

Good News Parish Magazine

High Downs Parish

Serving the villages of Eastling, Otterden, Stalisfield and Throwley
for current and past editions go to: <http://www.goodnews.rf.gd>



Eastling Church Harvest Festival

with Holy Communion by extension
10.30am on 4th October

Food donations will go to Faversham Foodbank

*Creator God,
You made the goodness of the land,
the riches of the sea
and the rhythm of the seasons;
As we thank you for the harvest
may we cherish and respect this planet and
its peoples,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

(From Common Worship. Additional Collects © Archbishops' Council, 2000)

Eastling's Pumpkin Lottery

Saturday 31st October
and

Carl's Halloween event
all the the Carpenters Arms

Please don't let Covid discourage you
from participating.

Further instructions on page 4

Classes include:

**The largest; the smallest, most weird
and wonderful; most artistically
carved pumpkin; most amusing; most
archaeologically interesting.**

**With separate Under 15s-
categories as above.**

To be held by kind permission of Carl at
The Carpenters Arms, Eastling, according
to the latest Government Covid rules.

P R A Y E R



What is prayer?

Prayer is basically having a conversation with God. But how can you do that? And anyway a conversation is meant to be a two way thing! I came across this headline from the Church Times published in May this year:

More people praying during lockdown, survey suggests

... and the article started with : One in 20 adults have started to pray during the lockdown, despite not praying before, a new survey published by the charity Tearfund suggests. The online poll of 2101 adults was published on Sunday. Five per cent of respondents said that they had started to pray during the lockdown, having not prayed before.

The survey was carried out in the last week of April so I do not know whether those who have started praying have continued or of course whether there are those who had been praying before lockdown but have since stopped.

But prayer is an important backbone to the Christian Faith.

We pray to a God who wants to be in a relationship with us. Maintaining any relationship needs communication and usually conversation and this equally applies to our relationship with God.

But prayer often doesn't come naturally. Even Jesus' closest followers asked him to "Teach us to pray". He answered:

"When you pray, say:

'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.

And lead us not into temptation.

Luke 11:2-4

What we know as **The Lord's Prayer** which as well as being a prayer, is a pattern for prayer.

Firstly he says address God as Father - not a normal term for the Almighty God, creator of all things, in the day, but Jesus is underlining that this is all about relationship.

At present a number of people, including myself, are going through The Prayer Course (which you can find online through a search engine). There is always something to learn. One way to help with Prayer is to use the word Pray.

Pause: To start with Pause - I think we have been better at this during the year with all its restrictions! Pause to recognise that we are coming before God. Psalm 46:10 reads, 'Be still and know that I am God'.

Rejoice: Rejoice in who God is as Almighty God, Creator, Father, Jesus Holy Spirit. Many of the Psalms are great to read to rejoice with (e.g. Psalm 8).

Ask: A time to make requests of God for others and for ourselves.

Yield: A time to be in God's presence, listening out for Him, submitting to Him, the God who loves us.

We continue to pray for each other, our communities and our nation at this time.

Steve Lillicrap

Lord, we pray with open hands to receive the Fruit of the Spirit



*Prayer Pointers
October 2020*

Mondays - Love: that we may love others as you have loved us.

Tuesdays - Joy: to override sadness that we may see the beauty of your world.

Wednesdays - Peace: to strengthen us in our daily lives.

Thursdays - Patience: that we may trust you to answer our prayers in your way, not ours.

Fridays - Kindness and Goodness: that we may not count the cost of helping others.

Saturdays - Faithfulness: to follow you daily and Gentleness: to work calmly in difficult times.

Sundays - Self control: to keep our resolve and not be side tracked by an easier path.

The Annual Church Meeting

for this year is on Zoom on **October 18th**

starting at 7.30 pm - please see notices at each Church or email me for details:

highdownsvicar@gmail.com

Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.

A few of our members took advantage of the good weather last week as we spent a very pleasant lunchtime together in the garden of The Plough at Stalisfield. Some of us were understandably nervous, but we were able to take our own chairs so that we could really spread out. Our thanks to Marianne and her staff for a lovely lunch and for making us feel really safe and secure. It gave us a chance to see friends we had not seen since our last meeting in early March.



From Pat and Des Briggs

THANK YOU

to Marianne and Richard,
Plough Inn, for food deliveries
to Dr Norwood for collecting our
prescriptions
and to Cat Horn for shopping
for us during Lockdown.

THROWLEY SCARECROW



COMPETITION

Design and build your own Scarecrow. Entries will be judged on 5th November. Various categories including best dressed; most like owner! Please contact Gaynore Moss gaynoremoss@hotmail.com for details.

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The Plough Inn, Stalisfield

It's that time of year again -

The launching our Christmas day menu!!!



Under these current conditions it has been hard for us to plan what we are doing so we have decided to come up with two options as we don't know if social distancing will be lifted. If it isn't, as you can imagine, doing half the amount of covers on Christmas day would not be financially viable for us.

So, if social distancing is no more, we will be offering our usual eat in menu, however, in the more likely scenario of continued distancing we will be offering a takeaway hamper menu where all the work is done for you and depending on your requirements can even be ready to go on Christmas day.

When you book you will be asked for a non-refundable £10 per person deposit – however if social distancing is still in place and we can only offer a takeaway service then we will refund this if you do not wish to proceed with the takeaway option. (Complicated I know; but in the 'new normal' lots of things seem to be any queries give us a call.) Our prices will also be reduced reflecting the change of service.

We would also like to know if anyone would be thinking about joining us for their usual Christmas day beverage, we understand that it's some time away so there is no urgency, we are just trying to plan and provide you all the best service we can in these uncertain times.

Good news - Boxing Day we will be back to normal – albeit the new normal!

Marianne, Richard & Nathan!

Please call 01795 890256 or
email info@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk

<https://theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk>

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



Revised rules for Eastling's Pumpkin Lottery and Carl's Halloween event.

The Carpenters Arms. Saturday 31st Oct
Please don't let Covid discourage you from participating!

To be held by kind permission of Carl at The Carpenters Arms, Eastling, according to the latest Government Covid rules. There is no limit to the number of pumpkins you can enter for the Pumpkin Lottery- the more the merrier!

Programme

11.00 am-12.00 noon: Pumpkins to be delivered to the outside display tables at the pub.

- There will be two displays- one for the Under 15's entries and one for all the rest.
- Please write your name on one side of a card or paper and place it under your pumpkin so that it isn't visible to the judges until after the judging has occurred.
- The team of judges will decide on which pumpkins should win a prize- you may be surprised by the prize category your pumpkin wins! The judges' decisions are final.

The award groups are:

The largest -by measurement of the circumference- judged by Dorothy and Jumbo Reeve

The smallest - judged by Clem Mitchell and Nina.

Most weird and wonderful- judged by Marianne Grove.

The most artistically carved pumpkin- judged by Gabrielle Nesfield.

The most amusing- judged by Maria & Steve Dawson.

Most archaeologically interesting - judged by Janet Miller.

Under 15s- categories as above.

There is no limit to the number of pumpkins you can enter for the Pumpkin Lottery- the more the merrier!

Judging will be done individually to ensure the safety of individual judges.

2.00 pm: Pumpkin lottery display revealed along with certificates and prizes for winning pumpkins.

5.30 pm: display and lighting of pumpkins .

Any exhibition specimens that are not collected will be put on the Community table.

7.00 pm: Carl's Halloween Evening- run according to new rules. Waitress service . Only seated guests allowed. Serving - Veg curry and rice or Chilli and rice.

£10.00 per head

Free meal for 2 for the best fancy dress.

Book your table early!

COVID 19 arrangements:

Please wear gloves and masks when you deliver your pumpkins, collect prizes etc.

Follow the latest socially distance rules at all times.

Please strictly follow the Covid 19 rules provided by The Carpenters Arms as this event is covered by the government rules for public houses.



THROWLEY HARVEST FESTIVAL

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate our village church for this special occasion. The effect was beautiful and scent of fruit and flowers wonderful.

Thanks also to the choir for their tuneful renditions to complete this annual praise of our Lord's bounty.

Eastling Primary School

Our rural village school is open to all the pupils and we are delighted to hear the children back at work and play with their friends. Many of our children were able to return to school in June and July and these children have been showing the new routines to the children who have just returned. The whole school community has quickly adapted to the changes in routine from staggered drop off times to social distancing on the field. The children have coped well with the changes including the increased amount of hand washing.



Our new Reception children have settled in quickly to school life in Acorn class and are now full time. We were delighted to welcome a number of other new children who have joined us. It is lovely to see how they have quickly become part of our school community.

Eastling Primary School is very fortunate to have such wonderful grounds and we really do make the most of them. Since returning to school there has been lots of outdoor learning taking place. The school is delighted to be working with Charlton Athletic this year. All the classes get to work with a wonderful sports coach and participate in a wide range of sporting activities.

The school is having another dedicated outdoor learning day on Friday 25th September. We are pleased to be working with the wonderful 'Wild Classrooms' again. Throughout the day all the children will be involved in preparing and cooking



food outdoors over a fire pit. Wild Classrooms will be using local produce from Brogdale for this event. The junior classes will be making apple and pea soup and pancakes with apple compote. The infant children are going to bake some apples in the embers while also enjoying pancakes.

The teachers have lots of exciting activities planned for the day including tie dyeing, planting and bird feeders.

We do have a few spaces available across the school for an immediate start. Any prospective parents looking for a Reception place for September 2021 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



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High Downs Parish

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01795 522510 highdownsvicar@gmail.com

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

Reader Caroline Ramshaw (07799 538809)
4 Glebe Cottages, Eastling

Churchwardens

Eastling Andrew Baxter (01795 890598)

Administrator Janet Payne
E mail: eastlingchurch@gmail.com

Stalisfield with Otterden
Jean West (01233 712270)

Administrator Sheila Moger (01233 463746)
E mail: samhawksnest@aol.com

Throwley Gaynore Moss (01795 890995)

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

From The Registers

Interment of Ashes

Pearl Stears
25th October 2020 at Throwley



Looks like the sexton went to Spain
after all, and is still in quarantine.

Sunday Services all at 10.30am

4th October Trinity 17

2 Corinthians 9. 6 - 15 Luke 12. 16 - 30
Eastling Harvest Festival with
Communion by Ext

Harvest Holy Communion Doddington
Harvest Worship. Teynham
Harvest Worship Norton

11th October Trinity 18

Philippians 4.1 - 9 Matthew 22. 1 - 14

Throwley Morning Prayer

Holy Communion. Newnham
Holy Communion by ext Oare

18th October Trinity 19

1 Thessalonians 1. 1-10 Matthew 22. 16 - 22

Eastling Morning Prayer

Holy Communion and APCM. Teynham

25th October Last after Trinity

1 Thessalonians 2. 1 -8 Matthew 21. 23 - 32

Throwley Holy Communion by Ext

Morning Worship. Newnham
Morning Worship Oare

1st November All Saints

1 John 3. 1 - 3 Matthew 5. 1 - 12

Eastling Holy Communion

Holy Communion by ext Doddington
Family Service Teynham
Family Service Norton

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/>

CONTACT THE GOOD NEWS EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like submit articles or stories, or to advertise
in the November 2020 magazine, send your submission by
20th October to: goodnewsmagazine@me.com.

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

www.goodnews.rf.gd

OUTLOOK The Canterbury Diocesan Magazine

We have good news: we are launching our new issue of Outlook Magazine as a digital download! We hope that this will fill the Outlook-shaped hole that there has been whilst churches have been closed.

Go to: <https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/5f209069c4808/content/pages/documents/1599746292.pdf>



Sermon from Bishop Rose:
27th September 2020

You can download this month's sermon from Bishop Rose using the link below, which also has her previous sermons and speeches.
<https://canterburydiocese.org/our-life/our-people/bishop-rose/sermons-speeches/>



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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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SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

from Andrew Bowles, Kent County Council member for Swale East

A newsletter covering the first three weeks of September to account for deadline date for several Parish magazines. As more of these recommence distribution can I thank the teams of volunteers who undertake this for us all.

Despite August seeing more meetings than usual for the month September has as always been especially busy for meetings.

As I write this, we await possible new or reintroduced restrictions due to Covid19. Hopefully as figures in Kent are continuing to fall we shall not be too badly effected but scientific advice is not encouraging. As evenings draw in we must be vigilant for our neighbours who may struggle with the effects of isolation if some form of "lockdown" returns. It may not be just those who appear vulnerable.

One issue which is exercising minds at all levels of Local Government includes the changes to the planning system currently out for consultation. I am pleased that the changes to how the figures for the number of extra houses we need to build in Kent have been widely opposed. Most if not all Conservative MP's in Kent, excepting those in Government posts who cannot do so, have written jointly to the Secretary of State and the Prime

Minister voicing their concerns, as has the Leader of the Conservative Group on KCC co-signed by all Conservative County Councillors.

At the same time Swale Borough Council are attempting to rush through a revision to the Local Plan. I have been studying the Agenda papers and minutes of the Local Plan Panel with horror. Under the existing Local Plan, "BEARING

Faversham's expected housing growth to triple

FRUITS" Faversham was expected to deliver 12.5% of Swale's housing growth and the rural area another 8.5%. Under the proposals now being promoted by the new Administration Faversham is expected to contribute between 35% and 45.5% of new housing and the rural area another 10.5%. This would result in Faversham and its rural hinterland receiving more new allocations than the rest of Swale added together. Possibly up to 55% of a number that will already be larger in total, three times as many houses for our area than currently planned.

Regular followers of Swale politics will know that both the current Leader of Swale Borough Council,

Roger Truelove (Lab) and his Deputy Mike Baldock (Swale Independants) have long advocated such a policy to rebalance what they claimed was over protection for Faversham by the previous Conservative administration. All but one of our local Borough Council Councillors are part of the ruling coalition, can we trust them to defend us? Several of them hold posts as Cabinet or Deputy Cabinet Members with extra allowances. Early comments are not encouraging, they need vigorous lobbying by YOU, their electorate.

At County Level I am increasingly busy with Home to School Transport Appeals. We have given parents three options, paper-based appeals, full Face to Face meetings with a Member Panel or a midway option where Parents join the Panel online. We have successfully trialled all three and further meetings are scheduled.

Amazingly KCC have managed to balance the in-year Budget without major reductions to service levels. A truly amazing effort by the Cabinet Member, Peter Oakford, and staff in the Finance Department. With extra costs and reducing income, both due to Covid, the 21-22 Budget is not likely to prove so easy

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Honey, honey!

If your grannie gave you honey when you had a cold, she was right. Research published in The British Medical Journal has found that honey is especially good for treating upper respiratory tract infections (URTIs) such as the common cold. Honey has anti-microbial and anti-inflammatory properties. These do better at soothing your cough and sniffles than any of the over-the-counter remedies. In fact, URTI sufferers who were given honey suffered their symptoms for up to two days LESS than those who did not use honey. All good news, especially as honey is cheap, readily available, and has virtually no side effects.



Help feed local people in crisis

Faversham Foodbank October 2020

Faversham Foodbank have let us know that over the last 5 months they have been able to help 218 households consisting of 345 adults and 296 children by providing food for 5769 meals - and demand keeps on growing. Every donation makes a difference. Take a look at the Foodbank's Facebook page to keep up to date with their news. Donations may be left at the Carpenters Arms during pub opening hours or at all the major supermarkets in Faversham. Thank you for your support.

Items required for October

Multipurpose cleaning spray; washing up liquid; bleach; shampoo and conditioners; small boxes of washing powder; can openers; dog food.



Ivy – never underestimate its goodness!

Autumn is in full swing but there is at least one plant that is in full bloom. Not spectacular to look at, yet ivy is an important source of nectar for bees, moths, flies and wasps, and while they are not most people's favourite insects, they all play a vital part in Nature's jigsaw.

Ivy produces flowers from September to November. Spherical clusters of greenish-yellow blobs, which on closer inspection have endearing little horns with knobs on! The resulting fruits are dark berries with ridged sections, resembling tiny black footballs each containing five seeds. Poisonous for us, but birds love them.

Ivy is one of the few native climbing plants that can reach a substantial size. Contrary to popular belief, it is not a parasite. Its stems have lots of fibrous, adhesive-covered, roots which cling to buildings, brickwork, trees, telegraph poles, in fact just about anything to help it gain some height. However, when it comes to nourishment, that comes via the roots in the ground.

[There's not much nutritional value in a brick.] Although ivy does not normally damage sound buildings or walls, and is rarely a threat to healthy trees, its weight can cause problems.

What a useful plant it can be!

Providing shelter, hibernation and nesting sites for birds and insects, its glossy green leaves are happily munched by sheep, goats and deer. These leaves, so familiar, are different shapes according to whether they are on flowering or growing branches. The flowers are surrounded by heart- or spear-shaped leaves, while the rest of the plant has the three- or five-pointed ones we all recognise.

Many legends involve ivy. But has anyone discovered why although mentioned in the first line of the carol 'The Holly and the Ivy', it is absent from the rest of the verses?

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Anthony Ashley-Cooper, 7th Earl of Shaftesbury - the Poor Man's Earl

Think of Piccadilly Circus, and that small statue of the angel poised with bow and arrow. Most people think it stands for Eros. It does not. It stands for Anteros, his brother, the god of selfless love. It is a memorial to the greatest Christian Victorian philanthropist, politician and social reformer of his generation – Lord Shaftesbury.

Anthony Ashley Cooper, the 7th Earl of Shaftesbury (1801 – 1885) was a devout Christian who spent his life fighting to help ease the plight of lunatics, chimney sweeps, children in factories, women and children in the mines, opium addicts, and children without any education.

His own early life was loveless and bleak – his parents formal and frightening, his early schooldays a “horror” of “cruelty and starvation”. The only love came from the family’s housekeeper, Maria Millis. A biographer wrote: ‘She provided for Ashley a model of Christian love that would form the basis for much of his later social activism and philanthropic work.’ The reality and homely practicality of her Christian love were a beacon for the young Ashley. She told him Bible stories, she taught him a prayer.



After Christ Church Oxford, where he proved an outstanding scholar, Ashley turned to politics. In 1826, aged 25, he was elected as Tory MP for Woodstock. He was eager to serve on parliamentary committees that got things done; his great life’s work had begun.

Lunatics: In 1827 lunatics were kept chained naked in straw, forced to sleep in their excrement. They were washed in freezing cold water, with one towel for 160 people and no soap. There was gross over-crowding and inedible food: asylums were places to die in. Shaftesbury’s maiden speech in Parliament was in support of a Bill to improve their conditions. He wrote: ‘By God’s blessing, my first effort has been for the advance of human happiness.’ It took years: from 1827 to 1884 he fought for a succession of Lunacy Acts, writing later of ‘the years of toil and care that, under God, I have bestowed on this melancholy and awful question.’

Child Labour and Factory Reform. Again, reform took years, with Shaftesbury fighting for the Ten Hours Act from 1833, 1842, 1844, 1846 and 1847 – when it finally got through Parliament. No child under the age of nine should work in the cotton or woollen industries, and no one under 18 must work more than ten hours a day.

Miners. In 1842 he fought to outlaw the employment of women and children in coal mines.

Climbing boys. Thousands of young boys were dying in terrible pain – scorched, blinded and suffocated by soot, or with cancer of the scrotum. Ashley fought for Bills in 1840, 1851, 1853, 1855, and 1864 until finally the Chimney Sweepers Act 1875 closed the practise down.

Education reform: 1844 Ashley became president of the Ragged School Union that promoted education for poor children. He wrote that if it were to fail, ‘I should die of a broken heart’.

Religion. Lord Shaftesbury was a devout Christian who became a leading figure in 19th century evangelical Anglicanism. He was President of British and Foreign Bible Society for nearly 30 years. He was very sympathetic to the Jews, and advocated their return to the Holy Land.

Lord Shaftesbury’s funeral service at Westminster Abbey on the morning of 8th October 1885 drew thousands of people. The streets along the route were thronged with the poor: costermongers, flower-girls, boot-blacks, crossing sweepers, factory hands and many more. They waited for hours just to see his coffin go by. He was dearly loved by them as the ‘Poor Man’s Earl’.

One biographer wrote: ‘No man has in fact ever done more to lessen the extent of human misery, or to add to the sum total of human happiness.’

The great preacher Charles Spurgeon called him ‘the best man of the age’. He ‘lived for the oppressed’, he was a ‘moral anchor in a drifting generation’, ‘friend of every living thing’, ‘he had a ‘fervent love to God, and hearty love to man.’



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Eastling Neighbourhood Watch

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or 01795 890848



Police 101 Emergency 999

We have now gone four weekends without any further burglaries in the village, obviously there are reasons for this which will be revealed I am sure all in good time, but please stay alert.

I have some spare free shed alarms if anyone would like one.

There have been many reports of hare coursing around local villages. If seen locally please ring 101 or 999 or if preferable you can give me a call. The people who perpetrate these crimes are not the nicest of people and under no circumstances should they be approached. If at all possible obtain vehicle registration numbers.

There are still a few people in the village who have decided that the covid regulations do not apply to them, how totally irresponsible can you get.

Have good month and take care,
Alan.

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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 24:44-51, Luke 12:40-46

Jesus warned his disciples to be always
ready for his return at the end of time
by telling the story of two servants



The Rabbit

by Audrey Keen

Across the gratten waste a rabbit runs;
His eyes are wide
His mind alert,
He fears the presence of the clothed man,
For man has weapons that can hurt.

His body bobs
His small heart throbs,
He dare not look to right or left,
At giddy pace he makes his way
Toward the bramble bracken
Draped in natural display.

Through the wire the rabbit flees
And in his hurry scarcely sees
That it was not a man that followed in his track,
But me, alone, high on horse-back.

And at a gentle trot or stately gait,
I ride beside the tree stool
Where the rabbit there will wait.

And when the last clip clop has died away
And not a trace of 'man' is seen,
The rabbit shall rejoin this day
Of autumn sun and woods, honey gold
and green.



WORDSEARCH

want	warned	long
return	disciples	Jesus
drank	always	ate
master	follow	ready
story	while	chased
good	friends	servant
food	everything	bad
putting	amount	charge