in the last week of November regarding "cuts" to subsidised bus services has brought a change of plan.

All bus services which are subsidised by the tax payer i.e. you and I, should already be "socially necessary" or at the very least "socially desirable". Any removal either in part or whole of these services must therefore be detrimental to someone. However, 97% of bus services running in Kent are not subsidised and will therefore be unaffected by any changes. The scaremongering by some Politicians is unfair to residents and is causing many to worry unnecessarily. Because of my own and residents' concerns I attended the recent Kent County Council Environment and Transport Committee as a visiting Member to speak on your behalf and seek further information. Kent County Council currently spends £5.69 million of our money annually subsidising bus services. The proposals to be consulted on seek to reduce this by £2 million in 2018/2019 and a further £2 million in 2019/2020, a possible 2% reduction in our bus services. There appears to be six bus services within the Swale area which are subject to review within the consultation. Services in the Swale East Division are the 662 and 664 serving Norton and Lynsted on school days only, the 638 Whitstable to Faversham serving Hernhill and the 666 Ashford to Faversham. I have requested further information on possible impacts to the above. Please remember some of these services travel with very few or occasionally no passengers at a public subsidy in excess of £10 per passenger. This £4 million spent elsewhere within the Transport Department Budget would, for example, fill an awful lot of pot holes per annum. The Consultation runs from 17th January to the 27th March. Please respond and copy me in to your responses. (*Go to: consultations.kent.gov.uk*)

Returning to the Health Service, there are currently two proposals to reconfigure acute services in East Kent. One proposal is to significantly downgrade the services offered at Kent & Canterbury Hospital in favour of moving them to Ashford and or Margate. The second option is to build a new "super" Hospital in Canterbury and downgrade services offered in both Margate and Ashford. Representing as I do a Division that stretches from Dunkirk and Graveney in the East to Bredgar in the West I am well aware that I have residents for whom either Canterbury, Ashford, Maidstone or even Medway are their nearest full A& E Hospitals. I believe this reorganisation to be premature and

misguided. For decades, the Health Authorities have spoken of moving services closer to the patient. Whilst they often quote the example of Estuary View in Whitstable, not all communities in East Kent have the advantage of a local facility able to deliver most or all routine operations and provide overnight inpatient care. Surely, we should be funding, building and staffing such facilities in all our Towns before we reduce the number of A& E units and force the sick and their visitors to undertake unnecessary long and complicated journeys?

Wearing my Leader of Swale Borough Council hat I have had meetings with both the Kent County Council Cabinet Member for Education and his Officers to discuss their future plans for further school places in Swale and also with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport and his Officers to discuss potential sites for lorry parks in Swale. Readers will know that getting heavy goods vehicles out of our lay byes and off of our slip roads etc. has long been a personal goal of mine.

November has seen the usual plethora of Committee Meetings, the World War 1 Commemoration Steering Group, Swale Borough Council Cabinet, Kent Flood Risk Management Committee, Kent County Council Growth and Economic Development Committee, Swale Borough Council Transformation Board, the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership and Kent Council Leaders to name but a few. I attended the Annual General Meeting of the Kent Association of Local (i.e. Parish) Councils on one Saturday in November.

Swale has also played host to a visit from Kent County Council's Growth and Economic Development Committee, Members and Officers, to see at close hand the projects going ahead within Swale and discuss how Kent County Council may be of assistance. We also hosted a one day Swale Means Business Conference for local businessmen and businesswomen which has had very positive feedback.

Within Swale East I have attended various parish council meetings, met with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Dunkirk Parish Council on a separate occasion to discuss planning issues within the Parish and later the same evening attended a presentation at Graveney village hall of the proposals for a massive solar park on Cleve and Nagden marshes. I also chaired a meeting of the Perry Wood Management Steering Group in November.

Stretching just into December my wife and I were pleased to attend the Lantern Parade, singing of Carols and switching on of the Christmas Tree lights in Boughton. The following day we were at the Christingle service in Selling Church.

Andrew Bowles

Eastling Neighbourhood Watch



Village Warden 07794 010 394

or 01795 890848

Police 101

Emergency 999

I understand there have been one or two incidents in the Eastling school property area in recent times. Should anybody have any information as to the persons concerned in this please give me a call so it may cleared up quite quickly without the police being called. It is probably bored youngsters.

I have not heard about any person in our locality being scammed over the last month but please stay alert.

Remember, if you are posting pictures on facebook etc., make sure that there are no bank/credit cards in view in the pictures as these con persons can obtain your details by enlarging the photos and, before you know it, someone has stolen your identity.

There have been reports of dog fouling around the bus stop area of Glebe. This is not acceptable and it would be appreciated if the dog owners clear up after their animals as it does cause a nasty problem for the youngsters waiting for the bus to go to school.

Happy new year to all
and take care, Alan.

Eastling Parish Council

The next meeting of the council will be at 6.30pm in the village hall on Wednesday 10th January. Meetings are open to the public. www.eastlingvillage.co.uk

Throwley Parish Council

The next meeting will be at Parsonage Farm on Monday 15th January 2018 at 7.30pm. Meetings are open to the public. www.throwleypc.kentparishes.gov.uk



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End of year message from Helen Whately, MP for Faversham and Mid Kent

So much has happened this year at such a pace, I feel I've hardly had a chance to reflect. The most important moment for me was being re-elected in June, with an increased majority. It is an honour to represent this constituency and I'm delighted that people have put their trust in me again.

Since the election Brexit has dominated the headlines, but as well as pushing for the best deal for Kent I've been getting on with my campaigns for a new hospital and a medical school, better roads and infrastructure, a good school place for every child, care for people with mental health problems and a seasonal workers scheme for farmers.

One of the big lessons from this summer is that we need to do more for young people. For people in their 30s as their careers develop, for people in their 20s as they set out in the world of work, for teenagers wondering what life will hold, and for smaller children like mine still dreaming of being ballerinas and footballers. So I was glad that the Budget included investment in technology, infrastructure and skills, including an extra £2.3 billion in research and development, £385 million in 5G and full-fibre broadband, and support for maths and science teaching. We have to give younger generations the skills needed for the jobs of tomorrow, and make sure the economy develops to provide those jobs.

As well as jobs, we desperately need more affordable homes. I hope the abolition of stamp duty for first-time buyers for properties under £300,000 will help people in this area – where prices are high – get on the ladder. And the Government has committed to making sure 300,000 new homes a year are built. But new housing must be in the right places and accompanied by appropriate investment in infrastructure. Ever since I was elected I have done everything I can to make the voice of local people heard in the planning process, and in particular I have spoken out against development at Junction 8.

The housing targets for Maidstone and Swale are already high and local roads are under enormous pressure, with congestion becoming the norm rather than the exception. Thousands more houses will mean more demand for healthcare and school places and many more cars on the road. So we need investment in infrastructure – like a potential Leeds-Langley relief road and an overhaul of Brenley Corner – and in public services.

The Government recognises this, and recently announced an extra £1.3 billion for schools. Local schools are getting a

6.4% funding boost – that's a total of £2.7 million more than they would have received under the old funding system. Every secondary school will receive at least £4,600 per pupil next year and £4,800 in 2019-20. High-needs funding for the most vulnerable children is also going up, and there's support for rural schools. I was delighted to be appointed as Parliamentary Private Secretary to Education Secretary Justine Greening, and in this role I have had the opportunity to be involved in conversations about education at a national level.

There have also been positive developments in the campaign for a new hospital in Canterbury and a medical school for Kent. After numerous public meetings, marches, lobbying sessions with ministers, a debate in Parliament, delivering a petition to Downing Street and handing a letter in person to Jeremy Hunt, the NHS is finally consulting on a proposal for a new hospital. I have always said that the NHS should consider a vision for healthcare in East Kent with an excellent specialist hospital in the centre. This option is now on the table. That wasn't the case a few months ago. There's still a long way to go before the final decision is made and whatever the outcome, patients must come first.

One reason local hospitals are struggling is that they can't recruit enough doctors. That's why I'm campaigning for a medical school, to train the doctors of the future locally. I recently joined forces with 15 other MPs from across the county, and across parties, to support Canterbury Christ Church and the University of Kent's joint bid to establish a medical school.

On roads, as well as tackling traffic we need to make sure there is no return to the chaos we saw two summers ago when the M20 was closed for weeks for Operation Stack. I am disappointed that plans for a lorry holding area have been delayed, however I have always said that the key is to make sure traffic can continue to flow in both directions on the M20 when Operation Stack is in place. Highways England are now proposing to hold lorries in the middle of the motorway using mobile barriers, while allowing traffic to continue to travel in both directions. This will be a temporary solution, and we still need a proper alternative to Operation Stack. The Government is now getting straight on with trying to get a lorry park approved through the normal planning process. As part of this it is broadening its scope and thinking of ways to address the broader problems of fly-parking and the potential impact of Brexit – as well as Operation Stack.

As well as increasing the number of lorry parking spaces in the County, we need tougher rules to make sure drivers park in the right places. I want to see a ban on lorries in lay-bys and I'm pleased that Kent County Council recently started clamping illegally parked trucks after the first offence. Drivers have to pay £250 to have the clamps removed. If this pilot scheme is successful I hope it will be rolled out across the County.

This is also a challenging time for local fruit farmers. We're lucky to grow some of the best strawberries, raspberries, apples and cherries in the world here in Kent, but farmers tell me they are struggling to recruit the workers they need. It's getting harder to attract seasonal workers from across the EU, and the number of local people looking for work is far too low to meet the labour needs of fruit farms. I've been campaigning along with other MPs with fruit farms in their constituencies for the Government to re-start a Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme, which is what we had before EU enlargement to provide farms with enough workers.

Nationally, I'm campaigning for better support for people with mental health problems. The more we speak about mental health—privately, publicly and in Parliament—the more we wear away the stigma that surrounds it. As chair of the all-party group on mental health, I often speak to service users, professionals and campaigners from organisations such as Rethink Mental Illness, Mind and the Royal College of Psychiatrists. They tell me there has never been a better time to be a mental health campaigner. We have the five year forward view for mental health, a truly comprehensive and widely supported strategy to improve mental health care; a Prime Minister who is committed to fighting the injustice of inadequate treatment; and a Government which is spending record amounts on improving mental health care. We're already seeing the results locally where East Kent University NHS Trust is receiving nearly £500,000 to make specialist psychiatric liaison services available in A&E and inpatient wards. But there's more to do, and I will keep on working to make sure mental health conditions are treated just as seriously as physical illnesses.

Do keep on contacting me with your concerns and views, whether in writing, by phone or by coming to one of my surgeries. I'm looking forward to spending Christmas eating far too much and spending time with my family. I wish everyone in Faversham and Mid Kent a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!

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Services in our Churches

7th January 2018 Epiphany

Isaiah 60, 1 - 6, Ephesians 3.1 -1 2, Mathew 2. 1 - 12

Eastling 10 am Morning Prayer

Led by Reader Norman Fowler

14th January Epiphany 2

Revelation 5. 1 - 10, John 1. 43 - end

Eastling 10 am CaféStyle in the Village Hall

21st January Epiphany 3

Revelation 19. 6 - 10, John 2. 1 - 11

Stalisfield 10 am Holy Communion (CW)

Celebrant - Revd Caroline Pinchbeck

28th January Candlemas

Hebrews 2. 14 - end, Luke 2. 22 - 40

Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)

Celebrant - Revd Caroline Pinchbeck

Throwley 10 am Holy Communion (BCP)

4th February 2nd Sunday before Lent

Colossians 1. 15-20, John 1. 1-14

Eastling 10 am Morning Prayer

Led by Reader Norman Fowler

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

## High Downs Parish

Rector Vacant  
Parish Office Email: eastlingchurch@gmail.com  
facebook.com/highdownsbenefice

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

Reader Hugh Perks (01795 890603)  
Weald Cottage, Eastling

#### Churchwardens

**Eastling** Andrew Baxter (01795 890598)

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

#### Stalisfield with Otterden

Jean West (01233 712270)

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

**Throwley** Vacant

### Midweek Groups

**Tuesdays:** Study group, 9.30am on 9th & 23rd January  
at Garden Cottage, Eastling. 01795 890368

**Wednesdays:** Weekly study group, 7.30pm, Beech  
Close, Faversham Info: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,  
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<http://kentww1.com>



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### The Diary of Tammy the Siamese Cat

*by Audrey Keen*

The nights were drawing in and the mornings were chilly so I had to change my outdoor routine. Sleeping under the bushes in the garden was not something I wanted to do now and I found it was better to stay warm in front of the range in the kitchen for an extra hour in the morning. Later I would wander along the narrow pathway in the garden to investigate smells left over from the night, then sit in the conservatory where the meagre sunlight felt warm through the glass.

From time to time I would meet the ginger cat from next door, a beefy chap with big paws, who was a little confrontational at times but on the whole we kept our distance and tolerated one another. Tim the tabby belonged to the farmer's wife and he spent most of his time ratting and mousing, always too busy to be friendly. But the little black cat, who lived two doors down and whose name I never knew, was a friend to me and we would sit together after tea, routinely washing our paws and faces. The big dog who lived at the end of the lane was another matter and he could cause real problems if not supervised.

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Refreshments will be available

All proceeds go to Rotary Charities

For further information call:

Derek Lamb 01622 890650 or Bob  
Taylor 01233 756379

For entry forms go to:

**[www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk](http://www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk)**



### Short Mat Bowls

Happy new year from  
all at Eastling Cherries.  
Give yourselves a  
break in the new year,

come along and have a go at short  
mat bowls. Fridays, 2.30 - 4.30pm  
and 7.30 - 9.30pm in Eastling village  
hall.

Before the Christmas break our  
competition team played away against  
Whitstable Oysters, Eileen, John  
Hobbs and John Graham drew but  
Bryan, Des and Roy lost on their mat  
so the team came home with our tails  
between our legs, only two points.  
When Whitstable came to Eastling  
Des, Bryan and Roy won, but Eileen  
John and John lost by one shot,  
happily, with more shots overall, we  
gained 4 points. Early December and  
away to Canterbury Choughs Eileen,  
John and Chris Smith won; Des,  
Bryan and Roy lost. On 15th  
December Canterbury payed us a  
visit; Eileen, John and John had a  
very tough game going into the last  
end on ten shots each, Eastling won  
that game by one shot. On the other  
mat Des, Bryan and Roy won 18 shots  
to 6 shots giving Eastling 6 points.  
We are still hanging on to fourth place  
in the first division.

During December we also played in a  
competition at Hawkinge, and  
enjoyed our Annual Buffet. All the  
best to all, more reports 2018.  
Roy Piles. 01795 537162

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TEL: Faversham 532319

### Eastling Church Flower Rota

31st Dec 2017 - Please check your  
own arrangements

7th Jan 2018 Remove your own  
arrangements and  
dismantle Christmas tree.

14th & 21st - Pippa & Gabrielle

28th & 4th Feb - Bay .

*Thank you to all  
who helped  
decorate and clean  
the church for  
Christmas - your  
work has been  
praised by many.*



If you've ever felt that being a Christian in the UK is not easy, spare a prayer for Christians in North Korea, Somalia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Yemen, and Eritrea. These ten countries (in that order) have topped the 2017 Open Doors World Watch List for the ten most difficult places on earth to be a Christian.

In these countries Christians must keep their beliefs hidden, for to be known as a Christian means beatings, imprisonment, discrimination and constant abuse.

### Countries where it is most difficult to be a Christian

At the end of 2017, Open Doors found that, for the fourth year in a row, the level of overall persecution has risen worldwide, with Asia in particular showing a rapid rise. While North Korea is still number one, India went up to a ranking of 15, as Hindu nationalists batter the churches. Elsewhere, Islamic extremism continues to strangle the expression of the Christian faith, fuelling persecution in 14 out of the top 20 countries, and

35 of the top 50. Millions of Christians around the world now live their lives against varying levels of discrimination, discovery, violence and arrest.

Christians living in these countries urgently need the support of their family, the body of Christ, to help them stand firm in their faith.

You can help. More details at:  
[www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/25-years-world-watch/](http://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/25-years-world-watch/)



## Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.

Happy New Year to you all. This is a relatively short update as the 2018 calendar of events is being finalised at the time of writing. The last Meeting of 2017 was a week later than usual due to the annual Stalisfield Pantomime. Our guest Speaker/Instructor was Jackie Brookes who took us through the mechanics of making a wreath using moss as the base. Those who wished to make a wreath supplied their own foliage and decorations. It is quite amazing the variety of



wreaths produced which will be adorning our homes.

As it was also our 10th Birthday a lovely cake was supplied, along with

mulled wine and plenty of festive food, made by Members of the Committee. On the subject of food, a number of the ladies will be enjoying our New Year meal (instead of a Christmas meal) on 10th January at The Carpenters Arms, Eastling, which will give us all something to look forward to after all the festivities at the end of 2017.

You may like to make a New Year's Resolution to try the W.I. in 2018? If so, please contact our Secretary, Lesley Andrews on 01795 890581 or our President, Stephanie Culver on 01795 890748. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at Stalisfield Village Hall.

## BELMONT HOUSE & GARDENS

### BELMONT LOGS

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Faversham, Kent ME13 0HH  
www.belmont-house.org**



## Stalisfield Carol singing

A big thank you to all the hosts and carol singers who sang beautifully around Stalisfield. We raised an amazing £147.00 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Another great turnout, well done all, a real village highlight. Elaine.

## Stalisfield Christmas

Thank you to the many people of Stalisfield who worked so hard to give us a great build up to Christmas. The pantomime, which is always fun, the Seniors' Tea which was so well done, piping hot and so tasty, I don't know how they did it, and finally the carol singing - we had a really nice time.

Thank you all so much, too many to name but you know who you are.  
The Bunce Family



## Eastling Seniors' Christmas Lunch

I'm sure I speak for the many who arrived at the village hall for this festive event when I say a big Thank you to Marion, Pam, Dorothy and their super efficient team.

We were greeted by such a happy scene of beautifully laid tables, friends catching up with each other, drinks in hand, and a wonderful aroma from the kitchen.

The food was excellent, company exceptional and the after lunch entertainment from Lis Bayford and her choir rounded off this special time in true harmony.

Thank You to everyone who contributed to the Eastling house to house Poppy collection 2017.

Despite my lack of willpower to get around the whole village last November, the collection pot revealed an amazing £114.66. This was boosted by further £15 from knitted poppies made by Ann Morgan and sold to her friends - well done Eastling. If anyone would like to help with the collecting next November, do let me know - 01795 890338. The total for the Faversham area was in excess of £29,000. Hilary.

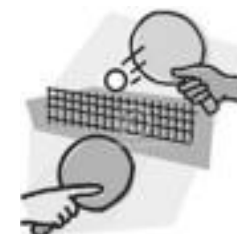


## Painters Forstal with Selling W.I.

meeting in Eastling Village Hall The December meeting went very well. Everyone made a Christmas cracker to take home. We all decided in between laughter that we were not putting anyone out of business!!

The January meeting is a meal out which we hope members will enjoy. Back to normal meetings in February on the 3rd Tuesday afternoon of the month

As usual any information from Barbara on 01795 890020 or e-mail tombar72@hotmail.co.uk



## Table Tennis

*under new  
management.*

With great thanks to Tracey for all her work, Pete Burton is now running the table tennis in Stalisfield village hall on Tuesdays, 7 - 9pm. Pete can be contacted on 07715 710402 or by email: burtonpete@hotmail.com

## EASTLING VILLAGE HALL

To book ring Hayley on 01795 890968

www.eastlingvillagehall.co.uk



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.

## Charing Local History Society

### A Schoolgirl's War

The fascinating story of school life in Kent during World War II using an exquisite and unique set of paintings and drawings created by an art teacher - *Mary Smith*.

Thursday 11th January in the Parish Hall, Station Road, Charing, Kent. The talk starts at 8pm, doors open at 7:30pm and visitors are welcome at £3 each.

www.charinghistory.co.uk

## Eastling Gardeners' Club New Year's Party

Thursday, 11th January 2018  
At 7.30 p.m.

in Eastling Village Hall  
'A Taste of Cheese'  
With George Ward of  
Cheesemakers of Canterbury  
Followed by homemade  
curries.

Free to members,  
non-members £4



### WEEKLY EVENTS:

|                      |                  |                 |                          |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Mondays              | Zumba            | 9.30am          | Stalisfield Village Hall |
| Tuesdays             | Table Tennis     | 7 - 9pm         | Stalisfield Village Hall |
| Alternate Wednesdays | Eastling Walkers | 10.30am         | Call 01795 892194        |
| Thursdays            | Fitness Pilates  | 9.15am          | Eastling Village Hall    |
| Thursdays            | Zumba            | 6.30pm          | Stalisfield Village Hall |
| Fridays              | Short Mat Bowls  | 2.30pm & 7.30pm | Eastling Hall            |

### JANUARY 2018

|                                      |                   |                          |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 10th Ott/den & S/field W.I.          | meal at the       | Carpenters Arms          |
| 10th Parish Council meeting          | 6.30pm            | Eastling Village Hall    |
| 11th Gardeners' Club Party           | 7.30pm            | Eastling Village Hall    |
| 11th Charing History Society         | 8pm               | Charing Parish Hall      |
| 15th Deadline for February Good News | Details see below |                          |
| 15th Parish Council meeting          | 7.30pm            | Parsonage Farm, Throwley |
| 27th Quiz Night                      | 7.30pm            | Eastling Village Hall    |
| 30th Magazine Folding                | 2pm               | Pinks Farm, Eastling     |

### CONTACT THE EDITOR

If you would like to advertise in the February 2018 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](http://www.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews)**



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or pop in to see us with your CV



**The Plough Inn, Stalisfield;** a family run, independent, award winning pub & restaurant offering an extensive menu of restaurant quality food and pub snacks as well as a large range of unique & locally produced drinks.

We are closed from January 1st, reopening for lunch on the 9th.

January will also see the launch of our **new house ale!**

**January Sales** - with 20% off food for pre booked tables every Friday. £50 minimum spend per table on food from our main menu or blackboard.

**Throughout January** Mon - Thurs, 6 - 7pm, we are offering a dish of the week & a drink\* for £13.50.  
\*beer, wine or soft drink

**Wednesday 31st** - Wonderful Women's Wednesday, a great excuse to meet up at the pub for some food and a drink with the ladies, pre booking required, please call for details.

Keep up to date by following us on **Facebook, Twitter or Instagram**  
Stalisfield Road, Faversham, Kent, ME13 0HY  
Tel: 01795 890 256 theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk  
Email: info@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk