



*Good News  
on the horizon*

**High Downs Parish Magazine      May 2021**

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

for current and past editions go to: <http://www.goodnews.rf.gd>



**Residents of Stalisfield and Otterden**

*Save the date -*

**Saturday 28th August**  
for your post pandemic village party!  
(Subject to Covid restrictions)

More details to follow however, you should expect a band, BBQ and some of the usual fete stalls within the compounds of the Village Hall.

If you would like to help or need more information about this event contact: Melanie on 07961 566 814

\*\*\*\*\*

**Residents of Eastling Village**

*Save the date -*

**Saturday 4th September**  
for your post pandemic village party! (Subject to Covid restrictions)

More details to follow however, you should expect live Music, a Hog Roast (with Vegan option), a Cake to celebrate all missed birthdays, and of course fireworks!!!

Donations will be needed to make this possible  
Should you wish to volunteer, please email Anne Adams at  
[jacksonandadams@btopenworld.com](mailto:jacksonandadams@btopenworld.com) or contact one of the other committee  
members: Tish Neaves, Tim Philpott, Lauren Brand, Rich Maxted or Melanie Carter



*The Revd Dr Jo White continues her Reflected Faith series on the freedom that May brings....*

## Reflected Faith:

### Hiding, waiting, hoping – FREE!

After many long months during the Covid pandemic we are at last beginning to be able to come together again. Some countries and some areas of some countries will be more open than others and we can only hope, pray and wait for all of us to be able to be 'free' again.

May, in the Church's calendar, is supremely the month of freedom.

During the first few weeks we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and reflect on the Bible stories of those who met Him after His crucifixion and resurrection.

Then we celebrate His Ascension – Jesus' return to His Father.

And finally, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and all those locked in that Upper Room – with the subsequent birth of His Church.

Freedom indeed!

This last year has for most of us felt like a waiting time to see and hold friends and family again. We have some understanding of fear and the hope within us. What a celebration there must have been when Jesus returned to His Father – and what a celebration also when the Holy Spirit so powerfully descended.

### *Prayer Pointers*

#### *May 2021*

**Mondays** - Give thanks for the Holy Spirit in our lives.

**Tuesdays** - Pray for all who are unwell or in need.

**Wednesdays** - Give thanks for our vaccine roll out and pray for countries such as Brazil and India, still battling to control the virus spread.

**Thursdays** - Pray for farmers whose crops have been damaged by the frosts in April and lack of rain.

**Fridays** - Pray for those who mourn, especially Her Majesty the Queen following the death of Prince Philip.

**Saturdays** - Pray for the success of local events as lockdown lifts.

**Sundays** - Give thanks and praise to God for new life, new freedom and fresh encouragement in His love.



...by faith we might  
receive the  
promise of the Spirit

Galatians 3:14

It is the story of those 'simple' men who were scared and hiding one day and the next day bold and outspoken that speaks to me of something outstanding happening.

As I received my anti-Covid vaccination I felt that same freedom from fear. Not that I would be 100% safe and never ill again, but rather that whatever happened now would be manageable.

This month: Have a think this month about fears that you may have held inside you in this past year and how you have been able to manage them. Have you known the Spirit of Our Lord by your side as you have walked these roads? I hope so, and I hope also that together we can help others to know His reassurance from fear. Freedom indeed.

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of all people and kindle in them the fire of your love.*

*Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.*

# Stalisfield Highlife



## POT LUCK LADIES LUNCH

To all ladies of Stalisfield and Otterden

We are hoping to be back with community events and our ladies lunch is planned for 16th July.

It's a pot luck event - bring your favourite dish and enjoy the company of your community

Contact Jean on 01233 712270 to register your interest.



## The Pleasure of Summer

by Audrey Keen

Fields of buttercups and sweet wild clover  
Fill my heart with joy, time over.

Spathes of cuckoo pint, like hoods,  
Grow abundantly through the woods.  
Broom with its vivid colour shows  
Here by the fence, beside the rose.

My favourite fragrance from the lime  
Comes into bloom about this time,  
Hours of lasting scent they give  
These trees that grow here, where I live.

And soon profusions of foxgloves appear  
Among the green ferns growing here.  
Yes, with each season nature brings  
A wealth of truly lovely things.

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## Eastling Gardeners' Club

The next meeting of the Eastling Gardeners' Club will be a visit to the gardens at Norton Court on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> July at 2 p.m. The cost (to include tea) is £7 for members and £8 for non-members.

Further details will be available nearer the date.

### Nectar in your garden

In towns and cities our home gardens are now the largest source of food for insects such as bees and wasps.

They yield 85 per cent of the nectar produced in urban areas, according to a study published in the Journal of Ecology. Three such gardens will generate about a teaspoon a day of the sugar-rich liquid which is found in the flowers that the pollinators drink for energy. A teaspoon of nectar is the equivalent of more than a ton of food for an adult human, and it is enough to fuel thousands of flying bees.

One ecologist has called home gardens "pivotal" in promoting biodiversity in urban areas across the county. Gardens are thought to cover 29 per cent of the land in urban areas, which is six times the area of parks and 40 times that of allotments.

The research was carried out in partnership with the universities of Edinburgh and Reading and the Royal Horticultural Society.



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### Eastling Neighbourhood Watch



#### Village Warden

07794 010 394

or 01795 890848

Police 101 Emergency 999

Hopefully now we are on the run down of the Covid restrictions.

Unfortunately there were a few people in the village during the last lockdown, who decided that they were going to break the regulations in a serious fashion. I find this most disrespectful to the hard work carried by the NHS and to the persons who have lost loved ones over the past 14 months. Should there be any further serious breaches of the law the authorities will be informed.

For quite a few years now I have preached about keeping dogs under control in the vicinity of sheep and also making sure they do not escape from your property.

Unfortunately we have had a serious attack on sheep locally, although these dogs did not come from the village. The dogs were very lucky that they did not get shot. Armed police turned up and captured the dogs and interviewed the owner. An investigation is still ongoing.

Have a good month and take care, Alan.

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# STALISFIELD OPEN GARDENS

on  
Sunday 6th June 2021  
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2.00 - 5.00pm

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and back into  
the social world!*

Tickets & Enquiries:  
Shirley Pritchard  
Tel: 07885 827 444

Cost: £6 per person £10 per couple

*(Proceeds to St. Mary's Church,  
Stalisfield)*



## The Puppies

A client brought a litter of Golden Retriever puppies to the local veterinary clinic for inoculations and worming. As the look-alike pups tumbled over and under one another in

their box, the experienced vet realised it would be difficult to tell which had been treated and which hadn't. So, the vet turned on the water tap, wet her fingers and gently moistened each dog's head as she finished giving it the necessary shots. After the fourth puppy, the vet noticed her hitherto talkative client had grown silent and was looking rather reverent. As the animal doctor sprinkled the last pup's head, the owner leaned forward and whispered, "Thank you so much. I hadn't realised you baptised them, too."

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## Eastling School News

All the children returned to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and it was wonderful to see them back enjoying spending time with their friends. Lockdown was a very difficult time for everyone and the children are loving being back learning face to face in school. Eastling Primary School champions outdoor learning especially as we are so fortunate to have both wonderful grounds and be situated in such an amazing location. The staff wanted to celebrate being back learning in school so we held an outdoor learning day on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

The weather was rather chilly and we did have to contend with a fair amount of rain in the morning. Despite this the children had a very rewarding day. The younger children went

over to the woods where they collected natural resources and made mobiles and pictures.

Willow class made bird feeders which they hung around the school grounds, nature picture frames and planted potatoes.

Oak class have been learning about Shackleton and they made ships to transport items and built shelters.

The school was delighted to work with Wild Classroom again and all the children enjoyed cooking outdoors. Oak class made ship's biscuits and hoosh, Willow and Birch made apple and blackberry crumble and Acorn class made pizzas.

Miss Johnson organised a cross country race for children across the school to take part in as a virtual event. We are looking

forward to taking part in further sporting activities and our annual sports week in June.

The school has just replaced the wooden play equipment on the school playground and the children are thrilled that this has been installed for them.

The school has welcomed a number of new families since January and we now have a waiting list for some year groups. We do have a few spaces for Reception in September 2021 so if you know of any families that are looking for a place please contact the office on 01795 890252 for further details.

For further information please visit our school website where newsletters are displayed and updated regularly.  
Melanie Dale, Headteacher.



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# High Downs Parish

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

**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**

Jenny King (01795 890366)

**Administrator** Shirley Pritchard  
Email: [Stmarystalisfield@gmail.com](mailto:Stmarystalisfield@gmail.com)

**Throwley** Gaynore Moss (01795 890995)

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

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## **HIGH DOWNS PARISH Annual Meeting**

Sunday 2nd May, 10.30am, Eastling Church

\*\*\*\*\*

## **CONTACT THE GOOD NEWS EDITOR**

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like to submit articles, or to advertise in the June 2021 magazine, send your submission by 20th May 2021 to: [goodnewsmagazine@me.com](mailto:goodnewsmagazine@me.com).

Past and current issues of the Good News may be viewed on [ccgi.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews](http://ccgi.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews) or [www.goodnews.rf.gd](http://www.goodnews.rf.gd)

# Sunday Services

Our Rector, Revd Dr Steve Lillicrap, will continue with 9am Morning Prayer every day on [www.kingsdowncreekside.co.uk](http://www.kingsdowncreekside.co.uk) - also on the YouTube Channel 'Breakthrough at Lynsted'.

More information is updated weekly on St Mary's Eastling 'A Church Near You': <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11982/>

## **2nd May Easter 5**

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

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion  
Wychling 5.30pm Evensong

## **9th May Easter 6**

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

Throwley 10.30am Morning Worship  
Newnham 10.30am Holy Communion by ext

## **16th May Easter 7**

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

Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship  
Norton 10.30am Holy Communion

## **23rd May Day of Pentecost**

Acts 2. 1 - 21, John 15. 26 - 27, 16. 4b - 15

Throwley 10.30am Holy Communion  
Newnham 10.30am Morning Worship

## **30th May Trinity Sunday**

Romans 8. 12 - 17, John 3. 1 -17

Lynsted 10.30am Benefice Communion

# Churches Open for Private Prayer

Throwley and Eastling church buildings will continue to be open for private prayer.

St Michael and All Angels,  
Throwley  
Wednesdays and Sundays  
10am till 4pm

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## THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

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### MAKING VISIONS:

#### The JEWELLERY of ARTIST CHARLES RICKETT

Presented by Helen Ritchie  
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An in-depth look at the unique jewellery created by flamboyant artist Charles Ricketts at the turn of the twentieth century. His intricate and richly-enamelled neo-Renaissance pieces were designed as gifts for his many friends including May Morris and the fascinating couple known as Michael Field

Helen Ritchie is Curator of Modern Applied Arts at The Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge.

If you would like to watch the above lecture as a guest please contact Christine Willis, Membership Secretary, on 01233 756377 email: [cmwillis75@gmail.com](mailto:cmwillis75@gmail.com) A link to enable you to log in will be forwarded to you.

There is a small charge of £4 per lecture.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our final lecture of the season will be on 9<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30 pm Giles Ramsay on 'Shakespeare and Birth of Modern Show Business'.

Further information about each lecture is available on our website [theartssocietyegerton.org.uk](http://theartssocietyegerton.org.uk)

Our Society has a membership of over 180 and covers a wide area across the Weald and North Downs. Although currently unable to meet in The Millennium Hall, Egerton our members have continued to enjoy lectures via Zoom.



"After a year of working from home, Anthony will seize any opportunity to put on a suit"



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## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

# North Downs' sponsored Walk

on behalf of Cancer Research UK (and your chosen cause)

Organised by the Rotary Club of the Weald of Kent

## Sunday 8th August

The North Downs Walk in and around Harrietsham has been an annual event for the past 35 years, until last year when we had to cancel for the first time ever. However, we are determined to put on the event this year. It will be a somewhat different format BUT

- \*There will still be the choice of 4 routes 1,3 6 and 9 miles, all starting and finishing at Glebe Field, Harrietsham (opposite the church), and taking in the beautiful North Downs.
- \*It will be fully marshalled and signposted with regular checkpoints for you and your dogs to take on refreshments.
- \*You will still be able to retain 50% of your sponsorship for your own cause or charity.

However due to various restrictions one or two things have had to change;

- \*We cannot hire Harrietsham Village Hall as it is being used for Covid vaccinations so we are intending using the field opposite the church as the start and finish point using gazebos for registration.
- \*A knock-on effect is that we cannot provide food this year.
- \*We will also be asking you to bring a drinking vessel to fill up at the various checkpoints to save multi-handling of cups with the commensurate risk of spreading Covid.

We do hope these inconveniences will not put you off and are hoping for a good turnout after almost 18 months without any real events.

We are still finalising the detail but intend to start accepting registrations by Mid May. Why not check out our website <https://wealdofkentrotary.org.uk> to get regular updates and to find out more about us.

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### Our contact

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## A Brighter Tomorrow

There is much we can do just to brighten  
This world of all take and no give,  
There's a great deal that we can contribute  
Through the everyday lives that we live.

By supporting one's elderly neighbours  
Or through lending a hand in some way  
It's by taking a bunch of spring flowers  
To someone to brighten their day.

It's by sparing a few precious hours  
In the service of those most in need  
It's all about setting a standard  
And trying to give others a lead

It's the way that we tend to treat others  
And help and aid those in distress  
It's the care and assistance we offer  
That will set us apart from the rest.

The choice that we face is quite simple  
The rewards plain for all folk to see  
'As you did all of this to my brother  
Then' said Christ, 'you did it to Me.'

*By Colin Hammacott*

*Tony Horsfall considers ..  
what happens when you have no courage left.*

## Being brave?

Some time ago I was helping my grandson George into his car seat in the back of my car, when I accidentally banged his head. He started to cry. 'Come on, George, be brave,' I said. 'But I don't want to be brave,' he objected.

I guess we all know that feeling. Sometimes life is hard, and we know we have a need for courage, but somehow, we just don't want to be brave. We would rather give in, surrender to the difficulties, and wallow in self-pity.

The Bible seems to constantly exhort us to be brave, to be strong, to take heart, to be courageous. And life during a pandemic certainly calls for us to make a courageous response. But occasionally we may feel overwhelmed and ready to give in or give up.

Perhaps you are reading this at just such a moment. Maybe this comes as a message to you from God so that you do not lose heart. He knows you, and He sees your situation. And He speaks to encourage you, as He did to the church at Philadelphia: 'I know that you have little strength' (Revelation 3:8).

He is the compassionate and understanding God who draws alongside us, to give strength to the weary and power to the weak (Isaiah 40:29). You don't have to do anything, simply turn to Him in your need and ask for help.

You will discover, as the apostle Paul did, that when you are weak, then you are strong. His power will be demonstrated through your weakness. You can do whatever is required of you because He will give you strength.

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Stalisfield Village Hall, Stalisfield Road, Faversham. ME13 0HY - Thursdays 18.30 - 19.30  
Harrietsham Village Hall, Church Road, Harrietsham, ME17 1AP - Fridays 10 - 11

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## 23<sup>rd</sup> May: Day of Pentecost, Whit Sunday

Pentecost took place on the well-established Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was seven weeks after Easter, or 50 days including Easter.

A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit - the day the Church was born.

Jesus had told His disciples that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for His disciples, but He knew they could not do the work themselves. They would need His help. And so, they waited in Jerusalem, praying together with His other followers, for many days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues, to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1- 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the disciples and followers of Jesus. The Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning, proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course, Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, He could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit.



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## Vaccination Equity Campaigns

If you want to give thanks for receiving your vaccination, or to donate to charities who are helping to ensure that every community is supported, the following suggestions are among ways this can be done:

The Church of England helped to bring about the [vaccinaid.org](https://www.vaccinaid.org) (<https://www.vaccinaid.org>) campaign with Unicef and Crowdfunder, which is seeking to help provide 2.5 billion vaccines worldwide. Donations can be made directly, or communities can set up local fundraisers to contribute together.

Christian Aid's Give Thanks Campaign (<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give/ways-donate/give-thanks-your-coronavirus-vaccine>) is focusing on humanitarian support including food, water and healthcare in areas where the vaccine is not currently available.

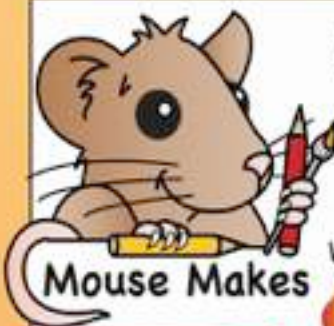
In Addition, the Church of England has worked with [yourneighbour.org](https://yourneighbour.org) (<https://yourneighbour.org>) on the Give Hope Campaign which works in the UK to target misinformation and encourage everyone to take up the offer of a vaccination.

(From <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance#na>)



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### Mouse Makes

On the day of PENTECOST the disciples were gathered together in one place...

What sound did they hear?  
Acts 2:2

What did they see?  
Acts 2:3

What filled them?  
Acts 2:4

How did they speak?  
Acts 2:4

What did the crowd hear?  
Acts 2:6

Which countries had they come from?  
Acts 2:9

What was their reaction?  
Acts 2:12-13

Who explained what was happening? What did he say?  
Acts 2:14-36

How many people were baptised that day?  
Acts 2:41

Change each letter to the letter before it in the alphabet and see what the Holy Spirit produces in us:

KPZ  
IVNJMJUZ  
TFMG DPOUSPM  
GBJUIGVMOFTT  
LJOEFTT  
QBUJFODF  
QFBDF  
MPWF  
HPPEOFTT

27:5 summary

What is the work of the Holy Spirit? What does He do?  
Fill in the missing letters.

TEAC\_ES  
COMF\_RTS  
REVEA\_S  
IN\_OU  
TRAN\_FORMS  
HEL\_S  
GU\_DES  
GENEWS  
CONV\_CTS  
SANC\_IFIES

Re arrange the scrambled letters to find the missing words.

The Holy Spirit  
**VSEIL**  
with us and in us.

The Holy Spirit helps us to  
**WKNO**  
we belong to God.

The Holy Spirit  
**HCTSEEA**  
us about God.

The Holy Spirit  
**KPESSA**  
God's word to us.

The Holy Spirit  
**PHLSE**  
us to tell others about Jesus.

The Holy Spirit helps us when we  
**AYPR**

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