

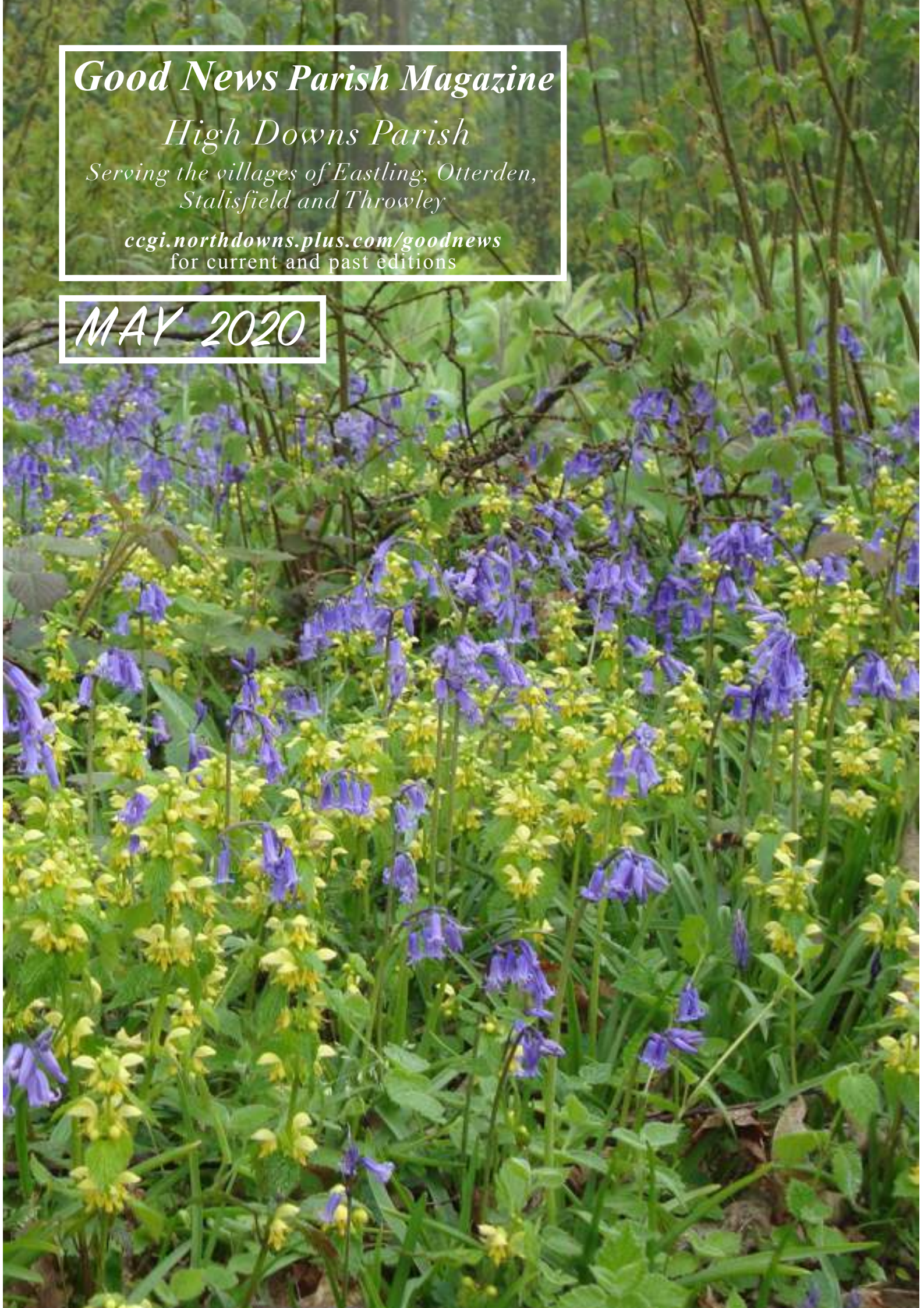
# *Good News Parish Magazine*

## *High Downs Parish*

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

[ccgi.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews](http://ccgi.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews)  
for current and past editions

*MAY 2020*





**We** are in the midst of this new virus worldwide Pandemic and our lives are necessarily changed. For many life has slowed down, normal life has been stopped, but for others life has got busier and more demanding.

Those who are involved in the NHS, those who are working in the Care sector, our Food shops and in deliveries amongst others, are busier I am sure and in the midst of stressful circumstances.

As we all know our Church buildings have been shut since the Country went into what is called 'lockdown' but Church continues. It has been wonderful to see how many join the livestream of Morning Prayer at 9am each day. This is live-streamed on Facebook - found by either going to the Kingsdown and Creekside Facebook page (@kingsdowncreekside) or by going to the Kingsdown and Creekside website -

[www.kingsdowncreekside.co.uk](http://www.kingsdowncreekside.co.uk) - and scrolling to the bottom of the 'homepage' where you will find the Facebook page; it is also streamed in the YouTube Channel 'Breakthrough at Lynsted'. The information you need is also to be found in the St Mary's Eastling 'a Church Near You Page':  
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11982/>

## New Ways to Worship



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has launched a free national phone line to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus.

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

The service is supported by the Church of England nationally as well as through the Connections group based at Holy Trinity Claygate in Surrey and the Christian charity Faith in Later Life.

Although thousands of churches across the country are now running services and prayer groups online while public worship remains suspended, many people – especially older people – do not have access to the internet.

## Corvid-19 and the Psalms

What has struck me about Morning Prayer, during which we read a Psalm or two each day, is how helpful the Psalms are and how relevant they are in our current situation.

During Lent the Psalms used each day are Psalms of Lament such as:

Psalm 102:1-6

<sup>1</sup> Hear my prayer, Lord; let my cry for help come to you.

<sup>2</sup> Do not hide your face from me when I am in distress. Turn your ear to me;

when I call, answer me quickly.

<sup>3</sup> For my days vanish like smoke; my bones burn like glowing embers.

<sup>4</sup> My heart is blighted and withered like grass; I forget to eat my food.

<sup>5</sup> In my distress I groan aloud and am reduced to skin and bones.

<sup>6</sup> I am like a desert owl, like an owl among the ruins.

Psalms that bring us to a place of honesty before God, our heavenly Father, where we can express our feelings about our current situation yet acknowledge in the midst of all that trust in God our Father.

On the day I write we were taken to Psalm 96, a great Psalm of praise: Psalm 96:1-4

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;

A Psalm that points us to God and to who He is and that He deserves our praise. When we do this we are taken beyond where we are, the here and now, to a new place of relationship with God our heavenly Father.

Psalm 100

<sup>1</sup> Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup> Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

<sup>3</sup> Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

<sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

<sup>5</sup> For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

I have found the Psalms so helpful to me at this time, which has brought reflection on the direction we have been journeying in as a world, as a nation in terms of what is most important to us. The Psalms help me in anchoring myself in God. I finished with the first two verses of Psalm 62, a psalm of David:

<sup>1</sup> Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him.

<sup>2</sup> Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken

Steve Lillicrap  
[highdownsvicar@gmail.com](mailto:highdownsvicar@gmail.com)

# High Downs Parish

Parish Office      Email: [eastlingchurch@gmail.com](mailto:eastlingchurch@gmail.com)  
[facebook.com/highdownsbenefice](https://facebook.com/highdownsbenefice)

**Rector**      Reverend Canon Dr. Steve Lillicrap  
01795 522510 [highdownsvicar@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:eastlingchurch@gmail.com)

## **Stalisfield with Otterden**

Jean West      (01233 712270)

**Administrator** Sheila Moger      (01233 463746)  
E mail: [samhawksnest@aol.com](mailto:samhawksnest@aol.com)

**Throwley**      Gaynore Moss      (01795 890995)



## Funerals during the coronavirus restrictions

Funerals have changed almost beyond recognition under the strict new rules to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Church of England funerals may now take place only at crematoria or at gravesides. Only immediate family may attend, and they must keep their two-metre distance.

To help those who are grieving-at-a-distance at this difficult time, the Church of England has published a simple guide. It provides both prayers and also suggestions of how people can pay their own tribute at home to the person who has died. These include finding a photograph of the person who has died, writing down memories of them, and lighting a virtual candle in memory of their loved ones.

The Revd Canon Dr Sandra Millar, Head of Welcome and Life Events for the Church of England, said: "It's so difficult when you can't go to a funeral... to say your last goodbye and know that your special person's life has been honoured, prayers offered, and God's love experienced."

More details at: [www.churchofengland.org/LifeEvents](http://www.churchofengland.org/LifeEvents).

**During the current restrictions** we cannot welcome you into our churches right now but you are welcome to follow us on [facebook.com/highdownsbenefice](https://facebook.com/highdownsbenefice) and <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11982/>

## New Sound System for St. Mary's, Eastling

Eastling DCC has approved the purchase of a state-of-the-art digital sound system to replace our creaking hearing loop. This will provide a much needed improvement for congregations and those taking services. The proposal includes the use of existing wiring where possible and new, small speakers in ivory, to blend with the stonework. It is being funded through an anonymous gift from someone who lived in the village for many years. We have to apply for a Faculty and this notice invites anyone who wishes to know more about the project to contact myself or Mark Harlow. As the church is currently closed, a notice of intent will be posted in the outside notice board.

Andrew Baxter Churchwarden, 01795 890598

## Daily Prayer with the Dean

Canterbury Cathedral's website has daily morning prayer and evening prayer plus Sunday Eucharist and Sunday Compline. Go to : <https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/#onlineservices>



**Bay Lees asks  
“Do you have an  
anecdote or  
memory  
connected with  
the Yew tree in  
Eastling  
Churchyard?”**



During this extraordinary and unsettling time of Covid-19, seeing the ancient Yew tree in Eastling Church yard is reassuring to many of us - a symbol of hope and continuity, connecting us to the past and also to the future. The tree has seen 2000 years of Eastling life: times of great happiness and times of despair. It could tell us so much about the history of Eastling and the hopes and fears of generations of villagers.

In conversation with Janet Wood, she told me two wonderful, entertaining stories from her younger days that were centred around the Yew tree.

Janet came up with the brilliant idea that we could collate some of stories connected to the Yew tree so that they could be enjoyed by a wider audience.

Perhaps you have an anecdote or memory connected with the Yew tree in Eastling Churchyard?

It may be a much repeated and loved family account ; it may be funny or sad; it could be romantic or mischievous. Whatever it is and whatever your age, we would love to hear your story.

Please either hand write your account and pop it in my post box at Eastling Manor ( I will scan it so it is your handwriting) or email a typed version to me at [baylees@mac.com](mailto:baylees@mac.com)

If you have any drawings or photographs of the tree, please send them to me as well.



**Eastling Gardeners' Club**

The visit by Eastling Gardeners to Norton Court Gardens on 19th June has been cancelled.

**Virtual Flower Show**

Our gardens are at their best at this time of year. Why not take a photo of a special part of your garden and send it in for publication in next month's online Good News. Perhaps send in a verse from the Bible to accompany your picture.

Please send in your photos by 23rd May to: [goodnewsmagazine@me.com](mailto:goodnewsmagazine@me.com) or any articles you would like included in the June issue.

**Loneliness at the Virtual Chelsea Flower Show,  
19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

All sorts of themes are chosen for the Chelsea Flower Show, but this year's theme turned out to be scarily appropriate for the Spring of 2020: loneliness and mental health.

For, according to Sue Briggs, RHS Director General, “many feel they need gardening in their life now more than ever before, for their mental and physical wellbeing during this national emergency.”

Writing on RHS website ([www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)), Sue Briggs says: “This applies to everyone from those who are having to self-isolate to families planning, maybe for the first time, to grow their own food.”

And so, “for these reasons, and to do more to support the industry, the RHS will create a Virtual RHS Chelsea Flower Show, to celebrate our great horticultural industry and gardening heritage.” The Virtual Show will run from Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May to Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

Guy Barker, chief horticulturalist at the RHS said: “Nurturing plants can make you less lonely and release you from troubles.”

**Leave your dandelions alone**

When mowing your lawn, avoid cutting your dandelions is the advice of the president of the British Ecological Society, Prof Jane Memmott. It will help to save the bees.

She explains: “Dandelions are a fantastic source of pollen and nectar for the early pollinators in particular. If they were rare, people would be fighting over them, but because they're common, people pull them out and spray them with all sorts of horrible things when they should just let them flower. If you leave the lawn to three or four inches, then dandelions, clover and daisies can flower and then you end with

something like a tapestry, and it's much nicer to sit there and watch the insects buzzing about.”

Prof Memmott encourages everyone to get a bee hotel for their garden. “There's nothing nicer than being sat in a chair with a glass of wine and watching the bees going in and out of your own personal little beehive. Even just a potted plant on a doorstep will provide lunch for a bee or a fly or a butterfly.”

## If I stand and listen I hear:

Rabbits rustle in bluebells  
Wood pigeons fly from bottle green  
boughs of conifer trees,  
The fading notes of a cuckoo,  
Sparrows,  
Flapping wings of wood rooks,  
A pheasant  
A blackbird  
And an owl.

by Audrey Keen



## Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.

Soon after our meeting in March it became obvious that Covid 19 was beginning to cause disruption, so we decided then to cancel our April meeting for the safety and peace of mind of our members. It now looks very likely that our May AGM and probably the June

meeting will not take place, but we are keeping in touch as much as possible with email, WhatsApp and phone calls.

We are all missing our friends but realise how important it is to keep each other and everyone else safe, but will be looking forward to resuming our programme as soon as it is safe to do so. We are a very friendly and welcoming group so if you would like to join us when we resume please call me, Ellie on 01795 892016.

Finally we send best wishes to all our local villages, friends and neighbours, Ellie Cameron, President



## The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby,

will deliver a message of hope to school pupils across the country in the first assembly at Oak National Academy.

The Archbishop's address will be streamed through TES from 10am on Thursday 30 April 2020. It will then remain available on the Oak National Academy website:

<https://www.thenational.academy>

In addition to the assemblies, the Church of England is also partnering with Oak National Academy to provide separate weekly collective worship sessions led by schools, which will be accessible to those of all faiths and none. This will be part of the Church of England's forthcoming #FaithAtHome programme, which launches later in the week. Thursday's event is expected to be the biggest school assembly ever held in the UK.

Since its launch on Monday 20th April Oak Academy has seen over two million lessons accessed. Providing a sequenced plan of video lessons and curricular resources for teachers, as well as parents and their children. Assemblies at Oak National Academy will be held in partnership with TES and be delivered by a range of well-known faces. They will focus on topics like hope and resilience, as well as practical advice and support. They will act as a moment for the country's pupils to come together and provide reassurance during this uncertain time.

## Prayer Pointers

### May 2020

**Mondays** - Pray for our Farmers and give thanks for the wonderful countryside which surrounds us.

**Tuesdays** - Pray for all working in our key services and give thanks for their courage, pray too for their families.

**Wednesdays** - Pray for the safety of those living in an abusive relationship, both the abuser and their victim(s).

**Thursdays** - Pray for all whose businesses are threatened and those working for them, all facing an uncertain future.

**Fridays** - Pray for all on the 'vulnerable list' or living on their own and give thanks for friends and neighbours offering help.

**Saturdays** - Pray for those who have prematurely lost loved ones from this disease.

**Sundays** - Give thanks to God for JESUS is ALIVE, alleluia.



*A prayer for all those suffering from COVID-19 at this time, and especially for all those who continue to work to supply us with food and other necessities:*

God of all people,  
we give you thanks for those whose work provides us with the necessities of life.

In this time of increased demand and pressure, help them to continue their work in safety and to find the space and the peace amidst the busyness to care for themselves and their families, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord bless us and keep us, the Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us, the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us and give us peace. **Amen.**

*(from Canterbury Cathedral website)*





# Pumpkin Lottery

Join in with a pumpkin growing competition to raise funds for NHS.

Price: £2.50 per entrant.

**What you get :** A mixture of 3 pumpkin seeds. It is a lottery as to which ones you get -your seeds could grow into vast pumpkins or just very odd ones.

That's why it is a Pumpkin Lottery!

End of entry date- 10th May or when the seeds run out if it's before that date.

**The aim:** The competition is to see who can grow the largest pumpkin, the smallest, and the funniest.

Judging: If we are still having to social distance by the time the pumpkins are grown (about October) judging may have to be via photographic evidence but hopefully, we will be able to display the exhibits in the village hall.

## Prizes for:

- \* The largest pumpkin
- \* Under 15s
- \* Most amusing
- \* Smallest
- \* Most liked by vote

## How to enter:

Please put payment (£2.50 per entrant ) for the Pumpkin Lottery into an envelope with your name on the front. Place the envelope into the postbox for Eastling Manor. It's a big black box on the left hand side of our drive.

Once we have received your contribution, we will put your seeds into your named envelope and place on the Community Table ready for you to pick them up.

The rest is up to you!

Please support this idea- it should be fun!





Help feed local people in crisis

### Faversham Foodbank May 2020

The demand for supplies from the Foodbank has escalated. Currently our churches are under lockdown as well as us, so Faversham Foodbank has asked that we should leave our contributions in the designated collection bins in local supermarkets wherever possible or consider making a donation of money to the Foodbank instead. The details of how to do so are available at [www.faversham.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.faversham.foodbank.org.uk)

If you know of someone who needs to use our local Foodbank and is unsure of how to get the Foodbank vouchers please advise them to contact **West Faversham Community Association on 01795 537321**. If you are a parent with a school age child most schools have Foodbank vouchers so contact the school office.

#### Urgent items required for May

Tinned ham; tinned fruit; sponge puddings; long life fruit juice; squash; porridge oats;



## The Plough Inn, Stalisfield

is now offering a

### take away service for food and drinks,

please check out the website for details or give us a call.

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

Please call 01795 890256 or email [info@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk](mailto:info@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk) to place your orders in advance or to get further details of our full take away menu. We can drop out to your car if you need us too also. In some circumstances we may be able to deliver, please just ask, we are all in this together!

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

We can bring out to the car so you don't even have to come into the pub and take payment over the phone.

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

## YOU CAN HELP

### save Graveney Marshes nature reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest

This is our last chance to stop a massive, dangerous, dirty Solar Power Plant with the world's largest highly flammable lithium batteries close to us here in Throwley and Faversham.

Cleve Hill solar power development will cover the marshes from Faversham Creek to Seasalter with solar panels the size of doubledecker buses.

Please follow any of these links:

[www.savegraveneymarshes.org](http://www.savegraveneymarshes.org)

<https://favershamlife.org/last-chance-to-stop-faversham-sized-solar-power-plant/>

Or this link for a quick read

<http://chn9.it/r2S9PKTxZN>

Kent wildlife trust <https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/campaigns/planning-and-development/cleve-hill-solar-park>

## Blessed are the truth-tellers

ITV News journalist and presenter Julie Etchingham, a practising Christian, has defended the role played by journalists during the Coronavirus pandemic.

time for truth and accuracy to be at the centre of all our communications.

So, yes, we need to be praying for and supporting the front-line health service staff, the public health experts, the scientists researching vaccines to combat the virus, and the key workers keeping our societies running.

But we also need to be praying for and supporting the men and women working in and with the media to publish, upload, broadcast and distribute the most accurate information, without spin or distortion.

*By Rev Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, UK, and a former communications director with the CofE.*

Julie told the Christians in Media website, "Reporters are coming in for a lot of flack for the questions they are asking government. But what else are we for? We all get that this is a crisis like no other; that few in government have ever had to navigate such a challenge.

"But, if we're still attempting to function as a democracy in the face of this, then scrutiny is clearly crucial. Many in our frontline services and the wider public are demanding answers. We are there on their behalf. We don't always get it right. This isn't a moment to trip people up, but urgently to get to the truth."

As a Christian who has worked in communications for around 50 years, I strongly support Julie Etchingham's view. Now is the



# Eastling School News

Eastling Primary School like all schools nationally is going through unprecedented times. We are continuing to support all the children by providing home learning and opening the school for the children whose parents are key workers. The safety and wellbeing of the children and staff is our priority.

The school was looking forward to being involved with the Eastling Annual Bluebell Walk this year but this of course can happen next year. We do have some school news to share with you from last term.

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March our two infant classes, Acorn and Silver Birch, enjoyed a day of Outdoor Cooking. The school was delighted to work with Wild Classrooms again and the children cooked some delicious Chinese food.

Year 6 were fortunate to still be able to have their residential trip before the country went into lockdown. The week was great fun and the children will all have long lasting memories.

The children particularly enjoyed raft building where the majority of the children did end up WET! Mrs Dale remained on dry ground to take photographs and could not contain herself laughing hysterically when Mr Brunger fell completely into the water. On the first night there was an extremely limited amount of sleep had by all. Fortunately this did improve after the next full day of activities. The food was great and the children loved every moment.

There are a few spaces available across the school for an immediate start. Any prospective parents are welcome to call the office on 01795 890252 to arrange a visit. For further information please visit our school website where photographs and newsletters are displayed and updated regularly.

Melanie Dale, Headteacher

