

Good News Parish Magazine for High Downs Parish

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

www.goodnews.rf.gd



- 6th Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 10th Service of Remembrance
Throwley Church 10.40am
- 12th Eastling Parish Council Meeting
Eastling Village Hall 6.30pm
- 13th Bangers & Beans Breakfast
Clares Cottage, Throwley 10am
- 13th Arts Society lecture, Egerton
Millennium Hall, Egerton 2.30pm
- 13th Stalisfield Youth Group
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 14th Charing History Society
Parish Hall, Charing 7.30pm
- 16th Autumn Quiz
Stalisfield Village Hall 7pm
- 17th Christmas Choir practices begin
Eastling Church 5 - 6pm
- 20th Copy deadline for December Good
News - goodnewsmagazine@me.com
- 22nd Thank You Stalisfield Party
Stalisfield Village Hall from 6pm
- 27th Stalisfield Youth Group
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 28th Arts Society lecture, Faversham
Alexander Centre 11am

DECEMBER

- 8th Stalisfield Seniors' Christmas Dinner
Stalisfield Village Hall 4 - 6pm
- 14th Stalisfield Children's Christmas Party
Stalisfield Village Hall 2 - 4pm
- 15th Carol Service
Stalisfield Church 5.30pm
- 22nd Carol Service
Throwley Church 5pm
- 24th Carol Service
Eastling Church 4pm



Q: When? A: **Saturday 16 November, 7pm**

Q: Where? A: **Stalisfield Village Hall**

Q: Cost? A: £5/head, tables of 6-8 people
(cash only please)

Q: How do you book a table?

A: Email Chrissie at: tabard.webster@icloud.com

Q: Refreshments? A: Bring your own food and drinks

Q: Why? A: Have some fun and raise some funds to
fix the church roof.



Thank You Stalisfield!

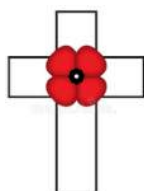
Wine, Cheese (and soft drinks for the kids) Party

Friday 22nd November from 6.00pm

Blow away the winter blues the Stalisfield way

Thanks to a generous donation from ASDA we are holding a
free village party to celebrate our amazing community spirit
and thank all the wonderful volunteers who turn out and help
at every event.

Please join us - all Stalisfield residents welcome!



Remembrance Service Throwley, Eastling, Stalisfield and Otterden

Sunday 10th November

Throwley Churchyard at 10.40am

The names of the fallen from our villages will be read out and
wreaths laid at the war memorial, before we move into the
church for the service.

November Message

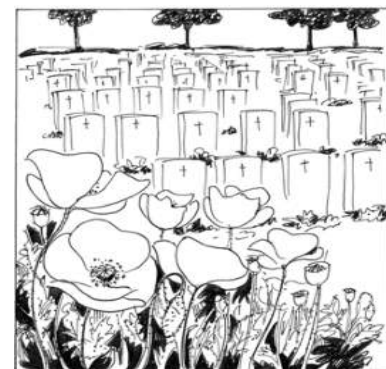
'Remember, remember the fifth of November....' the old saying goes as we remember Guy Fawkes and the gunpowder plot. We are also invited to remember on the 11th November as we think about all those who have given their lives in war. On 1st & 2nd November the church celebrates All Saints Day followed by All Souls Day. These festivals were adopted by the early Celtic Christians from the pagan festival of Samhain which celebrates this time of year when the veil between this world and the otherworld is at it's thinnest. On All Saints and All Souls Day we still retain those elements of remembering and honouring the dead.

I think there is something about the melancholy nature of the whole month of November that invites us into remembrance, as we leave behind the colours of summer and autumn and head into the barrenness of winter. The clocks have changed, our days grow short as our fires grow long and the smell of woodsmoke hangs in the air. Scents and smells have a way of transporting us directly into particular memories. My mother used to wear a rose-scented perfume. Many years after her death, I came across a similar perfume in a National Trust shop. When I

sprayed the tester onto my hand, I could immediately see and feel my mother's presence. It was like an extraordinary time-machine! The Roman Catholic Sister Joyce Rupp writes *'Remembrances associated with a positive scent keep us in touch with pleasures we've known. They can also reconnect us to our loved ones, along with helping to balance discontent when it swirls through us. We can retain hope's aliveness with positive memories when we pause to deliberately recall who and what gifted us by holding us in the arms of kindly acceptance.'*

Perhaps November offers us an invitation to make a spiritual practice of remembering. Not all memories are pleasant ones, of course. They can bring up hurtful experiences that haunt us and there is a time and a place for looking at these and finding out what they want to say to us. But a suggestion from Joyce Rupp for November is to pause at the end of each day and within that quiet space to look for a cherished memory. When it enters your awareness, welcome it, embrace it, savour it. Gather the gratitude and hold it close to your heart.

With love & light and the blessings of Christ
Lissie Bayford



Headstones

The rows of headstones silent stand
Their message clear, though mute;
That we, in Britain's peaceful land
Must silently salute.

Our peace was bought at dreadful price
Through rain and fear and mud –
World conflict fought not once but twice
So twice the cost in blood.

Each headstone bears a single name
A single husband, son,
Who, when the call to duty came
They did what must be done.

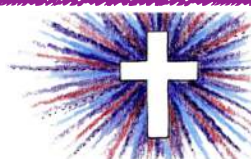
So, think upon those rows of stones
Be silent, still as they
Remind us of those silent homes
From when they went away.

Yes, spare a while to think of them
It's just two minutes' time;
And say aloud, just once again
That well-remembered rhyme:

*They grow not old as we grow old,
Nor do the years condemn;
But as the days and nights unfold,
We will remember them.*

by Nigel Beeton

November Prayer Pointers



Sundays - We remember service men and women who died in past conflicts and give thanks for the freedom we enjoy in this country.

Mondays - We remember family members who have died and pray for those who mourn.

Tuesdays - We remember those who have comforted us during painful times and thank God for all who care for others.

Wednesdays - We remember those who care for us when we are ill and pray for those we know to be unwell at this time.

Thursdays - We remember those who work difficult hours to keep our country running and pray for our government to work for the good of all.

Fridays - We remember those who grow, process and retail our food and praise God that, if we all shared, the earth could provide sufficient for all.

Saturdays - We remember the sacrifice which Jesus made for each one of us and give thanks for freedom of Spirit to praise our Lord and maker.

Eastling Church Flower rota



3rd November - Bay

10th & 17th - Susie
and Bay

24th - Steph

1st December - Advent Ring -
Leigh-Anne, Altar vases - Mel

If you would like to join the
flower arranging rota, please call
Bay on 01795 892036.

Finding the right Key

by Lester Amann

Ever since early times it has always been necessary for something to be locked up. Keys, in all kinds of shapes and sizes, have been needed to protect valuable commodities from thieves. Also, when people had to be punished or protected from others, they were confined in prisons with suitable locks and keys.

Apparently, the oldest discovered keys, made of wood, were found in ancient Nineveh – the city visited by the prophet Jonah. They are some 6,000 years old. Later, the Romans invented more sophisticated locks and keys made of metal.

At the time of Jesus, the Jews needed access to the Kingdom of Heaven, and He came to open it up to them. Jesus spoke to the disciple Peter and said He was going to give him the 'keys' of the Kingdom. (Matthew 16:18-19) Peter would unlock priceless Gospel truths. These keys were given to a trusted servant to open the doors of faith to all who wanted to hear.

Later, Paul described Jesus as an important key. The apostle was concerned that people in Colossae were in danger of following false doctrines and philosophies. Paul knew that all understanding and perception about God was found in Jesus. Only Jesus had the key to all concealed spiritual treasures. Paul wanted people to know Jesus, who would open the door to all they needed to know about their relationship with Him and their purpose in the world.

Sometimes we can lose a key. May we never lose hold of Jesus who is *our* key to life today and for evermore!

He (Jesus) is the key that opens all the hidden treasures of God's wisdom and knowledge. (Col 2.3)

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Email: h.uglow@googlemail.com

MHA Communities



What's on A Banging Breakfast

Community Event at Throwley

A Bangers and Beans Breakfast

Just bring yourself

**On Wednesday 13th November
10am-mid-day
Donations appreciated**

At

Clares Cottage on Throwley Forstal, ME13 0PJ

**Please let me know if you are interested
07934 604413**

Thank you for your support



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schemename@mha.org.uk

01234 567891

I am Julie and I am a community coordinator for Methodist Homes for the Aged Communities Kent, this is a local initiative dedicated to supporting older people, including the vulnerable, and those living with dementia to Live Later Life Well.

Currently I am based in Grace Court Folkestone delivering activities to retirement members, previously I worked in Bradbury Grange, Whitstable, with residents with Dementia.

Methodist Homes for the Aged are a registered national charity established in 1943 and are the largest UK charity care provider providing care in nursing and residential settings, retirement living accommodation and support services in the community for older people throughout the Country. Our programme focuses on providing essential services, companionship, and activities that promote independence and well-being.

MHA Communities Kent would like to connect with the local community, our work connects us with local people and businesses, if you would like to discuss this more, please get in touch and I can talk about our outcomes in more detail. Call 07934 604413.

Churchill's Secret Army

Churchill's Secret Army was a civilian sabotage organisation set up in 1940 in expectation of a Nazi invasion. The Auxiliary Units were a secret resistance network of highly trained volunteers prepared to be Britain's last ditch line of defence during World War Two. They operated in a network of cells from hidden underground bases around the UK.



Speaker: Jim Gascoyne

When: 14th November 2024

Where: Parish Hall, Station Road

Time: Doors open 7.30pm

Talk starts promptly at 8pm



CHARING & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Members free - Guests £3

Membership from £10/year

Otterden with Stalisfield W.I.

Our President, Helen Brooks, organised a couple of outings that some of our Group attended -

In September a group of members and a guest went to the Battle of Britain Memorial in Capel Le Ferne. After meeting in the on-site cafe we toured the grounds and explored the interactive museum. We had beautiful weather on the day and enjoyed clear views across the channel. It was hard to reflect that such a peaceful scene contrasted so much with the experiences of those who fought to protect the skies above Great Britain.

Then on a bitterly cold day in October, a group of members and guests joined a guided tour in Canterbury. We all learnt something new about the history of the city and were reminded of things long forgotten. The ladies then went on to lunch at The Cosy Club.

The monthly Meeting in October was well attended by local residents eager to view David & Julie Murray's collection of photographs, slides and newspaper cuttings from the local area. It was very interesting to see the changes to the locality over the years and people that are no longer with us. Our next event in October was the Craft Fair on Saturday 19th, where local small businesses came along to display their wares for sale. Luckily the weather brightened up in time to entice people to attend to make a start to purchasing Christmas presents.

Wednesday 6th November is our next Meeting at Stalisfield Village Hall, commencing at 7.30 p.m., when Henny Shotter will be talking to us about The Three Wives of Boughton Malherbe, three scandalous ladies of the 16th and 17th Century, whom she has researched for the Kent Archaeological Society. Their stories are generated by the discovery of a grave that had been lost for 2 generations, found by the repair of a wooden floor. Everyone welcome to join us, particularly for beverages and cake afterwards.

If you would like to join our W.I. Group, please contact President Helen Brooks on 07477580727 or Secretary Ellie Cameron on 07775649337.

EASTLING VILLAGE HALL

A large hall in a lovely village location.

Ideal for:

Clubs, Fitness groups
Parties & Weddings



We have pretty grounds and a lawn with room for a marquee; a large car park, fully equipped kitchen and a meeting room available for separate hire.

To book, email Annie:

jacksonandadams@bopenworld.com

07754 114670

See our availability here: <https://www.eastlingvillagehall.co.uk/calendar>

Stalisfield Village Hall

Future events:

Seniors' Christmas Dinner

Sunday 8th December

4 - 6pm

Time and details to be confirmed

Stalisfield Children's Christmas Party

Saturday 14th December

2 - 4pm

Time and details to be confirmed

The Arts Society Faversham



The Arts Society is the UK's leading arts education charity that brings people together through a shared curiosity in the arts. We enjoy illustrated talks on a fascinating wide range of topics, outings to galleries and historic houses and an elegant annual Society Dinner. Meetings are held at The Alexander Centre in Preston Street, Faversham on the 4th Thursday of the month. Come along for a complimentary coffee at 10.20 for the 11am start. You can try us out for a modest fee and no doubt will want to become a member!

SPECIAL INTEREST DAY

"What do they get up to in there?" On May 8th 2025 10.30-3.15pm.

Lyndon Jones, Roy Campbell.

Learn from two senior Masons about the history of the Masons and take a private tour of the Masonic Lodge of Faversham.

£38.00 including a light lunch.

Contact Maureen Bush, Membership Secretary:

tolly@clara.co.uk or visit our website: www.theartsocietyfaversham.org.uk

28th November 2024: Lecture is by Colin Schindler, entitled 'It's a wonderful life and the forgotten genius of Frank Capra'.



Christmas Trees 2024

Thank you for your great support, continued fundraising dedication and warm overwhelming messages of appreciation, all of which last year raised £13,200. These donations are given to 45 local parish churches and 25 charities.

It's been a great growing season again, producing a very good selection of Christmas trees available in many varieties, shapes, colours and aromas, between 5 and 12ft in height. There will also be some over 16ft - ideal for schools, churches, village halls and outside spaces. We will have plenty of evergreen cuttings including berried holly and ivy for Christmas decorating, and hopefully even a sprig of mistletoe nearer Christmas.

We started this fundraising scheme nearly 35 years ago. The procedure is unchanged: please visit to choose your tree from mid-September, and return to collect it from late November or December.

As before, the arrangement is for you to make a donation for your tree; 60% will be returned to your Parish church and the balance will be divided between 25 charities. This is a great chance for you to raise funds for your Parish church and some deserving charities at the same time.

Please get in touch with us to book a time and date to come to choose your tree, by emailing, texting or phoning. (You can always postpone your visit if the weather is unfavourable.)

Email nashsfarmhouse@btinternet.com

Landline 01795 532596 Mobile 07910 248 308

Peter and Alison Howard Nashs Farmhouse,



THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

The Arts Society brings people together through a shared curiosity for the arts

We meet at Egerton Millennium Hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 2.30 p.m. (doors open from 2.00). Our next lecture will be:

Wednesday 13th November at 2.30 pm:

Chinese Imperial Court Costume Qing Dynasty(1644 – 1911) – a journey through the Imperial wardrobe.

Lecturer **David Rosier**, who lived in East Asia for over 30 years and is a recognised expert on all aspects of Imperial Court life, art and culture, will bring a display from his vast collection of costume and dress accessories

Visitors are always very welcome at £6 (just turn up and pay on the door), refunded if you join. Membership is £40. For further information please contact Christine Willis, our Membership Secretary via cmwillis75@gmail.com or 01233 756377.

See also our website www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk

Image provided by lecturer



CARPENTERS ARMS HARVEST AUCTION

The evening of Thursday 24th October saw the annual spectacular of Eastling's Charity Auction. While at the time of publication a few final payments are still to be collected the event generated over **£1300** for good causes.

We received several very worthy suggestions for the beneficiaries of the auction. While 'a new striker for Gillingham F.C.' did not quite make the cut, the supported organisations, reflecting the suggestions received, will be **Breast Cancer UK**, the **Faversham Food Bank** and the **Air Ambulance**.

With so many thanks to all who contributed so generously, in donations, time, efforts and of course bids, to yet another wonderful event. The cakes and other home produce were better than ever – some of which looked well on the way to being eaten before the evening was over. Thanks also to our auctioneer, Mr P Adams, whose insights into the works of art on offer would have astounded even the artists themselves.

Many thanks too to Sarah, Madds and all at the Carpenters Arms for once again hosting the event so wonderfully.

Throwley Carol Service Choir

The annual Carol Service will be held at St Michael & All Angels in Throwley on Sunday 22nd December at 5 pm and if anyone is interested in joining the choir for that occasion please email David Elvin at davidjelvin@gmail.com. It will be mainly traditional congregational carols with a few pieces to be sung by the choir. There will be a number of rehearsals in December before the service.



Christmas Choir

Eastling



Come and join our choir for the **Christmas Eve Carol service**. Practices in Eastling church, on Sunday evenings, 5 - 6pm from 17th November.

Just come along or, for more information, call Andrew on 01795 890598

Together in Boots



Leaving Doddington Church at 11.30am
And returning for soup at 12.15pm

Humans and well behaved dogs all welcome

Friday 22nd November

Enquiries to Lissie on
07790 287878 lissie1710@gmail.com

Eastling Primary School

The School has had a wonderful start to the new academic year. Our new Reception children have settled seamlessly into school life in Acorn class. We were delighted to welcome a number of other new children who have joined us across the school. It is lovely to see how they have quickly become part of our school community.

Willow class started their weekly swimming lessons at Faversham Pool and three classes will be going to Faversham gym for gymnastics sessions this academic year.

Eastling Primary School enjoyed their first outdoor learning day of the year on Friday 20th September. The weather was beautiful and the children all worked with Wild Classroom as part of the day. Acorn class made apple crumble, visited the woods and did pirate themed activities. Maple class also made apple crumble and went to the woods. They had an alien visit and used the scooters in maths, learning about one less. Holly class used the vegetables that they harvested from Joe's Garden to make soup. They also built lighthouses using papier-mâché and did chalk writing. Willow class cooked Bere Bannocks and did Stone Age Cave painting around the theme of British Wildlife. Finally, Oak class made sundials as they had been learning about light. They also did a maths scavenger hunt and played a negative numbers game before making chicken wraps.

On Thursday 26th September Holly class went on a coastal visit to Dungeness Life Boat Station, the Port of Dover and Samphire Hoe to look at the coastal features as part of their geography topic.

The school annual Harvest Festival was on Friday 4th October in St Mary's. The children donated food for the Faversham Food Bank. The whole school also created harvest themed artworks which were used to decorate the church.

On Thursday 10th October the school took part in World Mental Health Day through Yoga workshops. Acorn class enjoyed their first school trip on Friday 18th October to the Pumpkin Farm at Sevington. They all enjoyed picking their own pumpkin to bring back to school to decorate.

Any prospective parents looking for a Reception place for September 2025 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.



Stalisfield Youth Group!

Stalisfield Youth Group is for 11-17yr olds.

We meet on Wednesdays, twice a month, 7 - 8.30pm in the village hall AND it is free to come.

We have music, gaming, craft, table tennis, table football, outside games in the Summer, craft table, tuck shop (everything 10 - 50p), free cake and drink.

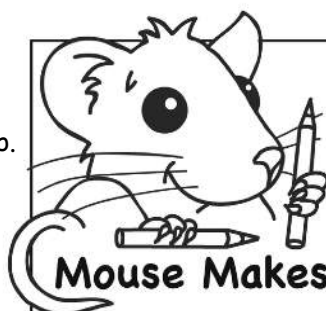


We sometimes have a theme night; on 23rd October we went on our annual autumn night walk for part of the evening, through muddy woods and seeing owls, we returned for donuts and hot chocolate.

It is a time when young people can relax, hang out and catch up.

Upcoming Dates: * 13th November * 27th November

Contact Catherine 07929 928 046 or clnwood@doctors.org.uk or see our Facebook page for more details.



Where did God ask Jonah to go?

Read Jonah 1-4

What did Jesus tell his disciples not to take with them on their journey?

Read Matthew 10:9-10

Who spoke to Saul on his journey to Damascus?

Read Acts 9:3-8

What animal took Balaam to Moab?

Read Numbers 22:22

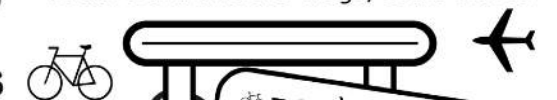
How did God guide the Israelites on their journey through the wilderness?

Read Exodus 13:21

Who did Abram take with him on his journey to Canaan?

and
Read Genesis 12:4-5

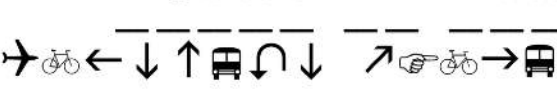
Have you ever been on a long journey?
Where did you go?
How long did it take you to get there?
The Bible reminds us that wherever we travel and wherever we go, God is with us!



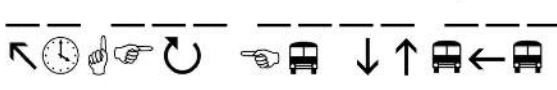
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 d = l r = w
 e = m s = y



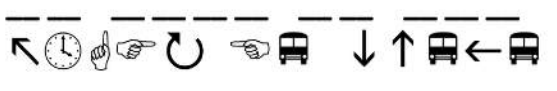
The Lord watches over all who love Him
 Ps 148:20



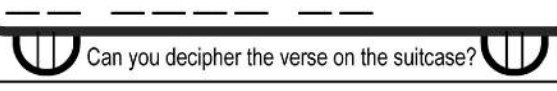
Psalm 139: 9-10



Can you decipher the verse on the suitcase?



Can you decipher the verse on the suitcase?



Services in our Benefice

3rd November All Saints

Revelation 21. 1 - 6a, John 11. 32 - 44

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

Lynsted 6pm Cornerstone

10th November

Remembrance Sunday

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

Throwley 10.40am Remembrance Service

Oare 10.40am Holy Communion

17th November 2nd Sunday before Advent

Hebrews 10. 11 - 14, 19 - 25, Mark 10. 35 - 45

Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship

Norton 10.30am Holy Communion

Lynsted 6pm Cornerstone

24th November Christ the King

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

Throwley 10.30am Holy Communion

Newnham 10.30am Morning Worship

1st December Advent Sunday

Jeremiah 33. 14-16, Psalm 25, 1-9, Luke 21. 25 - 36

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

Lynsted 6pm Cornerstone

Online Daily Worship Continues

As well as the services in our churches, the daily 9am Morning Prayer will continue on the Benefice Facebook Page via

<https://kc-hd.org.uk> .

More information is updated weekly on St Mary's Eastling 'A Church Near You':

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11982/>

Anna Chaplaincy

Please contact our Anna Chaplain, Caroline Ramshaw, if you know of someone who is isolated, alone or unable to attend church.

An Anna Chaplain can offer a listening ear and company. Communion can be brought to you in your own home.



Contact your local Anna Chaplain on:

annachaplaincy@kc-hd.org.uk 07799 538 809

High Downs Parish

Rector Revd Paula Jardine-Rose

07516 411269 paula.jardine.rose@kc-hd.org.uk

Benefice Administrator Joyce Warren

01795 521831 joyce.warren@kc-hd.org.uk

Associate Priest Reverend James (Jim) Pye

01795 890726 jim.pye@kc-hd.org.uk

Reader Caroline Ramshaw (07799 538809)

Anna Chaplain Caroline Ramshaw

AnnaChaplaincy@outlook.com

Reader Pim Baxter (07710 116269)

Church Contacts

Eastling Andrew Baxter, Warden (01795 890598)

Administrator E mail: stmaryeastling@gmail.com

Stalisfield with Otterden

Jenny King, Warden (01795 890366)

Chrissie Webster, Administrator

(07590 351977)

Throwley David Elvin, Warden (07973 837122)

E mail: david.j.elvin@gmail.com

High Downs Parish Safeguarding Officer

Mark Harlow (07979 864000)

E mail: mark.harlow@kc-hd.org.uk

From The Registers

Funeral

Irene Edwards

27th September at Throwley Church

Thomas Buckley

11th October 2024 at Stalisfield Church

CONTACT THE GOOD NEWS EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like to submit articles, or to advertise in the December 2024 magazine, send your submission by 20th November to: goodnewsmagazine@me.com.

Past and current issues of the Good News may be viewed on www.goodnews.rf.gd

Remembrance Day

• NOVEMBER 11 •

Lest we forget



Are you eligible for Pension Credit?

Are you over State Pension age, or know someone who is? If so, it's important to be aware of the benefits available through Pension Credit.

Pension Credit can top up your pension income and help with day-to-day living costs.

Even if you own your home or have savings, you may still be eligible to claim Pension Credit. By doing so, you could also gain access to several additional benefits, such as:

- Winter Fuel Payment and other help with heating costs.
- Help with rent and Council Tax, easing the burden of monthly bills.
- A free TV licence for those aged 75 or over.
- Assistance with NHS services, covering NHS dental treatment, glasses, and transport costs for hospital appointments.

To be eligible for Pension Credit, your weekly income should be below £218.15 if you live alone, or £332.95 if you have a partner who lives with you. In certain circumstances, the qualifying income level may be higher.

Don't miss out on the support you're entitled to.

For more information and to check your eligibility, visit gov.uk/pension-credit or call 0800 99 1234.

If you'd like additional support, you can attend our drop-in sessions without an appointment:

- Monday, 10am-12pm, Swale House, Sittingbourne
- Tuesday, 10am-12pm, Sheppey Gateway, Sheerness (except the second Tuesday of every month, which is held at Sheerness East Working Mens Club)
- Wednesday & Friday, 10am-12pm, 43 Stone Street, Faversham

Alternatively, email us at www.citizensadviceSwale.uk/email-general-advice (Monday-Wednesday) or call Adviceline on freephone 0808 278 7979.

For debt advice, request a call back from our specialist money advice team at www.citizensadviceSwale.uk/debt/.



The Wood When Disconsolate

by Audrey Keen

The rooks will not be quietened,
And muddy is the rutted track
Where tractors trundle,
And dejected too the bended
And discoloured bracken fronds.
Saddened am I to see limp feathers
That remain
From one grey pigeon,
Prey to a fox's hunger pain.
And disconsolate is the wood today,
Wet and troubled by the shock of
This mischief, as nature sleeps
And seemingly oblivious
Of the misconduct of the elements
That seek to wreck her domicile.

hello journaling

with Yvonne to understand yourself better
and keep on track with you and your life

Introduction to Creative Journaling – Online
Experience & learn the benefits of journaling
Sun 17 Nov – Online, 1pm-4.30pm, £95pp

Monthly Journaling Sessions – Online
Set up for the month ahead – last Sunday each month
Sun 24 Nov, Sun 26 Jan, etc, 11am-12.30pm, £40pp

Hello 2025
To set you up for the new year
Sat 28 Dec – In person, Charing, 1-4.30pm, £110pp
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Does the past haunt you?

A driver had driven their car into a ditch, and there they sat. When the police arrived, they asked them what had happened. "I was looking in the rear-view mirror, instead of looking at the road ahead," they explained.

What a thought! There is no way to go forward if your eyes are focused on what's behind – either in driving, or in life. A lot of people 'ditch' themselves because they can't take their eyes off the past, can't focus on the future, and move ahead, with hope in God.

Give up all hope for a better yesterday. You can't change the past. It is dangerous to obsess over it. Instead, consider that there are over 500 verses in the Bible that tell us that God is merciful and longing to forgive us and restore us if we only turn to Him. As Isaiah wrote: *'Do not remember the former things, neither consider the things of old. For behold, I am doing a new thing...'* (Is 43:18,19).

So why let the past ruin your future? Let God begin to do that 'new' thing in your life.

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Justus – leading the Church in troubled times

Does this sound familiar? An Archbishop of Canterbury tries to bring unity and calm to a Church split down the middle over seemingly irreconcilable differences, and all the while to promote the Gospel to the wider non-Christian society, in the face of widespread ignorance and even hostility towards Christianity.

This isn't Justin Welby, though. It was Justus, a 7th century archbishop of Canterbury. Like Justin Welby, he had a passion for mission – he began as one of the Roman missionaries sent in 601 by Pope Gregory the Great – to reinforce Augustine. Once in England, he was quickly put to work – becoming the first ever Bishop of Rochester, in 604. It was then that he joined with other church leaders to urge the Irish and British (Celtic) Christians to repair the great church divide of the time – to conform their customs to those of Rome. (They were largely ignored.)

In 616 things got worse. There was a pagan reaction in Kent and Essex, and without any support from the pagan King Edbald, Justus and Mellitus knew it was time to get out – quick. They escaped to France, and the whole English mission seemed in peril. Then – an unexpected breakthrough occurred – the king was converted. So back came Justus, to become Archbishop of Canterbury in 624. Pope Boniface V had faith in his ability and courage – he bestowed on him both the pallium and the power to consecrate bishops in England. When Justus died 10th November 627, he was buried at St Augustine's monastery. Then, in the 11th century, Justus was moved to a site in Canterbury Cathedral, behind the high altar.





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New Neighbourhood Beat Officer

I would just like to introduce myself as the replacement PC to Gary Morris. I have worked within the Community Safety Unit for the past 5 years as a Town Beat officer in Faversham and then Sheerness prior to then under the new model becoming the Beat officer for Hartlip, Upchurch, Newington, Bobbing, Lower Halstow, Iwade and Kemsley since June 2023. Gary and I have worked together for the past 3 years and very closely this past year as we have assisted each other in our respective areas and so some of you may already know and met me whilst out with him.

I am excited to be working in the East Downs and Watling Ward and looking forward to meeting you all, over the next few weeks/months and working closely with you and the Parish Councils. Please bear with me in the short term as I only recently found out that I had successfully applied for the area Gary covered and as such a replacement for me on the Wards I have covered for the past 15 months has yet to be appointed and I've been asked to cover both areas during a transition period.

Kind regards,
PC Jez Chittim
Neighbourhood Beat Officer for East Downs and Watling,
Hartlip, Newington and Upchurch
Faversham/Sittingbourne Police Station. (External 101)



The next meeting of
Eastling Parish Council
will be on Tuesday 12 November at
6.30pm in the Village Hall.
All are welcome to attend.

Eastling Neighbourhood Watch



Village Warden 07794 010 394 or
01795 890848

Police 101 Emergency 999

For any scam or cyber attacks or calls
please report it on
0330 123 2040

We welcome PC Jez Chittim as our new local neighbourhood Police Officer. He will be covering the East/West Downs area which includes all our local villages. Whilst the police surgery will be continued at Painters Forstal once a month he will be contacting your local Neighbourhood Watch and should anyone feel it would be beneficial to have a surgery local please contact your local NhW

There has been an incident in the village where parcels that had been delivered were stolen from outside the premises so, as the dark evenings approach, remember to check for deliveries.

There has been reports of poaching around the Belmont area so please report any sightings and, if in progress, please ring 999. Do not approach these people. Now is the time to make sure that all is well with your motor vehicles and that all the lights etc are all working okay. We probably have all experienced a one eyed monster on the road at night and it is not pleasant.

Have a good month
Take Care
Alan



Spider time of day

Are you afraid of the big spiders that come into your house each autumn? Then avoid wandering around your house at about 7.35pm each evening.

It seems that that is the peak time for creepy crawlies to scuttle around your house, looking for a mate. An entomologist at the University of Gloucestershire adds: 'We think that while people are more likely to be sat down and able to view spiders at 7.30pm, the pattern of sightings in rooms other than living rooms suggests that it is not just people driving the pattern - so we think it probably does reflect some spider ecology too.'

No one is sure why spiders feel frisky at 7.30pm, but the good news is that the vast majority of UK spiders are harmless to people, and excellent pest controllers. 'So we should really celebrate the spider season.' As long as the spider is NOT running around on the couch with you.

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Bins

Firstly, I am relieved to say that, for almost all areas, the bin collections have greatly improved since the September route changes. If Suez do miss your bin, please contact Swale so that any problems can be remedied as quickly as possible. Use the online form here: <https://swale.gov.uk/bins-littering-and-the-environment/bins/report-a-missed-bin>, or phone the council on 01795 417888.

I have been working with the Scrutiny Review Panel to look at what went wrong with the procurement and management of this contract and we are already learning lessons for a report which will be published in the coming months. These lessons can be applied to future contracts to ensure that things run smoothly with all large council contracts in the future.

Councillor's Report November 2024

EU Entry/Exit system

I attended a KCC briefing in late September on the new Entry/Exit System. A new border control system which was due to be implemented at Dover and Folkestone from 10th November and was expected to cause widespread disruption. I am pleased to report though, that the scheme has now been delayed again (for the fifth time, I think) and this time it's an indefinite delay, so hopefully this will be properly prepared for if it ever does go ahead and we will be spared gridlock at Brenley Corner.

Towards Zero

I am very pleased to say that at the October meeting of the Swale Environment Committee, councillors voted to install nearly 300 solar panels on the roof of Swale House. This will

supply about 50% of the total electricity consumed in the building as well as creating surplus energy from April-August which can be sold back to the grid. The savings and benefits from this new energy provision will mean that the cost of the installation should be gained back within three to four years and the panels will be reducing the council's energy bills by tens of thousands of pounds each year for the next few decades. Alongside the financial benefits, this is also a significant step towards the council's target for the council to be carbon neutral by 2030. Once this project is complete, I hope to push for solar panels on the councils other buildings, as well as car parks where possible.

Rich Lehmann
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