"Bubble mix in the organ is not quite what I meant by a Clean Start to the New Year!"

4th Eastling Parish Council

12th Arts Society Lecture

12th Youth Club

26th Youth Club

**FEBRUARY** 

MARCH

11th Spring Quiz

14th Eat, Pray, Walk

Eastling Village Hall

Egerton Millennium Hall 2.30pm

Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm

Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm

Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm

Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm

Doddington Church car park

15th Gardeners' Club New Year Party

Eastling Village Hall

2nd Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.

ANUARY

2022

6.30pm

1.30pm

7.30pm



# Short Mat Bowls

Now open on Wednesday evenings in Eastling Village Hall, 7 - 9pm. New members are very welcome, equipment is provided, all we ask is for you to wear flat soled shoes.

Membership fee is £5.00 and we charge £2.00 for the 2 hours. Come along and have a go, contact Roy Piles on 537162.



# Youth Group Y7 to 13 7.00-8.30

All 11-18 year olds welcome to our local youth group on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. January dates are 12th and 26th 7-8.30pm at Stalisfield Village Hall.

Music, cake, table tennis, Wii, games, craft and chilling out with friends! Come and join us!

Free entry for your first week then £1 which includes cake. Tuck shop available too!

Contact Catherine for further details or just turn up! Clnorwood@doctors.org.uk

**Good News Parish Magazine** High Downs Parish

Serving the villages of Eastling, Otterden, Stalisfield and Throwley

www.goodnews.rf.gd

# "Happy New Year! Happy New Year?

I am writing in the week leading up to Christmas in the midst of all the questions about the Omicron variant of Covid, its severity and its infectivity. We are seeing some restrictions being bought in and questions about socialising. The Press have begun to ask, 'Will we have a new lockdown as we enter 2022?'

Well, at the time of writing I don't know the answers to that. What I do know is that Jane and my New Year plans have had to be cancelled, as we were planning to spend New Year with Hans and Hille Hentschel in Germany, which was becoming a more and more difficult prospect with the testing requirements both before and after travel, before France put a ban on tourists entering the country.

In some ways it all feels "Oh no, not again" and could be very depressing with continuing disruption to our daily lives.

However, another side of this story is the people who have said to me that they have reviewed what is important in their lives.

So what does this look like when we lift our heads up to God? This is where we can find light in the darkness - God's light - the light of Christ, we have just celebrated Him coming to earth as that baby, as Jesus sheds light on God's kingdom, on God's love for us all.

This is where we can find hope in the midst of potential despair - God's hope - hope that takes us from the here and now to that time when God promises that He will be dwelling with his people and his people with Him (Revelation 21).

In Hebrews 11:1 we read these encouraging words: 'Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.'

And so, as we enter 2022 with all its unknowns (I don't think any of us knew what both 2020 and 2021 would be like) we can do so looking to God, looking to His faithfulness, looking to His love that has brought true hope into the world, that has brought true light into the darkness so we can know that light, we can know that hope as we move into 2022 with all its knowns and unknowns.

May God bless you Steve Lillicrap, Rector.

# Eat Pray Walk Celebrate God in creation Monthly walk, tea, cake & Prayer for all ages. Start & finish in Doddington Church Car Park Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January @ 1:30pm A chance to connect, support

A chance to connect, support each other Pause to pray, light a candle, receive a blessing & leave refreshed.

#### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to 25th January.

This year, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been prepared by the churches of the Middle East.



"We saw his star in the East" The Christians of the Middle East say that they offer these resources "conscious that the world shares many of the travails and much of the difficulties that it experiences", and that it also "yearns for a light to lead the way to the Saviour who is the light that overcomes darkness."

More at: <u>https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022/</u>

# Eastling Church January Rota



2nd Christmas flowers: Dismantling on
Tues 4th - Gemma, Suzie, Hilary, Bay, Di, Steph
9th Gaby and Pippa
16th Gaby and Pippa
23rd Gaby / Bay
30th Caroline Turvey

Feb 6th Steph

If you would like to join the flower arranging rota, please call Bay on 01795 892036.

# Prayer Pointers January 2022



Mondays - As we enter a new year pray for God's guidance when making decisions.

**Tuesdays** - Pray for all working in stressful situations, including the NHS and care workers.

**Wednesdays** - Give thanks for teachers; pray for them and their pupils as the new term begins.

**Thursdays** - Praise the Lord for the many staff and volunteers working so hard in the vaccination programme and pray for those who do not believe that Covid exists.

**Fridays** - As we see signs of Spring in nature, pray for new beginnings in our lives. **Saturdays** - Pray for our neighbours and those living in our villages.

**Sundays** - Give thanks for the work of aid charities and pray for their success in bringing relief and hope to so many.

# **Sunday Services**

subject to Covid restrictions and ministry team availability

# 2nd January 2022 Christmas 2

Ephesians 1. 3 - 14, John 1. (1-9) 10 - 18 Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

# 9th January Epiphany 1

Acts 8. 14 - 17, Luke 3. 15 - 17, 21, 22 Throwley 10.30am Morning Worship Newnham 10.30am Holy Communion

# 16th January Epiphany 2

1 Corinthians 12. 1 - 11, John 2. 1 - 11 Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship Norton 10.30am Holy Communion

# 23rd January Epiphany 3

1 Corinthians 12. 12 - 31, Luke 4. 14 - 21 Throwley 10.30am Holy Communion Newnham 10.30am Morning Worship

# **30th January Epiphany 4/Candlemas**

1 Corinthians 13. 1 - 13, Luke 2. 22 - 40 Doddington 10.30am Benefice Communion

# 6th February 4th Sunday before Lent

1 Corinthians 15. 1 - 11, Luke 5. 1 - 11 Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

# **Online Daily Worship Continues**

As well as the services in our churches, the daily 9am Morning Prayer at Lynsted will continue and be live online on <u>www.kingsdowncreekside.co.uk</u> - also on the YouTube Channel 'Breakthrough at Lynsted'. More information is updated weekly on St Mary's Eastling 'A Church Near You': <u>https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11982/</u>

# From the Registers

Wedding

Gianluca Pilato and Elizabeth Solway 27th November 2021 at Eastling

# High Downs Parish

Rector	Reverend Canon Dr. Steve Lillicrap									
01795 522510 steve.lillicrap@kc-hd.org.uk										
Associate Priest Reverend James (Jim) Pye 01795 890726 jim.pye@kc-hd.org.uk										
Curate Reverend Caroline Turvey 01795 886351 caroline.turvey@kc-hd.org.uk										
Reader	Caroline Ramshaw	(07799 538809)								
<u>Churchwardens</u> Eastling Andrew Baxter (01795 890598)										
Eastling		(01795 890598)								
Administra	Administrator Janet Payne									
E mail: eastlingchurch@gmail.com										
Stalisfield v	Stalisfield with Otterden									
	Jenny King	(01795 890366)								
Administrator Shirley Pritchard										
Email: Stmarystalisfield@gmail.com										
Throwley	Gaynore Moss	(01795 890995)								

Parish Office Email: eastlingchurch@gmail.com facebook.com/highdownsbenefice \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

# CONTACT THE GOOD NEWS EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like to submit articles, or to advertise in the February 2022 magazine, send your submission by 20th January to: goodnewsmagazine@me.com.

Past and current issues of the Good News may be viewed on ccgi.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews or *www.goodnews.rf.gd* 



# Eastling Gardeners' Club

New Year's Party on Saturday 15th January 2022 at 7.30pm in Eastling Village Hall

There will be a wine tasting organised by Andrew Higgs, to accompany a hot meal. The party is free to members, non-members pay £5

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# Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.

The Christmas Meeting was well supported as word is gradually getting around the community about our W.I. Group. Twenty friends and neighbours brought along foliage and decorations to make Christmas Wreaths, while four others preferred to join us to just socialise. The wreaths were all very different, created while we all had a good chat and caught up on the local gossip! Festive nibbles and fruit cocktails were provided by the Committee to stave off any hunger pangs. We were all able to swap our Christmas cards too, making a saving on postage. Everyone wore face masks as it became mandatory again from 10th December, apart from when we were eating and drinking.

There is no Meeting in January, but we will be gathering on Wednesday 2nd February at 7.30 p.m. at Stalisfield Village Hall to commence our monthly Meetings for 2022. The Committee is in the process of formulating the itinerary and outings for next year, so we will advise what the coming year will bring in the next Good News. Contact our President, Ellie Cameron if you would like to try out our Group on 01795 892016.

Despite the recent uncertainty descending upon us again, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



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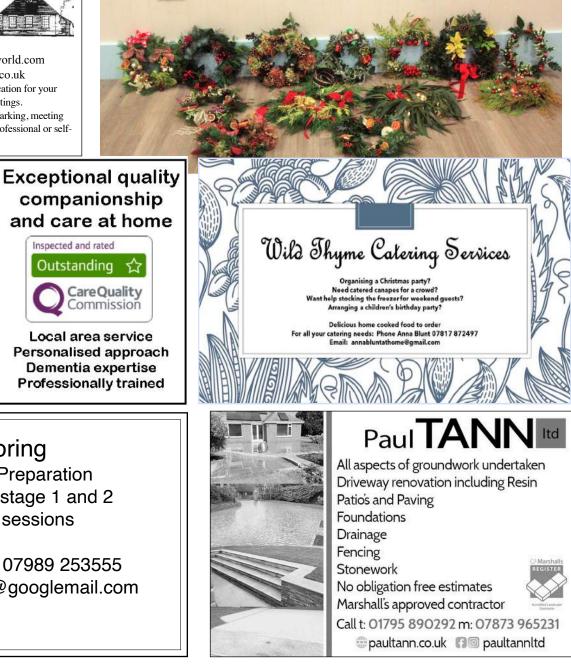
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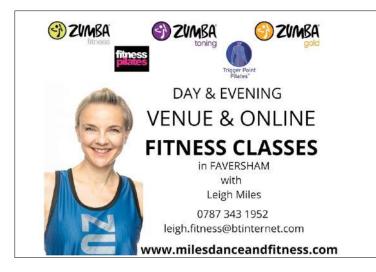
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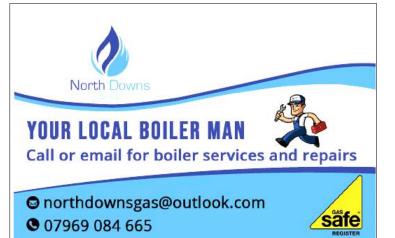


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Tessa Boase is an author and freelance lecturer for The Arts Society along with other organisations such as the V&A, English Heritage and the National Trust. She has enjoyed a long career in journalism for national newspapers and magazines.

For further details about this and other lectures visit our website at <u>https://theartssocietyegerton.org.uk</u>

Visitors are welcome at £5. If you join the money will be refunded. For further information please contact Christine Willis, our Membership Secretary via <u>cmwillis75@gmail.com</u> or 01233 75637.

Images supplied by Lecturer

# <u>Christmas in Stalisfield</u>

We began with turning on the

lights whilst singing carols around the tree followed by delicious hot dogs and mulled wine served by The Plough. Thanks goes to the team decorating the tree and putting up the new lights kindly donated by the Parish Council. Also, a huge Thank You to the Dads Army Shoot for donating the tree (especially Peter!).

The following day was the Children's Christmas Partv enjoyed by all with a fabulous entertainer, crafts, food, and of course the ever popular

'secret room'. We also had a very special visit from Santa to whom we



would like to send a big 'Thank You' for making time to call upon us during his busy period. It was fabulous to see so many new Children to the village attending. Special Thanks goes to Debbie and the team for the fantastic organisation, The Plough for the food, and the Otterden Trust for the donation that allowed us to cover costs along with the very generous donations from the parents too.

Due to current times, we felt the Panto was a little too risky so instead we put on a Christmas Quiz. This was a massive success, with a fabulous turn out. We had a new Quiz Master in the form of Kate Jamieson, assisted by

# Wow! What a fabulous December we had!

the lovely Martin on the scores. There was much laughter and even singing! A huge Thank you to all those that participated to make this a superb event and especially Kate for bringing it together.

Although not a hall event, we then had the fabulous Village Carols organised by Elaine and Ray. The weather was kind, so we were able to be outside and sing away to our hearts content! Thank you to our fantastic hosts, Rose & Al, Sue and Tim, Tracey and Graham, Catherine and Chris, and Margaret.

The Hall events culminated in the ever-popular Senior's dinner. As covid rates were starting to rise and there were only a few volunteers able to run this event, Richard and Marianne stepped in and kindly offered to host at the pub supported by a team of three from the hall. We had a very good turnout, all things considering, and the afternoon went by in a flash with lots of merriment, excellent food, and plenty of sherry and wine! I

think there may have been a few



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sore heads the next day!! A massive Thank you to Anna for organising, Shirley for set up, and Cat and Ang for keeping everyone well lubricated. The Plough Team were amazing, and we really

couldn't have carried on this year

without them. Thanks, must also go to the Otterden Estate for their very generous donation so costs could be covered.

This wraps up the year for the Hall, and as ever Thank you all so much for attending/ helping/donating towards the events. We have such a special village community spirit, and this wouldn't be possible without everyone participating. We have a full-on events calendar for 2022 and fingers crossed we can get back to even more normality with the Summer Fete, Harvest Supper, and Christmas Panto! Should you wish to join the committee, offer to help at events, or even have new ideas for things we can do, please get in touch.

Look forward to seeing you all soon.

Melanie, mjcarter64@outlook.com

the water of the second and the



# Stalisfield Village Hall

(All events pending Covid restrictions)

# 2022

11th March Quiz 2nd June Platinum Jubilee Celebration 16<sup>th</sup> July Treasure Hunt 8<sup>th</sup> October Harvest Supper 9th & 10th Dec Panto 11th Dec Children's Christmas Party 17th Dec Seniors' Christmas Dinner

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# "There's more with us than with them!!"

We begin the New Year with a Bible event from 2 Kings and an anecdote from Birmingham.

For a number of years, the king of Syria had tried to capture the prophet Elisha. (The story is found in 2 Kings 6:11-19). Elisha always knew what the Syrians were planning, and revealed their plans before they could be carried out. Finally, the Syrian armies surrounded Elisha in Dothan.

When Gehazi, Elisha's servant, woke up and saw the encircling Syrian armies, he was terrified. But Elisha prayed, 'Lord, open his eyes.' When Gehazi looked again, he could hardly believe what he saw. All round them were horses and chariots of fire. The armies of heaven were protecting them! And Elisha encouraged him. "Don't fear, there's more with us than with them!" Immediately the Syrians were struck with blindness and Elisha and Gehazi escaped.

Often, we need to ask the Lord to open our eyes. When our strength has failed and faith is weak, we're apt to think that God has forgotten us. But He hasn't! He is near and only our dimness of vision prevents us from seeing His great presence and power and provision. Fear not! Trust God! Believe His Word! There's more with us than with our enemy!

In the early 1950s a well-known department store in Birmingham, England, wanted to extend its premises. Close at hand was an ideal site but it belonged to the Quakers whose Meeting House had been there for well over 200 years. The

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Ospringe 07740 530426 Working in Partnership with Tom Winter, Painter and Decorator department store wrote to the Quakers, offering to buy the site. They said, "We will give you a very good price for the land. In fact, we'll send you a blank cheque. Please fill in whatever sum of money you think appropriate, and we will honour it." Four weeks passed and there was no reply, then five weeks, then six weeks.

Finally, a letter arrived from the Quakers. It thanked the department store for their generous offer but declined to accept it. "Our Meeting House has been here for almost 250 years," they explained, "much longer than your store. We have no wish to sell our property. However, if you would agree to sell your site to us, we are very interested in buying it. We will give you a very good price for it. Just state your selling price and we will honour it."

The letter was signed 'Cadburys.' The department store thought they were dealing with a small congregation of Quakers. Instead, they were dealing with the Cadburys' empire. Cadburys could have bought the department store twenty times over!

When our enemy the devil attacks us, by ourselves we are weak and feeble. But when Christ dwells in us by His Spirit, we are mighty! The devil is no longer attacking us; he is attacking the Captai of our salvation – and the devil cannot win! There's more with us than with him! As we go through 2022, be encouraged. With Christ we are more than conquerors!

The Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle is a former Senior Lecturer in Historical Theology and Church History at Nazarene Theological College, Manchester, England.

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by Audrey Keen

I rest for a while On a low chestnut bough And fight with the wind That comes hard at me now. I see pheasants rise From the place where they feed Beside the damp patches Of pretty mayweed. I watch as the white sheep Roam and graze on the brow. And think that the summer Has faded and how, For the grass is discoloured Staid yellow and bland And winter has come At full thrust to the land.

I take the wide pathway Where brown rabbits run And watch as they scamper About in the sun. For yesterday's rain Fell onto the track And the boldest of splatters Beat hard on my back. But the dismal grey sky Seemed to mock my intent To challenge the wind Till her energy spent, And could laugh once again At dear nature's wiles For the sun would come gently To grace me with smiles.

And today I touch lightly The damp trees and grass; The dead broom and bracken And bramble I pass. And sticky brown oak leaves That cling to my feet, Replacing the wild flowers Once pretty and neat, And the raggedy hedgerow Looks brown and forlorn The willow herb tatty The hop bine is torn. And I suffer too For nature again, Sends unwelcome spatters Of yesterday's rain.

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Canon Paul Hardingham considers 2022. Looking to the New Year

The month of Januarv is named after the Roman god Janus, who is depicted as having two faces. As we look back on a difficult year

dominated by the pandemic, how should we look forward to 2022 with fresh hope? The apostle Paul writes: 'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.' (Philippians 3:13,14).

Firstly, to make a new start, you need to forget the things which are behind. Paul saw himself as an athlete running for Christ and purposely not looking back. He refused to allow his past sins and difficulties to define who he was. By God's grace, he no longer saw himself that way. The same can be

true of ourselves, as we confess our sins and failures to receive God's forgiveness and new life.

Secondly, we need to focus on the things that lie ahead. The athlete is entirely focused on winning the race and gaining the prize. Like Paul, we have to be single-minded in making Jesus the focus of everything we do. How can we go deeper in our prayer life and Bible reading this year? What will it mean to better serve Christ in our workplace and neighbourhood, or family and children?

Paul looked forward to the day when he would stand before God, who would say 'well done, good and faithful servant'. In light of all that Jesus had done for him, Paul wanted to give his very best to Jesus. As we stand at the beginning of this New Year, let's ask ourselves, 'What can I do this year that will help me bring glory and honour to God?'

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What is Epiphany?

#### by Jessica van Roekel

Epiphany means "appearance or manifestation." Throughout the world, Christians celebrate it on January 6th, twelve days after Christmas Day. Many countries refer to it as "Three Kings Day." On this day, Western Christianity recognises Christ's manifestation to the Gentiles. The Gentiles are represented when The Magi visited the child Jesus and showed how God's gift of the Good News is for all people. Eastern Christianity observes Jesus' baptism on this day. His baptism revealed his identity to mankind. In the East or the West, Epiphany celebrates God revealing himself to the world.

# A Prayer for Epiphany

#### Lord Jesus.

Thank you for revealing yourself to us. We shout for joy and worship you with gladness. We come before you with joyful songs and join with the angels as they say, "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to men." We receive your peace and comfort. We ask that as we continue into the new year that we would remember your divinity and revel in your identity. You are a miracle working God, and so we ask you to do a mighty work of internal transformation in our life. Change us to be more like you. Let our words and the meditation of our hearts be pleasing to you. Just as the wise men followed the star, so we commit to following you. Lead and guide us. Comfort and heal us. Let our hearts be set on you as you reveal more and more of yourself to us. We adore you and give you glory. In your name, Amen



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**Phone or Text Mike on:** 07746 220 998 Email: kdgardens@outlook.com FamilyLife UK, a Christian charity, has developed the Toucan Together resource, designed to help couples to navigate some common daily challenges of marriage. By Christine Daniel.

A Christmas message and local news from Helen Whately M.P. is available to view on the Eastling Parish Council website: www.eastlingvillage.co.uk

# "I wish we could wave a wand and all the bills would disappear!"

Many of us enjoy spending at Christmas. But receiving credit card bills in January can range from being an unpleasant hassle to a massive burden. Money is also the number one trigger for arguments between

partners. But it is possible to manage your finances with confidence

together, so you can make money work for you. Here are some basic tips...



#### Talk openly and honestly with each other

Try to find some shared goals; brainstorm your ideas and possible solutions. Stay factual and don't hide anything. There is lots more about talking with your partner in our blog: 10 tips

to make talking about money with your partner a little bit easier.

### Make a plan together to make money work for you

Couples who make joint decisions around their finances have fewer problems and are more likely to experience harmony at home. A budget is simply the result of your joint decisions, and is the best way of managing your money. It will help you know:

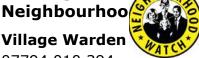
- exactly what money is coming in and going out
- what you can afford to spend, and where you can make savings
- how much you can save, and afford to give away
- how to plan for the future, for your long-term goals

# Track your spending

and review it regularly, perhaps once a month, to begin with.

If you would like to know more, why not visit https://familylifeuk.org

# Eastling Neighbourhoo



07794 010 394 or 01795 890848

**Police** 101 Emergency 999

There was an unfortunate incident in Newnham Lane with the footpath gate being left open opposite the Pheasantry. This led to sheep escaping from the field and subsequently sheep being scattered over the countryside. It was reported that one of the sheep had an accident which resulted in a broken leg, this I understand has been repaired at considerable expense to the farmer. Please make sure that when out on footpaths or other walks you ensure that all gates are closed behind you.

Although still very confusing we must all do our utmost best to follow the rules and help defeat covid.

Many thanks to everybody for the contributions made in ensuring that we have had a relatively quiet year on the crime scene although the hare coursing is still guite prominent.



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The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a famous masterpiece of the **Nativity by Botticelli.** 

# What hope, at the turning of the year?

A few years ago, one of the Sunday magazines printed a Doom Directory. It surveyed the possible ways in which the world might come to an end - nuclear disaster, famine, global warming and so on. The cover showed a man bearing a placard, 'The end of the world is at hand': he was at a bus stop peering down to see the times of the last buses!

The speed at which we are using the earth's resources has put humanity's very survival at risk. It is a bleak thought to consider as one year ends and another begins. Where can we place our hope and find any assurance? we ask ourselves. Do we need to think of the last buses on our earthly journey?

This month's painting was painted in Italy at a time when there was similar speculation about the end of the world. A mesmerising priest called Savonarola had preached in Florence about portents of this end time, and the final battle that would take place. His own end was gruesome and horrific as the church authorities silenced his voice, but his influence lingered on among people. Nowhere more so than in Botticelli, who painted this 'Mystic Nativity' in 1500, two years after Savonarola's death.



At first glance, it looks a typical Epiphany scene, for the wise men are shown to the stable by an angel. But everything is basic and rudimentary. The wise men do not wear luxurious clothing, they have no servants, they bear no gifts. The stable is just a thatched roof propped against the mouth of the cave, with Joseph oddly hunched at one side. The babe kicks a leg into the air as Mary and the animals watch on, looking from the inside of the cave.

But then look above the scene. There is a long inscription from Botticelli: it announces that he painted this Nativity at the end of 1500, to provide a key to the violent and confused times in which he lived. At the bottom little demons scramble back to the underworld, and those who have been through the battle of life are comforted by angels, and there are more angels engaged in an ecstatic dance above the stable with olive branches and scrolls in their hands.

At the heart of it all is the simple nativity scene.

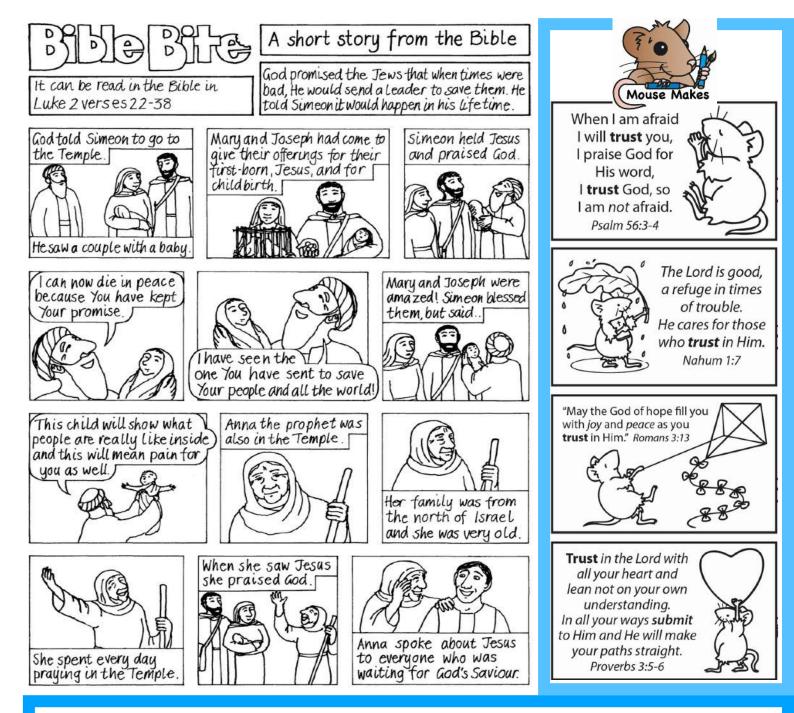
Botticelli seems to be making a heartfelt statement about his faith in the light of all that he had experienced and seen around him: his distress at the suffering war had brought, and his sense of doom that war was a portent of worse things to come. But the painting also shows his calm resignation that as one century turned into another, and one year into another, there is a birth which can be the pivot of that turning. A birth which is a sign of a future, a sign of new life, a sign of love. We can come through, he says, if we realise where our hope and trust should be placed - not in the pursuit of power which leads to death and



destruction, but in a birth that leads ultimately to a heaven of victory and dancing and celebration.

The painting is not about winter, it is about spring: a season of hope and new life. We can draw the curtains across this nativity scene and shut out the light and springtime. But then, says Botticelli, chaos and war and greed will flourish. Go to the stable with the wise men, open the curtains, invite the Christ-Child in, and all will be transformed.

Savonarola had preached the same message a few years earlier, 'If you wish to be at rest, seek Christ. Come to this crib, seek none but Him, and you will find rest. Be well assured that you will never have peace until you come to this crib and to this light of faith in Christ.'



# WORDSEARCH CLUES

Temple
praised
peace
Jesus
Anna
lsrael
family
praying

baby Anna offerings lifetime inside couple God everyone Joseph people Saviour leader Mary prophet waiting world

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