Good News

Parish Magazine

High Downs Parish

Serving the villages of Eastling, Otterden, Stalisfield and Throwley

www.goodnews.rf.gd



8th All Together Now

Lynsted Church

10.30am

11th Arts Society lecture, Egerton

Millennium Hall, Egerton 2.30pm

11th Stalisfield Youth

Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm

12th History Society

Charing Parish Hall

7.30pm

20th Copy Deadline for February G.News

goodnewsmagazine@me.com

25th Stalisfield Youth

Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm

26th Arts Society lecture, Faversham

Alexander Centre

11a

26th Relaxation / Meditation taster session

Charing Surgery 9.30-11am

27th Eat, Pray, Walk

Doddington Church

1.30pm

TEBRUARY

1st Line Dance Classes begin Stalisfield Village Hall 10am & 11am

6th Relaxation / Mindfulness taster session Charing Surgery 5 - 6.30pm

25th Quiz Night

Eastling Village Hall

7pm

MARCH

10th & 11th Treasure Island Pantomime Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm



Greasure Island the Pantomime.

Very sadly, we had to cancel the performances of Stalisfield's pantomime at the last minute due to a number of covid cases in the cast. After all the months of work by a huge number of people, it was very disappointing decision to have to make. The good news is that we have rescheduled the performances for Friday March 10th & Saturday 11th. If you had tickets and haven't yet contacted Sharon to say whether you wish to transfer them to March or would prefer a refund, please do so on 01795 890415. We hope to make more tickets available for the rescheduled performances.



at EASTLING VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 25th February 2023 – 7pm start

By popular demand, the famous **QUIZ NIGHT** at Eastling Village Hall is returning!

Tables of up to 8 people
Bring your own food, drink, plates and glasses
£5 per person, payable on the night.

To book, please email Annie on jacksonandadams@btopenworld.com

(Please let us know who is in your team to avoid duplicate bookings)

If you'd like to come but don't have a team, please book anyway and we'll try and put you in a team.

There will be a raffle on the night so raffle prize donations gratefully received.

And remember, the Quizmaster's decision is final – regardless of what Google might say!!

New Year Message

I can hardly believe that I am writing for the first newsletter of 2023, and so I am delighted to be able to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Looking back to this time last year we were in a very different place with the Omicron variant of Covid making its presence felt with travel to Europe banned and natural concerns about large gatherings of people which did affect, but not cancel, our Christmas celebrations of 2021. This Christmas, whilst Covid has not gone away and we hear about Flu, we have been in a very different place which I am very thankful for.

I wonder what the New Year feels like for you. Is it a time of celebration at the end of 2022 because it is something new or maybe 2022 was not a good year for you and you are pleased to see the back of it?

Or perhaps 2023 comes with some concern about what it might bring for you and for family, in the midst of the increasing cost of living or maybe some health concerns.

Mentioning the Cost of Living 'crisis' reminds me of one of the huge negatives about 2022 and the war in Ukraine which continues with its brutality with attacks on ordinary people and the Power systems. We can only

pray for the Peace that is so dearly needed and for the cessation of the awful, unwarranted aggression from Russia.

However, for me, one of the highlights of the Christmas celebrations of 2022, and I think most moving, was the Eastling School Christingle Service in Eastling Church where the older children, along with the Ukrainian children in the school sung a traditional Ukrainian Christmas carol, in welcoming local Ukrainian families. We pray that 2023 will see the end of this war.

Whatever we are anticipating about 2023, or not as the case may be, we have just celebrated the good news of Christmas, which continues to be good news for 365 days a year and that is that God sent Jesus to be with us, to be Immanuel which means 'God with us'.

God with us in whatever circumstances we may find ourselves in.
God with us in health and in illness,
God with us in winter and in summer,
God with us when things are easy in life and when things are hard.

That is the promise of God, given to us in Jesus, who came as God in human form, so that we might



learn of God's love for us and what it means to know God's love through Jesus Christ.

One of my favourite Psalms, if not my very favourite is Psalm 139, part of which reads: Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea.

even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"

even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

May we all know the love of God with us in 2023.

Steve Lillicrap, Rector

Prayer Pointers January 2023

Mondays - Give thanks for the wisdom of the Magi.

Tuesdays - For our families at the start of the new year.

Wednesdays - For an end to the wars in Ukraine and around the world.

Thursdays - For local food banks and all who need to use their services.

Fridays - For our schools, both staff and pupils.

Saturdays - For all newly moved into our villages.

Sundays - Give Glory to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



Eastling Church Flower Rota January 2023

3rd January - 10.30am help with dismantling Christmas decorations

8th & 15th - Bay

22nd & 29th - Steph

Feb 5th & 12th - Susie

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

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Don't forget to book a table for those pre & post Christmas get togethers with friends and family

Kick off the December celebrations at 5pm on Thursday 1st December with The Grand switching on of the Stalisfield tree light with carols around the fire

We are now open for breakfast on Saturdays 9.30am - 11am

See our Facebook page and our SHINY NEW website for opening hours over the Festive period

Keep up to date by following us on Facebook or Instagram

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The naming of Jesus

Matthew and Luke tell how the angel instructed that Mary's baby was to be named Jesus - a common name meaning 'saviour'. The Church recalls the naming of Jesus on 1st January - eight days after 25th December (by the Jewish way of reckoning days). In Jewish tradition, the male babies were circumcised and named on their eighth day of life.

For early Christians, the name of Jesus held a special significance. In Jewish tradition, names expressed aspects of personality. Jesus' name permeated His ministry, and it does so today: we are baptised in the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38), we are justified through the name of Jesus (1 Cor 6:11); and God the Father has given Jesus a name above all others (Phil 2:9). All Christian prayer is through 'Jesus Christ our Lord', and it is 'at the name of Jesus' that one day every knee shall bow.

Have you ever wondered where the name 'Jesus' comes from?

The name Jesus is a transliteration of a name that occurs in several languages. It is of Hebrew origin, 'Yehosua', or Joshua. There is also the Hebrew-Aramaic form, 'Yesua'. In Greek, it became 'Inσοῦς' (Iēsoûs), and in Latin it became 'Iesus'.

The meaning of the name is 'Yahweh delivers' or 'Yahweh rescues', or 'Yahweh is salvation'. No wonder the angel Gabriel in Luke (1:26-33) told Mary to name her baby Jesus: "because He will save His people from their sins."

Gold, frankincense and myrrh for the infant Jesus

Epiphany, 6th January, is also known as 'Twelfth Night', or the last night of the Christmas festival. According to the song, it is also the day when that over-enthusiastic 'true love' of yours dumps no less than 78 presents on your doorstep, among them a dozen leaping lords of the realm and a final partridge – to go with the 11 you have already been given.

In many parts of the world, 6th January is celebrated as Christmas Day. As we Western Christians are packing away our tree, the Greek Orthodox world and Catholic Spain are giving presents and celebrating the wise men, or magi. For what better time to give presents to each other, than on the day the wise men presented gold, frankincense and myrrh to the infant Jesus?

What do we make of these presents? Gold is for kingship, proclaiming a royal child. Frankincense carries a feeling of worship about it: it was used in the temple worship and indicated access to the presence of God. Frankincense is thus for worship and incarnation.

The third gift, myrrh, finds it place at Calvary. After the crucifixion, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea prepared Jesus' body for burial, using myrrh as an embalming fluid. Thus, when the wise men visit the baby Jesus, the shadow of the cross already falls across the crib. But myrrh is also symbolic of love, so you could say that the third gift is about adoration as well as death. And Christ's death on the cross is for love of the Church, His bride.

As for the magi, they were not Jewish grandees, but foreign Gentiles. And so it was clear, from as early as the manger in Bethlehem, that Jesus was not just the Messiah for the Jews, but the Saviour of the whole world.

RELAXATION Mindfulness MEDITATION

FREE Taster Sessions at Charing Surgery Thurs 26 Jan 9.30-11am & Mon 6 Feb 5-6.30pm

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27 Feb – 24 Apr (exc 10/4 for Easter)
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News from Citizens Advice Swale

Since reopening our drop-in service in Faversham we've had some wonderful feedback from our clients:

"Thanks very much for your help with my application for a renewal of my Blue Badge. I had a reply within 24 hours approving my application, and I should receive my badge shortly. Magic!"

"Thank you for all your support over the last year, particularly in getting my benefits back in payment. I don't think I'd still be here without your help."

The second quote in particular really brings home the difference our advisers make to our clients. Our advice can change lives.

To stay up to date with our opening times, including our Christmas opening hours, please visit www.citizensadviceswale.uk or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

For telephone advice call Adviceline on freephone 0808 278 7979 10am-4pm Monday-Friday or email us at www.citizensadviceswale.uk/email-general-advice, or request a call back from our money advice team at www.citizensadviceswale.uk/debt

New Year? Get First Aid training

Here is a very worthwhile New Year's Resolution: consider doing some First Aid training this year, especially if you are a parent with young children.

In a survey by the British Red Cross, 96% of parents agreed that their main fears were of their children choking, or of finding them unconscious – when seconds could make the difference to their survival. Even 15 minutes of proper First Aid training is enough to give you knowledge that could save someone's life in an emergency. For details of your nearest First Aid Course, visit: www.redcross.org.uk

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Under the Cloud

By Audrey Keen

The land looked weary
With the weight of snow
As the wood rooks flew
Through the sky,
And the placid sheep
Ate where they could
Or on the kale did lie.
The undressed trees were
Still that day,
Their limbs looked crooked
and tall,
While the air was pierced

by the icy shriek
Of the red-brown
pheasant's call.
The icicles melted about
mid morn
As they stretched from the

wide barn roof,
While half cut circles of
patterns were drawn
On the path by a horse's
hoof.

The blackbirds flew at break-neck speed
To eat the crumbs from the ground,

As I walked under the cloud that came And passed without a sound.

Smile Lines

Statistics show we're getting stronger. Fifty years ago you needed an estate car to hold £50 worth of Christmas presents. Twenty years ago, it took two people to carry £20 worth of groceries -- now a five-year-old can do it.





Eat Pray Walk is moving to the Fourth Friday of each month. We're inviting those who need space to breathe in the busyness of this world, to a refreshing amble with friends old and new and a space to encounter something of God through the stillness of prayer.

Come and discover God anew.

For more information,

please contact caroline.turvey@kc-hd.org.uk





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

Urgently needed items this month include:

- STRONG CARRIER BAGS
- ANTI-BACTERIAL SURFACE SPRAY
- DOG FOOD
- JARS OF COOKING SAUCE
- TINNED TUNA
- TINNED HAM AND OTHER COLD MEATS
- WOMEN'S DEODORANT
- LONG LIFE MILK
- LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE
- SQUASH SMALL BOTTLES
- TINNED POTATOES
- TINNED RICE PUDDING
- NAPPIES SIZES 3 & 6
- SHAVING FOAM



There are many events planned on kentwildlifetrust.org.uk.

Maidstone Nature Tots (Jan/Feb Friday morning sessions) Friday 6 January 2023 - Friday 10

February 2023 9:45am - 11:45am

Tyland Barn Nature Park & Gardens, Maidstone, Kent

Nature Tots is Forest School tailored specifically for little ones, and can inspire a love of nature that lasts a lifetime.

Wilder Kent Safari: Coastal birds at Oare Marshes

Sunday 15 January 2023 11:00am - 1:30pm Oare Marshes

Join us on a walking tour of Oare Marshes with a knowledgeable guide, and find out about how the reserve is being managed for wildlife.

THE ART'S SOCIETY

THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

The Arts Society brings people together through a shared curiosity for the arts

We meet at Egerton Millennium Hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 2.30pm (doors open from 2.00). Our next lecture will be:

Wednesday 11th January at 2.30pm: CURVES, COLOURS AND COOL - an introduction to mid-century

modern: this practical and inspirational lecture looks at furniture, ceramics, glass, lighting and metalware, identifies key designs and designers, and examines the revolutionary design movements they began.

Our lecturer, **Mark Hill**, was a Specialist in the Collectors' Department at Sotheby's. He is a Miscellaneous expert on the Antiques Roadshow and has contributed to newspapers, magazines, radio and TV.

Visitors are always very welcome at £5, refunded if you join. 6 months membership costs £24. For further information please contact Christine Willis, our Membership Secretary via cmwillis75@gmail.com or 01233 756377.

See also our website www.theartssocietyegerton.org.uk

The Arts Society Faversham

We run regular monthly lectures on the fourth Thursday at the Alexander Centre, Faversham. Come along to a lecture as a guest (£5 fee) or join for a year's lectures.

Our next lecture is on the 26th January 2023 at 11.00am on Ancient and Modern Maya Culture by Chloe Sayer. Coffee and biscuits will be served from 10.20am

The civilisation of the ancient Maya reached its peak between AD 300-900. Across much of present-day Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras, dozens of great cities have been located, many still buried in remote parts of the jungle. Maya achievements in art and architecture were matched by a knowledge of maths, astrology, calendrics and hieroglyphic writing. Mural paintings, ceramic figurines and intricately carved stone panels provide an insight into the religious rituals, music, warfare, textiles and courtly life of the Maya. Today some six million Maya carry on many of the traditions of their ancestors.

Biography

A Freelance specialist in the art and culture of Latin America, Chloe Sayer has lectured in the UK, Canada, Ireland, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand; has curated exhibitions, and assisted on TV documentaries for BBC and Channel 4 and made collections in Mexico and Belize for the British Museum. In 2016 she was awarded the prestigious Ohtli medal by the Mexican government for her long-standing commitment to Mexican culture.

For further information contact us at info@theartssocietyfaversham.org.uk

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 that you 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.

Victorian Philantrophy - A Golden Age?

Often bitterly criticised - this talk will explore both the strengths and weaknesses of Victorian philanthropy and conclude by comparing it with the 20th century.



Speakers: Professor Hugh Cunningham
When: 12th January 2023
Where: Parish Hall, Station Road
Time: 7.30pm doors open
Talk starts promptly at 8pm



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Sunday Services

1st January Christmas 2

Hebrews 2. 10 - 18, Matthew 2. 13 - 23

Eastling 10.30am Benefice Communion

8th January Epiphany 1

Acts 10. 34 - 43, Matthew 3. 13 - 17

Eastling 9am Holy Communion BCP Throwley 10.30am Morning Prayer Lynsted 10.30am All Together Now

15th January Epiphany 2

1 Corinthians 1. 1 - 9. John 1. 29 - 42

Newnham 9am Holy Communion BCP Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship

22nd January Epiphany 3

1 Corinthians 1. 10 - 18, Matthew 4. 12 - 23
Throwley 10.30am Holy Communion
Newnham 10.30am Morning Worship

29th January Epiphany 4

1 Corinthians 1. 18 - 31, John 2. 1 - 11

Doddington 10.30am Benefice Communion

5th February 3rd Sunday before Lent

1 Corinthians 2. 1 - 12 (13-end), Matthew 5. 13 - 20 Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Online Daily Worship Continues

As well as the services in our churches, the daily 9am Morning Prayer at Lynsted and Sunday Breakthrough at 6pm, will continue and be live online on https://kc-hd.org.uk .

More information is updated weekly on St Mary's Eastling 'A Church Near You': https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11982/

Anna Chaplaincy

Please contact our Anna Chaplain, Caroline Ramshaw, if you know of someone who is isolated, alone, or unable to attend church.

An Anna Chaplain can offer a listening ear and company.

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Contact your local Anna Chaplain on: annachaplaincy@outlook.com

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High Downs Parish

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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)

Anna Chaplain Caroline Ramshaw

AnnaChaplaincy@outlook.com

Reader Pim Baxter (07710 116269)

Church Contacts

Eastling Andrew Baxter, Warden (01795 890598)

Administrator Janet Payne

E mail: eastlingchurch@gmail.com

Stalisfield with Otterden

Jenny King, Warden (01795 890366)

Administrator Shirley Pritchard

Email: Stmarystalisfield@gmail.com

Throwley Alison Young, (contact) (01795 890213)

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From The Registers

Interment of Ashes

CONTACT THE GOOD NEWS EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like to submit articles, or to advertise in the February 2023 magazine, send your submission by 20th January to: goodnewsmagazine@me.com.

Past and current issues of the Good News may be viewed on www.goodnews.rf.gd



...the good news is - I've found a way of heating the church on unwanted chip-fat!...

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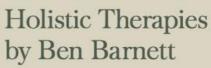




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Wordsearch for January The Coming of the Magi

'Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.' So Matthew tells of the coming of the Magi, or Wise Men, to the baby Jesus. Today we remember it on Epiphany, on 6th

January. Did they come from Arabia Felix nowadays southern Arabia?

How many came?

No one knows, but by the 6th century they were named Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar.

Why gold, frankincense and myrrh?

Gold stands for kingship: Jesus was King of the Jews. Frankincense stands for divinity; Jesus was to be worshipped. Myrrh stands for death and burial; Jesus would become a sacrifice and die for His people.

The Wise Men were the very first gentiles ever to worship Jesus. Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: 'Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.'

The Magi wanted to worship Jesus; Herod wanted to kill Him. But the Jewish leaders who knew about the prophecy of a Messiah born in Bethlehem did not even bother to visit to Bethlehem. And it is only six miles from Jerusalem!

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King worship baby Balthasar gold divinity Herod Bethlehem

jews magi Jesus Gaspar frankincense myrrh death prophecy scribes Priests Jerusalem

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This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Science and Miracles

We live in a world where we can expect the sun to rise tomorrow and the milk to pour out of the bottle when we tilt it over our cereal. But for God, the properties of matter and the biological processes that we know and read about in textbooks are simply the usual ways He works. If He chooses to do something unexpected to demonstrate something about His character. His relationship with us, and His purposes, then He will.

A group of 14 UK-based science Professors wrote to the Times in 1984, saying that "We gladly accept the Virgin Birth, the gospel miracles, and the Resurrection of Christ as historical events. We know that we are representative of many other scientists who are also Christians standing in the historical tradition of the churches." For the nonbeliever, I would suggest a thought experiment: if God exists, why should He be bound by the same laws of physics as us?

Professor Christine Done is an Astrophysicist at the University of Durham. In the book *True Scientists, True Faith* (Monarch, 2014) she writes: "Even when I was an atheist I used to get cross at discussions...on how all Jesus's miracles could be physically explained. To me, once you have believed in a

God, a supernatural being, then it's obvious that supernatural stuff could happen, since any God who can make the physical universe and its laws can presumably suspend those laws in any time and way He chooses."

There are also miracles which appear to be a case of wonderful timing. The wind blew all night, and the Israelites crossed the Red Sea on dry land, for example. The biblical writers don't seem especially interested in distinguishing between wonders that seem to break the usual rules of how things happen and those that don't.

Many in Jesus' audiences were not won over by His wonders. Most of the people in the crowds who ate the food He produced out of nowhere were quite happy to turn on Him when the religious authorities decided He was dangerous. We can only make sense of something unexpected, such as an answer to prayer for healing, in the context of a growing relationship with God.

The exciting task for a Christian is to explain what this interaction looks like, and to demonstrate what 'your kingdom come' looks like in our communities. God works through us in words, works and wonders.



Eastling Neighbourhood Watch



Village Warden 07794 010 394 or 01795 890848

Police 101 Emergency 999

The New Year is here again and a timely reminder to not even think about drink/drug driving, please use common sense and use alternate transport at this time. It takes quite a long time for any alcohol to come out of your system, drugs even longer.

Thanks to all the people who have been vigilante and have passed on invaluable information over this last year. It has greatly contributed to keeping our villages safe from crime.

Another scam that has come about again is the one of a parcel being delivered to your home with someone else's name on it. You are strongly advised to either refuse delivery or call the delivery company if just left outside. The scam is that some person will call to collect the parcel saying that it is theirs and that it has been delivered to the wrong address. A short time after you will receive an invoice from the supplier, usually a mobile phone company, charging you with cost of the goods. Please do not hesitate to report any suspicious acts, either report to the

Have a happy New Year and take care, Alan.

police on line of give me a ring.

The Parish Update – Christmas 2022 *from* Faversham M.P. Helen Whately

Topics such as Launching her cost-ofliving webpage, Asking Maritime Minister for swing bridge help, Cash boost to get people home from hospital, Naming Faversham entrepreneur Denise Kesson as her MPHERo and Nominating The George local Pub for community award, are available to read on the Eastling website: https:// www.eastlingvillage.co.uk

Want to try something new in 2023?

All Together Now is church done in a different way. It is a place where the WHOLE family, no matter what age, can come together to learn about God and enjoy all that might mean for them today. Come for coffee and cake at 10.15am, it all begins at 10.30am and lasts for 1 hour. Songs, craft, story,

Don't be nervous about trying something new church is a place of welcome and love. Everyone is welcome!

Second Sunday of every month. Lynsted Church. Please contact <u>caroline.turvey@kc-hd.org.uk</u> if you want to know more.





Just for a smile A Bible quiz - of sorts!

- What kind of man was Boaz Q. before he married?
- Ruthless A.
- Q. What do they call pastors in Germany?
- German Shepherds.
- Who was the greatest Q. financier in the Bible?
- Noah. He was floating his A. stock while everyone else was in liquidation.
- Who was the greatest Q. female financier in the Bible?
- Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.
- What's the phone number Q. of the Garden of Eden?
- ADAM-8-1-2

