

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>



Throwley Church Harvest Festival and Patronal Service

10.30am on 27th September

All food donations will go to Catching
Lives and Faversham Foodbank

Morning Prayer will be at 10.30am on
13th September



Eastling Church Harvest Festival

To be confirmed but probably

10.30am on 4th October

All food donations will go to Faversham
Foodbank



The Friends of Kent Churches **Sponsored Bike Ride and Walk**

(part of the national Ride+Stride)

takes place on

Saturday 12th September 2020.

<https://www.kentrideandstride.co.uk>



Plan your own route, there are about 700 of places of worship open. Ask your relations, friends and colleagues to sponsor you – so much per church or chapel visited between 10am and 6pm on the day. This is recorded on a special sponsor form. Please ask them to tick for Gift Aid if they are tax payers; this increases their donations by 25% with no cost to them.



Sponsorship forms are available in Eastling
Church

or download from this link: [form](#).

**50% of sponsorship money raised goes to the
church or chapel chosen by the participant,**
with the other 50% going to the Friends of Kent Churches, who
use it to help the most needy churches in the County.



Churches open for Private Prayer continue:

We are pleased to invite parishioners into our churches for private prayer .

Throwley church

is open on Wednesdays and Sundays 10am-6pm for private prayer.

Eastling church

is open on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12noon - 4pm for private prayer.

To help keep us all safe please use the hand sanitiser, only use the open pews and do not enter cordoned off areas. If there are others in the Church, please follow social distancing rules.

Canon Paul Hardingham considers a best-loved psalm Psalm 23 - a psalm for the pandemic

There are few psalms as personal and real as Psalm 23. It records David's experience of God as his Shepherd going through dark times. In the midst of the effects of a global pandemic, this psalm speaks to the fears that can overwhelm us.

He Knows Me: 'The Lord is my shepherd...' Just as a good shepherd knows every sheep in his flock, so God know each one of us intimately.

He Provides for Me: 'He makes me lie down in green pastures...' Just as the shepherd knows the needs of his sheep, so God will provide what we need in our lives and circumstances.

He Guides Me: 'He guides me along the right paths...' Just as the shepherd leads the sheep to the best pastures, so God provides the best for us, as we listen and follow Him.



He Protects Me: 'Even though I walk through the darkest valley...' Just as the sheep have no need to fear danger when following the shepherd, so we live knowing God's presence and protection.

He Comforts Me: 'your rod and your staff, they comfort me.' As the shepherd's rod defends the sheep, and the staff enables him to control the sheep, so God comforts us through His Word and discipline.

Some years ago, a great actor was asked to recite Psalm 23, but he asked one of the other guests to do the same. His remarkable rendition was followed by the other man, an older Christian speaking from the heart.

Afterwards the actor said:
"The difference between us is that I know the psalm, but he knows the Shepherd."

The final verses of the psalm offer the security of knowing that our lives are in His hands, even through death, as He leads us to the home we've been looking for all our lives.

'Surely your goodness and love will follow me, all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.'

Prayer Pointers September 2020

Mondays - Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the food we eat, help us to value its nourishment and offer a share to others.

Tuesdays - We pray for all who are hungry and give thanks for food aid.

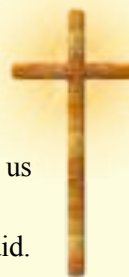
Wednesdays - Pray for students going back into education.

Thursdays - Pray for teaching staff in schools and colleges.

Fridays - Pray for those made redundant or not having enough money to feed and clothe their family.

Saturdays - Pray for all carers, nurses, doctors and other medical staff.

Sundays - We seek your blessing Lord on ourselves and those around us.



High Downs Parish

Rector Reverend Canon Dr. Steve Lillicrap
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](https://www.facebook.com/highdownsbenefice)

CONTACT THE *GOOD NEWS* EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like submit articles or stories, or to advertise in the October 2020 magazine, send your submission by 20th September 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



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Always happy to help.
References available on request.

Sunday Services

6th September

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

13th September

Throwley 10.30am Morning Prayer

27th September

Throwley 10.30am Harvest and Patronal
Festival

4th October

Eastling 10.30am Harvest Festival (TBC)

Services in Kingsdown and Creekside
churches are yet to be confirmed

Sunday Readings:

6th September	Trinity 13	Romans 13. 8 - 14, Matthew 18. 15 - 20
13th September	Trinity 14	Romans 14.1 - 12 Matthew 18. 21 - 35
20th September	Trinity 15	Philippians 1. 21-30 Matthew 20. 1 - 16
27th September	Trinity 16	Philippians 2. 1 -13 Matthew 21. 23 - 32
4th October	Trinity 17	Philippians 3.4b-14 Matthew 21. 33 - 46

Online Daily Worship Continues

As well as the services in our churches, the daily
online services will continue on the Kingsdown
and Creekside website -

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/>

Garden Services

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For three weekends in August, September and October – Brogdale Collections is holding Heritage Orchard Days to help save the Charity's heritage orchards.

www.brogdalecollections.org/product/heritage-orchard-days/

Each day visitors will be able to enjoy orchard walks, fruit displays, juice tastings, a family apple trail, cider sales and more. Included in the ticket price, for the first time, visitors will also be able to harvest their own apples and enjoy the use of Brogdale's lovely picnic field.

With very few events taking place at the moment, these Orchard Days are a great opportunity to spend time outside with the family while enjoying some fresh Kent fruit. Visitors will also be helping raise essential funds to save these unique orchards.

For social distancing reasons, spaces are very limited, so you need to book fast.

26/27 September; 17/18 October

10am-12noon and 12-2pm

**Family Ticket £25; Adults £10;
Children £4.50**

Free for Brogdale Collections All Events passholders – Please call the office to pre-book your entry 01795 536250

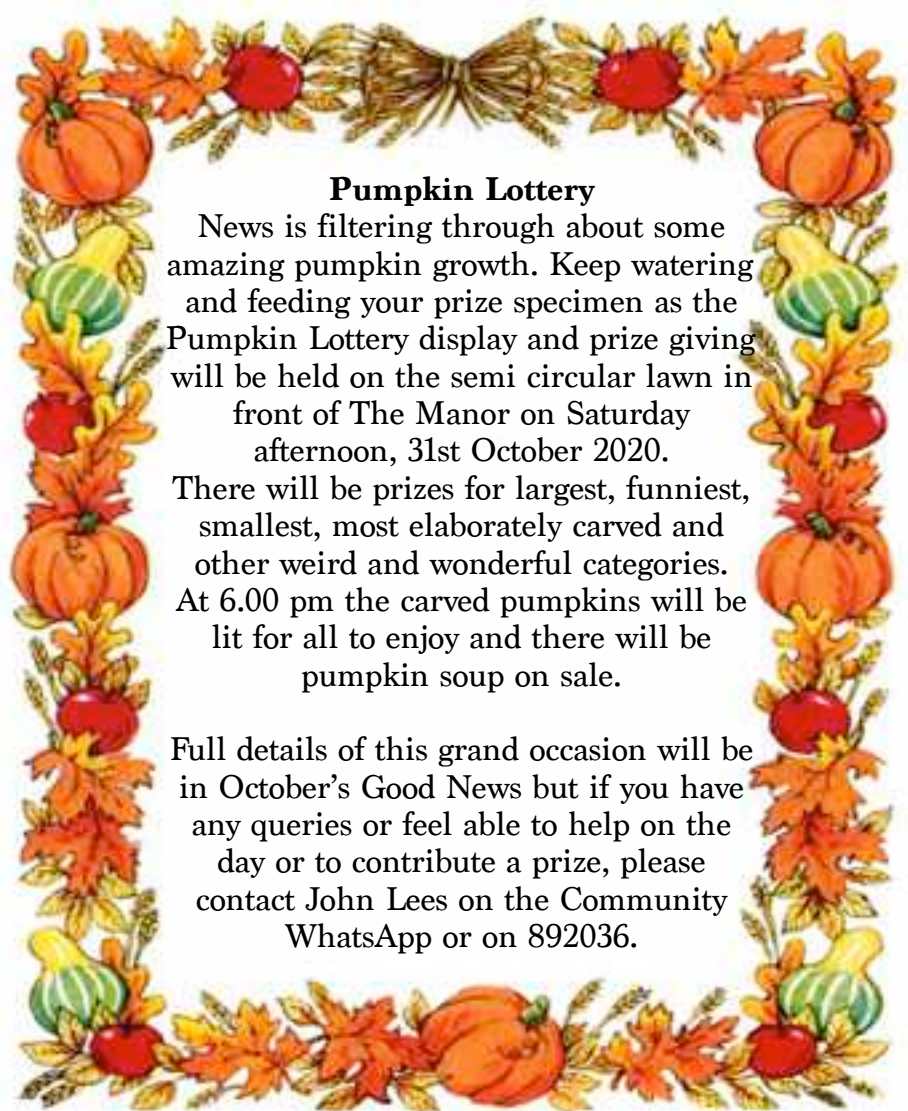
Pre-booking only on

www.brogdalecollections.org

Note:

In addition to the National Fruit Collections, Brogdale Farm is home to hectares of orchards packed with heritage apple, pear, plum, quince and cherry trees. These provide the fruit to share with the public on event days which gives people the opportunity to learn about and eat a wonderful range of heritage fruit.

Due to changes in circumstances, management of these orchards is under threat and Brogdale Collections Charity is raising funds to protect this important local diverse horticultural resource.



Pumpkin Lottery

News is filtering through about some amazing pumpkin growth. Keep watering and feeding your prize specimen as the Pumpkin Lottery display and prize giving will be held on the semi circular lawn in front of The Manor on Saturday afternoon, 31st October 2020.

There will be prizes for largest, funniest, smallest, most elaborately carved and other weird and wonderful categories. At 6.00 pm the carved pumpkins will be lit for all to enjoy and there will be pumpkin soup on sale.

Full details of this grand occasion will be in October's Good News but if you have any queries or feel able to help on the day or to contribute a prize, please contact John Lees on the Community WhatsApp or on 892036.

The Plough Inn, Stalisfield



Open in the form of the 'New normal' please make sure you reserve a table in advance though.

All tables are at 1 metre plus inside and we have a

marquee in the front garden to provide outside tables with shelter. Table service for drinks and food is in place which although means service maybe a little slower it is of course a lot safer!

We are continuing to support the local community with our contactless shop and can arrange take aways for collection if people are still shielding.

Please let us know if we can do anything to support you.

Marianne, Richard & Nathan!

Please call 01795 890256 or email

info@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk

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

<https://theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk>



Charing & District Local History Society

Unique Tea Towel Incorporating a Hand-Painted Map of the Ashford Area Covering 77 Square Miles

Peter Holman was an accomplished artist who lived in Charing in the 1960s, & one of his works is a map that he painted in 1965. The style is very individual, as it shows the countryside around Ashford, with the lie of the land, hills, good viewing points and other places of interest and historical information covering an area of 77 square miles.

Villages that are included on the Tea Towel Map include: Ashford, Boughton Lees, Braybourne, Brook, Challock, Charing, Charing Heath, Great Chart, Hothfield, Kennington, Little Chart, Mersham, Smeeth, Westwell & Wye.

CDLHS have been given permission by Peter's family to produce the Tea Towels

which we are now selling, to help raise funds for the preservation & conservation of items of historical significance that we own.

In this instance, the funds will be used to restore a painting of Horace Barwick, who lived in The Moat in Charing between 1830 - 1845. He was a prolific artist, who sketched & painted many buildings & scenes in the Charing area.

In 2015 Horace's Great-Nephew gave CDLHS an oil painting of him, which is now with the Courtauld Institute of Art, for restoration.

The quality of the Tea Towel is very good, and they make excellent presents.

To order one of these unique Tea Towels, please contact Keith Oram chairman@charinghistory.co.uk. They are priced at just £8 + £2 p&p

Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.

We have now decided to cancel all meetings and events until next year, and possibly until April when we can all renew our memberships. Although Stalisfield Village Hall Trustees have put everything in place to make the hall Covid-19 safe, it is still not possible for us to meet indoors within the Government guidelines.

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&

Tuesday 15th September, 1pm - 3pm

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£7.00 pp. Booking is required. To reserve your place on one of our tours visit our website.

ROOTS & REMEDIES WORKSHOP

Wednesday 23rd September, 11am - 1pm

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£25.00 pp. Booking is required, to get your tickets please visit our website.

**Belmont House & Gardens, Throwley,
Nr Faversham, Kent ME13 0HH**

www.belmont-house.org

01795 890 202

events@belmont-house.org



The Squirrels

by Audrey Keen

I lean upon the gate and watch
The squirrels as they run,
Nibbling hard on hazelnuts
or simply having fun.

They sit upon their hind legs
Their backs are true and straight,
Did they see me coming?

They look my way and wait.

Into the woods they scamper
Grey tails is all I see,

I cannot make them understand
there is no harm in me.

I walk back to the cottage
In hope of their return
For even from the squirrels
there is much that we can learn.

For these are God's own creatures
That we may find and see
For, as with all things living,
they too should just be free.

And whether it be squirrels
Or man that's living there,
The good Lord, he is watching
to see how much we care.

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Eastling Neighbourhood Watch



Village Warden 07794 010 394
or 01795 890848

Police 101 Emergency 999

The break-ins into sheds in the village has not as yet stopped. I am assured by the by the police that they are doing all they can but unfortunately there is no hard evidence, whilst we all know is who is responsible.

Seeing the prices that are being asked for dogs these days I would advise not letting your animals out your sight when out for a walk as there are nasty people around.

Take care when driving as the young pheasants think that they own the road and become kamikaze at this time of the year.

Have good month
Take Care, Alan.

Paws in the Park, both events will be going ahead this year and will be following the latest updates from the Government relating to the running of shows. They will look a bit different his year but this will not spoil the fun of dog shows, dash n splash, competitions and have a go events.

Tickets will be available **in advance only** go to:

www.pawsinthepark.net

19 - 20 September Kent County Showground, Detling
10 - 11 October South of England Showground, Ardingly



Help feed local people in crisis
www.faversham.foodbank.org.uk

Faversham Foodbank September 2020

Thank you, Eastling villagers, for continuing to support our local foodbank. As the number of people made redundant increases day by day so do the demands on Foodbanks around the country. The major supermarkets locally are continuing to donate food items but Faversham Foodbank currently really needs household and personal items too. Donations may be left at the Carpenters Arms during pub opening hours.

Items required for September

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



Joe McCarron

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Jesus said, "I am the Gate"

"Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:7-10)

Many people who live in an urban or suburban environment have only seen sheep in a petting zoo. But in Jesus's day, shepherds and sheep were common sights, and John's original readers would have been familiar with sheep herding. They would also have been aware of the many Old Testament references to God as the shepherd of Israel, including the well-known twenty-third psalm, which begins with the words, "The Lord is my shepherd." So the imagery of this "I am" statement and the next ("I am the good shepherd") would have been very familiar to Jesus's audience.

He begins by describing a typical first-century sheep pen and the way it functioned for both shepherds and sheep:

Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognise a stranger's voice. (John 10:1-5)

He thereby claims to be the one and only way into the pen

of either wood or metal. But in Israel the most common material is stone, and therefore the enclosure we saw that day was made of large white rocks piled on top of each other to a

A few years ago, a friend of mine invited me to join him and twenty-five others on a tour of Israel. On one of our first stops, we visited a sheep pen. If I had heard the words "sheep pen" prior to this trip, I would have imagined an enclosure made



height of about three feet. This is the type of pen that Jesus's readers would have seen in first-century Israel.

At sundown sheep were led into this enclosure to protect them from predators and thieves. Some sheep pens, including the one Jesus describes, were large enough to house more than one flock. For security, there was only one gate into the pen. A watchman, who was a hired hand, only allowed certain shepherds and sheep to enter that gate. If anyone tried to come into the pen at night by climbing over the wall, it was clear that he was a thief and a robber, not a legitimate shepherd. In smaller sheep pens, the shepherd himself would sometimes lie down at the entrance to the pen, becoming a human gate that protected the sheep from all intruders.

Surprisingly, Jesus does not begin this story by describing himself as the "good shepherd" but

rather as the “gate” into the sheep pen. He thereby claims to be the one and only way into the pen—a theme he will repeat in some of his other “I am” statements. Only those sheep and shepherds who come through Jesus can experience the benefits of his promise: “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (v. 10).

I first heard that promise the night I became a Christian, when someone read to me from a booklet that told me, “God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life.” That was followed by the quote from John’s gospel, “I came that they might have life, and might have it more abundantly’ [that it might be full and meaningful] (John 10:10 KJV).”

I would never have thought of Jesus coming to give me abundant life. Like many who had never read the first century accounts about him, I imagined that he came to make sure I kept a bunch of rules and stayed out of trouble. Or, possibly, he came to make sure I went to church regularly, and that I spent most of the rest of my time praying and reading the Bible—all of which sounded completely boring and the opposite of the life I longed for!

He promised to give me everything I truly wanted....

Imagine my surprise when I learned that Jesus didn’t come to make me a religious fanatic but rather to give me a full and satisfying life. He promised to give me everything I truly wanted, and that caught me off-guard.

I’m not suggesting that Jesus doesn’t care about how we live. His analogy of the gate, the shepherd, and the sheep makes that clear. Jesus’s sheep are identified by two key characteristics: (1) They realize that a full life, both now and eternally, can only be found in Jesus, and (2) his sheep know his voice and follow him. Following Jesus involves not only believing in him but following his teachings, especially those related to loving God and loving others. But these commands aren’t intended to enslave us but rather to liberate us by transforming us into the loving, relational people God intended us to be. As we will see in the next section, the Good Shepherd truly cares about his sheep.

Reflect:

Jesus makes a claim of exclusivity—he is the gate. How do you currently compare Jesus with other religious beliefs?

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Is this the "New Normal"?

Most days seem to include at least two online meetings for KCC plus Parish Council meetings every weeknight Monday through to Thursday. At least we have some good news, most pubs are open! In rural areas they provide the social hub of village life. We can catch up with friends and neighbours barely glimpsed since the start of "lock down". Meanwhile at home we can host outdoor socially distancing visits from children and grand children.

Two personal highlights included watching live cricket, as Selling Cavaliers hosted Sturry on 11th July, and attending live music as The Lost Revellers played in the garden at the White Lion on 18th July.

There have been some positives at County Hall as well. Firstly, we approved the Kent & Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy. This deserves a full reading but in summary it commits the County to delivering clean growth including an affordable, clean and secure energy supply. It specifically commits the County to become carbon neutral by 2030 rather than 2050.

I am a Member of the cross-party Kent Environment Strategy Working Party; we have been working on low carbon opportunities for recovery post Covid. I am especially interested in seeking to sustain the increase in active travel,

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

walking and cycling as normality, whatever that is, returns.

At a more local level I am pleased that KCC is bringing forward plans for improvements to the A251/A2 junction. We seem to have been discussing this for years, lets hope we now secure agreement and something gets done. Also pleased to see that M2 Junction 5 improvement at Stockbury have secured Local Growth Fund monies. Subject to completion of a Public Inquiry this will hopefully go ahead to the benefit of all Sittingbourne area communities and businesses.

August is usually a quiet month in Local Government terms, less so this year. With less Members and Officers away on leave this year the County have arranged numerous Member Briefings on subjects as diverse as Design, Recovery and Renewal and of course in these times Budget! I have managed to attend them all so far. Also, there seem to be many more Parish Councils choosing to hold August meetings this year. Partly I suspect because Members are available, but also because most missed meetings earlier in summer before deciding to trial online meetings. Certainly Annual Internal Audits and submission of Accounts were allowed later this year.

As we approach the end of August and the rapidly approaching new School Year County Officers have now found safe and legal ways to hold Home to School Transport Appeals. A combination of full Face to face appeals, paper based appeals and, most popular amongst parents, a hybrid system whereby parents can be present online to present their case and answer questions. As the Chairman of the Counties Regulation Committee I shall be Chairing most Appeals.

In the first week of September I will also be Chairing a meeting of the Swale Joint Transport Board online. Due to Covid the Board has not met since March so a very long Agenda. With a Membership of seven County Councillors, seven Swale Borough Councillors and three Parish Councillors plus Officers, guests and members of the public all used to using different Online Platforms this seems guaranteed to be interesting, hopefully not a disaster.

Andrew Bowles
KCC Member - Swale East



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CLIMATE CHANGE IS HAPPENING.

Pat Crawford provides the
RURAL FOCUS PRESS GROUP COMMENT AND ADVICE COLUMN

Dealing with the Covid-19 crisis continues to top political agendas around the world as a result of which action to reduce climate change has altered. While some initiatives have slowed, others have speeded up, been adapted and fresh projects adopted. Dealing with the effects of Covid-19 on the global economy should be combined – not separated – from achieving climate goals.

Meanwhile late in July the World Meteorological Organisation issued warnings that exceptional temperatures in Siberia were resulting in parts of the Arctic being warmer than sub-tropical Florida so causing ‘devastating wildfires’. The WMO also issued warnings concerning rapidly decreasing sea ice along the Russian polar coast.

Climate Change is already having adverse effects on food production in some parts of the world. The availability of food became an issue when panic buying related to Covid-19 resulted in empty shelves. Farmers’ Guardian, commenting on the results of a new survey, reports ‘that support for British farmers has soared to a record high as a result of their efforts to keep the nation fed during the Coronavirus pandemic’. Food retailers and the supply chain are among many business sectors being recognised for their superb crisis management. A survey recently undertaken on behalf of the National Farmers’ Union found the vast majority of respondents agreed British farms should grow as much food as possible to provide national food security.

MHA MacIntyre Hudson, one of the UK’s largest accountancy firms, is leading a Campaign ‘Support British Business’. *Recognise, Appreciate, Value and Buy into Everything we do Well in Britain.* ‘Support British Business’ will help to save existing jobs, create new ones and assist the country back to economic stability.

Facing facts, evaluating changes, new thinking, greater resolve – and above everything, unity – is enabling us to move forward.

Footnote.

Sponsored by MHA MacIntyre Hudson and Patricia Crawford Associates, the Rural Focus Group includes representatives/ individuals from the National Farmers’ Union, Country Landowners’ Association, Action for Communities in Rural Kent, The English Apple Man, Hadlow Rural Community School, Greenwich University, Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, Ken Lyndon-Dykes, Kent Farmers’ Market Association, Friends of the Earth, Kent Young Farmers, Professor Ian Swingland, Produced in Kent, Men of Kent and Kentish Men, Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, Kent Tree and Pond Partnership, East Malling Research, et cetera. *Other rural-related groups are invited to apply for membership.* Please direct enquiries to:

patjournalist@waitrose.com

Baggage Blues

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www.brogdalecollections.org/product/orchard-craft-days-2/



The Bible is a collection of books that took over 2,000 years to write! The books were written by many different people, all helped and inspired by God. The Bible has books about:

There are 66 books in the Bible. How many can you name?



BIBLE WORDS
The Bible words in **BOLD** type on this page are also hidden in the word search, can you find them?

P L B O W I K
R I O S I L G
O G O N S W O
P H K E D O L
H T S W O R D
E R L T M D O
T E A E G O D
S V W S E E D
L E T T E R S
T L W A N L O
H A M M E R N
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F I R E O N B
P O E T R Y L
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POETRY and SONGS

WISDOM advice for living

THE PROPHETS

New Testament HISTORY

LETTERS teaching and advice

REVELATION about the end of time

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God speaks to us today as we read the Bible. The Bible encourages us, corrects us and shows us how to live, it also describes itself as:

Mirror James 1:23

Food Hebrews 5:12-6:1

Honey and Gold Psalm 19:10

Light Psalm 119:105

Rain Isaiah 55:10-12

Living Word Hebrews 4:12

Hammer Jeremiah 23:29

Seed Mark 4:14

Fire Jeremiah 20:9

Sword Ephesians 6:17

...but most of all The Bible teaches us about God and how we can be friends with Him.

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