

Children welcome in church....

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 4th in Whitehill Chapel | 10.40 a.m. Sunday School |
| | 11.00 a.m. Family Service |
| 11th in Ospringe Church | 11.00 a.m. Sunday School |
| 18th in Eastling Village Hall in Ospringe Church | 10.00 a.m. S Club |
| | 11.00 a.m. Family Service |
| 25th in Eastling Church in Ospringe Church | 10.00 a.m. Young Style |
| | 11.00 a.m. Sunday School |



Photo credits for article on page two.

1. An Iraqi man gestures in a field full of unused explosives abandoned by the Iraqi Army on the outskirts of Baghdad on April 21, 2003. U.S. administrator Jay Garner made his first visit to Baghdad on Monday, pledging to build a new Iraq from the ashes of war, but opposition stiffened to American domination of Iraq's reconstruction. REUTERS/Petr Josek

2. Black Watch Captain Jules Thirkill leads the first foot patrol into Zubayr, south of Basra, southern Iraq, Wednesday, 2nd April 2003. The 1st Battalion The Black Watch are part of 7th Armoured Brigade "Desert Rats". (AP Photo/Captain Angus Beaton/MOD/Pool)

3. A shepherd rides his donkey past US soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division patrolling an area in northern Iraq, Monday April 21, 2003. (AP Photo/Saurabh Das)

Good News Parish Magazine May 2003

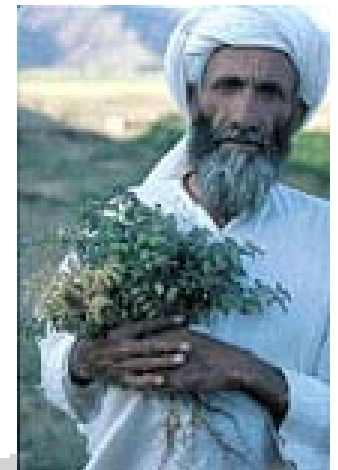
Christian Aid Week
11th - 17th May 2003
Churches Together in Faversham
Christian Aid Service
Sunday 11th May, 6.30 p.m.
at Faversham Baptist Church

Harvest hope in Afghanistan

The toll of wars, drought and poor farming has changed the landscape of Afghanistan beyond recognition. Isaq Suleiman is a typical village. It is set at the foot of hills in a dry and dusty landscape. Hundreds of landmines make it treacherous. It saw the worst of the drought for four years, then it was evacuated and looted when it was bombed.

This is where the Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan works. AREA is an organisation supported by Christian Aid which is revitalising the farms upon which so many people in western Afghanistan depend. It also trains children to be aware of mines, and gives small loans to enable families to take the first steps to start a business. And its work is beginning to change Isaq Suleiman. The money that you have given through Christian Aid has allowed AREA to drill two deep wells in the village. Because of the wells and the first reasonable rains of the century, the villagers have made a harvest for the first time in four years.

Christian Aid



At the start of 2001, to stop the villagers leaving as refugees, AREA distributed wheat and fertilisers. Since then, Christian Aid funds have provided them with a tractor which can do in one hour what used to take two days with an ox-drawn plough. And the villagers have also worked together to buy a generator, so for the first time they have electricity for part of the day.

Mirza Abdul Haq is the treasurer of the cooperative. 'There are many positive changes in the village,' he says. 'I'm very happy with my harvest, but I am still worried about the price of the wheat ... We want our country to be green again - to grow vegetables and wheat and to have enough water to drink. And our village needs a clinic.'

While people in the UK were enjoying Harvest Thanksgiving, the farmers of Isaq Suleiman were having a farmers' picnic: 'We all go to a nice place with trees, near the mountains, with a spring. Everyone gives some wheat from their harvest. We sell it in the market and with the money we buy meat and the whole village celebrates.'

God of all compassion whose Son, Jesus Christ, laid down his life for us: May we, who seek to follow you, be inspired to change the world for good, so that our brothers and sisters in need may glimpse in us the hope of justice and the love of Jesus, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (Collect from the Christian Aid Week service)

Prayer Pointers May 2003

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Sundays | For a greater assurance in our faith. |
| Mondays | Those who have been bereaved. |
| Tuesdays | Churchwardens and P.C.C.'s in the Benefice. |
| Wednesdays | Local Councillors. |
| Thursdays | Integrity in public life. |
| Fridays | For a just settlement in Iraq. |
| Saturdays | For the work of Christian Aid. |

Show Ospringe's Skills (S.O.S.)

Are you an artist, wood carver or stonemason? Do you work with clay, salt dough or other modelling media? Do you make cards, jewellery or toys? Do you knit, sew, or crochet?

If you have any interesting hobby here is a chance for the people of Ospringe Parish to show others the result of their labours. Painter's Forstal Amenities Committee would like to hold an exhibition of Arts and Crafts in the Champion Hall during the late autumn.

Please ring 532756 and leave your name, address and telephone number, stating your hobby, as as soon as possible, so that we can go ahead with arrangements.

Club 8 - 13

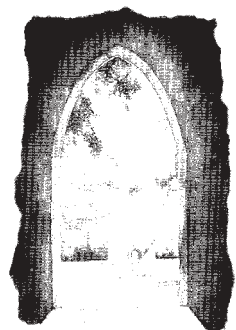
50p per session, meet at 6.15pm in the Champion Hall, Painter's Forstal on May 9th and 30th.



Sunday Newstyle

11th May, 10.30am
Eastling Church
Speaker: Revd. Bill Hornsby
"You called?"
All ages welcome.
Children's corner available
Coffee and croissants served from 10am.

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From my home in the church I learn about all sorts of things...

MOUSE HOLE

On three different lengths of string or wool, thread or tie pasta shapes. Then tie or stick a clean foil pie tray.

Thread each length into a decorated cardboard tube or suitable twig. Hang your chime indoors.

For an outdoor chime, tie on pine cones instead of pasta and use a twig to hang them from.

Paper Twirlies

1. Paper strip 10cm x 21cm. Cut and fold.
2. Paper clip. Cut and fold.
3. Throw in the air...see them twirl down

Ezekiel the prophet had a special dream from God...

He stood in the middle of a valley full of hundreds and hundreds of dry BONES

"Can these bones live?" asked God

"Lord, only you know" said Ezekiel

God told Ezekiel to SPEAK to the bones.

"There was a RATTLING sound..."

"The bones came together"

BONE TO BONE

tendons and flesh appeared on them, skin covered them

Ezekiel spoke again... and the BREATH of God entered into the lifeless bodies

AND THEY CAME ALIVE!

The same BREATH of God, God's HOLY SPIRIT, came and filled the disciples at PENTECOST. We too can be filled with God's Spirit, and have God's new life, when we believe in Jesus.

"I will give you a new heart and a new mind... I will put my spirit in you..." Ezekiel 36:26

Read about the 'dry bones' in Ezekiel 37:1-14 and about 'Pentecost' in Acts 2: 1-41

Has God Lost The Plot?

asks Neil Dougall, Chair of Scripture Union Scotland. in a recent sermon at St. David's, Broomhouse.

Today our country is at war. Members of our armed forces are fighting in Iraq. During recent months the UN has been split down the middle. Diplomacy has proved futile. The Arab world seems united against our country and the USA. We feel dismayed and confused. We have many questions.

The book of Habakkuk, written 2,600 years ago, has something to say to this situation. Habakkuk in fact opens with Habakkuk's dismay when he looked at his country and out at the international scene. He, too, felt frightened and confused.

The questions he asked God are very similar to the questions that people are asking today. Habakkuk, in v 2, asks God about the violence. 'When is the violence going to stop?' Today we are concerned about the violence. Warfare kills people! At the same time, we know that violence has been what has kept Saddam Hussein in power for the last decade and more. It doesn't matter which side of the war fence you sit on, we all ask, 'When is the violence going to stop?'



Next in v 3, Habakkuk says, 'How can you endure to look on such wrongdoing?' People have different opinions about how we should respond to the situation in Iraq - but we all agree there is something very wrong with the Iraqi regime. We would love for the Iraqi people to be freed from oppression and the fear of weapons or mass destruction to vanish. So we ask, 'Why does God allow such wrongdoing to persist?'

Then Habakkuk, in v 3, also talks about quarrelling. Many people have been dismayed by the United Nations. Far from being a body giving moral leadership to the world, it has been split down the middle. We have seen the United Nations fail - Habakkuk says in v 4, 'The law is weak and useless and justice is never done.'

People talk today about International Law, but its a very weak thing. It has failed over 12 years to disarm Iraq. Among us there will be different opinions about what the greatest injustice in this situation is, and where the law has been at its weakest. But I suspect we can all agree, that once again we seem to be living in a world governed by brute force rather than legal principles.

So Habakkuk's question matches ours and reveals a profound unease with the way things are in the world at the moment. The most important one of all is in v 2, 'How long must I call for help before you listen?'

We are concerned about the violence, the wrongdoing, but we are even more worried about God. If God is good and in control, why doesn't he do something to sort things out? So Habakkuk's questions are very reassuring. What we are struggling with is not very different from the things he wrestled with all those years ago.

Like Habakkuk, our faith in a good, powerful God is challenged, and our desire to want to challenge God and ask him about this is not just allowed by scripture, it is encouraged.

God's answer begins in v 5. The good news is that God does not slap Habakkuk down. Far from being upset by Habakkuk's questions, he takes them seriously and answers ...

Which bring us to be bad news. For, to paraphrase, God's answer is, 'You ain't seen nothing yet.' In Habakkuk's day the king was a waster and everywhere there was corruption, violence and injustice. So Habakkuk was praying for God to sort things out, to restore order and justice. He imagined that God would bring a new king to the throne who would rule well. It seemed such an obvious solution.

God's answer was entirely different. 'You will be astonished at what you will see' he said in v 5. ... 'I am bringing the Babylonians to power, those fierce, restless people. They are marching out across the world to conquer other lands.' Instead of a good Jewish king, Habakkuk was told, God was bringing a fierce, terrifying invading army. Instead of a straightforward solution to the problems, God declared that things were going to get much, much worse before they got better.

Habakkuk blurts out, 'That's not right God!' Look at what he says in v 13. Habakkuk could not believe what God was saying. He couldn't accept that the arrival of the violent Babylonians was the right way to deal with the violence in his country.

Nearly everyone is agreed that Iraq, today, is a serious problem. Where people genuinely disagree though is about how



See back cover for photo credits

to deal with this situation. Some think that only peaceful means should be used, but others say that there is no alternative to war.

So without saying who is right and who is wrong, because I don't know, I wonder whether once again we identify with Habakkuk. He expected God to sort out the situation. Instead God said things would get much worse before they got better. That was an even bigger challenge to faith. Habakkuk was really disappointed by what God said. But still Habakkuk pressed his questions. Look at v 17.

Habakkuk then sat down to wait for an answer. And so God did (see vs 4) answer. His answer sets the whole situation in a wider perspective. He says that while, yes, there is good and evil in this universe, we must remember that God is committed to what is good and that in the end good will triumph.

This is a promise to cling to when, in our mixed up world, it is rarely one or the other. No person or nation is altogether good and righteous. No course of action - whether warfare or sanctions or pacifism - is completely good. We don't get to choose between good and evil, its all too often between what's bad and what's worse.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if the United Nations could debate a problem, and then make a decision which everybody acted on? But it's not like that. God chooses to work through flawed human beings and structures. He used the evil Babylonians to take forward his plans 2,600 years ago. That invites us to believe that somehow, in some way, God can use even these events to take forward his plans for our world.

As God's people, I believe we are called to let go of our illusions that there are simple solutions to the problems of our world. Instead we are called to be involved in messy situations and in imperfect organisations as we long for God's will to be done here on earth as it is in heaven.

The final God's answer suggests to me is, we need to be patient. In v 3 God tells Habakkuk this.

Habakkuk saw the problems in his country and asked God to deal with them at once. God agreed with Habakkuk that there were problems, but he had a much longer time scale in mind.

Habakkuk encourages us to be honest and to ask God our questions. His dialogue with God helps us understand that conflict is a normal part of human history, that there are no simple solutions but that the end result is not in doubt.

CHOIR REPORT

We enjoyed singing at the wedding of Georgia and Stephen and look forward to our next wedding, Claire and Osman on Saturday, 10th May, at 1 p.m.

Four of our Choir went on the exciting Year Six Ospringe School Adventure week at Swattenden. They did night time orienteering and had a wonderful time.

We have booked a date before Easter to sing our Easter songs at Carnalea and are always made most welcome. Pat and Penny do regular visits there and this is very much appreciated; many residents have had long associations with Ospringe Church. Part of Carnalea was our old Vicarage and has made a lovely home for the residents.

Bill and Kit were given a tape of hymns from their daughter Nina in America. They particularly like a tune new to me to "All hail the power of Jesu's name" and I found it in "World Praise"! I am hoping the Ospringe M.U. and the Choir will soon know it, the tune is "Coronation".

After Easter I must get out John Rutter's "I believe in Springtime". We enjoy singing this along with the tape!

Our M.U. Deanery Committee are organising a Eucharist Service (B.C.P.) on St. Barnabas' Day, Wednesday, 11th June, at Ospringe for 2.30 p.m. I would like to include special music so hope to recruit a Choir please. Anyone interested in singing with this Choir do please talk to me!

FROM THE ORGAN SEAT

At Christmas I took each of Ospringe School's Infant Classes on a Christmas Story tour of our Church. The photos are up in the Parish Room and each class has them too. This week in April the classes visited again to hear the Easter Story. We chose a beautiful cold but sunny morning. They were delightful. I taught some of their Mums, and even played for their weddings! They came too. I was asked some interesting questions. I had not noticed before the letters INRI on the cross in our East window but the children did! They are the abbreviations of the Latin words for "Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews". Above the cross is IHS, from the Greek word for Jesus and also the Latin abbreviation for "Jesus Saviour of Mankind". Please has anyone the correct Latin for both of these or can you tell me where to find them? I know from our days in Cyprus and learning Greek that the fish symbol was used by the first Christians because the Greek for fish is "ichthus". The "i" is Jesu and the "ch" is Christos and I have forgotten what the others are! Can anyone enlighten me! Did you see the lovely Easter Gardens on display in Church over Easter? Joanne Fagg and Sarah Bell, confirmed recently, created the large one in the main part of the church. Ospringe school children

made the ones in the Hart Chapel. They added to our Easter Joy, thank you. As a guide in Canterbury Cathedral, this week I had the pleasure of leading Year Three from Hempstead Junior School (I was Head of the Infant School for 10 years, and several of the Assistants were "my Mums" so I caught up with what my Infants are doing now at University.) We were on a Christianity and Places of Worship Tour and one of them remarked that the Cloisters reminded them of Harry Potter! I was able to show them the original "snitch" in Trinity Chapel on the statue of Dean Wotton, the first Dean of the New Cathedral after the Dissolution of the Monastery. This "ball with wings" on his tomb is said to have inspired J.K.Rowling! I only hope they remember all the things I told them about their project!! Did you see the splendid photo in our local paper of Eastling School doing a Monks' Trail at the Cathedral? Well done Mr. Bromley. I liked this from the Prayer Diary for M.U for 10th April, "May our joys be cherished deep within our hearts so in darker moments we can bring happier times into the light to soothe and heal our thoughts." and for 12th April, "You have put a new song on our lips and a new joy in our hearts. We rejoice in the Lord who has made us glad." also this from a card which I have above the organ :- "Think deeply, speak gently, love much, laugh often, work hard, give freely, pay promptly, pray earnestly and be kind." Vicky Shepherd.

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

We would like to thank the Revd. Jacqui Henry for giving us a talk on her missionary work in Nigeria.

Nigeria is divided roughly into three regions - desert in the north, savanna in the centre and tropical forests in the south. This also applies to its religions i.e. Muslims in the north, Pagans in the centre and Christians in the south. Jacqui went to Nigeria in 1968 - 1976 and lived in Kafanchan in the south of Nigeria, but later moved north to Zaria.

Jacqui's work involved teaching the Bible, helping the people to understand how to work the land using fertilisers, making sure the water was safe for domestic use and about hygiene. There is limited access to potable water, no hospitals and no mains electricity - Nigeria is still primitive so far

as material things are concerned. Diseases such as malaria, measles, dysentery and accidents in general resulted in a short life expectancy, especially amongst children of which 60-70% die below the age of five.

We were told of polygamy, witch doctors and medicine men which feature in most people's beliefs and hence converting to Christianity is a major step for them. Mission churches were run by Catechists who had no income and relied on voluntary contributions from the community.

Traditional crafts and artefacts were shown, examples of these were brightly coloured garments, cloths, musical instruments, a game and books.

Please note for your diary

Ospringe Deanery Mothers' Union Celebration

Eucharist (B.C.P.) on St. Barnabas Day, Wednesday, 11th June, at 2.30 p.m. in Ospringe Church The service will be led by Revd. Pat Pollard

with the Area Dean, Revd. Tony Oehring. The Speaker is Revd. Jacqui Henry



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Services in our Benefice

4th May 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 3. 12 - 19, Luke 24. 36b - 48

| | | |
|------------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| Ospringe | 8 a.m. | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| Eastling | 10 a.m. | Holy Communion (CW) |
| Whitehill Chapel | 10.40 a.m. | Young Church (over 8's) |
| Whitehill Chapel | 11 a.m. | Family Service with Communion |
| Ospringe | 11 a.m. | Morning Prayer |
| Otterden | 3 p.m. | Evening Prayer (BCP) |

Tuesday 6th May

Whitehill Chapel 2.15 p.m. Holy Communion

11th May 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 4. 5 - 12, John 10. 11 - 18

| | | |
|-------------|------------|----------------------|
| Eastling | 8 a.m. | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| Stalisfield | 10 a.m. | Morning Prayer |
| Eastling | 10.30 a.m. | Sunday Newstyle |
| Ospringe | 11 a.m. | Holy Communion (CW) |
| Ospringe | 11 a.m. | Sunday School |
| Ospringe | 3 p.m. | Baptism |

Churches Together in Faversham

Baptist Church 6.30 p.m. Christian Aid Service

18th May 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8. 26 - 40, John 15. 1 - 8

| | | |
|-------------|---------|----------------------|
| Ospringe | 8 a.m. | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| Eastling | 10 a.m. | Holy Communion (CW) |
| Eastling | 10 a.m. | S Club |
| Stalisfield | 10 a.m. | Holy Communion (CW) |
| Ospringe | 11 a.m. | Family Service |
| Eastling | 3 p.m. | Baptism |

25th May 6th Sunday after Easter

Acts 10. 44 - 48, John 15. 9 - 17

| | | |
|------------------|---------|----------------------|
| Stalisfield | 8 a.m. | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| Eastling | 10 a.m. | Young Style |
| Whitehill Chapel | 11 a.m. | People's Choice |
| Ospringe | 11 a.m. | Family Communion |
| Ospringe | 11 a.m. | Sunday School |

29th May Ascension Day

Ospringe 3 p.m. Holy Communion

1st June 7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1. 15 - 17, 21 - 26, John 17. 6 - 19

| | | |
|------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| Ospringe | 8 a.m. | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| Eastling | 10 a.m. | Holy Communion (CW) |
| Whitehill Chapel | 10.40 a.m. | Young Church (over 8's) |
| Whitehill Chapel | 11 a.m. | Family Service |
| Ospringe | 11 a.m. | Morning Prayer |
| Otterden | 3 p.m. | Evening Prayer (BCP) |

(BCP) Service taken from the Book of Common Prayer, 1662.

(CW) Service follows Common Worship Liturgy, 2000

Sharing Ministry in our Benefice

Priest in Charge Reverend Penny Fenton (01795 536366)
9 Brogdale Road, Faversham. ME13 8SX

Curate Reverend Patricia Pollard (01795 535407)
7 Arthur Salmon Close, Faversham.

Reader Mr. Hugh Perks (01795 890603)
Weald Cottage, Kettle Hill Road, Eastling.

Reader Mr. Norman Fowler (01795 890412)
4 Meesons Close, Eastling.

Methodist Minister Reverend Chris Esgate (01795 532461)
Chris@Esgate.plus.com

Churchwardens

Ospringe Mr. P. Larter (01795 531044)

Miss C. Brightman (01795 531960)

Eastling Mr S. Youle (01795 890368)

Mrs. A. Smith (01795 890469)

Stalisfield with Otterden Mrs. H. Galer (01795 890780)

Whitehill Steward Miss. B. Richards (01795 532756)

Officers elected at 2003 Church Council Annual Meetings.

Ospringe Secretary Vacancy

Treasurer Mr. M. Moore (01795 537861)

Eastling Secretary Mrs E. Bell (01795 890233)

Treasurer Mr. J. West (01795 890273)

Stalisfield with Otterden Secretary Mrs S. Gains (01622 858551)

Treasurer Mr. S. Ruston (01795 890050)

Contacting the Church's staff

For general enquiries and for specific enquiries about Baptisms and Weddings, please telephone Faversham 536366. If you would like the parish clergy to conduct a funeral, either in our churches or elsewhere, please ask the funeral director to make the necessary arrangements.

June Good News

If you would like to advertise in this magazine, submit articles, features or stories for publication, or would like any forthcoming events publicised, please send your magazine contribution by the 15th May to Hilary Harlow, Pinks Farm, Eastling, Faversham ME13 0BA. Tel: 01795 890338. Where possible, please submit your entries by e-mail: h.f.harlow@talk21.com

From the Registers

Wedding

Stephen GRIFFIN and Georgia POWELL

5th April 2003 at Ospringe

Funeral

Joan Emily ROWSE

23rd April 2003 Cremation at Charing

Interment of Ashes

Dennis MANNOUCH

25th March 2003 at Ospringe

Eastling Parish Council

AGM and ORDINARY MEETING
ON 12TH MAY

Eastling Parish Council next meets on Monday, 12th May in Eastling Village Hall. Its Annual General Meeting - a fairly brief meeting primarily to make appointments such as the Chairman and Treasurer for the next 12 months and to set dates for Meetings in 2004 - starts at 8pm. It will be immediately followed by an Ordinary Meeting of the Council which will include the usual 10- to 15-minute open forum for villagers to raise any matters of local interest or concern. For more information, contact the Parish Clerk on 01795 539148.

REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Swale Council has said that its refuse collection service for Eastling residents who have Monday collections will operate as normal on the Bank Holidays for May Day (5th May) and Spring (26th May). The refuse freighter may arrive a bit earlier, though, so it's wise to put out bins first thing.

Do you care for someone who is elderly and confused?

Would you welcome a chance to talk to someone about your concerns?



One to One Dementia Outreach Service.

The purpose of this service is to provide one to one ongoing support, advice and information for those who care for older people suffering from dementia or mental illness.

The type of support given will be agreed with the person's main carer in order that the every day stresses and strains associated with that role may be relieved or shared.

An introductory visit can be made to you at home, or you could have a telephone discussion if you prefer it. This would be to agree how best the service can help. It may be in practical ways, e.g. help with claiming benefits, information about other services, or you may simply need a friend to talk to and visit you and the person you care for. This support will be given as long as you need it.

Our service is free.

We will keep your business confidential to only those people you give permission to have it.

We will not make judgements about your life or what you want to do.

We will tackle any discrimination or prejudice that you face.

We will not be influenced by any other interests other than yours.

The Paula Carr Trust was created as a charitable trust in 1989 in memory of Paula, a girl who had diabetes and sadly died at the age of 13. There are Paula Carr Diabetes Care Centres in Ashford and in Maidstone, where general advice on diet and managing diabetes is available.

Eye Screening Service

There are about 130 GP surgeries in East Kent and every one of them, plus 80 in West Kent, is visited by one of the Paula Carr Trust mobile Eye-Screening Service units. This Trust, set up in 1989, is dedicated to helping people with diabetes in Kent in many different ways, and works in partnership with NHS organisations.

People with diabetes are at particular risk of eye problems, but if the warning signs are picked up early enough, diminished sight and blindness can be avoided. In the past year more than 12,000 people had these special eye tests, which detect signs of retinopathy (haemorrhaging at the back of the eye), along with glaucoma and cataracts.



Join Audrey and Hilary on Saturday 24th May, between 10am and 12 noon, in Eastling Church, for a cup of coffee (or tea) for £2, or a child's drink for 50p.

Help raise £700,000 for the Paula Carr Diabetes trust to build and equip the new Kent Retinal Eye Screening Centre.

Phone 890338 for more details.

The tests involve special photography and, after analysis, about 25% show some evidence of damage - 10% are referred to an ophthalmologist and 15% for regular monitoring. Just how many have had their sight saved, or at least prevented from deterioration is unknown, but likely to be hundreds a year.

The distinctive white vans with pink lettering are a familiar sight around the county, parked outside GP surgeries. The service has come a long way since 1994 when Pamela Walsh was the first white-van woman to travel the county taking photographs of people's eyes.

OSPRINGE PARISH COUNCIL

Our Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th May 2003 in the Champion Hall, Painter's Forstal starting at 7.30pm. This is your opportunity to find out what the Parish Council have been involved with over the past year. Members of local organisations and schools are invited to say a few words about their activities. This will be followed by a short talk by a guest speaker and the evening will be concluded with light refreshments. Do join us for the evening.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Wednesday 21st May 2003 at 7.30pm in Whitehill Chapel, Painter's Forstal.

Notice of Vacancy

Notice is hereby given that a casual vacancy has occurred in the membership of Ospringe Parish Council. Unless claim is made for a poll under and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, the Parish Council proposes to fill the vacancy by co-option. Persons wishing to be considered for this vacancy should phone the Clerk for details and will need apply in writing as soon as possible but no later than 28th May 2003.

Jill Seaman
Clerk to the Council, tel: 01795 890519

**PUDDLEDUCKS
PLAYGROUP**

Our Easter raffle raised £55.50, so a big thank you for the support of parents and local organisations who bought tickets. All our recent fundraising has enabled us to pay for our Playgroup insurance for the year.

We look forward to a fun packed Summer term which starts on Monday 28th April at 9.30am. We will be closed on Bank Holiday Monday 5th May and for half term from 26th to 31st May inclusive. Any enquires to Jill Seaman, 01795 890519.



FRIENDS OF EASTLING SCHOOL

The children all enjoyed the Easter Egg hunt held on the last day of the Spring term and there were some ingenious designs in the Box competition. Congratulations to all the winners and runner-ups! Our annual Plant Sale will held on Tuesday 20th May on the school field from 3pm to 4pm. Don't forget to come along to buy your summer bedding plants and chose from a good selection of perennials to enhance your gardens! Why not join us on Sunday June 15th for the Father's Day 'working party' to help with all those odd jobs around the school in the morning, followed by bacon butties & Bar-B-Q at lunch time and a fun sports afternoon. Advance notice that our Pool Party will be held on Friday 27th June at Faversham Swimming Pool and the school Summer Fete will be on Sunday 6th July. Details of these events in next month's Good News.

Jill Seaman, tel: 01795 890519

Thank You

Thanks to everyone who attended the Wine and Wisdom on Saturday 12th April, and all who gave raffle prizes or assisted in any way. As a result of your efforts, the sum of £274 was made, of which £137 has been paid to the Eastling Village Hall Funds and £137 to the Eastling Senior Citizens' fund.

Well done all!



Painter's Forstal and Ospringe Women's Institute

The May meeting will be in the Champion Hall at 2.15 p.m. on 20th May – Resolutions Meeting
Competition: Flower of the Month



Afternoon Club

Tickets are available for our outing on May 15th at £11.00 each. Mystery tour and Cream Tea inclusive.
Activities for May
May 1st – Board Games
May 15th – Outing
May 29th – Bingo

Painter's Forstal Gardeners' Club

Monday 19th May - Evening visit to Beech Court, Challock, 6.30pm there. Admission £3. Teas, plants available to purchase. Numbers please by 12th May.
Saturday 31st May - Annual Coffee Morning at 74 London Road, Faversham. 10am - 12 noon Half proceeds to Demelza House. Everybody very welcome to come along and enjoy the fun.
Saturday 21st June - Summer Outing to Wakehurst Place. 9.30am leave London Road, Faversham, 9.40am leave Painter's Forstal. Home by 6.30pm. To avoid disappointment, book your seat without delay.
Saturday 19th July - Summer Show - Schedules available in due course.

Eastling Gardeners' Club meeting on 19th March

David Carey, Senior Lecturer in Horticulture at Hadlow College spoke about wildlife and the garden. His main point was that making a garden more environmentally friendly need not involve major changes. Leaving some of the Autumn leaves would encourage worms and in turn these encouraged birds. Not cutting the lawn quite so short would encourage wild flowers. Members appreciated both his suggestions and slides. The evening ended with wine and cheese. Eastling gardeners will be joining with Painter's Forstal Gardeners' Club in the visit to Wakehurst Place on 21st June. Telephone Clive Jolliffe on 890160 for further details.

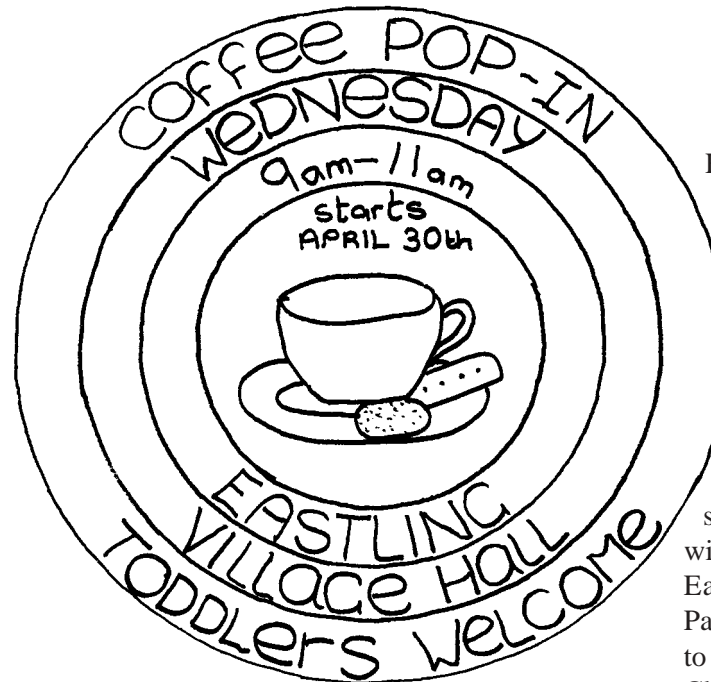


Chart Gunpowder Mills

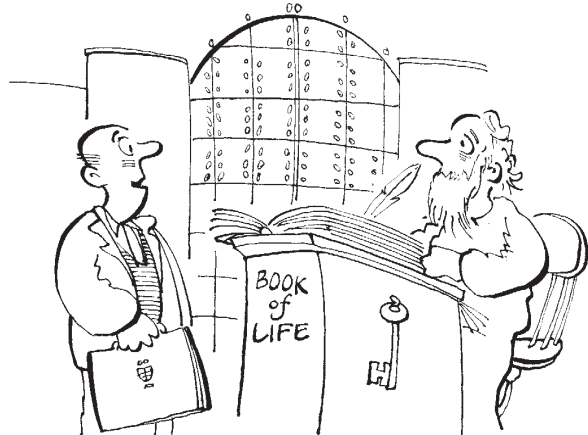
Faversham

Open for the 2003 season

2pm - 5pm Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays April to October

There is a 400 year history of gunpowder manufacture in and around Faversham. The Chart Mills museum is the oldest site and is opened by volunteer members of The Faversham Society. Some booklets and postcards are on sale, admission is free but donations are appreciated. Casual visitors can come any Saturday, Sunday or Bank Holiday, 2 - 5pm, April to October, prebooked groups at any other time.

Groups welcome. We can also arrange a 'Gunpowder Walk' starting from the Mill, lasting about one hour, easy walking. For bookings, please contact The Faversham Society on 01795 535138, or John Breeze (Hon Curator) on 01795 534915.



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"...it's OK, I don't want to come in - I'm just checking that you are conforming with current Data Protection Requirements..."

Diary

May 2003

| | | | |
|------|--------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------|
| 1st | Afternoon Club (Board Games) | 2pm | Champion Hall |
| 7th | Annual Parish Meeting | 7.30pm | Champion Hall |
| 9th | Club 8 - 13 | 6.15pm | Champion Hall |
| 12th | Parish Council AGM | 8pm | Eastling Village Hall |
| 15th | Afternoon Club Outing | | |
| 15th | Deadline for June issue of Good News | | |
| 17th | Wine & Wisdom | | Ospringe School |
| 19th | Gardeners' outing | 6.30pm | Beech Court, Challock |
| 20th | Plant Sale | 3pm | Eastling School |
| 21st | Ospringe Parish Council | 7.30pm | Whitehill Chapel |
| 24th | Coffee Morning | 10am | Eastling Church |
| 24th | Jumble Sale | 2pm | Stalisfield Village Hall |
| 27th | Magazine Folding | 2pm | Usual Venues |
| 29th | Afternoon Club (Bingo) | 2pm | Champion Hall |
| 30th | Club 8 - 13 | 6.15pm | Champion Hall |
| 31st | Coffee Morning | 10am | 74 London Road |
| JUNE | 11th M.U. Deanery Eucharist | 2.30pm | Ospringe Church |
| | 14th Ospringe School Summer Fair | | |
| | 15th Fathers' Day working party | | Eastling School |
| | 27th Eastling School Pool Party | | |
| JULY | 4th Ospringe School Fashion Show | | |
| | 6th Eastling School Fete | | |
| | 19th P.F. Gardeners' Summer Show | | |

The Alma P.H.

Painter's Forstal, Nr. Faversham
01795 533835

P/T Bar person/s required
for 2 lunch-time sessions (11am - 3pm)
and 2 evening sessions (7pm - 11.15pm)
Phone Jill on 01795 533835

Ospringe School Association News

Thanks to everyone who helped with the race night. It was a very enjoyable evening and once again an excellent fund raiser. The total raised was £748 which will be put towards lighting and curtains for the school hall. The horses for the last race were auctioned raising £80 and the money was donated to cystic fibrosis research for whom Governor Paul Oxberry is running the London Marathon. This is the second marathon that Paul has run and we are all expecting a good time! Paul will accept retrospective sponsorship, so if you would like to support this very worthwhile cause please leave your name at the school office!

The next OSA event was the Easter Egg hunt and decorated egg competition. Saturday 12th April saw over 80 children and several adults racing around the school hunting for clues. For once the OSA was not fundraising (although there was the usual crowd selling drinks and hot cross buns) and a very enjoyable time was had by all.

Future events include the Wine & Wisdom evening on Saturday 17th May, the Summer Fair on Saturday 14th June and another Fashion Show on Friday 4th July. See you there!

Jill Fagg

Having a Party?

Planning a Wedding?

Venue for your Club

Hall and smaller rooms available with kitchen facilities at

Eastling Village Hall.

For more information please contact Mary Eagleton on 890436.



Stalisfield Village Hall

JUMBLE SALE

Saturday 24th May, 2pm.

Bric-a-brac, books, plants, cakes, raffle, refreshments.
Jumble and cakes needed.
Jumble may be left in the hall porch, which will be open on Friday 23rd. Contact 01795 890475 (Ian) or 01795 890287 (Mick) if you need large items collected.

MEDICAL SECRETARY

Must have own transport due to location.
£16,000+ depending on experience.
Full time
For six months in first instance to cover maternity leave.
Must have experience as a medical secretary. Must be very efficient, have a high level of accuracy and be well organized. Will be working in a non-smoking environment. Duties include typing reports and organizing the diaries of two specialists. Will be assisted by two part-time secretaries.
Tel: **01622 858551** after 6 p.m.