



## Stalisfield Children's Party

This year Stalisfield Village Hall welcomed 28 children to the Christmas Party. We played games, (some of them very silly!) made Christmas cards and crackers, ate party food and best of all; Father Christmas visited with his sack laden with gifts for the children.

The party proves that many hands make light work, with lots of people offering their services to help make the day special for the children. Volunteers helped with games, on craft tables, in the secret room, serving food, setting up, clearing up, and generally joining in with whatever needed doing - there were lots and lots of you and we are very grateful for your help.

Thanks are due to Cat for co-ordinating all the mails, Tracy for getting the food ordered and organising the volunteer elves, The Plough for bringing yummy hot food for us all and to Fran for painting some beautifully festive faces. Also thank you to Graham and Nina who managed to contact Santa for us, the 'elves'; Myrna, Jenny, Jean, Rose, Murray, Anna and anyone else who arrived early to help and then worked really hard throughout the day, the various parents who carried stuff about, joined in and were generally helpful, and lastly, thanks to our wonderful children who turn up each year and join in with whatever bizarre games they are presented with.

Thank you everyone for another lovely afternoon  
Su, Andy and Joe



Help feed local people in crisis

## Thank You and a Happy New Year to you all !

Since January 2018, the food collected in Eastling Church has amounted to 568.85Kg, which equates to 1,354 meals. Your generosity makes a big difference to people who are really desperate for food for themselves and their families. We know from a number of recent reports that Foodbanks across the country are reporting more and more people turning to them for help, many of whom are in work, doing several jobs but still unable to pay for the basics.

**Urgent items for January:** Long life fruit juice; tinned fish; tinned ham/meat; tinned rice pudding; all purpose cleaner; washing up liquid; toilet rolls



### Mouse Makes

The Bible lists many names and titles that were given to Jesus. There are 28 to find in the wordsearch, most are listed below but for some you will have to look up the Bible verses!

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

"You are to give him the name JESUS because he will save his people from their sins."

Read Luke 2:21-38

THE \_\_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_

John 14:6

John 10:11

OF GOD

John 1:29

Revelation 17:14

I am the

John 10:9

of Life

John 6:35

The

John 1:1-5

Luke 2:11

S \_\_\_\_\_ R

ALPHA • LORD • JESUS • MESSIAH • LIFE

TRUTH • PROPHET • PRINCE • JUDGE

SON OF GOD • SON OF MAN • CHRIST

VINE • ROCK • REDEEMER • MEDIATOR

CORNERSTONE • EMMANUEL • OMEGA

Jan19 © Deborah Noble • at parishpump.co.uk

## What's On

### WEEKLY EVENTS:

#### Tuesdays

Table Tennis 7 - 9pm Stalisfield Hall

#### Wednesdays (Alternate)

Eastling Walkers 10.30am Call 01795 892194

#### Thursdays

Zumba 6.30pm Stalisfield Hall

#### Fridays

Yoga 9.30am Eastling Hall

Short Mat Bowls 7.30pm Eastling Hall

## January



2019

- 3rd School Term 3 begins 9am  
Eastling Primary School
- 10th History Society Christmas Social 8pm  
Charing Parish Hall
- 13th CaféStyle 10am  
Eastling Village Hall
- 16th Otterden & Stalisfield W.I. 2.30pm  
Challock tea rooms
- 16th Eastling Parish Council 6.30pm  
Eastling Village Hall
- 15th Deadline for February Good News  
goodnewsmagazine@me.com
- 15th Painters Forstal with Selling W.I.  
Railway Inn, Faversham
- 19th Gardeners' New Year Party 7.30pm  
Eastling Village Hall
- 25th Burns Night Quiz 7.30pm  
Eastling Primary School
- 29th February Good News Publication  
FEBRUARY
- 16th Throwley Valentine's Ball  
Faversham Golf Club

## New Year's Eve

Stalisfield Village Hall

31<sup>st</sup> December at 8pm

Bring your own drinks, nibbles (or dinner) and celebrate with your friends and neighbours.

Music, dancing, drinking and general merry-making

Book your tickets: Contact Su on

01795 890334

suandyjoe@yahoo.co.uk

## Good News Parish Magazine

January 2019

## High Downs Parish

Serving the villages of Eastling, Otterden, Stalisfield and Throwley

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

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF EASTLING SCHOOL FOR A:



## BURNS NIGHT -QUIZ-

£6 PER HEAD | TEAMS OF UP TO 8 | RAFFLE  
B.Y.O. FOOD & DRINK (NIBBLES PROVIDED)  
All proceeds to Friends of Eastling School, registered Charity 105880  
Email or phone Claire to book a table:  
ccharlton11@hotmail.co.uk or 07841 838561

7.30PM  
FRIDAY 25TH  
JANUARY  
2019

TARTAN AND  
TWEED DRESS  
ENCOURAGED  
HAGGIS, NEEPS  
AND TATTIES  
OPTIONAL

THE SCHOOL HALL  
EASTLING SCHOOL  
KETTLE HILL ROAD  
EASTLING  
ME13 0BA

16TH FEBRUARY 2019

## THROWLEY VALENTINE'S BALL

AT  
FAVERSHAM GOLF CLUB  
IN TRIBUTE TO GLYNN HOWLAND

TICKETS £37.50 FOR  
A DRINKS RECEPTION  
THREE COURSE MEAL  
DJ AND DANCING

PLEASE CALL  
LUCY MURPHY 07974 929836  
OR BECCI HOWLAND 07963 628238



## Eastling Gardeners' Club

### New Year's Party

Saturday, 19th January 2019

7.30 p.m. in Eastling Village Hall

There will be a film and talk about Sir Thomas Hanbury and the creation of his garden on the Italian Riviera by Hugh Raggett, the producer. This will be followed by an Italian meal.

Free to members, otherwise £4





2019: Is it even possible to make a new start?

The Christian faith teaches that a new start is endlessly possible. It is provided by a personal encounter with the risen and living Jesus Christ. He offers us the opportunity and the resources to make a new start, despite all our circumstances or failings.

The Bible records many encouraging examples of people who were able to start again after encountering Jesus. These include a woman caught in adultery who was facing execution by an outraged community, a hated tax collector named Zacchaeus who had been collaborating with the enemy, and Peter, the close friend of Jesus who publicly disowned him.

God's provision of a new start liberates people from the powerful hold that guilt, fear and memories of failure can have over a human. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus have made a way for humans to find God's forgiveness. A Christian is someone who has accepted God's forgiveness and now has the freedom to reject the old habits of bitterness, anger or revenge, like disposing of a 'shabby old coat'. Many Christians experience this as such a new

beginning and they describe it as feeling like a different kind of life. Forgiveness, however, is not the same as perfection. Although many Christians can look back to a specific time at which they made a decision to make a new start as a follower of the way of Jesus Christ, living up to a new way of being is an ongoing struggle. There is a frequent need to revisit and remember the new start. Church services almost always include a point at which worshippers are encouraged to think about recent failures, confess them, and ask for the mercy of God in absolute certainty that He will forgive.

The Bible describes God's promises of mercy as 'new every morning'. It is in the gracious nature of God that mistakes and failures are not a stick to be beaten with, but an opportunity to change into something better.

www.Christianity.org.uk



The Good News has a new Treasurer

Although the work on this magazine is entirely voluntary, we do have to pay for paper and printing. This is provided for by revenue from our advertisers, plus a few donations from readers. So we need someone to keep a check on the finances and for the past 13 years this has been Pam Bell. We are extremely grateful to Pam for all the time taken and skill needed to keep us on track.

Thank you Pam.

The years go by and Pam has decided to stand down and the spotlight has now fallen on the unsuspecting Julie Kyte to continue the good work.

I would like to thank Julie for taking this on, and also to thank the many folk who help deliver the Good News, every month, to all homes in our villages. Hilary, Editor.

2020 Lambeth Conference

The 2020 Lambeth Conference will be held in Canterbury from 23<sup>rd</sup> July to 2<sup>nd</sup> August. The theme is to be 'God's Church for God's world', and the aim is to help the Communion to 'look at something greater and bigger than ourselves, and not to quibble around the little things in the family'. It is certainly a big family: every 'active' bishop within the Anglican Communion's 40 Provinces will be invited, and with spouses coming, the total number of delegates will be more than 800.

Lambeth 2020 will be the Archbishop of Canterbury's first Lambeth Conference. In a video message, Archbishop Welby said: 'We do have very important differences, but we must show that we respect each other as sisters and brothers in Christ, and that we learn to disagree in a way that demonstrates that we love and value each other.... But, whatever views we come with, we come to be under the authority of Scriptures, and inspired by the Spirit.'

The Archbishop said that he hoped the bishops would 'look outwards at the world that needs the good news of Jesus Christ.'



A Special Thank You

On behalf of my family and myself, we wish to thank you for all the cards and kind messages of condolence, they helped us a lot. Thank you to all who came to the church. Our gratitude goes out to our friends, neighbours and all who helped in the church, too many to thank individually. Keith would have been so proud, as were all his family. God bless, thanking you all once again. Eileen, Pauline, Martin and the Neaves family.



The Rev Paul Hardingham considers the Magi.

Wise Men Still Seek Him

A cold coming we had of it. Just the worst time of the year. For a journey and such a long journey.' (Journey of the Magi, T.S. Eliot).

In this poem, T.S. Eliot imagines the journey of the Magi to worship Jesus, as told in Matthew 2. This story is at the heart of our celebration of Epiphany, as we remember the astrologers from the East following a star to find the baby: 'Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' (Matthew 2:1,2).

The Magi provide a powerful picture of the journey we make in searching for God in our lives. Like them, it requires time and effort (they travelled for months) and will not always be easy! As they followed the star, so we are called to pursue God's light in our lives.

What does this say to us at the beginning of a New Year? Are we ready to go deeper in our relationship with God? Are we looking for new ways to use our time, treasure and talents for Him? It is a great time to offer these things to Him, and like the Magi, commit ourselves to pursue them. His light, through prayer, worship and his Word, will be our guide on the way.

T.S. Eliot used the imagined journey of the magi to reflect on his own spiritual journey. It reveals the pain and doubts he experienced on his long and troubled journey to find the light of Christ. He describes finding Christ as a 'hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death'. Are we prepared to make this journey for ourselves?

Please take the time to find this poem and read it, unfortunately permission from Faber & Faber to reprint it here will take about 6 weeks - Editor



Eastling Parish Council

The next meeting of the council will at 6.30pm int he village hall on Wednesday 16th January 2019. All residents are welcome to attend. www.eastlingpc.kentparishes.gov.uk eastlingvillage.co.uk

Throwley Parish Council

Monday 21st January 2019 is the date of the next meeting. Check with website for venue: www.throwleypc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Eastling Neighbourhood Watch



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

2018 has been a reasonable quiet year crime figures very low for local area mainly due to the vigilance of people within the locality.

Obviously every incident that occurs cannot go into print .

There have been incidents where persons within or driving into the area where they thought coming into a rural community they did not need to have ins, road tax,mot on their vehicle, how wrong they were, the Police Rural Team have been around quite a lot in recent times and have enforced the law where necessary.

Kent still has the highest rate for the stealing of dogs so please be very careful to keep your animal within sight at all times, whilst on the subject of dogs it is imperative that you keep your dogs on a lead at all times within the sight of sheep, as I have mentioned before the farmer has the right to shoot any animal attacking their flock.

Have a happy New year and remember the drink driving code.

Take Care Alan

For your information: Please note that Kent Police has set up 3 dedicated phone numbers to make it easier to contact their Rural Team. The phone numbers are as follows:

North Division 07528 989 095 ( Swale, Medway, Dartford & Gravesham)

West Division 07580 236 308 ( Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling)

East Division 07980 978 202 (Canterbury, Ashford, Dover, Thanet, Shepway)

Prayer Pointers

January 2019



- Sundays - Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us in this New Year.
- Mondays - Give thanks for the first signs of Spring, nature's new year.
- Tuesdays - Pray for world leaders that will rule justly and wisely.
- Wednesdays - Give thanks for our health service and all who work within it.
- Thursdays - Pray for those who are unwell in body or in mind.
- Fridays - Give thanks for the emergency services and all who work day & night.
- Saturdays - Pray for Christians living where they are persecuted for their faith.



## M.P. Helen Whately's round-up of the year

Brussels, charades and long arguments - in Parliament it's like every day is Christmas! Top of my wish list is getting a break from Brexit debates and spending some time with my family. Thankfully, we've moved back home after we were flooded out in spring. While in Westminster it feels like a political earthquake, it's lovely to return to normality at home. I'm hugely grateful for the kind messages and offers of help we received. In the summer, the Prime Minister appointed me the Party's Vice Chair for Women. In this centenary year of women winning the right to vote, I've been at the forefront of a cross-party campaign to get more women to stand for election. Parliament is very different from how it was in 1918, but a century on, just under a third of MPs are women. One thing we know is that many women wait to be asked. If you're a woman reading, please consider putting yourself forward. I've also been working hard on my local campaigns. There's not room to cover everything in this newsletter, but I've included some highlights. Brexit has divided Parliament. Some people argue for a Canada-style free trade deal, others would prefer to stay in the single market or not to leave at all. But the Prime Minister is not Santa Claus and she can't please everyone. She fought hard for a pragmatic deal that respects the result of the referendum by ending free movement and huge payments to Brussels without risking jobs and curtailing trade with our largest export market. As I write, we're anticipating the vote on the EU Withdrawal Agreement and it looks unlikely the Government will win. Whatever happens, I'll try to do the right thing, to the best of my judgement, for Faversham and Mid Kent and the country as a whole. I am not looking to be a hero, nor to have any particular place in history. I am just deeply aware of my responsibility to the people I represent. Being MP for Faversham & Mid Kent is a privilege and an opportunity to do good, but it's also a responsibility. This year that responsibility has weighed particularly heavily on my mind. As the year comes to an end, I hope that next year we will be able to move on from the divisions of Brexit and focus on all the things that we want to do to make this constituency and the country a better place to live.

**Kent is getting a medical school, now it's time to sort out our hospitals** It's been a difficult year for healthcare, especially the long cold winter of 2017/18. One reason East Kent's hospitals have struggled is that they can't recruit enough doctors for A&E. In March we had a great success for the campaign for a medical school. Kent will get one of five new medical schools to train a new generation of doctors. Having worked on this with the Kent universities and the local NHS since

2016, hearing this news was one of the best moments of my year. Now we need to make sure we have great hospitals, clinics and GP surgeries for them to work in. I have pressed the local NHS to give proper consideration to a new specialist hospital in Canterbury. While hospital decisions are contentious, the continued uncertainty means that hospitals are getting more dilapidated, so the NHS must get on with it.

**More money for mental health** I was re-elected chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Mental Health, giving me the chance to influence national policy—and I was delighted when the Chancellor announced an extra £2 billion for mental health. Locally we're seeing the benefits of investment, with £500,000 allocated for mental health teams in all our A&Es and a new £2.3 million mother and baby unit in Dartford for new mothers needing inpatient care. My biggest concern locally is children and young people's mental health services, where we have long waiting times. I'm working with colleagues to put pressure on the NHS to get a grip of this service.

**No more Operation Stack** Leaving the EU without a deal would have particular consequences for Kent. We know what it's like to have the county turned into a lorry park because of Operation Stack. I have called on Ministers and Highways England to make sure traffic can flow if we get delays at the Channel crossings. The new plan is called Operation Brock, and involves a contraflow on the M20. Manston Airport and the M26 have both been identified as options for further queuing but there are questions about feasibility. The reality is even small delays at the border could lead to some very long queues. A Brexit deal which avoids border checks would put us in a much better position.

**Fairer flying for disabled people** I decided to change the law to make flying more accessible after a constituent from Kingswood told me what a nightmare he'd had at an airport in my advice surgery. I've introduced a Private Member's Bill to make sure airport and airline staff are properly trained and wheelchairs are kept safe during the flight. Disabled people have been overlooked while able-bodied people have benefitted from cheap, easy, flights. We've made buses and trains more accessible, now it's time to make flying fairer.

**A seasonal agricultural workers pilot scheme for fruit farmers** Our countryside and economy are enriched by fruit farming. But it's a tough business as farmers are struggling to find workers to pick and pack fruit. This is a problem across the EU, but it's particularly hard in Britain because of the fall in value of the pound. Campaigning with other MPs, I got

the Government to agree to pilot a seasonal agricultural workers scheme for 2,500 workers from outside the EEA. It's a good start, but the horticulture industry employs 80,000 seasonal workers a year, so I'll be working to make sure the pilot scheme is a success and can be scaled up.

**Solar park could obliterate marshes** I'm worried that plans for a solar farm will cover Graveney marshes, harming wildlife and changing the landscape beyond recognition. Though the developer has listened to concerns and reduced the scale, it's still huge. Solar energy is important for a sustainable, green future – but this is just massive. With 880,000 panels, it will industrialise swathes of open countryside. This beautiful, eerie landscape loved by walkers might never be the same again.

**New lifts at Faversham station—now Headcorn needs them too** The faulty lifts at Faversham station were finally fixed in December. Great news for disabled passengers, parents with buggies – anyone who can't use stairs. Now it's time for other stations like Headcorn and Lenham to get step-free access. With over 600,000 passengers a year, Headcorn is a particularly strong candidate and I've been working hard with borough, parish and county councillors to raise its chances. The Government has announced a £300 million fund to improve step-free access at train stations, and we've just heard Headcorn has been shortlisted for a share of the money. I'll be making a strong case for this station to be prioritised for funding. Thank you to everyone who's got involved in campaigning and fundraising in 2018. Have a Happy New Year and a great 2019.

## Garden Services

### Year Round Horticultural Care

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## New Bible-and-Art website

If you want to enjoy art with your Bible reading, then visit the stunning new £2-million Bible-and-art website, 'The Visual Commentary on the Bible' ([thevcs.org](http://thevcs.org)) which was launched late last year. This website matches three works of art with passages of Scripture. Each triptych has been chosen by a theologian or an art historian, who also provides a short commentary on the picture, relating it to the Bible verses. The images on the site are high-resolution, and with the powerful zoom facility, users can enjoy the artworks in great detail.

So far, there are 50 completed triptychs, or 'exhibitions', and another 50 await copyright permissions. In the next seven years, it is hoped that the number will grow to 1500.

The site is free to use. It is funded by Roberta and Howard Ahmanson, the US billionaire philanthropists, and draws on the expertise of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at King's College, London.

*I've had a quick look at this site and I hope it you will find it a useful addition to bible study and enlightenment. - Editor*

## Tutoring

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Email: [h.uglow@googlemail.com](mailto:h.uglow@googlemail.com)

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## Services in our Churches

### 30th December Christmas 1

Colossians 3. 12 - 17, Luke 2.41 - end  
No Services in High Downs

### 6th January 2019 Epiphany

Isaiah 60.1-6, Ephesians 3.1-12, Matthew 2.1-12  
Eastling 10 am Morning Prayer (BCP)  
*Led by Caroline Ramshaw*

### 13th January Baptism of Christ

Acts 8. 14-17, Luke 3. 15-17,21-22  
Eastling CaféStyle 10am in Village Hall  
*Led by Murray Wilkinson*  
Throwley 10.00am Morning Prayer  
*Led by Caroline Ramshaw*

### 20th January Epiphany 3

1 Corinthians 12. 1-11, John 2. 1-11  
Stalisfield 10 am Holy Communion (CW)  
*Celebrant - Revd. Canon Reg Humphriss*

### 27th January Epiphany 4

1 Corinthians 12. 12-31a, Luke 4. 14-21  
Eastling 8am Holy Communion (BCP)  
*Celebrant - Revd. Caroline Pinchbeck*  
Throwley 10am Holy Communion (BCP)  
*Celebrant - Revd. Thomas Collett-White*

### 3rd February Candlemas

1 Corinthians 13. 1-13, Luke 4. 22 - 30  
Eastling 10 am Morning Prayer (BCP)  
*Led by Norman Fowler*

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

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## High Downs Parish

Parish Office Email: eastlingchurch@gmail.com  
facebook.com/highdownsbenevice

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)  
Administrator Janet Payne  
E mail: eastlingchurch@gmail.com

Stalisfield with Otterden  
Jean West (01233 712270)  
Administrator Sheila Moger (01233 713212)  
E mail: samhawksnest@aol.com

Throwley Contact: Maggie Scutt (01795890312)  
or Alison Young (01795 890213)

## From the Registers

### Interment of Ashes

Keith Neaves  
16th December 2018 at Eastling

## Midweek Groups

**Tuesdays:** Study group, 8th & 22nd January, 9.30am  
at Garden Cottage, Eastling. 01795 890368

**Wednesdays:** Study group, weekly, 7.30pm, 18 Beech  
Close, Faversham. 01795 890338

**Thursdays:** Prayer group, weekly, 10.30am, Pinks Farm  
Kettle Hill Road, Eastling. 01795 890338

**Fridays:** Study group, weekly, 10.45am, New House Farm,  
Eastling. 01795 890629

*You will be welcome at any of our groups.*

## CONTACT THE GOOD NEWS EDITOR

If you would like to advertise in the February 2019 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  
[ccgi.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews](http://ccgi.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews)

## Treat your Feet FOOTCARE

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Dates for your diary . .

### NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATIONS

Join us for an evening of great food, Great  
Music & Great Beer - 4 course meal  
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Email: [info@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk](mailto:info@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk)

## Help for your family's eating disorders

A charity, Tastelife, has been set up to help support families struggling with eating disorders. Aimed at both sufferers and their carers, it was the brainchild of two Church of England volunteers, whose own families were deeply traumatised by the problem.

Tastelife offers courses run over eight weeks to help families with guidance on how to cope on a daily basis, and how to get onto the path of recovery. The courses are now on offer in 27 locations around the

country. A new course, Awareness of Eating Disorders will be delivered in schools to help young people understand more about their attitudes and behaviour towards food. More details at: [www.tastelifeuk.org](http://www.tastelifeuk.org)

Tastelife was recently recognised for its achievements with a Points of Light award from the Prime Minister



### White Winter

by Audrey Keen

*Was this the place where once  
I watched the bluebells grow?  
Was this the place I trod upon  
dry soil?  
Was it in this dear wood, now  
lain with snow,  
That I watched squirrels toil?  
Did I see rose hips hang from  
this a silver briar,  
Was bracken really green?  
Did webs of spiders here once  
decorate the wire  
And did the clothed fir tee really  
lean?  
For winter shows a picture  
different  
From that of summer, autumn  
or the spring,  
And, as the cold comes, this has  
duly meant  
That nature's time of rest  
Just changes everything.*

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## Eastling School News

This academic year at Eastling Primary School, we are delivering a number of parent workshops including reading and maths. Miss Waugh, Acorn class teacher delivered the first of these workshops on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November focusing on early phonics. Mrs Rayner then led a maths calculations workshop for the Key Stage 2 parents on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November. Both workshops focused on enabling parents to understand how their children learn, the curriculum and ways in which they can further support them at home. In the New Year, we are looking forward to further engagement through reading sessions.

Willow class enjoyed a wonderful day of learning at Kent Life focused on life in the Stone Age. They engaged in workshops on: Beliefs and Burials, Meet a Tribe Member, From Hunters to Farmers, Weapons, Trading in the Stone Age and Grinding Grain.

Faversham Medical Centre asked the school to once again display some artwork there. The displayed work at Faversham Medical Centre can be viewed on the schools Twitter and Facebook pages. We have some amazing artists across our school and the school was delighted to receive a fantastic art set from the Faversham Medical Centre as a thank you.

Acorn class visited Leeds Castle on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November for 'Once Upon A Time' which included touring the rooms, which were all, set up as different fairy tales. The children also had to spot Paddington Bear who was hiding in each of the rooms. They enjoyed finding their way through the maze and of course getting lost.

MP Helen Whately officially opened the new school library, which was made possible by the Friends of Eastling School (FOES) generous donation. The children helped in designing the space and choosing the colour scheme. It is a fantastic resource, which the children love.

Willow class were out and about again at the start of December for their geography topic visiting Brogdale. Silver Birch had a wonderful day of outdoor learning at Otterden focused on their science curriculum and loved bringing the learning to life.

The whole school were delighted that the FOES organised the annual Christmas shopping event. This event is non-profitable and the older children love supporting the younger children with their purchasing.

Our infant classes had a wonderful day visiting Father Christmas in his grotto at the reindeer centre, which was kindly funded by the Friends of Eastling School. The children had an action packed day meeting animals, feeding them and exploring the adventure areas.



Our busy term is ending with the infant nativity 'Hey Ewe', Christmas maths morning, Christingle service in St Mary's, Christmas lunch and a pantomime. Eastling Primary School term three starts on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We do have a few spaces available across the school for an immediate start. Any prospective parents looking for a Reception place for September 2019 are welcome to call the office on 01795 890252 to arrange a visit.

Melanie Dale, Head Teacher

## Happy New Year to you all from Otterden & Stalisfield WI.

After the hilarity of the Stalisfield Pantomime, our wreath making evening was a little more sedate! A neighbour of one of our ladies came along to show us his variation on making Christmas Wreaths and table decorations with an oasis base. It is always interesting to see the new ideas and variations that different people can bring along and it was a lovely sociable evening. The mulled wine and festive food went down well too with Christmas cards being exchanged.

Our next outing, on 16th January, is very WI with Tea and Cake at 'More Tea Vicar' at Challock. We have a reservation at 2.30pm, so anyone that wishes to join us please contact our Treasurer, Maggie Greenwood on 01233 713746 to arrange a place as soon as possible. The cost is £9 per person.

The annual WI subscription is due in January at a cost of £42. This covers 11 Meetings during the year and the monthly WI Life magazine, which is good value for money. They are very sociable gatherings with a good variety of subjects covered by different Speakers. We are holding the



### Charing & District Local History Society

Thursday 10th January,

8pm in Charing Parish Hall

**A Spitfire Girl - a talk by Melody Foreman,**  
biographer of First Officer Mary Wilkins Ellis.

Mary died in July 2018, aged 101, she was the last remaining pilot from this extraordinary group of women at the ATA (Air Transport Auxiliary). Melody reveals the life and times of this pioneering woman pilot who played a key role in helping the RAF during WW2.

Doors open at 7.30pm, Visitors pay £3

### Let Sleeping Dogs Lie

An old, tired-looking dog wandered into my house. Slowly he walked into the sitting room, and fell asleep on the rug. An hour later he went to the door, and I let him out. The next day he was back, walked by me into the house, and again slept for an hour or so in the sitting room. This daily visit and nap continued for several weeks. Curious, I finally pinned a note to his collar: 'Are you aware that your sweet dog comes to my house each day for a nap?' The next day he arrived with a different note pinned to his collar: 'He lives in a home with my six children - he's trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I come with him tomorrow?'



popular Wine Tasting evening with Andrew Higgs in November - always well supported unsurprisingly!

In addition to the monthly Meetings we arrange other outings/events: April will be an afternoon Bluebell Walk in Kingswood followed by beverages at the Halfway House pub. May will also be an afternoon outing to the Gurdwara, at Gravesend. This is one of the largest

Sikh Temples in Europe built entirely from donations costing 15 million pounds. June will be at Stalisfield Village Hall - a popular Quiz Night organised by Julie Murray. July will be a daytime visit to the Walled Nursery at Hawkhurst, a Victorian Garden with 13 Glasshouses, an opportunity to buy plants and visit the cafe/shop. Our last outing of 2019 is in September with a visit to the Copper Rivet Distillery at Chatham Dockyard, where they produce Gin, Whisky and Vodka. The tour lasts about an hour, followed by a tasting!

If you wish to join our friendly group please contact our President Ellie Cameron on 01795 892016 or our Secretary Helen Brooks on 07477 580727.

### Eastling Short Mat Bowls Club

The club's competition team began the season with mixed fortunes: On 24th October we played away to Aylesham, then the return game on 26th at Eastling; overall we gained just 4 points out of a possible 6. Then we had Swalecliffe on 16th November at Eastling, winning on one mat but losing on the other, however we gained more shots and therefore 4 points, we do not play them again until the new year. Aylesham, who have two teams, sent their other team over and we had a very good evening, gaining 6 points.

We then went away on 10th December to Barham when Des Briggs, Bryan Searly and Roy Piles won on their mat. Our other team played well but could not get over the line, so with overall shots came home with 4 points. On 14th December Barham found their way

### Painters Forstal with Selling W.I.

Members had their ACM in November and, except for the secretary, nothing has changed. Pat has left the committee but Jacky who had been minute secretary has now become the secretary proper. Pat is still involved in doing the programme, with Marion, as well as in other ways.

In December members were told about the history of Kent which was very interesting not only for an incomer like myself but to those who had lived in Kent all their lives. We all learned something new about the county.

For our January meeting, we are all going to the Carriage Restaurant in the Railway Inn to enjoy our annual meal. This will be the first time we are going to the Carriage so a nice adventure for us all. Thank you Christine for suggesting we go there.

As usual more details may be obtained from Barbara on 01795 890020 or tombar72@hotmail.co.uk.

Happy New Year to one and all.



to Eastling Village Hall, some going the wrong way, but arrived on time. Des, Bryan and Roy had a convincing win and sent them home with only two points.

The club wish all readers of the Good News a happy New Year and invites them to come along and have a go for we are struggling for members and we do not want the Village Hall to lose another user. If you are interested please give me a ring on 537162.

All the best

Roy Piles

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### Stalisfield Carol Singing



A big, big thank you to the wonderful hosts, who welcomed us with Christmas cheer, and the amazing carol singers who raised a wonderful £105 for Macmillan.

We had a wonderful time, a great Stalisfield community event, well done all.

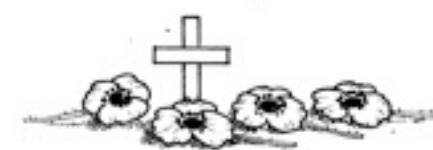


### CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Another wonderful Christmas Lunch was shared by the Seniors of Eastling on Thursday 13th December. Thank you to everyone who came and those who helped set up and tidied up on the day. Thank you to

Lissie Bayford and her singers for their entertainment, also a huge thank you to all of you for your wonderful fundraising support throughout the year to keep this very special tradition alive. We wish you a happy and healthy New Year.

Dorothy, Marion and Pam



### Poppy Appeal 2018

Many thanks to everyone in Eastling who contributed to the November house to house collection. £155.17 was sent off to the Royal British Legion to join in the £30,200 Faversham district total.

My sincere thanks for your support.

Hilary Harlow