

***Good News
Parish Magazine
High Downs
Parish***

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

www.goodnews.rf.gd



YOUTH GROUP

Come along to the NEW Youth Group for all Year 7-13's happening on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at Stalisfield Village Hall 7-8.30pm.

Dates for this month: 10th and 24th November
There's music, table tennis, pool, table football, Wii cake and a tuck shop, as well as a chance to chill and chat with friends! First week is free, then £1 subsequent weeks.

Looking forward to seeing you there, bring your friends!



October 28th Harvest Auction 7.30pm
Carpenters Arms, Eastling

NOVEMBER 2021

- 2nd All Souls' Day Service
Stalisfield Church 7.00pm
- 3rd Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 6th Fireworks Display. Approx 7.30pm
opp. Carpenters Arms, Eastling
- 10th Youth Club
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 14th Remembrance Service
Throwley Church 10.45am
- 24th Youth Club
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm

DECEMBER

- 4th Children's Christmas Party
Stalisfield Village Hall 12.30-3.30pm
- 8th Youth Club
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 11th Quiz Night
Stalisfield Village Hall. 7pm
- 12th Carol Service
Stalisfield Church 5.30pm
- 18th Seniors' Christmas Party
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 19th Carol Service
Throwley Church 5pm
- 22nd Youth Club
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 24th Carol Service
Eastling Church 4pm
- 24th Midnight Mass
Stalisfield Church 11.30pm



All Souls' Day Service

**Tuesday 2nd November at 7pm
Stalisfield Church**

A candlelit evening prayer service to remember friends & loved ones who have died recently and in the past. This service is particularly poignant in these Covid times.

Remembrance Sunday 14th November



Join us in Throwley Churchyard at 10.45am

This year we will have representatives from all three villages reading the names of the fallen from their village and laying wreaths, before moving into the church for the service.



FIREWORKS DISPLAY

**NOVEMBER 6TH OPPOSITE
THE CARPENTERS ARMS, EASTLING
FIREWORKS WILL BE STARTING AT
APPROX. 7:30 PM**

**THE PUB WILL HAVE A FIREPIT IN THE
COURTYARD AND SELLING BURGERS AND
CHIPS, HOTDOGS AND TOFFEE APPLES.**

Message from our Associate Priest Revd. Jim Pye

Melanie and I are so pleased to be living in Eastling Rectory and worshipping within the Benefice of Kingsdown, Creekside and High Downs. We are so grateful to the many people who helped with our move and who have been so welcoming.

I am writing to you four weeks after moving. It has been very busy, before and after the move. No wonder they say that moving house is one of the most stressful things you can do!

Before the move we were involved in getting rid of many things we didn't need and didn't really have room for. This involved lots of donations to local charities, sending unwanted books and DVDs to Ziffit, and trips to the local recycling centre. Our loft was virtually emptied!

Thankfully, we are now getting towards the end of unpacking and we are looking forward to getting out and exploring this lovely area. But, when we unpacked some items we said "Why did we not get rid of these?" So, we still have to dispose of a number of things. I had a conversation with

someone about this, and they said that they still had boxes left after their last move about twenty years ago!

I think there is a spiritual lesson for us here. We can carry around things in our lives that we don't need, in fact, they could be detrimental to our well-being and weigh us down.

At my licensing service we read Colossians 3.1-17 and Bishop Rose preached an inspiring sermon on this. You can see the service on youtube, search "Steve Lillicrap" as it is on his channel.

The Bible passage talks of ridding ourselves of unhelpful things and encourages us to "*12 clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*"

It is like changing from your dirty tatty gardening gear to your best "going out" clothes, probably with a bath in

between. The picture the apostle Paul paints is of taking off unhelpful things and putting on "compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Then, like a big overcoat, putting on love, that touches and covers all of these.

Perhaps this article might make you think of forgotten items, even those you may regard as rubbish that you are storing. I would also encourage you to just take a step back, come before God, and ask Him if there is something you need to take off, and if there is something you need to put on.

Yours in His love,
Jim Pye



The vicar got a little carried away with the church's new state-of-the-art PA system

Prayer Pointers

November 2021

Mondays - Give thanks for the new Youth group and pray for its success.

Tuesdays - Pray for the safety of those working in the public arena.

Wednesdays - Give thanks for our NHS and pray for all who are invited to have the Covid vaccination.

Thursdays - Pray for families worried about heating or eating this winter.

Fridays - Give thanks for our service men and women and pray for all mourning those killed in battle.

Saturdays - Pray for our world, for promises made at the Climate Talks and how we can help individually.

Sundays - Give thanks that we have a Saviour who welcomes all who believe in Him.



Wyehling Church

Bring a friend for Prayer,
Peace & Solitude
Saturday's until July 2022
10am - 4pm



Christmas Party

Stalisfield and Otterden Seniors

Stalisfield Village Hall

Saturday 18th December from 4pm

Stalisfield is pleased to announce the annual seniors' Christmas event will be taking place on Saturday, December 18th from 4pm. A welcome drink followed by full Christmas dinner will be enlivened by Christmas carols. Any contributions to the usual raffle would be appreciated. It would be great to see a few more of the "just eligible" guests so send an email to Anna



anna@stalisfieldvillagehall.co.uk or call her on 01233 712 918

Places **MUST** be pre-booked with **Anna**

Stalisfield Highlife

Stalisfield Village Hall

(All events pending Covid restrictions)

- 4th Dec Children's Christmas Party
 - 11th Dec 2021 Quiz Night
 - 18th Dec Seniors' Christmas Dinner
- 2022**
- 11th March Quiz
 - 2nd June Golden Jubilee Celebration
 - 16th July Treasure Hunt
 - 8th October Harvest Supper
 - 9th & 10th Dec Panto
 - 11th Dec Children's Christmas Party
 - 17th Dec Seniors' Christmas Dinner

Quiz Night



At Stalisfield Village Hall

Saturday 11th December 7pm

Contact Kate Jamieson:

katejamiesoncornhill@gmail.com to book a table of 6 or to join another table.

Bring your own food and drink and exercise the old grey matter!
£5 per person.



Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.

The first of our 'proper' Meetings got off with a bang at the beginning of October. Robin and Denise Goldsmith came along to talk to us about their hobby of Metal Detecting in Otterden and Stalisfield. They are not professional Speakers, but they created a great deal of interest, so that with WI Members and Guests we had well over 35 attending at Stalisfield Village Hall. Robin and Denise brought along a very small selection of their finds which covered 3 tables. The find they were most proud of was a hoard of Bronze Age Axe heads, which was thought to be buried as an offering to the Gods. There were many other varied finds dropped by the local population over the years. Particularly interesting finds are verified by the British Museum. We were all able to view the displayed artefacts, which were varied and created a great deal of interest and conversation to those gathered.

Our next Meeting on 3rd November at 7.30pm is open to Members and their Guests. Sadly Matthew Scott, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner will not be joining us due taking Paternity Leave, but he will be re-booked for 2022. The Committee have been able to book Local Artist Rose West for an hour of Creative Relaxation at short notice.

The WI Christmas Meeting will be 15th December at 7.30pm. This is always a popular gathering as we create our own Christmas Wreaths from foliage, floristry and decorations. The Christmas theme also percolates through to the food and drink on offer that night!



Please contact our President, Ellie Cameron on 01795 892016 if you would like to join us as Guest or join our WI Group.

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Eastling Neighbourhood Watch

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or 01795 890848



Police 101 Emergency 999

As the clocks go back one hour in the early hours on the 31st October please remember to alter your timers and if you are out in the evening to leave lights on in the house as there are certain people in society who will be looking for early Christmas presents, also check your outbuildings to make sure they are secure.

Here we are fireworks night again, please ensure you follow the firework code and everybody will have a safe and enjoyable time.

There have been various sightings of suspicious vehicles and persons over the last month which have reported to the police and I thank the community for reporting these.

There are still many reports of hare coursing and poaching within the local villages so, if seen, please report it and we can put these people out of business.

Take Care
Alan



CHRISTMAS TREES 2021



Thank you for your great support in 2019 by raising £8630. These donations were given to 44 local parishes and nearly 20 charities. Regrettably, last year we had to close the Christmas tree plantation due to the worsening Covid-19 pandemic.

This year, as long as we can all stick to safety precautions, you will be very welcome to return and select a tree in a safe environment. As before, the arrangement is for you to make a donation for your tree; over half will be returned to your Parish church with the balance going to the 20 charities. This is a great chance for you to raise funds for your parish church and some deserving charities at the same time. As all the trees are growing they will remain in the ground until collected nearer Christmas.

The weather this year has ensured excellent tree growth. There are many varieties available of different shapes, colours and aromas, between 5ft and 12ft in height with some up to 16ft.

We would appreciate you contacting us to fix an individual and exclusive date and time to visit to select.

Please contact us by email: nashsfarmhouse@btinternet.com
or by landline: 01795 532596

Many thanks for your support. Peter and Alison Howard
Nash's Farmhouse, Luddenham, Faversham ME13 0TQ



Carols in Eastling Church

In preparation for our Christmas Eve Carol Service, choir practices will be on Sunday evenings, 5 - 6pm on 14th and 28th November and 5th, 12th and 19th December.

All voice parts welcome.



Part Time Position Available

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packing machines on a Free Range Poultry Farm
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07946 421894

Care worker

(up to £11.70ph)

Part time care worker needed to provide 2-1 support for a young gentleman with learning and physical difficulties in his own home in Charing. Experience preferred but full training will be given.

We aim to provide a friendly, relaxed working environment, as part of a small team to ensure the best possible care for our client. Could suit a local person.

If you are looking for a rewarding job where you can make a difference to our clients life, then please apply with your CV and covering letter/email to:

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Anna Chaplaincy

Following on from an article in last month's edition of the Good News Magazine, I wonder how many of you saw it? It was called "Meeting the needs of Older People". When that edition came through my letterbox, I was half way through my training to become an Anna Chaplain. I thought I would explain to you why I was drawn to this specific ministry.

In January 2020 I started working for Adult Social Service working within the Older Person department. During my work I found quite a few of my clients had an obvious faith but there was little or no support for them apart from my prayers. A few weeks later I was emailed the Diocesan bulletin and in it was an article explaining Anna Chaplaincy and my interest was piqued.

I then attended a Reader's refresher day at the Living Well in Nonington and someone mentioned Anna Chaplaincy and offered to email me with more details. I received that information, completed the application form and, the support of the PCC, DCC and Steve, I sent it off.

After having an interview, I was accepted and work agreed to allow me to adjust my working hours to enable me to attend the online training.

I felt that I had been called to this specific ministry and so I hope to

become an Anna Chaplain for our parishes and benefice.

The course was to last 6 weeks, but I researched further and will also attend a workshop on dementia run by the Dementia Friends Society.

What can I do as an Anna Chaplain?

Well, I can visit the elderly either in their own homes or in a care home, I can listen to them, pray with them and assist with bringing communion to them. An Anna Chaplain is someone who accompanies older people at this stage of their lives and can promote spiritual welfare.

However, I must state here that being an Anna Chaplain is a service offered to those with much, little or no faith whatever that faith may be.

As an Anna Chaplain I may be a catalyst for change, an enabler, an advocate, a listener, a friend and a navigator through the journey of growing old.

Anna Chaplains can enable spiritual care, which is not necessarily religious. Spiritual care offers love, friendship, comfort and hope in ways that are meaningful to those concerned. Spiritual support can enable older people to live more peacefully in their later years and be better prepared to face the end of their earthly life.

Anna Chaplains can be male or female, they can operate across towns, villages and cities. They are intended to

compliment and run alongside rather than compete against or replace ministry already being done in our churches.

Anna Chaplains are there to sit beside those of older years, especially the most vulnerable, the unfriended, those without family, to enable them to access spiritual care and experience the love of Christ and the fellowship that this can bring.

Dementia and the other age-related illnesses should not be a barrier to worshipping God.

All too often care of someone with dementia falls on the shoulders of the main care giver and Anna Chaplains can support and assist these patient, hardworking people and to enable them to care for themselves during these difficult and stressful situations.

I would just like to finish with this poem:

Burning Bright

Sometimes I picture myself as a candle,
I used to be a candle 8ft tall - burning bright
Now everyday I lose a bit of me
Someday the candle will be very small
But the flame will be just as bright.

If you know of someone who would benefit from being visited by an Anna Chaplain please feel free to contact me.

God Bless

Caroline Ramshaw

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Sunday Services

subject to Covid restrictions and
ministry team availability

31st October 4th Sunday before Advent

Hebrews 9. 11 - 14, Mark 12. 28 - 34

Eastling 10.30am Benefice Communion

Tuesday 2nd November

Stalisfield 7pm All Souls' Service

7th November 3rd Sunday before Advent

Hebrews 9. 24 - 28, Mark 1. 14 - 20

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Teynham 4pm Bereavement Service

14th November Remembrance Sunday

Romans 8. 31 - 39, John 15. 9 - 17

Throwley 10.45am Remembrance Service

Newnham 10.30am Holy Communion

21st November Christ the King

Revelation 1. 4b - 8, John 18. 33 - 37

Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship

Norton 10.30am Holy Communion

28th November Advent Sunday

1 Thessalonians 3. 9 - 13, Luke 21. 25 - 36

Throwley 10.30am Holy Communion

Newnham 10.30am Morning Worship

5th December Advent 2

Philippians 1. 3 - 11, Luke 3. 1 - 6

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Online Daily Worship Continues

As well as the services in our churches, the daily
9am Morning Prayer at Lynsted will continue
and be live online on

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/>

High Downs Parish

Rector Reverend Canon Dr. Steve Lillicrap
01795 522510 steve.lillicrap@kc-hd.org.uk

Associate Priest Reverend James (Jim) Pye
01795 890726 jim.pye@kc-hd.org.uk

Curate Reverend Caroline Turvey
01795 886351 caroline.turvey@kc-hd.org.uk

Reader Caroline Ramshaw (07799 538809)

Churchwardens

Eastling Andrew Baxter (01795 890598)

Administrator Janet Payne
E mail: eastlingchurch@gmail.com

Stalisfield with Otterden
Jenny King (01795 890366)

Administrator Shirley Pritchard
Email: Stmarystalisfield@gmail.com

Throwley Gaynore Moss (01795 890995)

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

From The Registers

Wedding

Charlea Howland and Darren White
16th October 2021 at Stalisfield

CONTACT THE *GOOD NEWS* EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like to submit articles, or to
advertise in the December 2021 magazine, send
your submission by 20th November 2021 to:
goodnewsmagazine@me.com.

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

Jack and the Beanstalk
 Boughton Village Hall
 3pm on Saturday 27th
 November
 Tickets from
www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/faversham/boughton-under-blean-village-hall

The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe
 The Arden Theatre,
 Faversham
 8th to 19th December
 Performances 2.30 and
 7.30pm
 £10 & £9
<https://ardentheatre.org.uk/events/the-lion-the-witch-and-the-wardrobe>

Boys unhappy about their looks

Boys have become as unhappy about their looks as girls over the past decade. So warns the Children's Society, which has found a "deeply distressing" downward trend in the wellbeing of children, as it carried out its 10th annual review of data collected as part of the Office for National Statistics' Understanding Society survey.

The charity YoungMinds adds: "The last year has been incredibly difficult for lots of young people, with many struggling to cope with social isolation, loneliness and worries about the future."
www.youngminds.org.uk/



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Stalisfield Village Hall

Saturday 4th December
12.30pm to 3.30pm



The children of Stalisfield, Otterden and surrounding areas are invited to the Hall for the Annual Christmas Party.

From littlies to biggies, every child is welcome. There will be food and drink aplenty, games galore, and maybe a surprise visitor

Please register with Debbie at watlingdebbie@hotmail.com or on 07926 275 697. The more the merrier....



Mouse Makes

I AM

I AM THE

 AND THE

 AND THE

 Read John 14:6

Seven times in John's Gospel Jesus calls Himself "I AM" - the same name that God calls Himself when He speaks to Moses in Exodus 3:14. Jesus is telling us who He really is.

I AM THE

 Read John 10:11 and 14

I AM THE

 Read John 15:1 and 35

I AM THE

 Read John 10:9

I AM THE

 Read John 6: 35,51

I AM THE

 Read John 18:12

I AM THE

 Read John 18:12

OF _____ AND THE _____ OF THE _____

Read John 11:25

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

Look up the Bible references, fill in the missing words then look for them in the word search

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Also, dare I say it but, Christmas Day book early to avoid disappointment.

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For things to change, **you've** got to change. Otherwise nothing much will change *Jim Rohn*

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The Church of England has published a 'toolkit' of resources for parishes seeking to help refugees and asylum seekers from Afghanistan in the wake of the Taliban takeover of the country.

The material, available online, brings together links and information on how churches can welcome people arriving from Afghanistan through giving, longer-term practical support such as community sponsorship, prayer and advocacy.

Staff in the Church of England's national Mission and Public Affairs team say they have been overwhelmed with messages from churches and individuals concerned by the situation in Afghanistan and asking what they can do to help.

The toolkit includes a range of prayer and theological resources from the Church of England and other sources alongside details of an array of charities and NGOs also working to support refugees and asylum seekers.

It also includes a simple explanation of the two main resettlement schemes and the asylum system and offers suggestions on how Christians can speak out on behalf of those unable to do so.

In a foreword to the toolkit, the Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, the Church of England's Lead Bishop for Refugees and Asylum, said: "The challenge for the whole nation is to welcome these families and help them build new lives here in the United Kingdom.

Afghanistan crisis: advice for parishes on helping refugees

"Alongside this is the reality that there are thousands of Afghan citizens already here and stuck in the asylum system awaiting a response to their claim.

"God's call on God's people has always been to welcome the stranger and help provide for them. So here is a fresh opportunity to live out this calling.

"It is not a quick short-term response that is most needed but a willingness to befriend families and support them for the long haul.

The Church of England is a longstanding supporter of refugee programmes. The material is available online at <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/community-action/toolkit-supporting-afghan-refugees>

Short Mat Bowls

Now open on Wednesdays

We have after a very long lay off started Short Mat Bowls, we are now going on our new day of Wednesday evening starting at 7.00pm until 9.00pm.

New members are very welcome, equipment is provided, all we ask is for you to wear flat soled shoes.

Membership fee is £5.00 and we charge £2.00 for the 2 hours.

Come along and have a go.

Yours in sport Roy Piles



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Tony Horsfall lost his wife last year to cancer. He is a former missionary in East Malaysia and former retreat leader based in West Yorkshire. This is part one of a two-part series.

When someone you loved is dead

Since my wife passed away in July 2020, I have often been asked, "What are you learning from your grief journey?" Here are a few standout lessons:

1. That grief takes longer than you think to work itself through, and it can't be rushed. It is a journey you must take slowly.
2. That when you lose your spouse, you lose not only the person you loved, but the person who loved you. This second loss leaves a hole in your heart, making you very vulnerable to new relationships.
3. That you will need to re-discover your identity as God's deeply loved child in this season of your life, as if you had never known it before.
4. That God can be trusted to help you rebuild your life, but trust may not come easily. It is better to focus on God's trustworthiness than on your ability to trust, which may be shaky.

5. That your experience of grief and your response to loss is unique and personal, so don't compare your journey to that of others.
6. That good friends can make the journey so much easier. Be prepared to ask for help.
7. That you will be ambushed by grief. Some things will take you by surprise, especially the little things.
8. That the loss of a spouse will leave you feeling very lonely, even when you are surrounded by family and friends. This is not a weakness, just a sign of what you have lost.
9. That loneliness is not a mental illness, just a natural response to being bereaved, and it will get better.
10. That moving forward is not a sign that you didn't care, but that there is still a life to be lived and not wasted.

To be continued next month



Nature's Love

by Audrey Keen

The sun is bright
And there it tries
To dazzle me
And hurt my eyes.

The wind is fierce
And in time will
Toss me down the grassy
hill.

The autumn woods
Their glory lost
The leaves have gone
Bit by the frost,
And savage clouds
Run on above
To darken nature's love.

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November brings us the last week in the church calendar: the Sunday of Christ the King, when we look forward to His future glorious reign. This is from an article by Tanya Marlow, author of 'Those Who Wait', and a writer for the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC).

Waiting for the Future

'The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. ... They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.' (From Isaiah 11)

When pain, conflict, stress, and sorrow flood our lives we can lose sight of God's promise of a different kind of



future. Isaiah was living in desperate times. The leaders had made treaties with evil nations because they thought it would bring them security and riches – but disaster loomed. Isaiah knew that his nation was sleepwalking into war and destruction.

God gave Isaiah a picture of hope: the distant future, which is also our future. The wolf will no longer devour the lamb but lie alongside it. A child can plunge their hand into a viper's nest and not fear. There is safety and unity on God's holy mountain: a picture of eternal rest with our Creator.

We are built for heaven, and occasionally we remember that. However comfortable we are right now, evil and pain can render us powerless. Our souls groan along with the Holy Spirit, longing to live with Christ in a renewed and perfect world. Whether we're conscious of it or not, we're all waiting for Christ to return and make this world right. This week, challenge yourself to take time out each day, amid the pre-Christmas chaos. Pray the final prayer of the Bible: 'Come, Lord Jesus.' Remember the temporary nature of life in this world and Christ's promise to return and bring true peace. If you're despairing, it will be a prayer of comfort for you. If you're comfortable in this life, it may stick in your throat. This Advent, pray it anyway.




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**Bach, Christmas
Oratorio**
Canterbury Cathedral
Saturday 20th November at 7.30pm

Start your countdown to Christmas with this sublime performance of J.S. Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* (Parts I-III, VI) by The Girls and Lay Clerks of the Cathedral Choir, who will be joined by internationally-acclaimed period instrument ensemble, The Harmonious Society of Tickle-Fiddle Gentlemen, and a stellar line-up of professional solo singers in the Cathedral Quire.

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**St Nicholas Family
Service** 

Canterbury Cathedral
Sunday 5th December at 5.30pm

This short service for children and families is a joyful celebration of the story of St Nicholas and a chance to find out more about the original Santa Claus! Music is provided by choirs and bands of local children and the world-famous Canterbury Cathedral Girl Choristers. The service lasts about 45 minutes. All are welcome to attend

The Revd John Tyler considers what it means to remember.

Remembrance

Have you seen the film 'Saving Private Ryan'? The first 20 minutes of the film is a powerful account of war, portraying the first landing crafts arriving at the Normandy beaches on D Day. The film successfully brings to life the events of that day, as a vivid act of remembrance.

From a biblical perspective, the word *remembrance* means making present a past reality, so that we can benefit from it today. On Remembrance Sunday we think about those who have given their lives in wars over the years, as well as those who continue to grieve over their lost loved ones. We want to make their sacrifice in past conflicts real for us today, so that we can engage with the horror of war and those enduring suffering today.

It involves dealing with the *why* question in the face of relentless tragedies and injustices: *why does God allow such suffering to take place?* One of the great themes of the Scriptures is that God identifies with the suffering. But the Christian faith goes beyond this! It affirms that in Jesus, God's Son, divinity became involved in suffering and death on the cross. It

is at Calvary that we see how God Himself knows what it is to lose a loved one in an unprovoked attack. *'I could never myself believe in God if it were not for the Cross. In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it?'* (John Stott).

Although we don't fully understand the reason why God allows evil and suffering to continue, we do know what the reason isn't! It can't be that He doesn't love us! God so loved us and hates suffering that He was willing to come down and get involved in our hurting world. This can be a source of real strength on such an occasion.

However, how can we ensure that those who have given their lives are truly honoured, not forgetting those who are risking their lives in conflicts today? An appropriate response is to actively work and pray for justice in our world, especially where there is inequality and conflict. In a divided world we are also called to renew our efforts to work for peace. We need to be serious about being peacemakers, especially where it involves those close to us. As Jesus said, *'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God'* (Matt 5:9).



We remember

The Somme, Dunkirk and Passchendaele
Cause us to think of times of war,
When men and boys went bravely out
They fought, some died
and returned no more.

They gave their all that we should live,
We never should forget such cost,
Remembering with thankful hearts
Our freedom gained as lives were lost.

Another Man gave up His life,
Another war, another fight,
With all mankind held fast in chains
As darkness fell as black as night.

The cost was high, a sinless life
To break the chains and set us free,
The Lamb of God on Calvary's cross
Paid that price for you, for me.

By Megan Carter

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