

St Mary's Church presents...
CAFESTYLE
 Sunday 8th May
 10am - 11am
Eastling Village Hall
 A creative time of worship:
 Church in a Café setting,
 worship discussion reflection
 prayer fellowship

Tes, 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

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

Faversham Foodbank
 Thank you for your continued support

We are so grateful for the contributions that enable us to take several bags of foodstuffs to the Foodbank each week. It is worth a look at Faversham Foodbank's website to find more details about how it works and how to advise those who may need its help.

Please continue to give generously .
Food list for May
Urgent items: longlife fruit juice; tinned fruit; children's toothbrushes; tinned carrots
Also needed: rice pudding; marmalade; squash; dog food

GRAND PLANT SALE

Saturday 28th May
 at Eastling Village Hall
 from 11am onwards

We have decided to revert to our usual bank holiday weekend for the Plant Sale and not as advertised last month.

Donations can be dropped off at the village hall from 10am on the morning.

Please come and treat your gardens for the summer and yourselves to coffee and homemade cakes.

In aid of Seniors' Christmas Lunch

WOODLAND WALK

Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May
 A choice of three circular walks in the local woods and paths. All walks start from **Eastling Village Hall** anytime from 10am: last registration 2pm
 £3.50 per adult, £1.50 per child (£8 per family)
 Maps and guide notes included.



Carpenters Arms pub serving breakfasts 9am - 11am.
 Village hall **BLUEBELL BISTRO** providing Hot and Cold refreshments 10am - 2.30pm.
 The Church will be open all day
 More information from 01795 890368
 Proceeds from the Walk and Bistro will be given to Eastling Church

Mouse Makes
 A bookmark for PENTECOST

The Holy Spirit
 Teaches John 14:26

Reveals John 16:14-15

GUIDES John 16:7-11

Helps Romans 8:26

Comforts John 14:16-17

Transforms 2 Corinthians 3:18

The work of God's Holy Spirit in us brings:
 LOVE
 JOY
 PEACE
 PATIENCE
 KINDNESS
 GOODNESS
 FAITHFULNESS
 HUMILITY
 SELF CONTROL
 Galatians 5:22-23

To make your bookmark:
 Carefully cut around the outside, fold in half along the dotted line and glue together. Add a tassel to the bottom with a length of wool or ribbon. You can make it stronger by gluing onto card before folding.

Read Acts 2:1-11
 Which countries had the crowd come from?

Taking Jesus
 A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: "They couldn't get a baby sitter."

Just the man
 Small boy: "Please, sir, my Dad says you are a Doctor of Music."
 Famous pianist: "That is quite right, my little man."
 Small boy: "Then I wonder if you'd be so good as to mend my trumpet?"

Picture Puzzle Bible
The Lion Picture Puzzle Bible
 By Peter Martin and Len Epstein, Lion, £7.99

A rather fun picture puzzle book with ingeniously detailed scenes from favourite Bible stories. There is a huge amount to look at, but there are also special items and events picked out in the margin of the page - and it's the child's job to find them in the picture! Watch out for funny little extras on every page.

SATURDAY 4TH JUNE
THROWLEY FETE

1PM TO 4PM
CREAM TEAS, STALLS
THROWLEY ARMS BAR & ACTIVITIES FOR ALL THE FAMILY
7PM TO 11.30PM
BAR & LIVE MUSIC FEATURING JAMES LUDLOW & THE NITROMEN

Good News
 Parish Magazine May 2016

A Prayer for Healing
 By Sam Doubfire

Christ is All-in-All
 We hold you and your treatment at the heart of every prayer,
 And we ask our God who loves you
 Just to hold you in His care.

May He make His presence known
 To you in every way He can
 While the healing balm of Christ is placed
 In the hands of mortal man.

So may the good Lord bless you
 As He holds you in His grace;
 And may He ever let His peace
 Be known in every place

Where your journeying will lead you;
 In whatever may befall:
 That you will know in everything
 How Christ is all-in-all.

Canon's Column

I think it is safe to say that sometimes we wonder what we are going to leave behind and how people will remember us when we are dead and gone. I enjoy reading the obituaries about various people in the local papers wherever I have lived. The lives of "old timers" in the Yukon, men who had travelled up to mine gold before or after the first world war or women from the same or later eras who had gone north to teach in one room schools or to nurse in isolated stations, caring for people in epidemics which sometimes wiped out half the village.

The Anglican Communion, the Church of England worldwide, has a rich heritage of people who have made a difference in their time and in the world. I often read about them when I do my daily prayers. Our prayer books list people to be remembered on particular days. For example during May we will remember the English saints and martyrs of the Reformation era; we will also remember Dom Gregory Dix, priest, monk, and scholar who died in 1952. The Canadian calendar remembers Florence Nightingale, nurse and social reformer who died in 1910.

Towards the middle of May we remember Caroline Chisholm who had an interesting career as a social reformer in England and Australia caring for and advocating for the welfare of immigrants, starting schools, setting up employment offices and marriage agencies for women who went to Australia to marry. She advocated for the wives and families of convicts who were sentenced to transportation

to the Australian colonies. She also set up loan schemes for wives and families who did not qualify for free passage. Many settlements and towns in Australia owe their origins to Caroline Chisholm, partly because she was also a water diviner. Unfortunately she died in poverty and obscurity in England in 1877.

Another person remembered in May is Josephine Butler, social reformer who died in 1906. She helped women in workhouses and gaols and campaigned for better education for women, working for their admission to Cambridge. She set up Newnham College, Cambridge, which was exclusively for women. Josephine was a force behind changing the laws relating to prostitution in England, Switzerland, Holland, Norway and Italy. She shares her day with Apolo Kivebulaya who as a lay evangelist and then priest, made a significant contribution to bringing Christianity to Central Africa in what is now western Uganda and eastern Zaire. He died in 1933 but left a strong local church with trained leadership which today numbers about 500,000 members.

Other significant people to remember in May are three men who contributed to the theology, reformation and faith of the Church of England, John and Charles Wesley, 1791, 1788, and John Calvin, 1564. People living out their lives for Christ have made a difference in our society and our world and can be examples for us. Each one of us is called to be the light of Christ where we are. Christ has sent the Holy Spirit to empower the church and people with new life so that the kingdom of God may encompass the earth.

We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday, May 15th. Plan to come and be blessed at one of our services that day so that you can take do your part in changing the world.

Blessings,
Canon Donald J. Lawton

Eastling Church Flower Rota

May 2016

1st - Janet Wood
8th { Catherine Ochs
15th { Fiona Swatland
22nd & 29th Trisha Smith
June 5th - Janet Bryant



Her Majesty the Queen has written the foreword to a very special book being published to celebrate her 90th birthday.

The Servant Queen - and the King She Serves is a beautifully illustrated short book, which uses the Queen's own words to draw out the central role of her trust in Jesus Christ, offering an inspiring, multi-faceted insight into a life well-lived for others.

The Churches will be selling copies of this book for £ 1.25 per copy during June. We have ordered enough that we will have extra copies for those who want to give them to their families and friends.



... if you have been affected by any of the issues raised in this sermon

Faversham and Villages Refugee Support Group

Our group held our sixth meeting on the 5th April at The Vaults in Faversham. This was probably our best attended meeting, and we agreed that holding meetings in Faversham rather than Eastling where we started has made it easier for people to attend. Also the stall that we set up in the market square on the 12th of March created good publicity, generated discussion with local people about the group's aims and increased our group numbers.

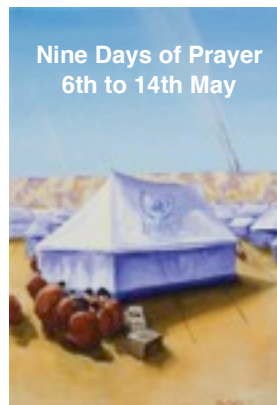
We started by reiterating purpose of the group: direct action including fundraising and taking appropriate clothing and toiletries to Calais and the Dunkirk Camps, information sharing, publicity and putting pressure local and national government.

Among other things, we discussed the success of our market stall, group members' experiences of recent visits to the Calais camp, and the plight of unaccompanied minors. Many have simply disappeared or relocated to smaller camps since the French authorities demolished a well established part of the 'Jungle', making them more vulnerable to exploitation and worse. We thought that a group website would help members stay in touch and to share information. This will be in addition to our Facebook page.

We decided that all our members will write to Councillor Andrew Bowles, Leader of Swale Borough Council, to express our dissatisfaction with the council's wholly inadequate decision to take only ten Syrian refugee families over five years. We are also requesting that we have a meeting with him to discuss this further, and inviting the local press to join us.

We discussed inviting other organisations working in Kent on behalf of refugees to our meeting to hear about their activities and share information.

Please visit our Facebook page (search Faversham and Villages Refugee Support Group) or join us in writing to Councillor Bowles to show how local people feel about this humanitarian tragedy; in the case of the French camps happening 'on our doorstep', and/or join us for our next meeting 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 3rd May, at The Vaults pub opposite the Alexander Centre. You can also contact Greg on 07787062634.

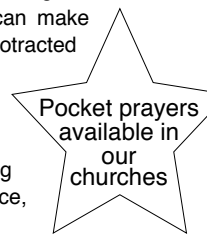


Conversations at the crossroads

Knowing which way to go when you arrive at an intersection is crucial, especially if you are going someplace for the first time! Whether you use a sat nav or a map, or are operating from memory, a brief conversation or observation can make the difference between a quick journey or a protracted one. Sometimes it doesn't matter which way you do go, but the conversation at the 'crossroad' makes a difference!

The daily pocket prayer images and Daily Waiting liturgies invite us to be ready for unexpected grace, and to receive the Holy Spirit afresh.

Download the Novena for Families material at - www.canterburydiocese.org/media/novena/families.pdf



Jo's Diary of Country Walks

(A dog tells the story of her life in the countryside)

by Audrey Keen



Jo reflects on the wildlife as she enjoys her country walk. Rhoda, Connie and I begin our walk by the gate at the end of the drive. While we dogs take short shallow breaths to catch the scent of rabbit, Rhoda breathes more deeply for the trees, flowers and grass, she says, combine fragrances to bring her the 'essence of summer'. The grass has changed colour and there is pink and white clover in the meadow, the sun is warm and the foxgloves and yellow mullien show their bright colours at the entrance to the wood. As we walk furry bees buzz close to my ears, while butterflies flutter by and miss me by inches. Many insects are following Connie, I expect they are following me too. The blossom in the hedgerow has turned to fruit so the wasps have come to investigate. Connie is rabbit hunting but she will not stray far, Rhoda meanwhile stands by wild campanula that grows by the path's edge and, from here, even I can see the red poppies as they tower over green kale. Nearby sheep graze peacefully by the house where there is the luxury of a warm summer breeze.

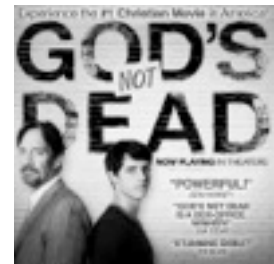


Eastling Parish Council

The Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th May at 6.30pm in Eastling Village Hall.

... Is God Dead?

What do you think?



showing FREE, for one night only at Lynsted Church Sunday 15th May 6pm Welcome to Breakthrough 6.45pm Refreshments 7pm Film: **God's Not Dead**

All Welcome
More info from Jo Sidney 01795 521717



The Plough Inn, Stalisfield; a family run, independent, award winning pub & restaurant offering locally sourced food and a selection of locally produced drinks.

Currently recruiting for casual waiting staff.

Experience not necessary but a good personality & willingness to work is essential

Please send your CV to info@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk or pop in to see us



The Plough Inn, Stalisfield; a family run, independent, award winning pub & restaurant offering an extensive menu of restaurant quality food and pub snacks as well as a large range of unique & locally produced drinks.

Morris Dancing 30th April

A day early for May Day, but the local Morris dancers will be about over lunch time.

Kellys Heroes 27th May

Another band night with Kellys Heroes making a long awaited return to the pub, playing live from 8.30pm

Chapel Down tasting 1st June

in light of English Wine Week, we have Chapel Down coming at 7.30pm to run us through their selection - pre booking required.

Stalisfield Road, Faversham, Kent, ME13 0HY
Tel: 01795 890 256 Email: info@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk

Prayer Pointers May 2016



Sundays	For our hearts to be open to the Holy Spirit.
Mondays	For our Archbishop and his team.
Tuesdays	Continue to pray for refugees.
Wednesdays	For those who lack faith.
Thursdays	For Christians throughout the world.
Fridays	For all who minister in our parishes.
Saturdays	For an end to strife in the world.

Services in our Churches

The High Downs Benefice

1st May Easter 6

Acts 16. 9-15, Revelation 21.10,22-22.5, John 5. 1-9
 Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)
 Eastling 10 am Holy Communion (CW)
 Stalisfield 10 am Morning Prayer

8th May Ascension Sunday

Acts 1. 1 - 11, Ephesians 1. 15-23, Luke 24. 44-53
 Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)
 Throwley 10 am Morning Prayer (BCP)
 Eastling 10 am CaféStyle in Village Hall
 Otterden 3 pm Evening Prayer

15th May Pentecost

Acts 2. 1-21, Romans 8. 14 -17, John 14. 8 - 17 [25-27]
 Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)
 Eastling 10 am Morning Prayer (BCP)
 Stalisfield 10 am Holy Communion (CW)

22nd May Trinity Sunday

Proverbs 8. 1-4, 22-31, Romans 5. 1-5, John 16. 12-15
 Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)
 Throwley 10 am Holy Communion (CW)

29th May Trinity 1

1 Kings 18. 20-21, [22-29] 30-39, Galatians 1. 1-12, Luke 7. 1-10
 Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)
 Eastling 10 am Benefice Service

5th June Trinity 2

1 Kings 17. 8-16, [17-24], Galatians 1. 11-24, Luke 7. 11-17
 Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)
 Eastling 10 am Holy Communion (CW)
 Stalisfield 10 am Morning Prayer

(BCP) Service taken from the Book of Common Prayer, 1662.
 (CW) Service follows Common Worship Liturgy, 2000.

Why go to Church?

By John Pritchard, SPCK, £3.99

This little book of guidance lets you grasp the essentials in less than an hour. John Pritchard takes an honest look at what the church is really for and how it works. This is a book for all who wonder what it must be like to be part of a community of people who are trying to follow the life and teaching of Jesus.



Rector Revd Canon Donald J. Lawton (01795 890487)
 The Rectory, Newham Lane, Eastling ME13 0AS

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

Reader Hugh Perks (01795 890603)
 Weald Cottage, Eastling

Reader Caroline Ramshaw (01795 892088)
 4 Glebe Cottages, Eastling

Churchwardens

Eastling Andrew Baxter (01795 890598)

Parish Administrator Janet Payne (01795 890487)
 E mail: eastlingchurch@gmail.com

Stalisfield with Otterden Jean West (01233 712270)

Parish Administrator Sheila Moger (01233 713212)
 E mail samhawksnest@aol.com

Throwley Glynn Howland (01795 890094)

From the Registers

Baptism

William Jack Filmer
 17th April 2016 at Stalisfield

Midweek & Lent Groups

Tuesdays: Study group, 9.30am on 10th & 24th May
 at Garden Cottage, Eastling. 01795 890368

Tuesdays: Weekly study group, 7.30pm Pinks Farm,
 Kettle Hill Road, Eastling. 01795 890338

Thursdays: Weekly prayer group, 10.30am Pinks Farm,
 Kettle Hill Road, Eastling. 01795 890338

Fridays: Weekly study group, 10.45am, New House Farm,
 Eastling. 01795 890629

You will be welcome at any of our groups.

Prayer for Healing in our Churches

Members of the team will be available
 for private prayer for you
 during and after Communion on:

1st May, 10am service at Eastling,
 15th May, 10am service at Stalisfield,
 22nd May, 10am service at Throwley



David Winter contemplates the Trinity
 (Trinity Sunday falls on 22nd May)

The Way I See It : Three in One and One in Three

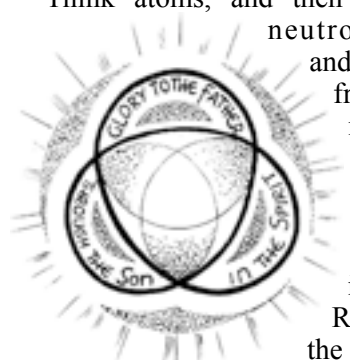
A story is told of a Jewish man who collapsed in the street with a heart attack. A passing Roman Catholic priest rushed over and knelt beside him. "Would you like to have your sins forgiven?" he asked. The man nodded weakly. "Right," said the priest. "Do you believe in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit?"

The Jewish man rolled his eyes and moaned, "I'm dying, and he's asking me riddles!"

Well, it's Trinity Sunday later this month, so if you go to church you may well hear the preacher trying to explain the riddle. Most church-goers know that it's part of orthodox Christian faith, and like singing about it in hymns, but haven't any idea why it's so important. Surely, they think, there's only one God, so why make it so complicated?

Yes, it is complicated, but not incredible. Over the last century scientists have discovered that almost everything is more 'complicated' than we had thought. It seems, for instance, that pretty well nothing we know is a simple unity.

Think atoms, and then protons and neutrons. Energy and activity flow from dynamic relationships. So doesn't it make sense that the Creator God is a Relationship – the source of all energy and activity – rather than a simple 'unity'? Thought of like that, a God who is 'Father' (Source), Son (Action) and Spirit (Application) makes good sense. The Father made us, the Son loves us and the Spirit 'sheds that love abroad in our hearts'. Makes sense to me.



Share

There are only two things a child will share willingly - communicable diseases and his mother's age.

Helen Whately MP – working hard for Faversham and Mid Kent

I've now been MP for Faversham and Mid Kent for nearly a year. I've been working hard for the constituency, but unless you get my newsletter or look at my website (www.helenwhately.co.uk), you probably won't know what I've been doing. So I'm taking the chance to give an update in the Parish magazine.

Being elected to Parliament last May was the most incredible, awe-inspiring honour. Living up to the standard set by Sir Hugh Robertson isn't easy, but I want everyone to feel they have a strong advocate in me. At the election, I set out my campaign priorities including health-care, education, transport and the local economy (particularly farming), though I've found out as an MP you have to be ready to respond to events which can throw the best laid plans up in the air.

Last summer was taken over by Operation Stack, which caused chaos on local roads including the M2. I campaigned for an alternative to closing the M20, so I was very pleased that the Chancellor committed £250m in the Autumn Statement to build a lorry park. It will be located near Folkestone. Until that's completed Manston airfield is available as a stopgap, but I'm in regular contact with Roads Minister to make sure we get the new lorry park as soon as possible.

I care deeply about education. A good start in life is important for all children, and a good education is the best way for those from deprived backgrounds to catch up. With three school-age children myself, I experience government education policy from a parents' perspective. I recently visited Eastling Primary School, where pupils quizzed me about my life story for their biography project. I was so impressed by their incisive questions and I awarded each of them a certificate of merit.

Ever since I was elected I've been campaigning for fairer funding for Kent schools, because under the current system, local schools lose out. Kent received average grants of £4,380 per pupil last year, while some schools in other parts of the country got an average of £6,300. I wrote to the Prime Minister about this, along with 100 other MPs, and collected signatures on a petition which went to every school in the constituency. In the autumn the Chancellor announced that the old formula would be scrapped and that £285 million would be made available to help schools stay open longer and offer more extra-curricular activities. The Government is now consulting on how the new funding formula will work and I'm in touch with the Schools Minister to make sure it's in the interests of our local schools.

With lambing season underway it's been a pleasure to visit local farms, including Snoad Farm. But agriculture is a tough business and Storm Katie was a disaster for some, destroying polytunnels and strawberry crops. I have written to farmers and the local NFU branch to see if there is anything further I can

do to help get them the support they need. The National Living Wage was introduced on 1st April. This will be tough for some fruit farmers, who need to employ lots of people to pick soft fruit. I've been putting pressure on the Government to bear in mind the unique challenges farmers face and have organised a joint letter to the Treasury, signed by me and other MPs, asking them to do more to ease the burden of the National Living Wage on farmers.

My background is in healthcare, so I spend much of my time on health issues, both locally and nationally as a member of the Health Select Committee. I'm in frequent contact with East Kent Hospitals about the challenges they face and their plans for the future. A particular problem at the moment is delayed discharge, where patients who are fit to leave hospital end up staying extra days and sometimes weeks. This is partly due to a shortage of nursing home places in this area, and I recently held a meeting involving East Kent hospital and Kent Social Services to work out how to solve this jointly. It's won't be fixed overnight, but long hospital stays are bad for patients as well as poor use of limited NHS beds, so this can't be allowed to continue.

Being able to help people, very practically, is the best part of my job. Sometimes a call or a letter from an MP can make all the difference, so if you have a problem, please do get in touch. I also hold regular advice surgeries. See my contact details and information about my upcoming surgeries below.



Helen Whately

MP for Faversham and Mid Kent

If you have a problem you think I can help you with, please contact me or visit me at one of my surgeries

House of Commons,
 London, SW1A 0AA

020 7219 6472

helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk

Upcoming surgeries

Friday 20th May, Maidstone

Friday 24th June, Faversham



BelmontHseGdns
Belmont House and Gardens



BELMONT HOUSE & GARDENS EVENTS SPRING FAIR

Monday 2nd May, 11am - 4pm

This event is the perfect way to spend a Spring day and a great opportunity to get some advice on how to get your garden looking wonderful this Summer. We are delighted to announce a partnership with 'Keep it Local Events', who will be running our craft marquee, so you can expect to enjoy the chance of finding unique, quality handmade gifts.

£2.00 per person and free for children under 16.
Normal house tour admission applies.

ARTICHOKE DEMONSTRATION

Thursday 2nd June, 10am - 1pm

Learn how to grow, prepare, cook and make some amazing dishes with fresh artichokes from our own Kitchen Garden. Lunch on the day will include: Kitchen Garden Salad, Roasted Artichoke Salad, Asparagus Quiche, Soda Bread and Locally produced Apple Juice.

£15.00 per person, including demonstration and a delicious light lunch. To make a booking please call 01795 890 202 or email events@belmont-house.org

OPEN FARM SUNDAY

Sunday 5th June, 1pm - 4pm

Open Farm Sunday is back this year at Belmont!

Enjoy tractor trailer rides to see our combine harvester and other farming machinery on display, meet the people involved in the story behind your food, watch sheep shearing demonstrations and take part in other activities.

Admission to Open Farm Sunday is FREE!

MEET THE HEAD GARDENER TOURS

Every fourth Wednesday of the month, April through to September
1.30pm - 3.30pm. Adults £5 Concession £4

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



NORTH DOWNS WALK

Sunday 19th June

Harrietsham Village Hall,
Church Road - ME17 1AP.

Start from - 8.00am.

Last registration - 11am.

3, 6 or 9 mile course

across the beautiful North Downs

www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk

North Downs Walk-line: 07519

320919

Free Ploughman's Lunch and strawberries plus entertainment by a local Jazz Band.

See the website for Maps/Poster/Route Details/Registration Forms etc. all of which may be downloaded.

ALL COSTS are underwritten by our sponsors so every penny raised goes to charity



THROWLEY WALKERS

Ann : 01795 892037

Make the most of May and June - the driest months of the year!



Wednesday 4 May 10:30 2 miles. Park at mini green on Kettle Hill Road (road sign to Warren Street); NOT the mini green near Arnold's Oak Farm (road sign to Painters Forstal).

Friday 6 May 10:30 4 miles. King's Wood, Challock, BUT from the smaller car park, half a mile lower down White Hill from the main car park.

Wednesday 11 May 10:30 2 miles. From near The Alma, Painter's Forstal.

Friday 13 May 10:30 3 miles. From near The Alma, Painter's Forstal.

Wednesday 18 May 10:30 2 miles. Stalisfield Green, from the Plough Inn.

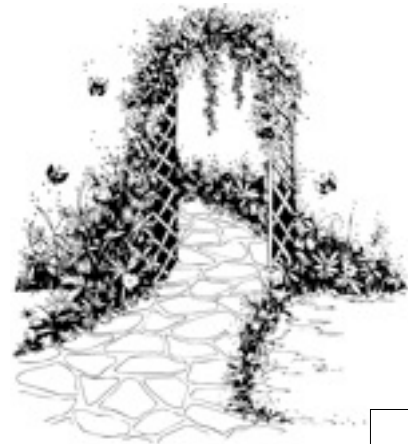
Friday 20 May 10:30 4 miles. Meet at Sheldwich Village Hall.

Wednesday 25 May 10:30 2 miles. From South Wilderton, and be prepared for a swim.

Friday 27 May 10:30 3 miles. From South Wilderton, and be prepared for a swim.

Wednesday 1 June 10:30 2 miles. King's Wood, from the main car park on White Hill, Challock with a brown Stour Valley Arts sign.

Friday 3 June 10:30 4 miles. Eastling to Derbies Court, from the Village Hall.



Garden Safari

The date for the Eastling Garden

Safari will be **Saturday 18th June** -
PLEASE SAVE THE DATE AND COME
AND LOOK AT OUR GARDENS.

Cream Teas

at The Rectory, Newnham Lane.

We have a total of five gardens so far, but would like at least one more. If anyone else is able to help, please give Julie Kyte a call on 01795 890703.

A big THANK YOU, in advance, to everyone who has volunteered to help and open their gardens to raise funds for our lovely church. See you on the 18th...

Stalisfield Highlife

Quiz Party

A promise was kept in the village hall at the Stalisfield Spring Quiz when quizmasters Ian and Nick teased winter cobwebs from winter-dulled brains. Questions dredged from obscurity or amenable to logical thought served to sharpen the wits of the audience.

As ever, the party atmosphere made the event a social occasion laced with instructive competition. Inter-round prizes of appropriate nature were awarded to top and bottom scoring teams and the final overall winners received their customary bottles of wine.

The quite considerable efforts of Ian and Nick in preparing for the quiz were awarded by the enthusiasm of the well attended audience when thanks were expressed at the close.

As intended, the event contributed to the social wellbeing of the village but, in addition, table fees from sixty contestants contributed a useful £150 to the hall upkeep costs.

Coffee Morning

The first coffee morning of the year attracted an encouragingly sized attendance which will surely expand when word of the confectionary offered with the coffee spreads. Mouth-watering variety hardly describes the plentiful fare donated by highly skilled bakers hiding somewhere in the village.

As ever with such a gathering, a good atmosphere gave rise to animated conversation. Ideas were collected for possible activities connected to the village hall including evenings devoted to films, slides, bridge, whist and indoor bowls.

Stalisfield Good Fortune

We have good reason to thank The Otterden Trust for its support of the Stalisfield community.

In a generous gesture the Trust has offered us the use of the land adjacent to the hall on a renewable short term lease, principally to use for parking. The hope is that parking on verges can be eased, resulting in elimination of the damage which currently mars the hall frontage and makes mowing difficult.

In a second act of generosity the Trust has made a grant to fund cine projection equipment with its ancillary services. We very much appreciate both these gestures.

Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.

Our meeting on Wednesday 11th May will be in Stalisfield village hall for our AGM at 7.30pm, followed by the ever popular Bingo and our June meeting will be a garden visit to Laurie Scott's wonderful garden on Wednesday 1st June.

Anyone wanting information about our steadily growing group (31 members now), please contact; Lesley Andrews (01795 890581) or Stephanie Culver (01795 890748).

Eastling Gardeners' Club

Evening Garden Safari

Thursday 2nd June

Meet at the village hall at 6 p.m.

Visit the gardens of Eastling with drinks provided in three gardens, followed by a meal with wine in the village hall

£5 for Club members, £6 for non-members



2016

2nd Breakfasts	from 9am	The Carpenters Arms
2nd Bluebell Walk	from 10am	Eastling Village Hall
2nd Spring Fair	11am	Belmont Gardens
3rd Refugee Solidarity group	7.30pm	The Vaults, Faversham
8th CaféStyle	10am	Eastling Village Hall
11th Otterden & Stalisfield WI	7.30pm	Stalisfield Village Hall
15th Deadline for June Good News		See below
17th Painters Forstal & Selling WI	2.15pm	Eastling Village Hall
27th Kellys Heroes playing live	8.30pm	The Plough
28th Plant Sale	11am	Eastling Village Hall
31st Magazine Folding	2pm	Pinks Farm
JUNE 2nd Gardeners' Club Safari	6pm	Eastling Village Hall
4th Throwley Fete	1pm	Throwley
5th Open Farm Sunday	1pm	Belmont
18th Garden Safari		Eastling
JULY 17th School Fete	12 - 4pm	Eastling School Field

FROM THE EDITOR

If you would like to advertise in the June 2016 magazine, submit articles or stories for publication, or would like any forthcoming events publicised, send your contribution by 15th May 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 www.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews



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