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Lives charity**

**** EASTLING VILLAGE HALL ****

**** SATURDAY 21st MARCH ****

**** 7.30-11.30pm ****



TICKETS: £15pp

**to include a welcome cocktail
and light supper**

**PRIZES: for Best Flapper or Dapper costume
and Best Charleston dancer**

*** Fun Casino with Roulette and BlackJack tables ***

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**All profits will go to the Catching Lives
charity, Canterbury,
helping to support the homeless.**

FOR TICKETS, PLEASE EMAIL

lucymurphy@me.com

Stalisfield High Life 2020

- 4th April **Safari Supper**
Shirley & Judith - 07885 827 444 / 07841 574 577
- W/c 6th April **Theatrical workshop for Young People**
Cat - cat1@totalise.co.uk 01795 890 298
- 8th May **VE day Celebration** Sheila - 01233 463 746
- 6th June **Frog Olympics Race Night**
Kate - katejamiesoncornhill@gmail.com
- 11th July **Treasure Hunt** Catherine -
Clnorwood@doctors.org.uk 07929 928046
- 29th August **Village Fête** Tracy & Melanie - 07961 566 814
tracy@stalisfieldvillagehall.co.uk / mjcarter64@outlook.com
- 25th September **5th Birthday Celebration Potluck Lunch**
Kate & Jean - katejamiesoncornhill@gmail.com
- 17th October **Harvest Supper** Tracey & Shirley -
tracysmith210@btinternet.com 07885 827 444
- 5th December **Seniors' Tea** Anna & Angela - 07746 429561
anna@stalisfieldvillagehall.co.uk angelalee@vfast.co.uk
- 6th December **Children's Christmas Party**
Su - suandyjoe@yahoo.co.uk
- 11th December **Christmas Quiz**
Ian - ianmckay1@btinternet.com 01795 890 475

We would also welcome additional volunteers for each event. If you would like to help in any way please either contact the event coordinators or Tracy on 0771 736 7936 or email tracy@stalisfieldvillagehall.co.uk.

We look forward to seeing you throughout the year!

**Good News
Parish Magazine**

High Downs Parish

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

**ccgi.northdowns.plus.com/
goodnews**

What's On

WEEKLY EVENTS:

Tuesdays

Table Tennis 7 - 9pm Stalisfield Hall

Wednesdays (Alternate)

Eastling Walkers 10.30am Call 01795 890703

Cribbage 7.30pm The Plough

Thursdays

Zumba 6.30pm Stalisfield Hall

Fridays

Short Mat Bowls 7.30pm Eastling Hall

MARCH 2020



- 4th Otterden & Stalisfield W.I. 7.30pm
Stalisfield Village Hall
- 8th Café Church 10.30am
Eastling Village Hall
- 8th Parish Lanes Clean-up 11.30am
start from Throwley Forstal Green
- 11th Eastling Parish Council 6.30pm
Eastling Village Hall
- 12th Gardeners' Club 7.30pm
Eastling Village Hall
- 15th Copy deadline for April Good News
goodnewsmagazine@me.com
- 21st Roaring Twenties Party 7.30pm
Eastling Village Hall
- 22nd Mothering Sunday Service 10.30am
Newnham Church
- 31st Publication of April Good News

APRIL

- 4th Safari Supper
Stalisfield Village Hall
- 6th (Week commencing) Theatrical Workshop
Stalisfield Village Hall

The Revd Canon Paul Hardingham considers what it means to follow Jesus.

The Way of the Cross

'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me.' (Luke 9: 23)

These words of Jesus are spoken at a turning point in the gospel. Jesus challenges the disciples about His identity and their commitment to Him: *'who do the crowds say I am?'* (18). It is at this point that He *'resolutely set out for Jerusalem'* (9:51). On our journey through Lent, as we look to events of Good Friday and Easter, what are our priorities as Jesus' disciples to be?



To deny ourselves: this means to saying *No* to ourselves and *Yes* to God, as we humbly submit our will to His. Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane *'not My will but*

Yours be done.' (Luke 22:42). It means putting Jesus first in everything: our work, family, ambitions, possessions, marriage, finance and future. We will not be guided by self-interest, but by allowing God to show us how to live in His way.

To take up our cross: this reminds us that the disciple is not immune from suffering, as we follow Jesus along the way of cross. Just as He carried His cross to Golgotha, we cannot avoid experiencing suffering in a fallen world. Every day we are to live in way that demonstrates to everyone that we have died to ourselves, our selfish ways and ambitions, and seek to live for God. It means breaking old selfish habits and ways of thinking, as we allow God to renew us by His Spirit.

In all of this we cannot lose, because like Jesus, it is only through death that we find God's new life. *'He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.'* (Jim Elliot)

Lent Course -

The Joy of the Gospel
at Lynsted Church
Tuesdays @ 2 pm or
Wednesdays @ 7:30 pm
Commencing 3rd & 4th
March respectively
Everyone is Welcome

Intercessions

An interactive, informative training session for intercessors or anyone wanting to be
Saturday 21st March
10am-12:30pm
St Mary of Charity School,
Faversham.
Ospringe Deanery event.
Book by email
lbywater@diocant.org

Lent Lunches Open to all

Faversham Baptist Church,
St. Mary's Road
Fridays 28th February - 3rd April
12 noon - 2pm

For a suggested donation of £3, delicious homemade soup, bread and cheese is on the menu.

Proceeds from the lunches will be sent to Open Doors; a charity which supports persecuted Christians with Bibles, Christian materials, training, livelihood skills, advocacy and in a host of other ways, so that they know they are not forgotten and can stand strong to serve their communities.

Prayer Pointers March 2020

Mondays -For all who have suffered from the recent floods.



Tuesdays - For all affected by the Corona virus outbreak.

Wednesdays - For the NHS and everyone working within it.

Thursdays - For our emergency services.

Fridays - For our armed forces, those still serving and those in retirement.

Saturdays - For fishermen and farmers and all who work to fill the shops with food.

Sundays - For Foodbanks and all who need to use them..

Eastling Church Flower Rota

1st March - 11th April - Lent - no flowers.

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

Easter Lilies

Bay Lees will welcome donations for Easter lilies in memory of loved ones; their names will be recorded the church.



World Day of Prayer Friday 6th March



Written by the people of
Zimbabwe
Nearest services are in
Sittingbourne Methodist Church
in the High Street: ME10 4PB
10.30am and again at 7pm.

Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.

Andrew Saunders kindly came along for our first Meeting of the year, accompanied by his wife and Member, Judith. As Andrew started off his working career in Nursing, he was the ideal person to illustrate how to perform CPR (on a dummy) and the use of a Defibrillator, as we have one installed by the entrance to the Village Hall. There was a good turn out of our Group, with only a couple not able to attend, indicating that our Members felt it a worth while talk which could save a life. Andrew spoke in straight forward language with no jargon incorporated and was amusing as well. Although the Defibrillator does instruct on its usage, it was certainly good to know what to expect, saving seconds in a situation when seconds count.

A couple of our group, attended the Mature Drivers' Seminar held at Ditton Community Centre on 11th February. This was organised by the WI and was over subscribed last

year. The Instructors were supplied by KCC, who tour various venues in Kent. The seminar was aimed at the over 60's, the majority of whom took their driving test many years ago. It was designed as a refresher course, updating us on the rules and regulations of the road nowadays and recent legislation on various aspects, for example car seats for children. The instructors did point out that our age group has less accidents than the teenage/twenties age group and the course was to help us continue to drive safely for a long a possible. The point was made that if we give ourselves sufficient time and space we will not have an accident. As we age we need to take into consideration that our reactions may be slower and prescribed medication may have side effects such as tiredness, so we need to drive within our capabilities. There was a free handout at the end of the

Seminar, comprising of a couple of booklets compiled by different organisations covering the contents of the course, together with an up to date Highway Code book. The morning certainly gave us food for thought.

Next month we meet at Stalisfield Village Hall on 4th March at 7.30pm. The Speaker will be Mary Smith and the subject is 'A Maidstone Grammar Schoolgirl's War'. Contact Ellie Cameron on 01795 892016 or Helen Brooks on 07477 580727 if you would like to join us.

EASTLING VILLAGE HALL

To book ring Hayley on
on 01795 890968

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The large hall has pretty grounds, car parking, meeting rooms and fully equipped facilities for professional or self-catering occasions.

SUNDAY 8TH MARCH

THROWLEY PARISH LANES CLEAN UP

**PLEASE MEET AT 11.30
AT THE NEW VENUE ON
THROWLEY FORSTAL**

**CHOOSE YOUR LANE & COLLECT
GLOVES, RUBBISH BAGS ETC BEFORE
SETTING OFF. THEN RETURN WITH
YOUR SPOILS FOR A DELICIOUS FREE
LUNCH & THE CHANCE TO MEET
OTHER THROWLEY VILLAGERS. PLEASE
BRING THE DRINK OF YOUR CHOICE**

GOOD NEWS!

EASTLING BLUEBELL WALK IS BACK!



Sunday 3rd May
12 noon - 4pm



This year the event is being run as a joint venture between St Mary's Church Eastling and Eastling Primary School.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

As in previous years we are desperately seeking volunteers to help us on the day. If you feel you could spare even an hour of your time to assist with sales, marshal, serve in the tea room or help with car parking we would be delighted to hear from you.

Contact Steve Youle
(steve.youle@btinternet.com) or
Erin Neesham (moonath@hotmail.com)



Eastling Panto Alert

A group of Eastling residents wishes to put on a pantomime in December 2020. The village hall now has a lovely stage for the performance. At present we favour a production of Cinderella. Rehearsals will start in September but from this March we are putting together teams of people who can help with technical, costumes, stage management, props, scenery, music, choir/chorus, direction, marketing/PR and of course actors.

Do contact Anne Adams or Julia Bailey if you would like to be involved, and in what capacity. We would love to hear from you even if you can only offer a small amount of your time and have no previous experience - the more the merrier! Residents of neighbouring villages (with or without previous Panto experience) are also very welcome! jacksonandadams@bopenworld.com
Julia.bailey98@outlook.com



Short Mat Bowls

On Wednesday 12th February we had Macknade visit Eastling for a League game, and we won on both mats so gained 6 points. At the moment we are in 4th position in the East Kent League, but with some tough games coming up we shall struggle to maintain that position. On Friday 21st we have top of the league Boughton coming to Eastling, we shall try our best and hope to give you some good results next month. We are still looking for more players, being the only weekly club user of the village hall we want to try and keep going. We meet on Friday evenings 7.30 - 9.30pm, come along and try it out.

Contact Roy on 01795 537162.



REMEMBER THE
CLOCKS GO FORWARD
ON
SUNDAY 29TH MARCH



Gardeners' Club

Eastling Gardeners' Club next meets on Thursday 12th March at 7.30p.m. in Eastling Village Hall

A talk by Jacqueline Aviolet on 'herbs - culinary, cultivation and folklore', will be followed by wine and homemade nibbles.

The meeting is free for members but, as a reminder, the annual subscription of £10 per person is due at the March meeting. Non-members pay £4.

Grand Plant Sale

Eastling Village Hall



Saturday 23rd May

Donations of flower plants; shrubs; fruit and vegetable plants would be

greatly appreciated.

All proceeds to be donated to Demelza Children's Hospice and Eastling Gardeners' Club.

Call Alan on 01795 890848

More details to follow in April Good News

Ladies, please don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands. 😊



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Early doors means early mealtimes too! Now opening from 4pm on Thursdays & Fridays with a £10.00 main course special offer from 5 - 6pm, kids menu also available from £6.50



Breakfast - now being served from 9.00am on Saturdays & 9.30am on Sundays, see our website for the menu

Need treating? We now offer a full **afternoon tea** (pre booked only with 24 hours' notice) or Cream teas - afternoon tea always has somewhat of a self-indulgent feeling to it!

Don't forget we offer **takeaway Fish & Chips** from Monday - Thursday at £7.75 (Friday & Saturday maybe an option - call to check please)

Services in High Downs and Kingsdown and Creekside

26th February Ash Wednesday

2 Corinthians 5. 20b - 6. 10, Matthew 6.1-6,16,21

Newnham 8.00pm Holy Communion

1st March Lent 1

Romans 5. 12 - 19, Matthew 4. 1 - 11

Eastling 10.30 am Holy Communion by ext (CW)
Lynsted 9.00am Holy Communion by ext (BCP)
Oare 9.00am Holy Communion (CW)
Doddington 10.30am Holy Communion (CW)
Norton 10.30am Family Service
Teynham 10.30am Family Service
Lynsted 6.00pm Breakthrough

8th March Lent 2

Romans 4. 1 - 5, 13 - 17, John 3. 1 - 17

Eastling 10.30 am CaféStyle in village hall
Throwley 10.30am Morning Prayer (BCP)
Norton 9.00am Holy Communion ext (CW)
Oare 9.00am Holy Communion (CW)
Lynsted 10.30am Family Service
Newnham 10.30am Holy Communion (CW)
Teynham 10.30am Family Holy Communion ext
Teynham 3.30pm Holy Communion (BCP)
Lynsted 6.00pm Breakthrough

15th March Lent 3

Romans 5. 1 - 11, John 4. 5 - 42

Stalisfield 10.30 am Holy Communion (CW)
Newnham 9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Oare 9.00am Holy Communion ext (CW)
Doddington 10.30am Family Service
Norton 10.30am Holy Communion (CW trad)
Teynham 10.30am Family Service
Lynsted 6.00pm Breakthrough

22nd March Mothering Sunday

1 Samuel 1. 20 - 28, Luke 2. 33 - 35

Eastling 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
Throwley 10.30 am Holy Communion (CW)
Doddington 9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Newnham 10.30am Mothering Sunday Service
Oare 10.30am Morning Worship
Teynham 10.30am Mothering Sunday Service
Teynham 3.30pm Evensong
Lynsted 6.00pm Breakthrough

29th March Lent 5

Romans 8. 6 - 11, John 11. 1 - 45

Newnham 10.30am Benefice Service
Lynsted 6.00pm Breakthrough

5th April Palm Sunday

Psalms 118. 1 - 2, 19 - 29, Matthew 21. 1 - 11

Eastling 10.30 am Holy Communion (CW)

High Downs Parish

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

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)

From the Registers

Funeral

Jeanne Startin
14th February 2020 at Stalisfield

Midweek Groups

Tuesdays: Study group: no meetings in March.
Garden Cottage, Eastling. 01795 890368

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

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

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

You will be welcome at any of our groups.

CONTACT THE GOOD NEWS EDITOR

If you would like to advertise in the April 2020 magazine, submit articles or stories for publication, or would like any forthcoming events publicised, send your contribution by 15th March to: Hilary Harlow, Pinks Farm, Eastling, Faversham, ME13 0BA. Tel: 01795 890338. Where possible, please submit your entry by email: goodnewsmagazine@me.com

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

A Bucket of Tadpoles: Springtime, Curiosity, and the Theology of Science

When I was nearly three, I knocked a bucket of tadpoles all over the patio. Those unfortunate creatures must have been collected to educate my brother and I on where frogs came from, but a toddler can't just stand by and watch. Can I see up close? Or maybe I was 'helpfully' moving it to another place. I just remember doing something I shouldn't have done, and tadpoles on the ground. I was sad that I wouldn't get to see those creatures grow up.

I might have been great at destroying things when I was a child (my family would probably say I still am), but I absolutely love watching living things up close. The more I learn, the more my sense of wonder grows. For a tadpole to become a frog, large sections of its gut, salivary glands and muscles must die, as well as the gills. The cells in those tissues are programmed to curl up and disintegrate, and are then swallowed up by a specialised kind of white blood cell. Legs grow from small sacs of cells on the tadpole's body, and one of my textbooks says that 'The nervous system is also remodelled' - which I suspect is a bit of an understatement.

This knowledge removes a little of the mystery of how a tadpole turns into a frog, but there is plenty more to discover. These few details also reveal the cleverness of the process. Metamorphosis is surprisingly common in the animal kingdom. How is that an efficient

way to grow up, or is efficiency not the most important thing for an animal?

Scientists are essentially grown-ups who are still very much in touch with their inner two-year-old. They refuse to stop asking questions, even when finding an answer becomes decidedly more awkward than opening a textbook.

Many scientists are people of faith, and this also drives their questioning. They believe that God created a world that was very good, that the purpose of all Creation is to praise Him, that we are made in God's image, and that we are tasked with looking after Creation. So Christians, of all people, should be enjoying and investigating our surroundings. These are the bones of a theology of science which serves some of us very well, and keeps us looking into things like buckets of frogs - that is, until a two year-old comes and knocks them over.

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.



The Woodcutter

by Audrey Keen

You would not fell a growing oak
Or scare the owl there as he woke,
You would not callously malign
The red fox, rabbit or the hare
Or shrews or any creature living where
Your duties lie.
And when the wood smoke rises
Through the standing trees
Your soul is moved by all you see,
The beauty posed in every living tree
Whose leaves, defeated now
Just lie upon the ground.
But those boles marked by yaffle's
Strong bill show them to be old
And destined now to go.
And sadness lingers then,
For this familiar thing
Was home to many birds born in the
spring.
But other dwellings too are known to you,
The squirrel's high abode,
The rabbit's shady home,
And in the valley depths
The dampened domicile of frogs and
toad.
And often you relate to me
All you have seen,
The secret place where fox
And badger cubs have been.
And though you share with me
Your thoughts on all of these,
Is there not a special place inside of you
That sorrows for the fallen trees?

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The new website that makes evangelism easier

A new website has been launched which claims it is "going to make the easiest evangelism even easier." It is also completely free to link to from church websites and materials.

The website, www.christianity.org.uk, is the result of a complete rewrite and redesign of an older website, and is still owned by the Christian Enquiry Agency.

But now visitors will be able to engage in meaningful conversations online with a real Christian, through the new conversation feature.

Visitors will also find all new, longer form content about the Christian faith, beautiful imagery, specially commissioned artwork, and up-to-date answers to the kinds of questions about spirituality and identity that people are asking. The content will remain balanced and cover the breadth of Christian belief in the UK.

Dr Bex Lewis, Senior Lecturer in Digital Marketing at Manchester Metropolitan

University, welcomed the new site. "According to Google Trends, searches such as 'who am I?', 'purpose', 'gender' and 'mental health' have all increased in the UK in the past 10 years. Christianity.org.uk is aiming to bring God's hope to a space on the internet that is currently populated with mostly secular answers.

"There is also a new 'Help me God' page for the many people who type this in desperation. They will find a safe place, helpful contacts, suggested prayers and next steps."

CEA chair, the Revd Dr Jo Cox-Darling added: "Best of all, we're going to make it even easier for enquirers to have email conversations online with a real-life Christian. We listen as well as talk, don't judge, and give a balanced Christian view. And we converse with people for as long as they want to, and no longer.

"I would encourage every church or Christian organisation to put a link to our URL on their website and public-facing materials. Someone who might never come to church or speak to a Christian friend will have no problem picking up their phone, starting an online conversation about faith and, like many before, beginning their own exciting journey with God."

Prayer for Mothering Sunday, 29th March.

Loving Saviour,

Who experienced the love of an earthly mother. On Mothering Sunday we reflect and give thanks for Mother Earth, Mother Church and our earthly Mother.

You have supplied the earth with abundant riches. We pray that human kind be wise stewards of your bounteous provision for the needs of all. Help us to encourage everyone to care for your earth so that future generations will enjoy its beauty.

Thank you for Mother Church; for the opportunities to worship together and, as a church community, reach out in love and acceptance to the lonely, the stranger, the refugee, all who are our neighbour.

We thank you for the love and nurture received from our own Mother. We are grateful that she set us on our way, protecting us from harm, directing us on the best way to live our life. We feel so blessed for her guidance which has enabled us to be the person we are today.

We ask you Lord to bring comfort and healing to everyone who this Mothering Sunday will be saddened, upset or hurt by the memories of the day.

All who have lost their mother recently or many years ago and yet the pain and deep sadness still remains.

All who have been abandoned for whatever reason by their mother.

All who have been unable to have a child.

All who have lost a child.

All who have been hurt or abused.

We ask you to enfold them in your arms and surround them with your love in their pain and sorrow.

We pray that you will give each of us the grace to be mindful of others, to be kind in our words and be sympathetic to others' situation.

Amen

(www.mothersunion.org)



Our Lent Appeal 2020



At this time of year, we regularly appeal to parishioners to consider your Lenten offering, urging you not to give something up but to do something positive.



Will you consider inviting an international student to your home for just one day (daytime only) or for a weekend? Share a meal, conversation and exchange cultural traditions and views of the world. It is so very rewarding for both host and student guest.

Please consider becoming one of our volunteer hosts. We operate all year round and would very much welcome you to join us.

www.hostuk.org; info@hostuk.org; Tel: 020 7739 6292



St Mary's Church presents...
CAFESTYLE
Sunday 8th March
10.30 - 11.30am
Eastling Village Hall
A creative time of worship:
 Church in a Café setting,
 worship discussion reflection
 prayer fellowship

Tea, coffee & yummy nibbles will be available throughout the service, which will include sung worship, times of prayer, with opportunities for discussion & reflection, and space for the youngest & oldest to worship altogether

Sittingbourne Orpheus Choral Society
 present
J.S. Bach - St. John Passion
 with orchestra
 The Millenium Hall, Fulston Manor School
Saturday 28th March at 7.30pm
 Tickets £10 from 01795 423854 or book online www.wegotickets.com/event/486351 (£1 booking fee)

Update from our M.P. Helen Whately

It's been a busy start to the year in Parliament. After years of wrangling and uncertainty we have finally left the EU. I know there are still strong views on this, but most people I spoke to during the election wanted to move on, and that's what we've managed to do.

The focus is now on building a new relationship with Europe and the rest of the world. There are huge opportunities for our country in the decade ahead, not just in our new role in the world, but also with our growing economy and a commitment to levelling up investment and opportunities across communities. In the last few weeks in Parliament we've put NHS funding increases into law, introduced Bills on the environment and agriculture to make the most of having control in these areas once again, and set out plans for a £5 billion fund for better bus and cycle links to help every region outside London. I'm continuing to work hard to get Kent its share of new investment.

I know some people have been through the horrible experience this month of seeing flood water enter their homes. It's a reminder of the pressures we face in Kent - and the need to make sure new developments work with our plans for tackling climate change.

Making healthcare better for everyone

I'm delighted to have been appointed Minister of State in the Department for Health and Social Care, as part of last week's reshuffle. My new responsibilities include social care, the NHS workforce, as well as learning disabilities and autism.

Solving the crisis in social care, and achieving our commitment of 50,000 more nurses, are two of the most important things for making sure people get the care they need. I'm looking forward to working with fantastic NHS and social care staff across the country - including here in Faversham and Mid Kent, to make healthcare better for everyone.

Full fibre broadband coming to Faversham

Faversham, Sheldwich, Painters Forstal and Davington will be some of the first places in the country to benefit from a full fibre broadband network. This is part of Openreach's work to connect market towns, villages, and rural areas to super-fast broadband. Work on installing the fibre cabling is expected to start in April so painfully slow speeds and files that wont download should become a thing of the past very soon. I know there are many places in Kent that need better broadband, but this is a step in the right direction.

Independent inquiry into East Kent maternity services

I was shocked and deeply saddened by the death of baby Harry Richford at QEOM Hospital, Margate, and the extent of the failures at the maternity unit revealed by the Inquest.

Parents need to know they're in safe hands on the maternity ward - and clearly in this case there were terrible failures.

Action has been taken quickly and I'm assured that the Trust is a safe place to give birth, following an inspection earlier this month. An independent inquiry has been commissioned by NHS England so that these terrible failures never happen again.

Temporary bridge brings relief to town

It's a huge relief to have the temporary bridge in place over Faversham creek. People and cars can now cross the creek once again. I know it's been tough for people and businesses around the creek since the old bridge closed last year, so it was great to formally open the bridge last month.

Whilst this temporary bridge is good news, clearly this is not a long-term solution. We need a functioning bridge across the creek once again - to allow people and cars to cross and boats to pass through. I'm working hard to make this happen.

An update on Cleve Hill solar plant

The campaign to save Graveney Marshes enters the next, crucial stage. The Secretary of State is due to receive a recommendation from the planning inspectors by the end of February about whether to grant permission to build the UK's largest solar plant next to Faversham.

I've been continuing to do all I can to oppose this development, working with the GREAT campaign to highlight the environmental damage this plant would inflict on a beautiful strength of the North Kent Coast. A final decision will be made by the end of May, so campaign work will step up a gear over the next few months.

North Street 'garden village' needs to be rejected

I've called on Swale Borough Council to reject plans to build 5,000 new houses at North Street.

The development is one of four 'garden villages' being considered by Swale's Local Plan Panel as a way of delivering new homes in our area.

North Street is completely the wrong place to build 5,000 new homes. It's hugely unpopular and would do enormous damage to an area of high landscape value as well as putting further pressure on local roads. It's time for Swale to put people's concerns to rest and reject this development

Eastling Neighbourhood Watch

Village Warden 07794 010 394

or 01795 890848

Police 101 Emergency 999

The scam '*£600 having been requested from your bank account by someone in another country*' has risen its head again - please do not be fooled, cut off the call immediately.

With the recent bout of bad weather it is very likely that certain people will be knocking on your door offering to clear guttering and replace tiles etc. Do not be taken in by them, if any damage needs repairing call in a reputable tradesman to carry out the task.

There seems to be an increase in hare coursing in local areas recently, if you see anything suspicious please report the location to the police. Under no circumstances should you approach these people, the same applies to any poaching seen but, if possible, vehicle registration is helpful.

Dog owners are reminded to keep their dogs on a lead in the vicinity of sheep especially now as lambing time is here.

On the subject of dogs; most dog owners are very responsible when it comes to picking up their dog's mess from the public footpaths but it seems some people are becoming rather forgetful at times. It would be appreciated if the footpaths could be kept clean, especially around the church and areas which children pass on their way to school, and make sure our village stays beautiful so everyone can enjoy it. Failure to comply carries £100 fine.

A reminder to make sure your dog wears a collar with a tag on. Not one of the dogs found lost in the last year had a tag on and it means calling the dog warden in and the dog being taken away.

Have a good month and take care
Alan

Eastling Parish Council

The next meeting of Eastling Parish Council is on Wednesday 11th March at 6.30pm in the Committee Room of Eastling Village Hall.

All are welcome to attend and there is a time when members of the public are able to comment and raise questions.

Eastling Parish Council now has a new website <https://www.hugofox.com/community/eastling-parish-council-15993> Anyone signing up for email alerts will be kept up to date with the latest news, events and planning news.



Eastling Primary School News

We are already halfway through the school academic year. Our children have been very busy with their learning but also with exciting visitors, trips and themed learning weeks. This term we had Children's Mental Health Week which took place in February.

On 29th January Miss Johnson took children from key stages 1 and 2 to a cross country competition held at Herne Bay High School. It was a cold and muddy day and older children had to run 1500m. All the children completed the course and the key stage one team came 2nd overall in the small schools category.

On 7th February a team went to the Active Life Festival at Medway Park which focused on encouraging children that ordinarily would not choose to take part in sporting activities. The activities included speed stacking and obstacle races and the children had an enjoyable day.

Acorn class continue to enjoy their weekly nature walks around the locality and have been noticing features of the church including the steeple and weather vane. Some of the children are particularly interested to learn about the people who are buried there and whether any soldiers have been laid to rest there. The children have also observed early signs of spring including daffodil shoots along the church wall.

Oak class have been learning about mountains and rivers this term and have conducted research about their chosen mountain before constructing their own model mountains. On 7th February Oak class travelled to Canterbury and spent the day with Anna Outdoors to investigate the River Stour. This included observations, river dipping and conducting an experiment.

Willow class have been learning about living things and their habitats. On 11th February they travelled to Dungeness to the RSPB nature reserve. The children went pond dipping and spent time in the bird hide observing and classifying species of birds found in Kent.

On 22nd January the school choir travelled by coach to the O2 to be part of the Young Voices 2020 concerts. The children had a truly memorable experience singing with thousands of children and a number of famous singers including The Shires and Tony Hadley.

The Friends of Eastling School (FOES) organised a Quiz Night, which was a wonderful evening that brought together family and friends from the community. The FOES also ended the term with a Valentine Masked Disco.

There are a few spaces available across the school for an immediate start. Any prospective parents looking for a Reception place for September 2020 are welcome to call the office on 01795 890252 to arrange a visit. Visit our school website where photographs and newsletters are displayed and updated regularly. **Melanie Dale, Headteacher.**



LOCAL COLLECTION POINT
inside Eastling Church, on the back pew.

Help feed local people in crisis

Faversham Foodbank March 2020

Faversham Foodbank have let us know that within 90 minutes of opening their doors last Wednesday they had helped 11 households, providing food for a total of 29 people. This just illustrates how important our contributions are. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Items required for March

UHT and/or powdered milk; sponge puddings; long life fruit juice; squash; small washing powders; empty egg boxes.





Mouse Makes

Jesus, his disciples and his mother Mary had been invited to a wedding. The wedding was to last a week, but too soon the wine had all been drunk.

READ John 2:1-11 to find out what happened.



How many water jars were there?



What were the water jars made of?



How much water did the jars hold?



Where was the wedding?



What did the steward tell the bridegroom?



What did the disciples do?



What had happened to the water when it was taken out?



Which of Jesus' miracles was this?



What does this miracle show about Jesus?

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

WEDDING • CANA • GALILEE • JESUS • MARY • DISCIPLES
 SERVANTS • RAN • OUT • SIX • STONE • WATER • JARS
 FILL • TOP • TASTE • TURNED • WINE • FIRST

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