

# Good News Parish Magazine

## High Downs Parish

Serving the villages of  
Eastling, Otterden,  
Stalisfield and Throwley

[www.goodnews.rf.gd](http://www.goodnews.rf.gd)

## OCTOBER 2023



- 1st Eastling Harvest Festival  
Eastling Church 10.30am
- 4th Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.  
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 8th Stalisfield Harvest Festival  
Stalisfield Church 10.30am
- 9th Deanery Roadshow  
Lynsted Church 7pm
- 11th Arts Society lecture, Egerton  
Millennium Hall, Egerton 2.30pm
- 11th Stalisfield Youth Group  
Stalisfield Village Hall 7-8.30pm
- 12th Singing Kettle Song Group  
Newnham Village Hall 2 - 3pm
- 12th Charing History Society  
Parish Hall, Charing 7.30 for 8pm
- 14th Eastling Pizza Festival  
Eastling Manor front drive from 6pm
- 18th Stalisfield Youth Group  
Stalisfield Village Hall 7-8.30pm
- 20th Copy deadline for November  
Good News
- 26th Arts Society lecture, Faversham  
Alexander Centre 11am
- 27th Eat, Pray, Walk  
Doddington Church 1.30pm

## NOVEMBER

- 1st Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.  
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 2nd All Souls Service  
Stalisfield Church 7.30pm
- 8th Stalisfield Youth Group  
Stalisfield Village Hall 7-8.30pm
- 9th Singing Kettle Song Group  
Newnham Village Hall 2 - 3pm
- 10th Autumn Quiz Night  
Stalisfield Village Hall 7pm

## HARVEST FESTIVALS IN OUR CHURCHES

Sunday 1st October 10.30am  
Eastling

Sunday 8th October 10.30am  
Stalisfield



## EASTLING PIZZA FESTIVAL

SATURDAY OCTOBER  
14<sup>TH</sup> FROM 6PM

**AUTHENTIC ITALIAN  
WOODFIRE STONE-BAKED  
PIZZAS**

**PREPARED BY THE VILLAGE'S VERY OWN 'CHEFS'  
ON EASTLING MANOR FRONT DRIVE.**

**PLEASE PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY** and come along to support this event which is in aid of the newly-formed Eastling Community Fund, to raise money to support future Village events. **The cost is £15 per fully-loaded 12" pizza. Proper Italian pizzas. Justa likea Mamma used to make...!**

There will be Italian music in the background and a choice of toppings will be available. Bring the whole family along and sit together on the Drive to watch a dazzling display of dough-throwing by some familiar Village faces.

**You will be able to buy your drinks from The Carpenters Arms who are kindly supporting this event.**

**We are hoping to sell at least 100 pizzas on the night, so please spread the word and support this Village night of food and fun.**

There will be some cover and lighting, but please bring along a chair to ensure there is enough seating to go round. **PLEASE ALSO BRING CASH, AS WE HAVE NO CARD MACHINE.**

**CIAO!**

## Autumn Quiz Night

Presented by locally renowned Kent Quiz master - Dave Cowan

At: Stalisfield Village Hall, ME13 0JE

On: Friday November 10th at 7 pm

Tables of 6-8, £5 a head.

- Bring your own food & drink.
- Book early to avoid disappointment - Contact Chrissie on 07590 351977
- Please bring cash on the night for entry & the raffle

# Discernment .....

I am writing this having returned home from the retirement service of our rector Steve. It was a lovely service followed by a lunch at which it was good to see not only friends from across the benefice of ten churches, but also friends who have moved away and who came back to thank Steve & Jane for their ministry over the last 15 years and to wish them a happy retirement.

Steve's departure signals the start of a time when there are decisions to be made. In the Church of England we have a gap between the leaving of one incumbent and the appointment of the next, called an 'interregnum'. And in this gap the churches and potential applicants try to work out what God intends. This process of decision-making is known as 'discernment'.

Life is full of decision-making, mostly small and sometimes very big. If we are seeking to understand the mind of God and to take action in alignment with that, the process of discernment is very helpful. We ask the Holy Spirit to lead us to the best decision:

- the choice that honours God
- the choice that makes use of the gifts God has given us
- the choice that does the most to further God's kingdom on earth.

We go through various steps and processes through which discernment can take place, for instance:

- We explore the pros and cons of each option.
- We seek counsel from those we trust.
- We notice how our emotions and bodies react when we imagine making this choice or that one.
- And of course we ask God for guidance through persistent prayer.

But if we open ourselves to God, it is quite possible we might not be comfortable with the answer we receive. What if God asks me to do something I've never done before? What if following God means moving away from my places of comfort and familiarity? Or what if God does lead me where I want to go, and now I must embrace and own this decision and take responsibility for how I carry it out?

We trust that, because God loves us, divine wisdom will lead us to a place that is, ultimately, the best place. We have faith in the guide even when we don't yet know the territory. History shows us that the best way to go often leads through difficulty, sadness, and danger. So our wisdom during discernment must be mixed with courage. In Doddington Church we will be taking a

closer look this month at biblical women who have exhibited wisdom and courage in their discernment process in an exhibition of art by local women. There are meditations and workshops to join in with too. Details elsewhere in this newsletter.

In discernment, the Holy Spirit shows us the next step on the path but not a preview of what we'll encounter. So in all our decision-making let's pray for a good discernment, and ask also for a courageous heart.

With love & light and the blessings of Christ

Lissie Bayford  
Authorised Lay Minister &  
Spiritual Director



Steve and Jane want to say a huge thank you for the celebration on September 17th.

It was great to see so many at Lynsted Church for the Service and then the fantastic lunch afterwards.

We want to say a huge thank you for the gifts we received, thank you for your generosity. We will continue to be praying as you move into this new season, remembering that God is faithful. God bless

Steve & Jane Lillicrap

## October Prayer Pointers

**Mondays** - Reach out in prayer for all who are sick or lonely.

**Tuesdays** - Reach out in prayer for all who are hungry or homeless.

**Wednesdays** - Reach out in prayer for those who are celebrating a new birth, new marriage, a personal success or perhaps a new job.

**Thursdays** - Reach out in prayer when you are in need of help.

**Fridays** - Reach out in prayer when you need wisdom or courage to help those around you.

**Saturdays** - Reach out in prayer of Thanksgiving for your God given gifts.

**Sundays** - Reach out to the Lord and offer Him your praise and prayer.



## Eastling Church Flower Rota

1st October - Harvest:

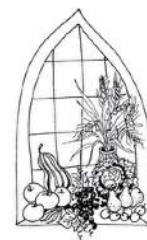
All help welcome

8th - Bay

15th & 22nd - Steph

29th & 5th Nov - Suzie

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





# STALISFIELD YOUTH GROUP

## Stalisfield Youth Group

October dates: 11th and 18th  
7 - 8.30pm at Stalisfield Village Hall  
Free to all 11-18yr olds.

We have table tennis, craft, games, summer outdoor sports equipment, music, Wii and Xbox gaming, tuck shop and free cake!

Any questions please contact Catherine  
07929 928 046



## Multi Sports Camp - October Half Term

Total Sports Coaching are excited to be running their multi sports camps again in October half term at Faversham Strike Force!

These camps will involve a variety of different sports throughout the day for players of all ages and ability levels. All children will get the opportunity to participate

in at least 5 different sports on the day. Some of the sports we cover include lacrosse, archery, dodgeball, cricket, tennis, volleyball, rugby, basketball, tri-golf and hockey. These sessions are a great opportunity to develop a variety of skills, whilst having fun with your friends, or even to make new friends.

Please bring: Appropriate clothing – dress for the weather \*Correct footwear  
Packed lunch – players need to bring their own lunch \* Plenty to drink  
Our October Multi Sports is running at Faversham Strike Force on October 23rd, 24th, 25th & 26th, from 10am-3pm each day with the option of early drop off at 9am.

All days are £18 per child with early drop off available for an additional £2.  
More information and booking go to : <https://tscoaching.co.uk>



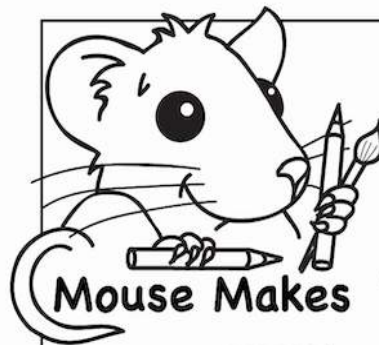
**ALL TOGETHER NOW  
FAMILY WORSHIP IN  
LYNSTED CHURCH  
SUNDAY 8TH OCTOBER  
10.30AM  
ALL WELCOME**



**Brogdale Orchard Activity  
Kids Juicing Workshops  
23rd, 24th & 25th October**

Everyone loves apple juice and it's something the whole family can enjoy, but have you ever thought how it is made?

Come along to Brogdale during our apple harvesting season and walk through our orchards. Then, there is an opportunity to pick some apples from our special heritage orchards and have a go at making freshly pressed juice! More information and ticket prices on: [brogdalecollections.org/event/kids-juicing-workshops/](http://brogdalecollections.org/event/kids-juicing-workshops/)



### CONNECT THE BIBLE FOOD PAIRS

MANNA	HONEY
OIL	WINE
WATER	FISH
LOCUSTS	QUAIL
LOAVES	FLOUR

What drink ran out at the wedding?  
\_\_\_\_\_

and what did Jesus use to make more?  
\_\_\_\_\_

John 2:3 and 7

What food did God supply for his people in the wilderness?  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Numbers 11:7-9 and 31

After Elijah came to visit, what never ran out?  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

1 Kings 17:14

What food did the ravens feed Elijah?  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

1 Kings 17:6

What food did John the Baptist eat in the wilderness?  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 3:4

What did the boy give Jesus to feed 5,000 people?  
Five \_\_\_\_\_ and two \_\_\_\_\_

John 6:9

### FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

NBO TIBMM OPU  
MJWF PO CSFBE  
BMPOF, CVU PO  
FWFSZ XPSE UIBU  
DPNFT GSPN UIF  
NPVUI PG HPE.

NBUUIFX 4:4

### DID YOU KNOW?

As Lot escaped Sodom with his family an angel told him not to stop or look back, but Lot's wife did look back and became a pillar of salt.

READ Genesis 19 v15-26

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

Find the words below and the answers to the questions all in the word search

OLIVES • CHEESE  
FIGS • DATES  
MUSTARD  
RAISINS • WHEAT  
SALT • GRAIN  
FRUIT • GRAPES  
VEGETABLES



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Lenham Community Centre - Tuesdays 6.45 - 7.45pm  
and Saturdays 9-10am

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*How would you like to get involved in thinking about the way ahead for our churches alongside others?*

We have the opportunity for you to join in with people from across the Ospringe Deanery of which Kingsdown Creekside and High Downs is a big part, as a representative of the **Deanery Synod**.

*What is that you may ask.....?*

It is basically the churchy word for 'assembly' or 'gathering' of people.

In reality, it is a place for strategic, thought provoking, prayerful thinking with clergy and lay people together, enabling and encouraging one another in their Church life, building ideas for collaborative projects and wrestling together with some of the difficulties that we, as Church, often face. By interacting with other parishes in the deanery, we have the chance to see the bigger picture of what God is doing amongst us and to explore what might be possible for the future.

It also gives the chance for the local churches to have greater input back to the Diocese and make suggestions for change which isn't always possible as individual Parishes.

The Synod representative will bring that information back to the PCC's which is such an important part of how we make decisions corporately and also as individual churches.

We are a large Benefice and have spaces available to join the Synod and we really need you in this time of change as Rev Steve retires and we await a new vicar to lead us through the next season of church life in this place.

*What do you have to do if you're a rep?*

Simply, attend three synod meetings a year.

And then report back at the PCC meetings which are held four times a year.

All meetings last around two hours each on a weekday evening.

If you'd like a taste of a Deanery Synod meeting without the commitment, please join us for the Deanery Roadshow, where we will be joined by Bishop Rose and the Diocesan Secretary, Stephen Taylor, on **MONDAY 9th OCTOBER at 7pm at LYNSTED CHURCH**.

If you would like more information, please contact [caroline.turvey@kc-hd.org.uk](mailto:caroline.turvey@kc-hd.org.uk)

## WISDOM & COURAGE

A weekend of events celebrating Inspirational Women of the Bible

Prophets, business women, midwives, Leaders, teachers, trailblazers

Doddington Church,  
ME9 0BD

### 13th October

10.30am - 4pm Art Viewing

7 - 8pm Talk by Lesley Hardy:  
Lydia - Fashion and Faith?  
Free



### 14th October

10.30am - 2pm Art Viewing

2 - 4.30pm Talk & meditation by Lissie Bayford:  
Ruth - The Story of Every Woman  
Free

### 15th October

10.30am - 12pm Service of Celebration

12 - 1pm Bring your own picnic

1 - 3pm Floral Headress Making

£5 + booking fee, please book via Ticket Source:  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/doddington-church](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/doddington-church)

3 - 4pm Liturgical Dance with Nimbus  
Free

### Refreshments available every day.

Further details from Barbara Roberts:

[barbara7roberts@gmail.com](mailto:barbara7roberts@gmail.com)

Lissie Bayford: [lissie1710@gmail.com](mailto:lissie1710@gmail.com)



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**DOG WALKING FOR THE WINTER**



**'Happy times with old songs, tea & chatter'**

Come and join us in singing for fun on Thursday afternoons: 12<sup>th</sup> October, 9<sup>th</sup> November, 14<sup>th</sup> December from 2pm – 3pm at Newnham Village Hall £5 per person pay-as-you-go

ALL WELCOME suitable for dementia sufferers with their carers (carers attend free of charge)

Enquiries to Lissie on 07790 287878 or email lissiebayford@gmail.com

**The Arts Society Faversham**

We run regular monthly lectures on the fourth Thursday at the Alexander Centre, Faversham. Subjects cover all aspects of the Arts in its widest sense and are given by experts in their chosen field and include university lecturers, broadcasters and tour guides. Come along to a lecture as a guest (£5 fee) or join for a year's lectures.

Our next lecture is on the Thursday 26 October 2023 at 11am

**"Treasures of the Borghese Gallery" by Stuart Harvey.**

Coffee and biscuits will be served from 10.20am.

The Borghese Gallery houses one of the greatest collections of art in the world. In the early 1600s Cardinal Scipio Borghese, the nephew of Pope Paul V, amassed an incredible collection of ancient sculptures and renaissance art, including works by Titian, Botticelli and Raphael. Scipio added to this by commissioning statues from Bernini and buying up works by Caravaggio, Domenichino and other artists of the day.

The collection also houses later artworks acquired over the centuries by the Borghese family, all in a magnificent building designed for Cardinal Scipio especially to house his collection. The Borghese Gallery is set in the Villa Borghese gardens, until a century ago the private



gardens of the Borghese family, and today one of the most beautiful public parks in Rome.

**Biography:** Stuart is a "History and Art Communicator" of 30 years experience. He is a London Blue Badge Tourist Guide (qualified in 1998 - awarded "New Guide of the Year") and also a Guida Turistica Abilitata della Provincia di Roma (qualified in 2010). He has worked in educational tourism since 1992, leading study tours all over Europe.

Living in Rome since 2003, Stuart has developed a great love for the Eternal City and its many treasures. In addition to his primary career as full-time Rome tourist guide, Stuart's entertaining and lively lectures and virtual tours bring the rich artistic and historical wealth of Rome's 28 centuries to life for people all over the world.

For further information contact us at info@theartsocietyfaversham.org.uk



**Eastling Christmas Choir**  
Come and join our choir for the Christmas Eve Carol service.  
We will start practices in Eastling church, 5 - 6pm on Sunday evenings from 5<sup>th</sup> November.  
Just come along or, for more information, call Andrew on 01795 890598



It was a wonderful surprise to be presented with a 'new' plaque celebrating my 50 years as the organist at St Mary's Eastling on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. It was so kind of so many of you to contribute to this and to the magnificent cheque and the card. It has been a privilege to support the worship and singing in the church for so long and I look forward to continuing this in the coming years.

Andrew Baxter

**The Artists who Outwitted the Nazis**

The ingenious schemes of a group of artists during World War II proved to be a decisive factor in the Allied victory over the Nazis. They created fake tanks and depots to fool enemy reconnaissance planes and turned the front line into a real theatre of war, their artistic skills blurring fiction and reality.



**Speaker: Matthew Wilson**

**When: 12th October 2023**

**Where: Parish Hall, Station Road**

**Time: 7.30pm doors open**

**Talk starts promptly at 8pm**



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Where does the Bible stand with regard to the existence of evil?

## As Halloween approaches...

Have you ever wondered what a Christian is to make of the unseen world of evil and the occult? Where do evil spirits come from, anyway?

The Bible takes the unseen world of evil spirits very seriously indeed. It tells us clearly that evil spirits were once part of the created angelic order (Genesis 6). They were not created as evil beings, for all of God's original creation was good (Genesis 3:1). The Bible relates how a number of angels, headed by Satan, or Lucifer, rebelled against God's authority and fell (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19).

Satan, who disguised himself as the serpent in Eden, is leader of the fallen angels, and sets himself in opposition to God. But evil and good are not equal! Thus, the idea of 'dualism' (belief in the equal and permanent existence of evil alongside the good) has no place in the Bible. Unlike goodness, evil has a beginning and an end. Satan's final destruction is already assured (Revelation 12:12; 20:10).

So, what is the world of the occult, then? The word 'occult' comes from the Latin: *occultus*, 'secret', 'hidden', and is our intrusion into the forbidden territory of superstition, fortune telling, magic and spiritism. Its downfall one day is promised us through Jesus. His early ministry established a bridgehead against the evil unseen world: no wonder the hostile, and sometimes violent, reaction of the demons! (Mark 1:23-27; 32-34).

But Jesus had no fear of demons, and neither should you, if you are a Christian. Further, it is important not to become obsessed with the unseen world – don't let it intimidate or fascinate you. Occult films can have

deeply disturbing after-effects on people. Avoid them. A Christian has better things to think about.

While the occult world is certainly there, we are wise not to imagine, as some do, that every sin we commit, every bad habit, illness or misfortune we meet is due directly to an attack on us by Satan himself, and that therefore we need to be 'exorcised'. Terrible damage has been done in this regard by Christians who mean well but who are uninformed.

The kingdom of spirits is real, but so too is Christ's authority. Before Christ, the spirits shrink and retreat. Magic spells and charms have no power over the true Christian (provided we do not open ourselves to their influence) for "the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." (1 John 4:4)

If ever you are frightened by anything occult, remember some sound biblical advice: resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7). But remember, a Christian has no business dealing in anything occult. All occultism is to be ruthlessly shunned (eg Leviticus 19:31; 20:6; 1 Samuel 28; 1 Chronicles 10:13; Isaiah 8:19,20; Acts 19:18-20.)

The demonic world is very real, very powerful, but it is also already doomed and defeated. (Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14,15). Why? Because the death of Jesus Christ has achieved this victory.

So – be confident in Christ, but not complacent in your everyday life. Satan's kingdom is alive and well in this present world, and it will still not admit its defeat at the Cross. The final destruction of all things occult will not come until the return of Christ.

The Plough Inn

**The Plough Inn,**  
Stalisfield; a family run,  
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pub & restaurant offering an extensive menu of both 2 AA rosette dishes and your traditional pub classics.

**Our new opening times** for food service are now starting at 5pm with our pub classics menu & a brand new tapas style menu

**Plus** from now until the end of October we will also be offering a free ice cream dessert for children eating from our Little Farmers menu between 5pm & 6pm

**We also have** some lovely bespoke walking maps available for you to use so there's no excuses for getting out and about then back to cosy up by the open fire with a hot drink.

**Keep up to date** by following us on Facebook, Instagram or X (twitter)

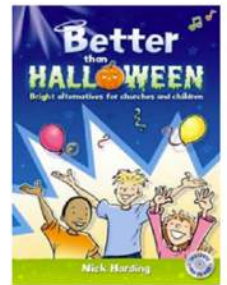
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[info@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk](mailto:info@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk)

**Better than  
Halloween – bright  
alternatives for  
churches and  
children**

**By Nick Harding,  
CHP, £1**



This book will help you to transform 31 October into a fun and meaningful Christian-themed event for children aged 5-11.

It includes: an explanation of the origins of Halloween, and why many Christians choose not to celebrate it; detailed instructions and practical suggestions for planning and running Bright/Light parties; a wealth of supporting resources, such as photocopyable fun sheets, party invitations, sheet music and sources of further advice and guidance; and a free full-colour CD-ROM of all the supporting resources.

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## Sunday Services

### 1st October Trinity 17

2 Corinthians 9. 6 - 15, Luke 12. 16 - 30

Eastling 10.30am Harvest Festival with Holy Communion

### 8th October Trinity 18

Philippians 3. 4b - 14, Matthew 21. 33 - 46

Stalisfield 10.30am Harvest Festival  
Throwley 10.30am Morning Prayer  
Lynsted 10.30am All Together Now

### 15th October Trinity 19

Philippians 4. 1 - 9, Matthew 22. 1 - 14

Newnham 9am Holy Communion BCP  
Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship

### 22nd October Trinity 20

1 Thessalonians 1. 1 - 10, Matthew 22. 15 - 22

Throwley 10.30am Holy Communion  
Newnham 10.30 am Morning Worship

### 29th October Last after Trinity

Colossians 3. 12 - 17, Matthew 24. 30 - 35

Lynsted 10.30am Benefice Communion

### 2nd November All Souls

Stalisfield 7.30pm All Souls Service

### 5th November All Saints

Hebrews 12. 18 - 24, Matthew 5. 1 - 12

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

\*\*\*\*\*

## Online Daily Worship Continues

As well as the services in our churches, the daily 9am Morning Prayer at Lynsted and **Breakthrough** on Sundays at 6pm, will continue at Lynsted and online on <https://kc-hd.org.uk>.

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

<https://www.achurchnearlyou.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@outlook.com](mailto:annachaplaincy@outlook.com)

07799538809

## High Downs Parish

**Rector** Reverend Canon Dr. Steve Lillicrap  
Retires 30th September 2023

**Benefice Administrator** Joyce Warren  
01795 521831 [joyce.warren@kc-hd.org.uk](mailto:joyce.warren@kc-hd.org.uk)

**Associate Priest** Reverend James (Jim) Pye  
01795 890726 [jim.pye@kc-hd.org.uk](mailto:jim.pye@kc-hd.org.uk)

**Curate** Reverend Caroline Turvey  
01795 886351 [caroline.turvey@kc-hd.org.uk](mailto:caroline.turvey@kc-hd.org.uk)

**Reader** Caroline Ramshaw (07799 538809)

**Anna Chaplain** Caroline Ramshaw  
[AnnaChaplaincy@outlook.com](mailto:AnnaChaplaincy@outlook.com)

**Reader** Pim Baxter (07710 116269)

### Church Contacts

**Eastling** Andrew Baxter, Warden (01795 890598)

**Administrator** E mail: [stmaryeastling@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryeastling@gmail.com)

**Stalisfield with Otterden**  
Jenny King, Warden (01795 890366)

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

**Throwley** Tim Jones, Warden  
Email: [timothydavid.jones@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:timothydavid.jones@yahoo.co.uk)

**High Downs Parish Safeguarding Officer**  
Mark Harlow (07979 864000)

\*\*\*\*\*

## From The Registers

### Funeral

Sheila Hedges  
22nd September at Otterden

\*\*\*\*\*

### CONTACT THE *GOOD NEWS* EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like to submit articles, or to advertise in the November 2023 magazine, send your submission by 20th October to: [goodnewsmagazine@me.com](mailto:goodnewsmagazine@me.com).

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

Start at Doddington Church Car Park at 1.30pm for an easy stroll with friends, finishing at the church for refreshments and a blessing by 3.00pm

**Eat Pray Walk**  
*Celebrating God's Creation*

Dates:  
June 23rd  
July 28th  
August 25th  
September 22nd  
October 27th  
November 24th  
December 22nd





## Christmas Trees 2023



With your great support, last year we raised £12,725. These donations are given to 44 local parish churches and 24 charities.

After a great growing season, we have again 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 up to 16ft - ideal for schools, churches, village halls and outside spaces. Plus, we will have plenty of evergreen cuttings including berried holly and ivy for Christmas decorating, and hopefully even a sprig of mistletoe nearer Christmas.

Since we started this fundraising scheme in 1990 over 30 years ago, the procedure is the same: you can visit to choose your tree from late September, and return to collect it in December, nearer Christmas.

As before, the arrangement is for you to make a donation for your tree; over half will be returned to your Parish church and the balance will go to the 24 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. (Please postpone your visit if you have covid or suspect you have it.)

Email [nashsfarmhouse@btinternet.com](mailto:nashsfarmhouse@btinternet.com)

Landline 01795 532596 Peter's mobile 07910 248 308

**Many thanks for your support, Peter and Alison Howard  
Nashs Farmhouse, Luddenham, Faversham ME13 0TQ**



### 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:

#### **AN ACTOR'S LIFE FOR ME?**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2.30pm

Drawing on his own experiences as both a child and adult actor, **Tyler Butterworth** reveals the pains and the pleasures of a career in the theatre, and takes us through the various intricate processes of putting on a play from the actor's perspective, from the casting session to the curtain call, and all stops in between.

*Tyler Butterworth, grew up in a theatrical family and spent 25 years as an actor working extensively in film, television, theatre and radio. Now he works as a voice actor recording audiobooks, documentaries and voice-overs. Tyler parents were actor Peter Butterworth and impersonator Janet Brown.*



Visitors are always very welcome at £6, refunded if you join. Membership costs £40. For further information please contact Christine Willis, our Membership Secretary via [cmwillis75@gmail.com](mailto:cmwillis75@gmail.com) or 01233 756377.

**See also our website  
[www.theartssocietyegerton.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietyegerton.org.uk)**

### Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.

Our W.I. Group did a sterling job of serving the beverages and cakes to those attending the Stalisfield Fete over the August Bank holiday, providing a contribution to the Village Hall funds.

On 6<sup>th</sup> September Andy Robertshaw visited our Group again by popular request and a good turn out we had too from Members and Guests. Andy is a Military Historian with a wealth of knowledge at his disposal to deliver fascinating talks. He is very enthusiastic about his subject and spoke for longer than we had requested. The subject this month was how to access family military records. Those of us who had military memorabilia were able to bring it along to obtain Andy's information and opinion.

Andy had worked with the BBC in the past with 'Who do you think you are' programmes on John Bishop, Robin Gibb and more recently Sue Perkins who has relatives involved in the last two World Wars. Also on Antiques Road Trip in February this year with a tour of the Trench. He is also involved in the Trench Experience held at Detling Showground.

The next Meeting will be on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 p.m. at Stalisfield Village Hall as usual when we will be holding a Quiz. For those of you interested in joining us, as all are welcome, please contact either Ellie Cameron on 01795 892016 or Helen Brooks on 07477 580727.

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### **Out of the Deep**

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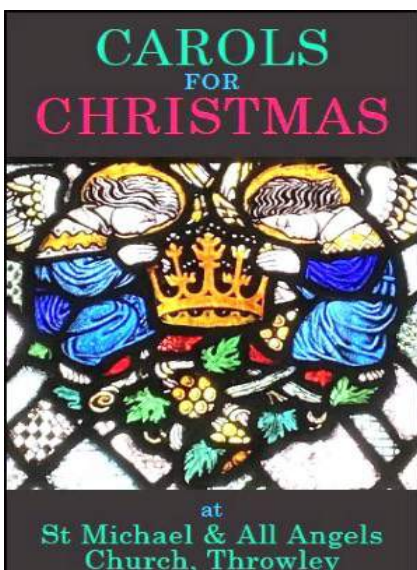
## Citizens Advice Swale

How can we help you?

citizens  
advice

- **General Advice:** Call Adviceline on 0808 278 7979, send an online request at <https://citizensadvice.org.uk/email-general-advice/> (Monday-Wednesday) or come to a drop-in session at Swale House, Sittingbourne on Mondays 10am-12pm, or 43 Stone Street, Faversham on Wednesdays and Fridays 10am-12pm.
- **Debt:** Request a call back at <https://citizensadvice.org.uk/debt/>
- Our services are subject to adviser availability. Please follow us on social media for up to date opening hours.

We offer free, confidential and impartial advice to people living or working in and around Faversham, Sheppey and Sittingbourne. In addition to general advice we offer specialist advice services including debt and benefits. We're an independent charity and we rely on donations and grants to make a difference to people in our community.



## Throwley Church Choir

will again be joining forces with the choir of Boughton Under Blean Church and Stuart Neame for two carol services this Christmas. The Throwley Service will be at St Michael & All Angels, Throwley, on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6 pm and the Boughton Service will be on Christmas Eve. There will be the usual mix of well-loved carols, familiar lessons and Christmas readings and some less familiar carols to be sung by the choir. Everyone is most welcome to come and join in!

If anyone is interested in singing with us at Throwley please email [davidjelvin@gmail.com](mailto:davidjelvin@gmail.com)

## The Beech Trees

By Audrey Keen

Every year I see the beech trees  
And the colours in the park,  
Autumn hues of gold and  
umber,  
Orange brown and cherry  
dark.  
White sheep graze on  
peacefully  
Are not disturbed by winds at all  
Or rain that hurries down from tree tops  
Causing autumn leaves to fall.  
I walk on past such ancient glories  
As bright fungi fill the path,  
And note the sun trips through the greyness  
Of the cloud and the rough winds wrath.  
The hornbeam and the sycamore  
Bright yellow as the sun,  
Show that summertime has lost  
And Autumn has now won.



*The Ven John Barton is intrigued by some modern-day usage of our language.*

## Those over-the-top words that we use

I'm trying to stop saying the word 'incredible'. It's overused and has become almost meaningless. "We are incredibly grateful"; "I had an incredible meal". As the word really means 'beyond belief or understanding', it can't actually apply - in either case.

'Unbelievable' is similarly misused. So is 'fantastic', which is meant to describe something belonging to an imaginary world. So, strictly speaking, a fantastic tennis player can't be a real one. How about 'amazing'? Count how many times you hear it today. It should be reserved to describe something astonishing, out of this world. If you think about it, if everything is amazing or incredible, then nothing really is. When the exceptional becomes normal or commonplace, nothing is special. We seem to be struggling to find words to convey something out of the ordinary. Try 'iconic'. Iconic only appeared recently and has been distorted to mean 'historic' or 'traditional' or 'classic'. My dictionary tells me iconic actually

means something to do with an icon, which is a depiction of Christ, the Virgin Mary, or a saint. In fact, most of these over-the-top words, now in everyday use, have a religious association. Originally, they were reserved to communicate otherness, difference, deep respect.

For example, what about 'awesome'? It should mean 'awe' or reverence. It's a take-your-breath-away word. Awe is what Moses felt when he saw a bush on fire, because it didn't actually burn away, and he sensed the presence of God. Awe is something St Peter experienced, when he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' If you try to imagine what Moses and Peter actually felt, words like 'unworthiness' and 'fear' might come to mind. They really were experiencing something out of the ordinary, too hot to handle. They were out of their depth. An experience like that stayed with them for life. They had encountered holiness. Now there's a word worth using.

## News from KCC Councillor - Rich Lehmann

After a hectic few months after being elected to Swale Borough Council in May, I was hoping for a quite August, when the number of meetings at both Kent County Council and Swale Borough Council reduce and councillors aren't needed 'in the office' quite so much.

However, this wasn't to be the case. There were still plenty of meetings to attend, with the first meetings of the Steering Groups for both the Oare Gunpowder Works and Perry Woods (two fantastic natural sites we are lucky to have in our area), various meetings with KCC Highways to talk about future projects and improvements, and other casework-related meetings and calls.

I'm also currently a member of two groups which are primarily run by Faversham Town Council on two very different issues which affect both the town and the communities I represent across Swale East. The first is a working group set up to oppose KCC's proposed closure of Faversham's Household Waste Recycling Centre – which I have written about in the past two or three of these pieces. The second is a group working to bring a community bus service linking Faversham with some of the nearby villages which have been cut off since last year's KCC bus subsidy cuts.

The Community Bus plans are not finalised yet, but the current intention is for the bus to link up the villages of Newnham, Doddington and Lynsted (all of which have no regular bus

service currently) with the town, and also to provide a way for those living in town to reach venues that the current buses don't go to, such as the Aldi supermarket near the motorway junction. It will accept passengers using bus passes and will make use of existing bus stops across the area (which thankfully KCC have still left in place, even in areas which haven't had a bus since the start of the year).

Despite a grant from KCC to fund the costs of getting the project off the ground, it's still going to be an expensive project to set up and to run. One of the things that will make it financially viable will be a reliance on volunteer drivers. We've had a fair amount of interest from local residents in volunteering to help, but the more volunteers, the easier it will be to keep the service regular and reliable. If you are interested in finding out more about what volunteering would involve, please get in touch with Louise at Faversham Town Council on 01795 503286, or by email at [louise.bareham@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:louise.bareham@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk).

### FAVERSHAM TIP

Going back to the tip – the current position is that KCC have put their consultation on hold while they gather further evidence. They haven't been able to give any kind of indication of when the consultation will open, but I suspect it will be at some point this Autumn. I will continue to provide updates while this issue is ongoing.

Rich Lehmann

[rich.lehmann@kent.gov.uk](mailto:rich.lehmann@kent.gov.uk)

[richlehmann@swale.gov.uk](mailto:richlehmann@swale.gov.uk)

<http://kentgreencouncillors.news/>

## Eastling Neighbourhood Watch



**Village Warden** 07794 010 394  
or 01795 890848

**Police 101    Emergency 999**

The usual amount of scams etc are very much around at the moment namely the postcode lottery one which is sent by post and the BT one which is sent via email. Of course there are many more so please be very wary and look after your bank details.

There have been reports of off and on road motor bikes which are obviously not taxed and insured so if seen please report sighting.

There have been reports to the police about suspicious vehicles pulling into farm yards and large drives purporting to purchase various items of machinery. Please report this as there is no doubt they will return and help themselves.

Last but not least, a special thank you to all the local farmers and their associates for the professional way the harvest was gathered and long hours they have put in. Let's hope it has been a good one.

Have a good month and take care  
Alan

## Those endless roadworks

Do you keep encountering roadworks? No wonder. There have been more than 200,000 of them in the UK over the past three years – due to the need to fix faulty water pipes.

Here is another depressing statistic: an average of 159 road repairs has been carried out every day since the start of 2020, again, because of the leaks.

A recent investigation by the Liberal Democrats uncovered the scale of the problem. Tim Farron, Lib Dem environment spokesman, says: "The water companies have caused misery right across the country. From pumping out raw sewage into our waterways to now causing traffic jams, they are a complete shambles.

"Whilst they have been stuffing their pockets with dividends and bonuses, people have suffered at their lack of investment in infrastructure. It is time to get tough with the water companies." Mr Farron wants "a new regulator with teeth that can hold these firms to account."



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**Throwley** sited in the old Telephone Box outside the Old Post Office, ME13 0HY