



Thank You to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

*Gracious God, we give you thanks
for the reign of your servant Elizabeth our Queen,
and for the example of loving and faithful
service which she has shown among us.
Help us to follow her example of dedication
and to commit our lives to you and to one
another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Prayer from C of E

Special Services in our Churches

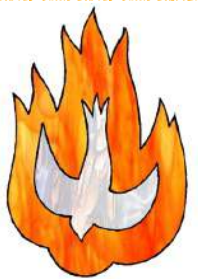
Sunday 5th June

Jubilee Service 10.30am Throwley

Pentecostal Jubilee Service

5.30pm Stalisfield

Sunday 3rd July Evensong 4pm Otterden



JUNE 2022

- 1st Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 2nd Stalisfield Jubilee Celebration
Stalisfield Village Hall 1 - 4pm
- 3rd - 5th **Art Exhibition and Sale**
Stalisfield Church 10am
- 3rd Eastling Jubilee Celebration
Carpenters Arms from 5pm
- 4th Throwley Fête
Throwley Forstal 1 - 5pm
- 5th Otterden Jubilee Picnic
Otterden Park from 1pm
- 5th Throwley Jubilee Picnic
Village Green from 12 noon
- 8th Egerton Arts Society Lecture
Egerton Millennium Hall 2.30pm
- 8th Youth Club - *Jubilee Party PLUS*
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 12th Linocut Workshop
Stalisfield Village Hall 2 - 4pm
- 22nd Youth Club - *Sports & Bake Off prep*
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 23rd Faversham Arts Society Lecture
Alexander Centre 11.00am
- 25th Charity Barn Dance
Sheldwich Village Hall 7.30pm

JULY

- 3rd Ceramic Mug Painting
Stalisfield Village Hall 2.30pm
- 16th Treasure Hunt
Stalisfield Village Hall 2 pm

SATURDAY 4TH JUNE

THROWLEY FETE

1PM TO 5PM

**STALLS, SNOAD FARM BBQ
THROWLEY ARMS BAR
FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES
CREAM TEAS & MUCH MORE**

6PM TO 11.30PM

**BAR, LIVE MUSIC:
UNDER THE WOOD
CORINNE'S CREATIVE KITCHEN**

St Mary's Church Stalisfield
Art Festival

Friday June 3rd-Sunday June 5th
Art Exhibition & Sale

Friday and Saturday 10am-5pm
Sunday 10am -3pm

Refreshments Available

Saturday and Sunday
Still Life Drawing Class
10.30-12.30

Limited places £5 each class

Beginners Welcome

Materials provided

Email to book

stmarystalisfield@gmail.com

Church Road, Stalisfield, Faversham
ME13 0JG

Good News Parish Magazine

High Downs Parish

*Serving the villages of Eastling, Otterden,
Stalisfield and Throwley*

www.goodnews.rf.gd

Jubilee Party at Stalisfield Hall
Thursday 2nd June
1-4pm

Fare to Share

Please bring a plate of savoury food to share with your neighbours as Cake will be provided by Izzy's Bakes.

Back by popular demand are the band

'The Rockin' Badgers'
performing from 2-4pm.

Will look forward to seeing you there



OTTERDEN
JUBILEE PICNIC

Sunday 5th June from 1pm

join us to celebrate the Queen's 70th Jubilee with the welcome return of our Annual Picnic at the Cricket Grounds within Otterden Place Park

Friends and family all welcome please bring your own picnic.

Many thanks, as always, to Otterden Cricket Club and to Julie & David Murray for the use of their field for parking.

Contact: Julia Miller - 07796132415
(lermil06@aol.com)



Residents of Eastling are invited to the



PLATINUM JUBILEE

celebrations at the Carpenters Arms, Eastling on

Friday 3rd June 2022 from 5pm

- To take place in the courtyard of the Carpenters Arms
 - Free hog roast served from 5pm
 - Live music from the Rockin' Badgers from 6pm
- Own food and drink may be consumed in the courtyard but not inside the pub. (Corkage on wine consumed is at your discretion)



SUNDAY 5TH JUNE

THROWLEY
JUBILEE
PICNIC

ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

12 O'CLOCK ONWARDS

BRING YOUR OWN

PICNIC

MUSIC FROM OUR VERY OWN

CLIVE SHERWOOD

ONE OFF CAMEO APPEARANCE BY

THE WINDMILL PUB

June Message

As I write, the country is gearing up for the extended bank holiday weekend and the celebrations to mark the Queen's Platinum jubilee. With picnics and street parties planned, I'm hopeful that the weather is in a celebratory mood too!

Whatever your views on the monarchy, I think it would be hard not to agree that the Queen has led an extraordinary life. In a speech made on her 21st birthday, the Queen said 'I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service.' This immense sense of vocation has surely given meaning, purpose and perseverance to her long life.

It's not a life that I envy, but I am inspired by the service and devotion that the Queen has shown. For her, there is no demarcation between life and work and I imagine she would easily be able to answer some of life's basic questions such as 'What am I doing and why am I doing it?'

This sense of vocation is something that we are in danger of losing in the Western world where jobs and careers change many times over a lifetime. We work for money rather than for the value of the work itself. We work so that we can stop working and do something else as soon as possible because so many of the jobs that we have do not seem to have any connection to the

improvement of the world. Very often we do not see the fruits of our labours or get to know our own creative potential.

When we are able to look at our gifts, our talents, our circumstances, our uniqueness and offer them in service for the love of others and the love of our planet, we will sense a vocation which fires, inspires and commits us. Jesus Christ modelled this kind of life for us. The poet Gبران said, 'work is love made visible'.

This sense of vocation can sustain a lifetime and continue to find its outlet when the process of ageing takes its toll and we cannot accomplish tasks as we once did. We will still find meaning and purpose as our faculties fall away. This spirituality of work is based on the idea that everything is sacred, holy and will continue after we are gone. Reverend Reuben Smith wrote 'Let the old men plant trees, though they may never expect to eat the fruit of them'.

I hope that you enjoy the celebrations for the Queen's Platinum jubilee and in the words of ex-Archbishop John Sentamu: 'Inspired by Her Majesty, let us strive to leave the world a better, holier, joyful, friendlier place than it was when we were born'

With love, light and the blessings of Christ
Lissie Bayford

Book Review

Room for God By various authors, Bible Society, £3.99



This may help you find a way to connect with God in every room of your house, as well as outdoors. On a meditative tour of your own home, you can try out a variety of spiritual practices, listening to God, reflecting on your concerns, and using discernment in your decisions.

There is a double-page spread focusing on each room in the house, and extra double-page spreads on our love of pets, colours in the home, and hospitality. The book also combines Bible texts, prayers and meditations, creative activities and ideas to support social action. It offers a range of suggestions, from ten-minute challenges to deeper meditations.



Thank you Janet

For decades Janet Wood has used her talent and expertise to create magnificent arrangements for weddings in St Mary's, Eastling. Here she puts her magic touch on a spectacular arrangement of garden flowers for Cerys and Andy. Thank you to everyone who helps to keep the church looking beautiful with amazing floral arrangements.
Bay Lees

Prayer Pointers

June 2022

- Mondays** - Pray for our Queen to stay strong in health and mind.
- Tuesdays** - Give thanks for our Queen and her many years dedicated to this country.
- Wednesdays** - Pray for the Royal Family as younger members take on more duties.
- Thursdays** - Give thanks for the many charities supported by our Royal Family.
- Fridays** - Pray for the war in Ukraine to end, that families may be reunited.
- Saturdays** - Give thanks for our freedom and the countryside around us.
- Sundays** - Rejoice in the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.



Eastling Church June 2022



- 5th & 12th - Gemma
- 19th - Di
- 26th - Dorothy
- 3rd July - Caroline

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

Art Activities

at Stalisfield Village Hall

We continue to celebrate with two **free art activities** organised by

'In A Space Arts' in the village hall.



Sunday 12th June

2.00pm- 4.00pm

Linocut workshop with Judith Westrup

Sunday 3rd July

2.30pm-4.30pm

Ceramic Mug Painting



Suitable for adults and accompanied children aged 11+ Limited places
email info@inaspace.org.uk to book.



BARN DANCE

Abbey Capers Barn Dance Band with Caller
Sheldwich Village Hall ME13 OLG

SATURDAY 25 JUNE 2022

Adults £10 under 16's £5

7.30 pm - 10.30 pm

B. Y. O. food and drink

Numbers Limited -- Booking Advised
Details Hugh on 07981 185980/ 01795 890728
Lyn on 07486025555

Proceeds to Badlesmere and Leaveland churches

Stalisfield Highlife

Stalisfield Village Hall

2022

2nd June Platinum Jubilee
Celebration

12th June. Linocut Workshop. 2-4pm

3rd July Ceramic Mug Painting:
2.30 - 4.30pm

16th July Treasure Hunt: 2pm

27th August Village Fete: 2 - 5pm

9th & 10th Dec Pantomime: 7pm

17th Dec Children's Christmas
Party

18th Dec Seniors' Christmas Party



'Happy times with old songs, tea & chatter'

Come and join us in singing for fun
on Thursday afternoons:
23rd, 30th June, 7th & 14th July
from 2pm - 3pm at Newnham Village Hall

£5 per person pay-as-you-go
Enquiries to Lissie on 886392
or email lissiebayford@gmail.com



Doddington Village OPEN GARDENS

Sunday 12th June

12 - 5pm

Adults £5 each, accompanied
children free

Tickets from Doddington village hall
Open for light lunches and afternoon
tea.



**Memories and Roses for our
Queen**



In celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum
Jubilee, a look at events that have taken place
over the last 70 years

St. Peter's Church, Oare
10am to 4pm Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June
Admission free

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Email: Jacksonandadams@btopenworld.com
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rooms and fully equipped facilities for professional or self-
catering occasions.



Belmont House and Gardens



Rosewater Distillation Workshop

Wednesday 8th June, 1 - 3pm

Mandy Rickard, local herbalist and aromatherapist is holding a workshop on distilling aromatic hydrosols for herbal healing. You will experience every stage of the process from picking the buds, through to the distillation using a traditional copper still and bottling. £50.00 per person. Booking online required.

Meet the Head Gardener Tour

Tuesday 21st June, 1 - 3pm

Join our Head Gardener, Graeme, for a walking tour around our beautiful gardens to see some of the many species of plants and trees we have at Belmont. £12.00 per person.

National Garden Scheme Open Day

Sunday 3rd July, 12 - 5pm

Belmont is pleased to support the work of the National Garden Scheme. Our Tea Room will be open serving a wonderful range of cakes and traybakes. Admission £5.00, children free of charge. All proceeds from this weekend will go to the NGS chosen charities.

Open Air Theatre: Othello

Friday 15th July, 7.30pm

Love, jealousy, deception, murder. Othello is an edge-of-the-seat thriller. Changeling's production promises to fizz with passion, intrigue and dark humour. Adult £24, Child (10 - 18 years) £14 and Under 10s Free. Booking online required.

Belmont House & Gardens, Throwley, Nr Faversham, Kent ME13 0HH
W: www.belmont-house.org

Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.

Our Meeting in May was the AGM that we are required to hold, so no Speaker that month. Our President Ellie Cameron, took us through the business and informed us that she would be stepping down as President after 4 years. However, in practice Ellie is now taking up the positions of Secretary AND Treasurer and Helen Brooks, our current Secretary, will now be our President. A vote of thanks was given by all present. Five new Members joined our W.I. and they were warmly welcomed. We are not a large group compared to the Town W.I.'s but it is a nice friendly group of ladies.

Wednesday 1st June is our next normal Meeting at 7.30 p.m. at Stalisfield Village Hall. We have Martin Newcombe coming to talk to us on 'Food for Free and Herbs that Heal'. Followed, of course, by tea and cakes!

If you would like to come along to see if you would like to join us, please contact Ellie Cameron on 01795 892016 or Helen Brooks on 07477580727.



A Lonely Spot

by Audrey Keen

- And though it is a lonely spot
- I cannot feel afraid,
- For known to me for many years
- Is every bank and glade.
- And people there I rarely see
- For they I doubt would find
- The ecstasy of nature's love
- Etched deep upon my mind.



From Angela Lee:

Our son Jack Lee from Churchfields Eastling, completed a Tandem Parachute Jump on Sunday 8th May.

He managed to raise a staggering £1855.00 for Breast Cancer Research, a cause very close to our hearts as I have breast cancer that has been diagnosed as treatable but not curable.

We would like to send a huge Thank You to everyone that donated so generously.

It is still possible to donate at:
[https://www.gofundme.com/f/xvggu7-cancer-research-skydive?](https://www.gofundme.com/f/xvggu7-cancer-research-skydive?utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer)
[utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer](https://www.gofundme.com/f/xvggu7-cancer-research-skydive?utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer)

Sunday Services

5th June PENTECOST

Acts 2. 1 - 21, John 14. 8 - 17 [25 - 27]

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion CW

Throwley 10.30am Jubilee Service

Stalisfield 5.30pm Pentecostal Jubilee Service

12th June TRINITY SUNDAY

Romans 5. 1 - 5, John 16. 12 - 15

Eastling 9am Holy Communion BCP

Throwley 10.30am Morning Prayer

19th June Trinity 1

Galatians 3. 23 - 29, Luke 8. 26 - 39

Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship

Lynsted 10.30am All Age Service

26th June Trinity 2

Galatians 5. 1, 13 - 25, Luke 9. 51 - 62

Throwley 10.30am Holy Communion

Newnham 10.30am Morning Worship

3rd July Trinity 3

Acts 2. 1 - 21, John 14. 8 - 17 [25 - 27]

Doddington 10.30am Benefice Communion CW

Otterden 4pm Evening Service

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 www.kingsdowncreekside.co.uk - also on the Kingsdown and Creekside Facebook page.

More information is updated weekly on St Mary's Eastling 'A Church Near You':

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11982/>

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)

Anna Chaplain Caroline Ramshaw
AnnaChaplaincy@outlook.com

Churchwardens

Eastling Andrew Baxter (01795 890598)

Administrator Janet Payne
E mail: eastlingchurch@gmail.com

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

From The Registers

Weddings

Cerys Lister and Andrew Bear
14th May 2022 at Eastling

Funeral

Audrey Smith
11th May 2022 at Eastling

CONTACT THE GOOD NEWS EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

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

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



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Eastling Primary School

We were delighted to be offered the opportunity, by Swale Borough Council, to take a group of 15 children to Beach school once a week for the duration of the term. The children are from years 2-6 and travel to Swalecliffe beach. They have been learning about native and non-native shells, Estuary's and geographical terminology, litter picking, reducing, reusing and recycling. The children have also learnt how to hold crabs and identify a wide range of sea creatures.

In April the school football team enjoyed a friendly home match against Canterbury Road Primary school.

Wrens Hill Rescue visited the school on 25th April to talk to the children about hedgehogs. The children enjoyed learning about hedgehogs and meeting Wonky.

On Friday 29th April there was an OPAL meeting for parents followed by a stay and play session on the field. We were delighted to be joined by over 40 parents who really enjoyed the opportunity and learn more about Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL). The school council have been busy writing a play charter for OPAL.

Willow class were delighted to go to the Living Land show at Detling on 5th May. It was a wonderful day and the children took part in a food tasting workshop, watched a bird of prey display, discovery and machinery workshop, met the animals and watched the sheep show.



Dates for your diaries:

8.6.22 Jubilee Party and Father's day pressies
22.6.22 Sports Week - Bake Off prep
13.7.22 Bake Off judging

Year 6 primary school aged children welcome too. Activities include table tennis, gaming, craft, pool table, music and chill out zone, cake, tuck shop and outside activities now Spring is here!

2nd & 4th Wednesdays 7-8.30pm, free entry
contact : Clinorwood@doctors.org.uk

The school choir, led by Mr Glazier, went to the O2 on Friday 6th May to perform in the Young Voices concert. This was an amazing opportunity for the children to experience singing and performing with 7000 children. The school was very lucky to have their own box which was situated behind the main stage giving everyone a great view.

Andrew Parry's music lessons have now restarted with 9 children enjoying learning to play the keyboard and guitar. Mrs Hamer's piano lessons continue to be very popular with many children achieving good grades in their examinations.

Birch class visited St Mary's church on Wednesday 4th May where they were joined by Mrs Youle. They have been learning about sacred places as part of their RE topic this term. Birch

class also visited the Mosque in Canterbury on Monday 16th May.

On Thursday 12th May Acorn class visited Bedgebury Pinetum where they went on the Gruffalo trail.

The whole school celebrated National Outdoor Learning Day on Thursday 19th May. We were delighted to be joined by Wild Classroom for outdoor cooking. The older children have been learning about WWII so they made corned beef hash and homemade beans. Willow class made a risotto with locally sourced greens. Birch class made pasta and meatballs and the youngest children made Gruffalo crumble (rhubarb crumble). All of the classes spent time planting and enjoying Joey's Garden. Other activities included making bug hotels and preparations for the Jubilee celebrations.



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Help, my kids just asked me a science question!

Why aren't dinosaurs in the Bible?

The Bible wasn't written to list all the animals on earth or tell us about science. It was written a long time before people started to use science to learn about the world. When the Bible was written, people didn't even have a word for

dinosaurs yet! But it's not just dinosaurs that aren't mentioned in the Bible, it doesn't talk about armadillos, kangaroos, sabre-toothed cats or penguins either!

That doesn't mean that the Bible is out of date or wrong, or that these animals aren't important. Rather than teaching us science, many Christians believe that the Bible was written to tell people about God, how much He loves them, and all the amazing things He has done.

The Bible says that God made everything, and loves everything He made, so that includes dinosaurs. It also encourages people to explore and find out all about the wonderful things it says God has made. Science is a part of this exploration.

Did God make the dinosaurs?

The Bible (the holy book that Christians read) says that God made everything. All the stars, the Earth and all the amazing plants and animals that have ever lived here. So yes, most Christians believe that God made the dinosaurs!

The Bible also teaches that God loves it when people explore His creation, and science is a great way of doing that. So, for many Christians, science is one of the fun things we can use to learn all about *how* God made everything, including all of the dinosaurs!

Were humans and dinosaurs ever living on earth at the same time?

Yes! But probably not the kind of dinosaur you're thinking of! Most of the dinosaurs died out a very, very long time ago, way before humans first lived. But some of the smaller, feathery dinosaurs survived and over a long time they have evolved into the animals we call birds.

So, from chickens and robins to penguins and ostriches, there are dinosaurs living all over our world today!

These questions and answers are taken from The Faraday Kids website

(www.faradaykids.com). For even more science-faith Q&A's, check out 101 Great Big Questions About God and Science, Edited by L Henderson & S Bryant (Lion, 2022)



Eastling Neighbourhood Watch

Village Warden

07794 010 394

or 01795 890848



Police 101 Emergency 999

With the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations happening and public houses etc opening for longer hours, please do not contemplate drink\ drug driving as the consequences, as we all know, are horrendous. Have a great and joyous time and take care.

There are reports in the national press about designer dogs still being stolen with Kent very high in the league so please ensure to keep your dog(s) under your control at all times.

With the hot weather approaching and windows etc are opened please remember if you leave your property to close all windows and doors, as there will be undesirables looking for a quick opportunity to relieve you of your belongings.

Have a good Jubilee time
Take Care
Alan.

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THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

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THE GOLDEN AGE OF SONG: JEROME KERN – THE ‘DADDY’ OF THEM ALL

Lecturer: Pip Burley

Wednesday 8th June 2022

At 2.30 p.m.

at EGERTON MILLENNIUM HALL,
ELM CLOSE, EGERTON TN27 9DS

Kern was born of middle-class parents in New York in 1885 and, in a career spanning more than four decades, composed more than 700 songs used in over 100 stage works, musicals and films. He was one of the great innovators of American popular song and the ‘father’ of a whole family of song writers who would follow him. Songs featured include: “A Fine Romance”, “The Folks Who Live on the Hill”, “I Won’t Dance”, “Long Ago and Far Away”, “All the Things You Are”, “The Way You Look Tonight”, “They Didn’t Believe Me”

Pip Burley began his musical career playing Rock’n’Roll in the 60s and 70s as well as working with the big bands - including Sydney Lipton, Joe Loss and Ken Mackintosh. He went on to compose and record music for commercials, theatre, film and television and, in 1990, won an Ivor Novello Award for Best Television Theme music for The Darling Buds of May - a TV series he also produced (discovering Catherine Zeta-Jones in the process). Other television successes include the multi-award winning series A Touch of Frost. As a sideline he also managed to start and run an advertising agency!

Visitors are very welcome at £5 (reimbursed if you become a member)

Please contact Christine Willis via cmwillis75@gmail.com or 01233 756377 for further details or visit our website at <https://theartsocietyegerton.org.uk>

THE ARTS SOCIETY FAVERSHAM

We run regular monthly lectures on the fourth Thursday at the Alexander Centre, Faversham. Subjects cover all aspects of the Arts in its widest sense and are given by experts in their chosen field and include university lecturers, broadcasters and tour guides. Come along to a lecture as a guest (£5 fee) or join for a year’s lectures.

Our next lecture is on the 23rd June 2022 on

**“The Flowers and Faces of Southern Africa” by Christopher Garibaldi .
Coffee and biscuits will be served from 10.20am**

Irma Stern was one of the most important and influential artists to come out of South Africa in the twentieth century. A near contemporary of Munnings, her art shows some stylistic similarities although her subjects were very different. A similar concern with figurative painting was in Stern’s case directed at the production of luxurious flower paintings in the manner of Van Gogh whilst perhaps her most original achievement were the powerful portraits she painted of black Africans in exotic locations and costumes.

This lecture serves as an introduction to the art of South Africa whilst addressing important contemporary themes relating to the depiction of race, colonialism and the appropriation of African culture.

Details of past and future lectures can be found on our website theartsocietyfaversham.org.uk.

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



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The new marriage laws

*Marriage should be honoured by all.
Hebrews 13:4*

A new Act of Parliament has introduced no fault divorce to England and Wales. Now one or both parties to a marriage can get a divorce without the need to blame the other person.

It was introduced because there were a very small number of marriages where one person could stop the other getting a divorce, even though the relationship was at an end. A man or woman had to *show* that the marriage had irretrievably broken down, as demonstrated by the other's adultery, behaviour or they lived apart for a period of at least two years. But making such an accusation of desertion, behaving badly or having a sexual relationship outside marriage would often stoke up bitterness, and make it difficult to agree on important issues about children or money.

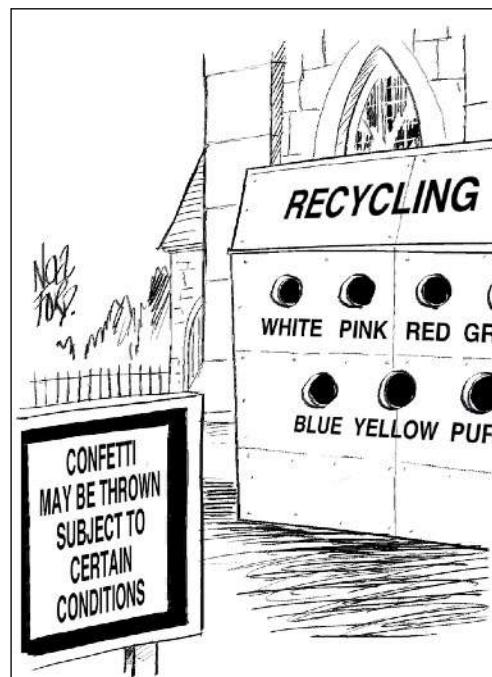
Some people have argued that no fault divorce makes marriage less important or removes personal responsibility. Sadly, the numbers of people getting married are falling and the divorce rate is increasing. Fewer choose to marry in church.

Divorce used to be the privilege of rich people, and even then was granted only for a few reasons. In the 19th

century it was easier legally for a man to get a divorce than for a woman to get one. In the 1970s a new paper-based procedure came in, whereby parties did not have to physically go to court hearing a divorce. Now divorces are done online on a government website.

The new Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 removes blame, but still ensures there is a minimum period of 20 weeks between the start of proceedings and when individuals may apply for a conditional order of divorce. This allows a time to reflect and discuss problems, and where reconciliation is not possible, to agree important questions such as those involving children, finance and property.

Christians will have a different understanding of marriage, and to many people divorce will always be a painful and stressful process, regardless of the law. As always this is a very simple comment on a complex subject. Always get professional advice before taking any steps. There are local and national organisations which offer guidance on reconciliation (getting back together) and mediation (staying apart but sorting out important issues).



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Ukrainian church leaders urge people to pray

A senior church leader in Ukraine has told the citizens that Russia's war on Ukraine "did not begin with missiles and bombs – it began with deception, untruth and lies." So says the head of Ukraine's independent Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Epiphany (Dumenko).

"The Lord is now showing us how we must resist with the testimony of truth. Evil is evil, not just an alternative viewpoint, and war is war, not just some conflict. Rapists, looters and murderers are criminals, and what they are perpetuating is a genocide of the Ukrainian people."

The Metropolitan also said that Ukrainians knew that Russia had long had "evil plans to restore the tyranny of a rotten, overthrown empire."

But, he said "The Lord is with us in this struggle, because we are fighting for truth and goodness against demonic tyranny and resentment.... We believe that our people will overcome all new challenges – that Ukraine will win its victory."

Meanwhile, the Primate of Ukraine's Greek Catholic Church, Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv-Halych, said that this Spring and Summer may well be the last for many, including himself.

He went on: "As the war escalates, and the enemy intensifies its offensive against Ukraine, I call on everyone to pray vigorously and tirelessly for the Ukrainian army, because the fate of Ukraine and the world is now being decided."

Sunday 5th June

Fire of Pentecost



"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth" Acts 1:8

We all get tired and battle weary sometimes. The disciples of Jesus had just been through a three-year long roller coaster adventure with Jesus that had culminated in His death, resurrection and ascension into heaven.

The range of emotions would have been hugely taxing in the days leading up to Pentecost, as they remembered Jesus weeping in the garden of Gethsemane, betrayed by Judas, brutally beaten and

crucified, and then dead and buried. Then there had been the shock and awe of finding out that He was alive again! But then He had left them again, to return to His Father. By the time the day of Pentecost arrived, the disciples would indeed have welcomed some fresh spiritual fire!

For us today, many of us have felt emotionally drained with the uncertainties caused by Covid 19, the worry of prices rising at an alarming rate, and now the pain and uncertainty of what will happen in the war in Ukraine.

So, what better day to pray for fresh spiritual fire for each of us? As we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and birth of the Church, let us thank God that He will never leave us or forsake us.



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It was the **festival of Pentecost**, fifty days since **Passover** and **Jews** from many countries had come to **Jerusalem** to **celebrate**.

The **Apostles** and other believers were all **together** in one place when they heard a **sound** like a strong **wind** and **saw** what looked like **tongues of fire** which spread out and **touched each person**.

All of them were **filled** with the **Holy Spirit** and began to **talk** in other **languages** as the Spirit enabled them. A **crowd** gathered outside, they were all excited because each of them heard the believers speaking in their **own**

Mouse Makes

Read the full story in Acts 2:1-11

D L F I L L E D S
N E B E C E L E B R A T E H
L H O L Y S P I R I T A A
T A A P E N T E C O S T L C T
O N B A P T I S E D O O K H
U G N S A W V G K B U N
C U F S H E A R D E N G
H A P O S T L E S L D U
E G F V F I F T Y I W E I O G S
D E J E R U S A L E M S F N O K
E S O R D A Y S I V I W I N D N
W T O G E T H E R C R O W D
A L O W E D D E J E W S

language about the great things **God** had done.

About 3,000 people **heard**, **believed** and were **baptised** that day!

All the words in **bold type** in the story are in the word search, can you find them?

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