Good News Parish Magazine July 2020

High Downs Parish

Serving the villages of Eastling, Otterden, Stalisfield and Throwley

for current and past editions go to: ccgi.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews

Village church buildings are preparing for reopening for private prayer

St Michael and All Angels, Throwley

Our beautiful church building is open again, from each **Wednesday and Sunday** between **10am - 6pm.**

To keep everyone safe please:

Use the hand sanitiser * only use the open pews * do not enter cordoned off areas.

If there are others in the Church, please follow social distancing rules * observe the one way arrows on the floor.

Visitors Book

We are unable to have our visitors book out at present but would love to hear from you. We will put your messages into the book for you.

Please email any messages, thoughts, photos to gaynoremoss@hotmail.com

Donations

We understand that many people are not handling cash at the moment, if you would like to make a 'cashfree' donation these can be made to:

Account Name: Throwley PCC

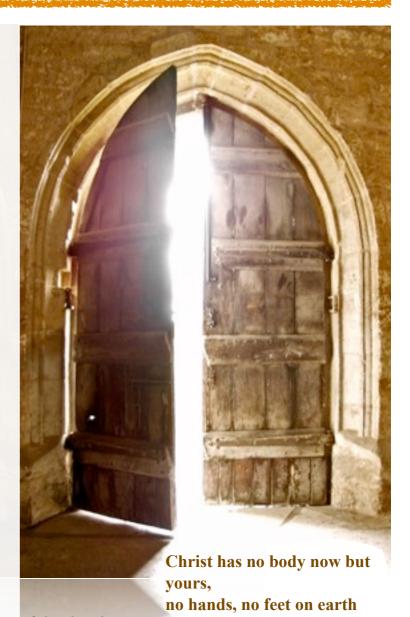
Sort Code: 56-00-51 Account 00540919

St Mary, Eastling

We are moving in small steps towards a full re-opening of the church, however we can make a start on this by opening for private prayer on three days a week from Friday 3rd July and then Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays thereafter from 12 - 3pm, to be reviewed as we move forward.

Those wishing to come for a period of prayer will find that only the back part of the church will be accessible and Pews which can be used will be clearly identified. There will be appropriate signage regarding social distancing and rope to cordon off those areas which should not be accessed. The government instructions mean that each pew can only have one person in it, or more if from the same household. Soft furnishings such as kneelers and pew runners will be removed and the toilet will remain locked, also the visitors' comment book will be removed.

Please follow us on www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11982/ or on the High Downs facebook page www.facebook.com/highdownsbenefice for up to date information or the church noticeboard for information.



but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which
he looks
compassion on this world.
Your are the feet with which
he walks to do good, yours
are the hands, with which he
blesses the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,

Yours are the eyes, you are his body.

(Teresa of Avila 1515-1582)

Canon Paul Hardingham considers some comforting words from Isaiah.

The Frailty of Life

According to one survey, during the lockdown, a quarter of adults in the UK have watched or listened to a religious service and one in 20 have started praying. While the majority of people who contract Covid-19 survive, it reminds us that we are much more frail and weak than we like to think. As the prophet Isaiah says:

'All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures for ever.'

(Isaiah 40:6-8).

Isaiah's words really resonate at this time. In more normal times we can avoid facing up to our vulnerability, but this pandemic has forced us to recognise our weakness and fragility.

However, this shouldn't lead us to despair or fear; rather it is an opportunity to worship and praise for His constancy and care. In Peter's first letter he quotes this passage from Isaiah and says, 'For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God' (1 Peter 1:23). Peter contrasts our mortality with the eternal Word of God, which bring us new birth and life through the power of the Spirit. Jesus died for our sins and rose again to make us right with God, so that through faith in Him we can know eternal life. We don't need to be afraid of our frailty, for God is a dependable foundation on which to build our lives and face eternity.

'We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree.

And wither and perish,
but nought changeth Thee.'

(Immortal, invisible, Walter C Smith).



Online Book of Remembrance opened at St Paul's

St Paul's Cathedral has launched *Remember Me* an online book of remembrance for all those who have been living in the UK who have died as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

People of all faiths, beliefs or none are invited to contribute to Remember Me.

HRH The Prince of Wales, who recorded a video message, said: "This virtual book of remembrance is here not just to recall our loss and sorrow, but also to be thankful for everything good that those we have loved brought into our lives."

Family, friends and carers of those who have died can submit, free of charge, the name, photograph and a short message in honour of a deceased person via the Remember

Me <u>website</u>. The deceased person must have been living in the UK. Remember Me will be open for entries for as long as needed. It is intended that the Remember Me site will become a physical memorial at the Cathedral.

Prayer Pointers July 2020

Mondays - As our churches prepare to open, we pray for a blessing on all entering and those cleaning.

Tuesdays - Pray for people to have respect for others.

Wednesdays - Pray for all who are living with mental health problems.

Thursdays - Pray for our NHS staff and those working in care homes.

Fridays - Pray for all working on public transport and in public services.

Saturdays - Pray for school staff and pupils as education takes on a new way of working.

Sundays - May the blessing of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit be with us always.





BELMONT HOUSE & GARDENS

THE GARDENS ARE OPEN

We are delighted that Belmont can once again welcome visitors to come and enjoy our stunning gardens and open spaces. The gardens are open daily from 10am with the gates closing at 6pm. Tickets can be purchased online. Alternatively, you can pay with cash at the pay point on arrival to the gardens, please note change cannot be provided. For information on the measures we have put into place please visit our website.

NGS Open Garden Weekend

Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th July, 12pm - 5pm

Belmont is pleased to support the work of the National Garden Scheme.

The funds raised from the weekend will go to the Help Support Our

Nurses campaign. Tickets can be purchased on arrival to Belmont and

by visiting www.ngs.org.uk or <a href="htt

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Tuesday 21st July, 1pm - 3pm

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Eastling Community Table

The Community Table is now placed outside The Carpenters Arms barn so that it is easily accessible and we can continue to share produce over the summer months.

Community Prayer

Lord, bind us together in our community,

Bind us together in unity.

Lord, bind us together to love one another,

Bind us together to be there for each other.

Lord, bind us together to live and to share,

Bind us together to love and to care.

Lord, bind us together in good times and bad,

Bind us together whether happy or sad.

Lord, bind us together to help those in need,

Bind us together to help those in need.

Lord, bind us together in love and in peace,

Bind us together so problems will cease.

Lord, bind us together through the gospel we share,

Bind us together to unite in prayer.

Lord, bind us together in all that we do,

Bind us together with faith in you.

Lord, bind us together in our community,

Bind us together in unity. Amen By Royston Davies

Otterden and Stalisfield WI

Otterden and Stalisfield WI are looking forward to getting back together soon, but we will have to wait until Stalisfield Village Hall can re-open sometime after July 4th. Matthew Scott, the Police Commissioner for Kent had planned to be at our July 1st meeting but has promised to join us at a future meeting. Our next scheduled meeting is August 5th when we had planned a social event instead of a speaker. We will be making some adjustments to our events so I hope our group feel safe enough to come back and at least get back together.

If you would like to join our group please give me, Ellie, a call on 01795 892016 or our Secretary, Helen on 07477 580727.



Gardening Against the Odds?

The Conservation Foundation has relaunched Gardening Against the Odds as a virtual network and is getting some excellent interest.

As a result, it may be making a radio series soon, featuring some of the projects it has discovered over the years which show how people combat 'odds' - mental, physical and environmental - by gardening, even when they have no garden.

These people plant seeds which they watch grow, eventually producing growth leading to flowers and fruit. Sometimes they work alone, sometimes there is an opportunity to share, producing a sense of community. All this is nothing new, but many people are discovering the benefits of gardening as a result of lockdown - discovering how gardening can help combat loneliness and depression with a sense of caring and wellbeing sometimes with life changing results.

This is a very topical issue and so if you have discovered the benefits of gardening recently - or know someone who has - the Conservation Foundation would love to hear from you as soon as possible. Please contact: davidshreeve@conservationfoundation.co.uk.

Facebook @gardeningagainsttheodds websitehttps:// conservationfoundation.co.uk/projects/gardening-against-the-odds/



Reflections on a summer's day by Audrey Keen

The black flies Gather in the petalled briar, And sun dappled grasses release Their seeds. The green fringed larch trees Are dipping today While oak leaves Fold in the breeze. Pink purple thistles That grow on the ride, Are dried of their baths in sweet dew And their heads move with dignity, Colour and pride As they show off their splendour anew. The curling fringes of nature's ferns Bend well to cover the track Of the once neatened wood. Where all things seemed good. Yet, disconsolate now I look back, For though 'tis high summer And all grandeur and bliss I cannot but sour at the thought,

That the year hurries on

Soon the blue skies are gone

and the season, for me, cares nought.



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Izzy's Odd Jobs

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Always happy to help. References available on request.

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Email: kdgardens@outlook.com



Many of us, during lockdown, have enjoyed making bread; working with yeast and dough is very therapeutic!

Our Daily Bread

Give us we pray
The bread we need today
Or, Lord, at least
Provide us with some yeast!

We'll feast our eyes
To see the yeast-dough rise
No fun we lack
When we then knock it back.

Once more it proves, Then to the oven moves And then we haste That nice fresh bread to taste!

By Nigel Beeton



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Coronavirus:

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Let's not mess this one up!



They were trying to remember when they had last left the house.

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is now offering a

take away service for food and drinks,

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Reopening 4th July Check our website for further details https://theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk

Join our **Facebook** group for details 'Community services from the Plough inn'.

Please call 01795 890256 or email

<u>info@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk</u> to place your orders in advance or to get further details of our full take away menu.

We can drop out to your car if you need us too also. In some circumstances we may be able to deliver, please just ask, we are all in this together!

This is a perfect time to take full advantage of our shop. Pre order two to three days in advance for meat, fish and fresh vegetables, by phone or email.

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Keep up to date by following us on **Facebook**, **Twitter or Instagram**

High Downs Parish

Rector Reverend Canon Dr. Steve Lillicrap

01795 522510 highdownsvicar@gmail.com

Reader Norman Fowler (01795 890412)

4 Meesons Close, Eastling

Reader Caroline Ramshaw (07799 538809)

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 463746)

E mail: samhawksnest@aol.com

Throwley Gaynore Moss (01795 890995)

Parish Office Email: eastlingchurch@gmail.com

facebook.com/highdownsbenefice

From the Registers

Funerals

Colin Edward Pilcher 3rd June 2020 Burial at Eastling
Pamela Hancock 16th June 2020 Cremation at Charing

Daily Worship for our parishes

Daily online services are available on the Kingsdown and Creekside website - www.kingsdowncreekside.co.uk - also on the YouTube Channel 'Breakthrough at Lynsted'.

More information is also to be found on the St Mary's Eastling 'A Church Near You Page': https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11982/

Sunday Readings:

5th July	Trinity 4	Romans 7. 15-25a,	Matthew 11. 16-19,25-30
12th July	Trinity 5	Romans 8. 1-11,	Matthew 13. 1-9,18-23
19th July	Trinity 6	Romans 8. 12-25,	Matthew 13. 24-30,36-43
26th July	Trinity 7	Romans 8. 26-39,	Matthew 13. 31-33,44-52
2nd August Trinity 8		Romans 9. 1-5,	Matthew 14. 13-21

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CONTACT THE GOOD NEWS EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like submit articles or stories, or to advertise in the August 2020 magazine, send your s u b m i s s i o n b y 2 0 t h J u l y t o : goodnewsmagazine@me.com.

Past and current issues of the Good News may be viewed on ccgi.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews

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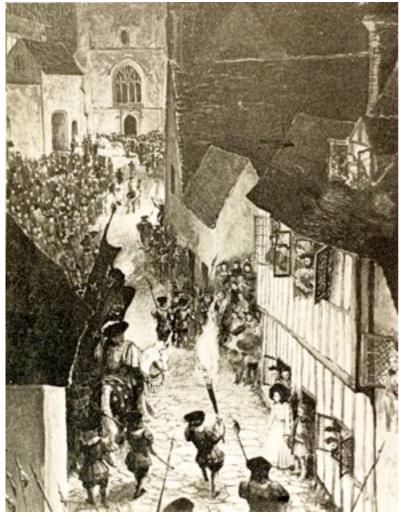
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Henry VIII Visits Charing





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on May 23rd 1520 on his way to the Field of Cloth of Gold, 8 miles south of Calais in English-held territory, to meet Francis I for two weeks of feasting, jousting and good fellowship which took place between the 9th and 24th of June. His route took him from his palace at Greenwich, via Otford and Maidstone, to Charing where he stayed overnight at the Archbishop's Palace. He brought with him an entourage of some 5000.

Henry VIII visited Charing 500 years ago

Henry himself stayed in the Palace, his knights in other lodgings in the Palace grounds, in the High Street and elsewhere in Charing; the rest pitched their tents, of which there were some 2800, in local fields.

The moment of Henry's arrival in the Market Place in Charing was reimagined in the 1960s by a local artist, David Embry, who, at the time, was lodging at the very top of a house at 45 High Street. From his room he had a good view of the Market Place down to the church and the Archbishop's Palace. Climbing out of the top window one day, he sat precariously on the roof, feet wedged in the gutter, and drew the scene illustrated here; the subsequent watercolour won first prize (£100) in an exhibition, Historic Events in Kent, in 1965.

By 1520 the people of Charing were well used to hosting the monarch as both Henry and his father had visited on several occasions. Henry brought cooks and kitchen staff with him and there would have been Charing Palace staff in attendance, too. Much of the food eaten that day was procured locally; they ate poultry - hens, duck and other birds - and, probably, fish from the coast or from the Archbishop's ponds, situated either on what is now Clewards Meadow or the lake in the grounds of the Moat House. Henry and the knights drank wine, the rest beer from the Archbishop's buttery (Continued on next page)

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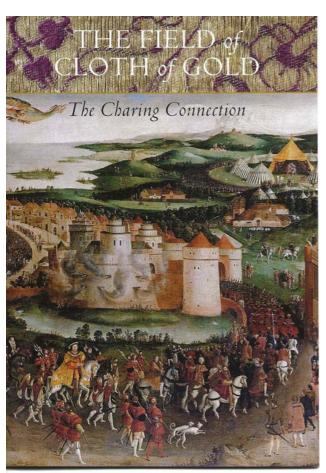
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Henry VIII Visits Charing

(Continued from previous page)

and local hostelries, one of which might have been in the High Street on the site of what is now Elizabethan Court, formerly The Swan. Henry's total bill for his overnight stay in Charing amounted to the equivalent of £29,500.

Henry revisited the Archbishop's Palace later on in his reign, finally 'persuading' Archbishop Cranmer to give it to him in 1545. The Palace subsequently remained royal property through the reigns of Elizabeth l and James l, until the royal connection was finally severed in 1635 by Charles l, who sold it to Sir Robert Honywood of Pett Place for a working farm, as it has continued to be until this day.

The 2020 Charing Village Summer Fête was to have had a Tudor theme but, because of Covid-19, has had to be cancelled. It is, however, hoped that a celebration of Henry Vlll's historic visit to the village will be held at some future date.

Celia Jennings from the Charing & District Local History Society has produced a superb booklet about the Field of Cloth of Gold, starting with Henry's journey through Kent to Calais from his palace at Greenwich via Otford, Maidstone, Charing, Canterbury and Dover. It is fully illustrated in colour, 28 pages in length and costs £5 plus £1.64 postage. It is available from: enquiries@charinghistory.co.uk or direct from Celia on 01233

712480 M: 07860 483292 email: celia.jennings1@btinternet.com

Anti-Slavery Campaigners - William Wilberforce, Olaudah Equiano & Thomas Clarkson are commemorated on 30th July

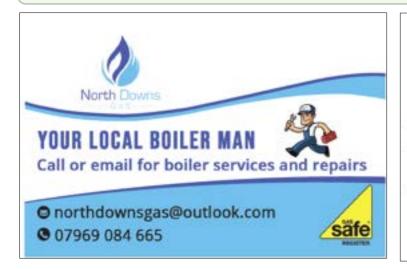
During the 18th century many people in England were involved in the campaign to abolish the slave trade. The CofE remembers especially William Wilberforce, Olaudah Equiano and Thomas Clarkson - three very different but all tireless campaigners against the evil practice.

Thomas Clarkson (1760-1846) was an Anglican clergyman and one of the most prominent of the anti-slavery campaigners. In 1787 he helped form the first Abolitionist Committee, and his energy and hatred of injustice made him a 'moral steam-engine'. He

travelled hundreds of miles, gathering evidence from people caught up in the slave trade, from ship captains to doctors.

Olaudah Equianon (1745 – 1797) had been kidnapped in Nigeria, sold into slavery and sent to the West Indies. When he finally escaped, he made his way to London and became one of the most prominent black campaigners. His brutal autobiography of 1789 ran to nine reprints, and was translated into many languages, bringing home to people the horrors of the slave trade.

William Wilberforce (1759 – 1833), of course, became the main figurehead in Parliament. He came from a wealthy family in Kingston-upon-Hull and represented the town in Parliament. He was recruited by Thomas Clarkson, who saw the need for a brilliant advocate within Parliament. Wilberforce was an inspired choice: not only wealthy and wellconnected, but a gifted orator with a social conscience, especially after his conversion in 1785. He made his first speech in Parliament against slavery in 1789, but it was not until 1807, after a debate that raged for many years, that the Abolition Act was finally passed.



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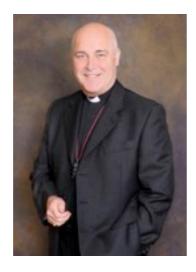
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Email: dengate31@gmail.com

A New Archbishop of York

Bishop Stephen Geoffrey Cottrell will be confirmed as the 98th Archbishop of York this month.

The service, at 11am on Thursday 9th July, will be broadcast entirely via video conference due to the Coronavirus restrictions



The service, which had been due to take place in York Minster, will be in two parts. A legal ceremony with readings, prayers and music, will be followed by a film marking the start of Bishop Stephen's ministry as Archbishop of York.

Bishop Stephen Cottrell says: "I am looking forward to beginning my ministry as the 98th Archbishop of York. This isn't quite how I imagined it would begin. It is certainly the first time an Archbishop's election will have been confirmed via video conference. But we're all having to re-imagine how we live our lives and how we inhabit the world.

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"These are difficult times. My hope is that through this service the love of God that is given us in Jesus Christ will shine out, perhaps even to those who while never attending a service in York Minster, might have a look online.

"Following in the footsteps of my many predecessors, I look forward to serving our nation and bringing the love and peace of Christ to our world, especially here in the north."

The service will be available on the Church of England website. Arrangements for Bishop Stephen's enthronement service will be announced later in the year.



Help feed local people in crisis

Faversham Foodbank July 2020

Thank you for your continued generousity in these difficult times - your support is vital. Tescos and Morrisons have been making donations directly to the Foodbank and the Gospel Mission Hall in Tanners Street has managed to remain open on Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 1.30 - 4.00pm to serve the needs of clients. information about how to access Foodbank help is available on Facebook at www.facebook.com/faversham.foodbank or <

Though Eastling church will reopen for limited times from the beginning of the month we are not using the church as a drop off point at present but you can continue to donate via the bins provided in the major stores or locally at the Carpenters Arms. Thank you Carl, for allowing donations to be dropped off at the pub - and why not order your take away or shopping needs while you do so.

Urgent items required for July

Long life sponge puddings; instant mashed potato; shampoo and conditioners;

small boxes of washing powder; female deodorant; snack bars; dog food.





APRIL - MAY COUNTY MEMBER'S REPORT

Two more months of lockdown so I feel another report is due.

It took the County Council a little while to get its act together. They decided that Microsoft Teams would be the online format we used. I had an online training session on 8th of May and my first online meeting on the 9th.

The first Committee meeting in the form of a briefing was held on the 20th.

By then we were conducting a lot of Parish Council activity on Zoom. The first of my Parish Councils to trial a virtual meeting were Newnham on the 9th, followed by Selling. Within a few weeks my diary returned to something approaching normal with four or five meeting a day. I fell into a routine of spending about 90 minutes online early every morning answering overnight queries from residents and Parish Councils. This would often entail chasing action or information from Council Officers all working from home.

Then a mixture of gardening, dog walking etc and increasingly joining online meetings.

By the beginning of June twelve of my twenty three Parish Councils had held virtual meetings, all but one using Zoom. Four of them Newnham, Selling, Doddington and Graveney had met twice to be joined by Tunstall on 1st June. Several others have scheduled their first virtual meeting for early June.

One of the first virtual County meetings held was the Commissioning Advisory Board which I chair to consider ideas going forward for the Highways Maintenance Contract work. We were joined by the Leader, Highways Cabinet Member and senior Officers to hear the views

of the maximum possible number of backbench Members. We also held a meeting of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel to question the East Kent Maternity Service. Another meeting of great relevance locally was a presentation on the Medway Estuary and Swale Flood and Coastal Risk Strategy from the Environment Agency. Just a few days before the cliff fall on Sheppey took two homes into the sea.

Now we need to look forward with the lockdown slowly to be eased. We had a representative from Selling School senior management team attend the May online meeting to tell us their plans for partial reopening on 8th June and the difficulties this entailed. I know I am not alone in missing contact with close family, in my case children and grandchildren especially. The chance of a sociable chat and drink in the local would also be most welcome. Many of our local pubs have provided all manner of support to their Communities, not just providing take away food. It would be unfair to name any of them individually as so many are doing their

It has been an absolute joy walking the dogs, so little traffic or noise especially in the early weeks. I have never heard the birds and bees sound so loud and clear. The air also felt much cleaner and wash-time proved this was more than just an illusion.

As the economy starts up again, very necessary not just for mental health but to provide the taxes to meet the huge debts Government and Councils have run up supporting people and business, we need to strive to capture

as many of these gains as possible. A return to how we lived pre Covid cannot be allowed. Home working, less commuting and hanging on to the greater community spirit we have experienced must be just the first of our aspirations.

I have to end on a sombre note, the end of May brought two great blows. Firstly, the passing of Mark Radford, my last Chief Executive at Swale. Mark and I both joined Swale Borough Council in 1987, in his case as a rating and valuation officer. He worked his way to the very top, a modest but determined and very able Officer who became a close and valued friend.

Secondly, we had the ghastly news that the Secretary of State had endorsed the Planning Inspectors advice to grant the obscene Solar Power Farm at Cleve Hill, Graveney.

Born and brought up within view of the site I did much of my growing up on those sea walls and salting's. The negative impacts on landscape and the environment would be bad enough, but the reliance on the world's largest ever Lithium-ion Battery storage to make the scheme financially viable, totally untested technology on this scale, is potentially even worse. I have been proud to speak and write against this scheme from day one and appear at the various enquiries etc. I feel especially sad for the stalwarts of the GREAT campaign group and our MP Helen Whately who have worked so hard despite the impact on their lives, families and potentially their careers.

Andrew Bowles KCC Member – Swale East





The Ven John Barton writes in praise of our health service.

The NHS - bearing one another's burdens

"Save the NHS" was the slogan chosen by the British government when the coronavirus began to spread. Meant to evoke public compassion, and compliance with emergency regulations, it sounded as though the NHS was an endangered species. In fact it was the public themselves whose lives were in jeopardy; the National Health Service existed solely for their benefit. The slogan did manage to stir gratitude for a service which had been taken for granted, as well as appreciation of its 1.5+ million staff, many of whom were now putting their own lives at greater risk.

The idea for a countrywide medical service came from the Beveridge Report, instigated by the coalition government during World War II.

"Medical treatment covering all requirements will be provided for all citizens by a national health service", is how it was defined, though it had to wait until 1948 for its implementation to begin. It was part of a programme for reconstruction, aiming to eliminate Want, Disease, Ignorance, Squalor and Idleness. Sir William Beveridge, who gave his name to the report, was close friends with two other social reformers: R H Tawney, and William Temple, who was to become Archbishop of Canterbury.

Today's Archbishop, Justin Welby, wrote this about the trio: "Drawing on Christian understandings of justice, generosity and human dignity, they described the kind of country that they felt reflected God's values better." St Paul couldn't have thought he was providing a slogan



for a welfare state when he wrote, "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ", but that is a neat summary of the way the National Health Service works. We all pay in when we can and we all benefit when we need. One estimate of the cost of the NHS today is £158.4 billion, which in real terms is 10 times as much as in 1950. In the meantime, it's no longer completely free for all. Prescription charges and dental fees have been introduced. The development of ever-more sophisticated lifesaving drugs and medical procedures will inevitably mean higher costs - and a heightened moral dilemma. Must there be further limits to the provision of "medical treatment covering all requirements"?

The colossal task of rebuilding a shattered economy in the years to come may compel the British people to choose between what is essential and what is optional. The Christian principle now sounds particularly demanding: "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ".



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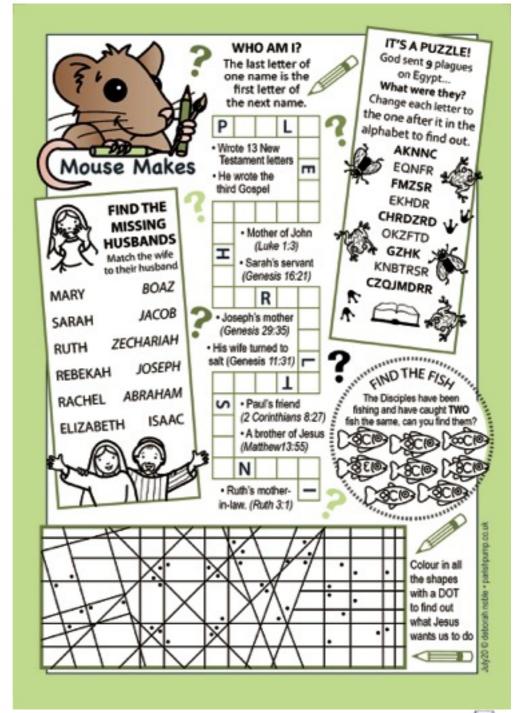
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