

# 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)



## SEPTEMBER 2023

- 3rd Otterden Summer Evensong  
Otterden Chapel 5pm
- 6th Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.  
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 9th & 10th WOODFEST  
Belmont 10am - 5pm
- 9th Annual Bike Ride ( or Walk) around  
Kent Churches 10am - 6pm
- 9th Village Hall Silver Jubilee  
Eastling Village Hall 2 - 6pm
- 10th Summer Evensong  
Wychling Church 4pm
- 13th Arts Society lecture, Egerton  
Millennium Hall, Egerton 2.30pm
- 13th Stalisfield Youth Group  
Stalisfield Village Hall 7-8.30pm
- 14th Charing History Society  
Parish Hall, Charing 7.30 for 8pm
- 17th Farewell to Rector Steve & Jane Lillicrap  
Lynsted Church 10.30am
- 18th Eastling Parish Council meeting  
Eastling Village Hall 6.30pm
- 22nd Eat, Pray, Walk  
Doddington Church 1.30pm
- 27th Stalisfield Youth Group  
Stalisfield Village Hall 7-8.30pm
- 28th Arts Society lecture, Faversham  
Alexander Centre 11am

## OCTOBER

- 4th Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.  
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 7th Stalisfield Harvest Supper  
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 11th Stalisfield Youth Group  
Stalisfield Village Hall 7-8.30pm
- 18th Eastling Parish Council meeting  
Eastling Village Hall 6.30pm

# 25 years

## EASTLING VILLAGE HALL SILVER JUBILEE

September sees our much-loved Eastling Village Hall, where so many of us have had good times and exhausting exercise, reach 25 years of age.

Join us for a free  
"bring and share" party

### Saturday 9th September 2023 2-6pm, Eastling Village Hall

Please bring a plate (or plates!) of food for all to share and enjoy. A free drink will be provided and please bring along any other drink for yourselves.

The Trustees are delighted to have secured live music from the locally acclaimed Mark Lees.

There will be a cake raffle - volunteer cake makers please contact Annie on [jacksonandadams@btopenworld.com](mailto:jacksonandadams@btopenworld.com) who is also available to answer any other questions about this unmissable event!

The Trustees look forward to welcoming you to this grand celebration.



## HARVEST FESTIVALS IN OUR CHURCHES

Sunday 24th September 10.30am Throwley

Sunday 1st October 10.30am Eastling

Sunday 8th October 10.30am Stalisfield

## Stalisfield Harvest Supper

Saturday 7th October, 7.30pm

Stalisfield Village Hall

Price £8 for adults; £4 for children

There will be a raffle

Tickets from Shirley

please call

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# Journeying...

Just a couple of days before I write this I went on a journey - a different sort of journey than normal, although it did involve 2 trains to get home again. Bob Prichard and I went out sailing in his boat, out to the Red Sands Forts off Whitstable, that were positioned there to guard the mouth of the Thames during the second world war.

In a couple of days time I will be going on a completely different journey with Jane and a couple of good friends as we get the train to Amsterdam, to spend a few days there on holiday.

Two very different journeys, but nevertheless journeys in themselves. We undertake many different journeys, no doubt of many different types.

The last 15 years has been a particular journey, part of the journey of life for Jane and myself, based in Teynham, initially as Cluster leader of the Kingsdown & Creekside cluster, before that cluster of 7 parishes became the single Parish of Kingsdown & Creekside and I became its first Rector.

Meanwhile I became Area Dean of Ospringe in November 2011 and in that role got to know the parishes that went on to make up the Parish of High Downs in two Interregnums, both of which included a Confirmation Service at Eastling! However, it has been a

privilege to be journeying with both Parishes, together, since 2019

What a journey it has been, as we have sought to be God's church in our localities and communities. Ups and Downs at different times, but nevertheless journeying with God in all HE has had for us over these years. A journey that has known many blessings.

One of the greater encouragements has been the willingness of so many to use their gifts to the benefit of us all, in so many different roles in our churches across the benefice. So I say thank you to you all for us all being alongside one another in this journey with Jesus as his Church in our villages. We use the term, in the Church of England, Lay Ministry, but this is about the ministry of the Church and there is no real division between lay and ordained, however much the structures try to suggest otherwise!

For our time together has all been about a journey with God. We have been about putting Jesus at the centre of all we are as his Church. We haven't always nailed that aspiration but my prayer is that the Churches in their benefice, in other words the people who gather together in our various places of worship are intent in that aim, placing Jesus in the centre of our lives, in the centre of our life as his Church.



Through that comes the outworking of God in our lives, the God of love enabling the sharing of his love with each other.

I am writing this with huge mixed feelings, as I approach my retirement in September, but our journey with God continues and whilst that may not be together as we have been, this is about where God leads us on in being his church wherever he has placed us.

I am reminded, as I shared with the Parochial Church Councils, that we are God's Church and God is faithful - God will continue to be faithful as we move forwards wherever he is calling us.

My last service will be a whole Benefice (all ten churches invited to gather as one) at 10.30am on 17<sup>th</sup> September at Lynsted Church, and I hope and pray that as many as can will join together at that service as this part of the journey comes to its end, but the journey with God is thankfully never ending.

*Steve Lillicrap*  
*Rector of Kingsdown, Creekside and High Downs*

## September Prayer Pointers



- Mondays** - Give thanks for our clergy and pray for our Rector Steve and Jane for a happy retirement.
- Tuesdays** - For people around the world recovering from wild fires and other weather related disasters.
- Wednesdays** - For parents who have lost their babies, newly born or unborn.
- Thursdays** - For NHS staff and the patients in their care.
- Fridays** - For pupils and staff starting at new schools or colleges this month.
- Saturdays** - For new Christians and those hearing the Word for the first time.
- Sundays** - Praise God for a safe harvest and bless those who grow and prepare our food.

## Eastling Church Flower Rota September



- 3rd & 10th - Julia M & Angela
  - 17th & 24th - Pim
  - 1st October - Harvest: All to help
- If you would like to join the flower arranging rota, please call Bay on 01795 892036.

# Wags & Tales



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# WISDOM & COURAGE

## A weekend of events celebrating Inspirational Women of the Bible

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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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## Rain did not stop play!

What fun was had on Saturday at the Stalisfield Village Fete - fantastic attendance including the Woolly Mammoth ..... Congratulations to all the wonderful competition entries, the beautiful dogs, and our winners of the **Saw Off** - Matt & Bob; and the **Cake Dance** - Anastasia.

Even in the rain smiles were evident!

What an amazing team of helpers put this day together ..... our generous sponsors, gazebo raisers, stall manners, clearers, donations and you fabby people who came and spent your money!

A traditional British fete - including the weather - that raised well over £2000!

**On to next year!**



**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



## What's On at Belmont Woodfest & Country Fair

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September, 10am-5pm

We have lots of exciting woodland demonstrations taking place over the weekend including chainsaw carving, wood turning, campfire cooking, horse logging, pole lathe turning as well as a wonderful display of vintage tractors and stationary steam engines.

The main arena attractions run continuously throughout the day and will include Joe's Bows Falconry Display, Ferret Racing, The Mini Pony Show, Terrier Racing, Golden Retriever Display Team (Sunday) and more!

We have many different craft making activities including clay creations and flower crown making as well as Creepy Claws Animal Display. Adults £12 children under 16 are free of charge. Book your tickets online to save 20%.

### Rosemary Distillation Workshop Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 10am-2pm

During this workshop, you will experience every stage of the process from picking the herbs, through to the distillation using a traditional copper still and take away your own bottle of rosemary hydrosol to see you through the cooler months. £55.00 per person.

### Screen Printing Workshop Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October, 10am – 3pm

A one-day workshop, introducing you to the art of silk screen printing. You'll learn the principles of screen printing and experiment with shape, texture and colour.

The morning session begins with a tour of the gardens with our Head Gardener, Graeme, to gather inspiration for your prints. Back in the Orangery you'll work your sketches up into a design and use shades inspired by the season to build up your print with layers of colour. £60.00 per person.

**Belmont House & Gardens, Throwley, Faversham,  
Kent ME13 0HH  
[www.belmont-house.org](http://www.belmont-house.org)**

## Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.

Our August meeting was a social event but unlike last year when we were all sitting in the sunshine on the terrace of the village hall, we were confined to inside looking at dark skies and rain.

Several of our members had brought along wedding photographs for us all to look at, either their own wedding or other family members through the generations, including marriages during wartime.

Our earliest photograph displayed was during WW1, with several of the menfolk in uniform. It was also common for the same bridal gown to be worn by sisters and cousins, but we noticed that the bouquets then were very large, often extending from the bride's waist right down to the floor. It was fascinating to see the changes of bridal groups and fashions over the years, and how bridal photography had become more informal compared to the early 1900s.



Our next meeting on September 6<sup>th</sup> sees the return of WW1 military historian Andy Robertshaw. The village hall now has WiFi and Andy will be presenting a 'Military History Roadshow', and will be able to show us how to search various historical records to trace any



ancestors who served during both world wars, and can help identify any medals.

If you would like to come along to this event the meeting starts at 7.30pm, £5 for guests and our usual WI refreshments will be served.

We are very small village group and would welcome some new members so if you would like to try us out please come along or for more information phone our president, Helen Brooks on 07477 580727 or secretary Ellie Cameron on 01795 892016

### Clothmaking in the Weald of Kent

*The talk covers the growth and decline of high-quality woollen cloth making in the Weald, how it employed a large number of people and the skills required in the several stages of its production.*



**Speaker: Tony Singleton  
When: 14th September 2023  
Where: Parish Hall, Station Road  
Time: 7.30pm doors open  
Talk starts promptly at 8pm**



CHARING & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

[www.charinghistory.co.uk](http://www.charinghistory.co.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. Call Andrew on 01795 890598

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

## Updates from Citizens Advice Swale

September 2023

A new school year can put pressure on lots of people's budgets, and if you're feeling the squeeze at the moment you're not alone in your worries. But there is help available.

citizens  
advice



**School lunches:** The help you can get to cover school lunches will vary depending on how old your children are and if you claim benefits. Children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 automatically get free school meals. You can apply for free school meals for older children if you claim certain types of benefits, including Universal Credit, Child Tax Credit and Income Support. There is also local support available during the school holidays, for example the Faversham Umbrella are currently offering free lunch boxes for school children.

**Travel costs:** If your child can't walk to school because of special educational needs or disabilities they should get free school transport. You may be able to get help with transport costs from Kent County Council if your children can't walk because it's dangerous or too far.

**School uniform:** Local charitable schemes may be able to help, for example the Community Wardrobes from Sheppey Matters and Sittingbourne Methodist Church. There may also be donations and second-hand sales available through the school itself or Parent Teacher Association (PTA).



### How can we help you?

- **General Advice:** Call Adviceline on 0808 278 7979, send an online request at <https://citizensadviceuk.org/adviceline> (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://citizensadviceuk.org/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.

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## Summer Days

by Audrey Keen.

And if the day is overcast  
And sun repressed by cloud,  
Or mists creep through the green  
leafed trees  
With covered branches bowed.  
If dampness touches all the grass  
And cuckoos fail to sing  
And humid air brings flies to life  
And these too take the wing,  
I fasten all my thoughts on days  
Infused with summer sun,  
And precious flowers of this dear  
time  
And life so soon begun.  
I will not see the cloud as dull  
But rather shades of grey,  
To modify the brightness  
God has sent to me this day.  
And if the rising mists offend  
land seem to me unkind,  
I shall not let it trouble me  
Or tease my resting mind.  
I will but let the cool day pass  
And tolerate its ways  
And let tomorrow then resume  
My sun filled summer days.

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## God in the Sciences

This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith. See [www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/churches](http://www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/churches) and <http://www.cis.org.uk>

## How can a Christian be a scientist?

I used to ask this question as a student. I wondered what it was like to have a career in science, and how being a Christian might make a difference. Eventually I met a good number of successful scientists who were sincere Christians, and I learned that science and faith are a great combination. Dr Francis Collins, former Director of the project to decode the whole of human DNA, wrote that it is "possible for the scientist-believer to be intellectually fulfilled and spiritually alive, both worshipping God and using the tools of science to uncover some of the awesome mysteries of His creation." So, what do people like this make of the opportunities and challenges of a life in science?

Although our beliefs may affect what we notice about the world and how we interpret our data, they don't affect the outcome of

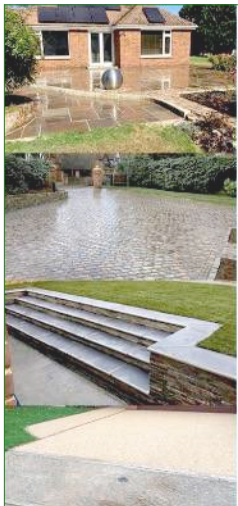
the experiments themselves. If a Muslim and a Christian drop the same ball from the same height under identical conditions, it will fall at the same speed. This means that a scientist can be respected by her colleagues for doing good work, regardless of what she believes and what her colleagues think of her worldview.

Science is an exercise in observing and measuring things, and coming up with general principles about the way things are. The world has been declared by God to be 'very good' (see chapter one and two of Genesis), and exploring it is a way to express our gratitude to Him. Scientific discoveries can also bring a sense of awe and wonder that feeds into our worship.

Some people don't want to get involved in certain lines of research because of ethical concerns. On the other hand, there

are many issues that make Christians want to get stuck into new research that will help care for people and the rest of creation, such as medical research, ecology or developing appropriate technologies.

Organisations such as Christians in Science and the Faraday Institute gather together scientists who are also people of faith, and others who are interested in the subject. They come from a wide range of backgrounds, and express their beliefs in a variety of different ways. What they have in common is the conviction that you don't have to choose between science and God. As the young people in our churches prepare to return to their studies, online if not in person, let's encourage them that science (along with many other fields) is a great way to serve God.



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## 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:

ARTISTIC AND LITERARY CHELSEA

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30 p.m.**

This lecture explores the evolution of Chelsea from riverside fishing village into a bohemian literary and artistic enclave. Starting at Sloane Square, we discover the curse of the boy who never grew up and where the 'revolution in English theatre' took place. Turning down Tite Street, we take tea with Oscar Wilde, wave at James McNeill Whistler and watch out for Ellen Terry's stepping out of her carriage to sit for John Singer Sargent....! We wend our way along the river to the stunning Chelsea Physic Garden, then stroll along to charming Cheyne Walk where EVERYONE who is ANYONE has lived; Rossetti, Swinburne, two 'Eliots', Mrs Gaskell, Turner and no fewer than 3 Rolling Stones..! We confer with Sir Thomas More and admire his medieval mansion. Finally we retrace our steps, swinging by the Kings Road and we 'pop in' to 50 Smith Street and meet literature's most famous nanny.

Our lecturer, **Simon Whitehouse**, is a (recovering) actor, lecturer, presenter, Alexander Technique and voice teacher, and award winning London Blue Badge guide. He has worked as a guide lecturer in house at Shakespeare's Globe, the Royal Opera House, the BBC and the National Gallery.

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.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk)

## 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 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 11.00am on "Tamara Lampicka" by Alexandra Epps. Coffee and biscuits will be served from 10.20am Tamara de Lempicka's story is one of self-invention. From her early beginnings as an aristocratic fugitive from the Russian Revolution, to later taking Paris by storm as a successful artist living on her own terms, she has become an icon of the Roaring Twenties. Her unique style reflects the shifting morals of the age, representative of the wealthy and decadent European elite, and boldly celebrating female sexuality. Few artists sum up an epoch quite as completely - a true art deco diva.

*Alexandra Epps: Official Guide and Lecturer at Tate Modern, Tate Britain and Guildhall Art Gallery. Qualified Guide to the City of London, offering lectures and walks ..... Alexandra's background is in design having practised as a graphic designer running her own design consultancy for many years. BA Saint Martins School of Art, MA London College of Printing.*

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## The Divine Gardener

This is the time of year for many churches to hold their Harvest Festival services. No doubt, there will be displays of food, some grown in local gardens. While gardeners have pleasure growing fruit and vegetables, it can be hard work tending to them.

Jesus knew about the care given to vines. In John 15:1-8 Jesus compared Himself to a vine and referred to God as the gardener. In this parable, God is responsible for pruning the vine. He sees what parts are useful, and what parts are useless. The unproductive parts are cut away, so that growth is encouraged. Jesus is telling us that God will prune our lives, not to harm us, but to encourage our spiritual growth.

God's pruning cuts away wrong attitudes and wasteful behaviour, all of which serve no useful purpose in our lives. This pruning


by *Lester Amann*.

is required so that we become more fruitful. And the fruit God wants is love, joy, patience etc. (see Galatians 5:22-23) These holy qualities are intended to influence the world to change it from the bad to all that is good.

To encourage its growth, a vine has regularly to be cut back. The effect looks drastic, but it is still essential. When God cuts away the dead wood in our lives, He does it because He knows how our lives can grow. The pruning knives are in the hands of our Father God who only desires the best for us. This pruning process can be painful, but Jesus says that it is vital if the Holy Spirit is to flow through us to produce the fruit that God wants.

Also in this parable, Jesus said He was the Vine, and we are the branches. We have no existence apart from Jesus. We can do nothing for God on our own and must be joined to Jesus. In the same way a vine utilises the life-giving sap to flow into the branches, so we need the Holy Spirit to flow His life into us. It is only by us remaining in Jesus, that He can give us the inner resources for an effective fruit-producing life.


Jesus said, 'Abide in Me' (John 15:4 King James Version). Abiding speaks of sustenance, being upheld and supported, enduring and withstanding. So, if we are to reap a harvest of holiness, may we be prepared for God's pruning, and continue to abide in Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.



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# Sunday Services

## 3rd September Trinity 13

Romans 12. 9 - 21, Matthew 16. 21 - 28

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

Otterden 5.00pm Evensong

## 10th September Trinity 14

Romans 13. 8 - 14, Matthew 18. 15 - 20

Eastling 9am Holy Communion BCP

Throwley 10.30am Morning Prayer

Wychling 4pm Evensong

## 17th September Trinity 15

Romans 14. 1-12, Matthew 18. 21 - 35

Lynsted 10.30am Holy Communion with

**Farewell and Thanksgiving for the  
ministry of**

**Rector Steve and Jane Lillicrap**

## 24th September Trinity 16

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

Throwley 10.30am Harvest Festival with  
Holy Communion

Newnham 10.30 am Harvest Festival

## 1st October Trinity 17

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

Eastling 10.30am Harvest Festival with  
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.achurchnearyou.com/church/11982/>

### Anna Chaplaincy

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

An Anna Chaplain can offer a listening ear and company.

Communion can be brought to you in your own home.



Contact your local Anna Chaplain on:

[annachaplaincy@outlook.com](mailto:annachaplaincy@outlook.com)

07799538809

# High Downs Parish

**Rector** Reverend Canon Dr. Steve Lillicrap  
01795 522510 [steve.lillicrap@kc-hd.org.uk](mailto:steve.lillicrap@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)

**Parish Office** Email: [stmaryeastling@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryeastling@gmail.com)

[facebook.com/highdownsbenefice](https://facebook.com/highdownsbenefice)

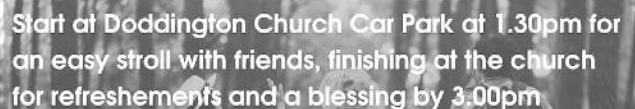
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### CONTACT THE GOOD NEWS EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like to submit articles, or to advertise in  
the October 2023 magazine, send your submission by  
20th September 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

If you enjoy a gentle stroll with friends why not join us once  
a month as we gather together to chat and enjoy all that is  
glorious in our creation. And we have tea and cake back at  
the church with a short time to breathe and reflect in the  
midst of whatever we're experiencing in our day to day  
lives.

**September 22nd and 4th Friday of each month.**

Start at Doddington Church Car Park at 1.30pm (with dogs  
if you have them)

By the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E.

## How to fight back against artificial intelligence

I've been writing Christian comment columns for newspapers and radio for more than 30 years – but I had a shock when I asked an artificial intelligence computer programme to write one for me.

The question that I posed was simple. Could an AI programme produce a column that would match up to one penned by a team of writers who regularly produce articles for a local newspaper in St Albans, my home city north of London? These are all people who know the area and have a living faith.

The answer? The AI fared pretty well and – worryingly – it produced several insights that could have been written by one of our experienced team.

My experiment with artificial intelligence gave me a glimpse of what AI can already do, with – looking ahead – the potential for 'systems with human-intelligence' to make radical changes to society, including taking away people's jobs and making 'fake news' much easier to invent and distribute.

Many people are worried. A group of technology leaders have called

for a pause in development while we study AI's potential impact.

But what 'my' AI-generated article lacked – and, of course, it would – was a living faith that would inform its writing. For anyone who is a Christian communicator – from the pulpit, online, in print, via video or drama or in our personal lives – this is a vital lesson.

In an age when AI can generate sermons, write articles and design compelling graphics, those of us who seek to speak about the faith, and bring others to it, will need increasingly to 'bring ourselves' into our messages.

Like John the Baptist, we need to be pointing to Christ – always – but it'll become increasingly vital that we bring our own lived experiences, our testimonies, into how we communicate.

That's the challenge for all Christian communicators, and anyone seeking to share their faith. Words and arguments that could be drawn from a text-book or the web can easily be replicated by AI programmes.

Actions of love, and sharing our personal story will always be the most persuasive way of presenting Christ's gospel of sacrifice and love.

And AI – I pray – will never be able to match that authenticity and truth.

## Defibrillators in our Villages

Ready for anyone to use in an emergency, please find the nearest to you:

**Eastling** sited at 1 Manor Lees, the Street, Eastling. ME13 0BE

**Stalisfield** sited at Stalisfield Village Hall, ME13 0JE

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

## Eastling Parish Council meeting

18th September at 6.30pm  
Committee Room, Eastling Village Hall

Members of the public are welcome to attend

\*\*\*\*\*

## Eastling Neighbourhood Watch



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

**Police** 101    **Emergency** 999

Now the harvest etc has now nearly all been gathered in and the fields are clear it is the time when the evil people who do hare coursing in the county turn up. It is a nasty sport which is banned under law and the rural and all the police take the matter very seriously. Should any instances or sightings be seen please report it, if in progress please ring 999 and mention Operation Galileo but under no circumstances approach these people.

There are many scams circulating at the moment, please remember that your bank will not contact you directly on the phone, neither will the inland revenue. If you do receive any strange calls and wish to verify them, replace the receiver and wait a minimum of 15 minutes before making the call.

The blight of fly tipping is still very prevalent within the county so, if seen, please report it either to Swale Borough Council or the Police.

Have a good month  
Take Care  
Alan

## Pest Control Services

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Resuscitation Council (UK)



# RIDE + STRIDES for Churches

10am - 6pm on Saturday 9th September

Friends of Kent Churches is a charity dedicated to the preservation of our Churches. This is the main event.

PLEASE lend your support by taking part & raising money or sponsor those who enter.

50% of your sponsorship money goes to YOUR church, the other 50% goes to the grants that FoKC award to our churches in need.

Our own churches have benefitted with grants from FoKC  
Sponsorship forms and lots more information can be found on  
<https://www.kentrideandstride.co.uk>



## CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

**Back to School Event**  
Saturday 16th September,  
10:00-12:00

A truly unique and unforgettable experience for all the family to enjoy!

- Musical workshop
- Joyful talk and blessing
- 'Create your own bookmark' activity
- Free Canterbury Cathedral bag tag

Bring your own picnic to enjoy in the Precincts, or purchase a snack from our Cathedral Kiosk or Shop. This is a free ticketed event, with tickets available on our website or Eventbrite.

All are welcome, however best suited to families with children aged 4-11. Children must accompanied at all times. Book your free tickets on <https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/what-s-on/events/back-to-school-event/>



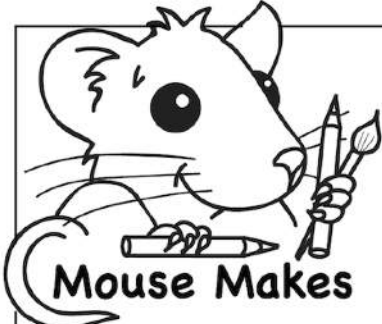
## STALISFIELD YOUTH GROUP

Stalisfield Youth Group returns on September 13th.

Free to all 11-18yr olds on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month 7-8.30pm at Stalisfield Village Hall. 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





### THE WEEDS AND THE WHEAT

What did the enemy sow amongst the wheat?

Matthew 13:25

Who sows the good seed?

Matthew 13:37

What does the field represent?

the \_\_\_\_\_ and who is the good seed?

The people of the \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 13:38

Who sows the weeds?

The \_\_\_\_\_

Who are the harvesters?

The \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 13:39

At harvest time the weeds are gathered, bundled then \_\_\_\_\_ but the wheat is stored in the \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 13:30

“He who has ears, let him \_\_\_\_\_”

Matthew 13:43

READ the parable in Matthew 13 v24-30, and v36-43

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Find the words from the questions too!