

New Year

A carillon, then twelve long chimes
We join in noisy 'Auld Lang Synes'
To celebrate the changing times -
And times of hope, not fear!
Even while the chimes still ring
And while we gaily laugh and sing
We pray the coming years will bring
Good reasons for good cheer!

All the sadness of last year -
Every sorrow, every tear
Let them fade and disappear;
Yes - let them fade away!
Hearken to the chiming bells!
See the fireworks' sparkling spells!
The sights and sounds,
The tastes and smells
Of ev'ry New Year's Day!

By Nigel Beeton



JANUARY 2024

- 10th Stalisfield Youth Group 7-8.30pm
Stalisfield Village Hall
- 11th Stalisfield Parish Council meeting
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30 pm
- 11th Charing History Society
Parish Hall, Charing 7.30 pm
- 15th Eastling Parish Council meeting
Eastling Village Hall 6.30 pm
- 20th Copy deadline for February 2024
goodnewsmagazine@me.com
- 24th Youth Group
Stalisfield Village Hall 7-8.30pm
- 25th Arts Society lecture, Faversham
Alexander Centre 11am
- 26th Eat, Pray, Walk
Doddington Church 1.30pm

FEBRUARY

- 7th Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 14th Arts Society lecture, Egerton
Millennium Hall, Egerton 2.30pm

Good News Parish Magazine High Downs Parish

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

www.goodnews.rf.gd

January Message

I am writing this during Advent, as we approach Christmas, with the opportunity for Christians to celebrate again the wonderful moments leading up to and after the birth of Jesus. A story that is so well-known, unfolding each year in services across our parishes.



One part of the familiar account of the birth of Jesus is recognised after Christmas, the journey of the Magi, or the Three Kings, or Wise Men. The only reference to them is in Matthew's Gospel.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked: "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him". (Matthew 2:1-2)

Matthew does not specify that there are three Magi, so this number has likely evolved because of the three gifts they bring, neither does Matthew's account provide detailed information about their identities, over the years various details have been added like their names, Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar.

In the Christian tradition the visit of the Wise Men is celebrated at the feast of Epiphany on 6th January. I

often think that Epiphany doesn't get the attention it deserves. The account of the Magi's journey has inspired many writers and musicians. T.S. Eliot wrote the poem the Journey of the Magi, his opening lines evoking the challenges the Magi had: "A cold coming we had of it, just the worst time of the year for a journey and such a long journey".

Three Kings from Persian Lands afar is a wonderful carol, "the star of mercy, the star of grace, shall led thy heart to its resting place", it says and the hymn As with Gladness captures a different mood to Eliot's description, the Magi set off with joy in their hearts when they saw the star.

As with gladness Magi bold
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright.
So, most gracious God, may we
Evermore be led by thee.

The Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The

last few weeks have been all about gifts, more challenging than ever for so many in the current times, where some households barely have enough to eat.

I have been particularly struck this Christmas on hearing so many charity appeals. There are always many at this time of the year, but it seems there are even more than ever, which is not at all surprising. They are such emotive causes that you wish you could give to them all. Realistically that's not possible, but giving to a few will help, and not just at Christmas time but throughout the year.

The Magi were aware of the expected Messiah, they were curious to see him, they took him gifts. Perhaps the greatest gift they gave was not a tangible object, but the fact that they didn't report back to Herod where the baby was. The word epiphany means a moment of sudden and great realisation. Warned in a dream, the Magi realised when they saw Jesus that this baby was very special, and they must not reveal his whereabouts to Herod.

God has given each of us special gifts and talents, which we can share with others. The story of the Magi is about giving, but it's also about joy and awe and wonder. January can be a grey, cold, and for many a dispiriting, month, but let's keep in our hearts the wonder of God's gift to us in Jesus.

Pim Baxter, Reader

New Year Prayer 2024, written by Daphne Kitching

Lord,
We stand on the threshold of a new year. Some of us are excited, some of us are fearful. We don't know what 2024 will bring, but we know that there will be ups and downs, joy and sadness mixed in with the months.

As we step into this new year, help us to keep our eyes fixed on you; to know for certain that, whatever happens, you will be in it with us, not watching from the sidelines, but right in the middle of it with us.

Help us to put our trust in what Jesus did on the cross, maybe for the first time, maybe as a New Year re-commitment, so that we will know that nothing can separate us from you.

Let the storm rage, let the sun shine – we are safe!

In the name of the risen, living Lord Jesus. Amen.



Canon Paul Hardingham begins a new series which will run for the next two years.

What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to the Books of the Bible: Genesis

This is the first of a new series aimed at providing an overview of the Bible. This month we consider the first book, Genesis.

As the title suggests, Genesis is primarily about beginnings. In chapters 1-11, it records the creation of the heavens and the earth and human beings; marriage and family; sin's effect on society and the world. The following chapters record God's dealings with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph, and their families. In this story of the Patriarchs we see God establishing a people called to bless the world, as He blesses them.

The book of Genesis is key to understanding the whole Bible. It

is supremely about relationships; the relationships between God and the created order, God and human beings, and between human beings themselves. Fundamentally man has been created in the image of God, so that he can relate to God in a personal way: *'God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them'* (1:27). However, Genesis plots how this relationship was broken by sin, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, resulting in the fall of human beings and the created order. By creating people with free will, God risked the possibility that they might reject Him. This is inherent in His love for human beings.

In Genesis, God enters into covenants with the world (the rainbow following the flood) and with Abraham and his descendents (circumcision), pledging His love and faithfulness to them and calling them to respond to Him in faith. It reminds us that God is fundamental to living. Without a sense of the centrality of God's place in our lives, we can never get our lives right.



The Plough Inn, Stalisfield;

a family run, independent, award winning pub & restaurant offering an extensive menu of both 2 AA rosette dishes and your traditional pub classics.

Why not plan a walk & finish back at the pub for a hearty lunch of Richard's take on a Croque Monsieur or Madame with organic sourdough & homecooked ham, followed with a crême brulee for £16 (lunchtimes only).

Curry night on Tuesdays, with a choice of 3 authentic curries available at £15 between 5.30pm & 7pm.

Wellbeing Wednesday, pop in for a free tea or coffee and chat with others or enjoy 10% off drinks, see you between 4.30pm & 6pm.

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

Stalisfield Road, Faversham, Kent, ME13 0HY
Tel: 01795 890 256 Email:

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Eastling Church Flower Rota



7th and 14th January - Suzie
21st and 28th January - Cerys
4th February - Bay

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

What is AChurchNearYou.com ?

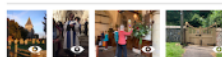
AChurchNearYou.com is the Church of England's tool for finding local churches that offers all the features and facilities you might be looking for, such as for getting married, for a baptism or a funeral. The website can help you to find out more about Service Types or Times, Church facilities, such as, Wheelchair access - a Who's Who, or Event information and other details about the parish. It can provide some helpful reflections for Everyday Christian Faith and Daily Prayer.

The illustration below, shows information for St Mary, Eastling; however, each church in the High Downs Parish has its own page - if you would like to see this in action, please visit the links below:

St. Mary, Eastling - <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11982/>

St. Mary, Stalisfield - <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11994/>

St. Michael and All Angels - <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11996/>



Edit content

St Mary, Eastling in the Parish of High Downs

Services and events

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SAFEGUARDING and GDPR

The Good News Magazine for High Downs Parish - DECEMBER 2023 Edition for download

St Mary, Eastling in the Parish of High Downs

We wish you a Happy, Joyous and Peaceful Christmas 2023, as we come together from around our Community to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and His coming to this world as our Lord and Saviour.

A warm welcome awaits you at St. Mary's Church, Eastling, in the Parish of High Downs

St. Mary, Eastling, is part of the Parish of High Downs with the churches of St. Mary, Stalisfield with Otterden; St. Michael and All Angels, Throwley. We are also part of the Kingsdown and Creekside Benefice and the wider Christian community of the Ospringe Deanery. We have one PCC that is supported by members of each church in the parish. We meet and share regularly in worship, fellowship and joint parish events throughout the year. You and your family will receive a warm welcome should you wish to join our church; please contact us if you need further information. **Please go to the 'About Us' page for those to contact.**

Sunday 7th January 2024,
17:30-18:30

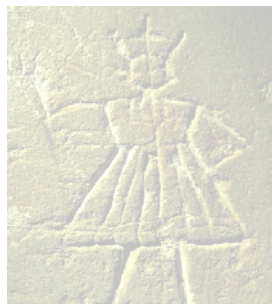
Epiphany Carol Service

A beautiful carol service to celebrate the Feast of Epiphany in Canterbury Cathedral.



The music and readings reflect on the three signs of Christ's 'Epiphany' (his manifestation to the world): the visit of the wise men, the Baptism of Christ, and the transformation of water into wine at the wedding at Cana. The service lasts about 50 minutes.

Everyone is welcome, and the service is free to attend.



Medieval Graffiti

The talk will discuss historic graffiti found locally in Kent and then compare it with graffiti found elsewhere, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Speaker: Wayne Perkins

When: 11th January 2024

Where: Parish Hall, Station Road

Time: 7.30pm doors open

Talk starts promptly at 8pm



**CHARING & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.

Our December meeting was a complete change from our traditional wreath making event as we welcomed back our friend and wine expert Andrew to guide us through tasting some excellent affordable wines. Our president Helen had selected lovely cheeses and biscuits to enjoy for the evening which was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and we all went away with Andrew's list of selected wines ready to raid a well known local supermarket.

We do not hold a meeting in January but will be meeting up for a social lunch to start off the year followed by our February meeting when we welcome back Leigh Miles, choreographer and fitness trainer. This will be a Bollywood evening suggested by our members after our visit earlier in the year to see 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel' at the Marlowe theatre.

Yvonne Fernando NLP practitioner from Charing will be returning in March to get our minds in tune for the coming year, this will be her third visit to our group and is always very enjoyable.

The next WI subscription year starts in April, so if you have been thinking about joining and would like to try us out please come along. All WI groups are different, (we don't sing Jerusalem or hold jam competitions). We are very relaxed and enjoy a lot of social time, outings and theatre trips. It's a great way to make new friends so just call in at Stalisfield Village Hall, we start at 7:30 on the first Wednesday of each month. For more details call Helen Brooks on 07477 580727 or secretary Ellie Cameron on 07775 649337.

Potatoes are not so bad for you after all

Potatoes have been a target of the anti-carb brigade for probably long enough. An affordable staple food for centuries, they have fallen out of favour in recent times, amid the trend for low-carb diets.

"The humble potato has been given a bad rap," says Dr Duane Mellor, a senior teaching fellow at Aston Medical School in Birmingham. "The truth is that potatoes contain a lot of vitamins and other nutrients that are important for good health." These include vitamin C, vitamin B6, potassium, and choline.

Potatoes also contain fibre, including resistant starch. This helps to feed the gut bacteria, which in turn has a wide



range of health benefits.

Both the skin and the flesh of potatoes are good for you. The skin provide fibre, and the flesh contains most of the vitamins and minerals. So, the healthiest way to cook potatoes is to boil or bake them in their skins.

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Talk Use Your Mind for Better Health

Thurs 15 Feb | 10-11am

Taster Thurs 22 Feb | 9.30-11am

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9.30am-11am | £195

Evening at Stalisfield

Every Mon | 4 Mar – 29 Apr (ex 1 Apr)

5.30-7pm | £195

Yvonne Fernando

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**NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?
JOIN THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON!**

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

New year is the perfect time to try The Arts Society Egerton as we offer DISCOUNTED MEMBERSHIP!

Membership for the remaining 5 months of our 2023-24 season costs just £22.40 (£40 for joint membership). Visitors are always welcome to attend for £6 per meeting.

Our lectures for 2024 begin in February and end in June. They are presented by renowned experts in their fields. You may know some of them through their publications or appearances on TV or radio. They share their knowledge and expertise in ways that are stimulating, educational and entertaining. Lectures take place in the Millennium Hall in Elm Close TN27 9DS on the second Wednesday of the month at 2.30 pm.

Forthcoming lectures:

- February 14th:** the History of the Royal School of Needlework with Susan Kay-Williams
- March 13th:** the Men who made Menswear with Russell Nash
- April 10th:** The Dancing Faun: a personal Story of a Masterpiece with Bertie Pearce
- May 8th:** Uncompromising Genius: the Life and Work of Frank Lloyd Wright with Fiona Rose
- June 12th:** West End Winners – the rise of the British Musical from Noel Coward to Lionel Bart with Dr John Snelson

From 2024 we will launch a new programme of visits to places of cultural interest in Kent and London. Members also receive discounts at the West House Gallery in Smarden.

At an additional cost we will offer a Study Day in May with BBC Antique's Roadshow's Mark Hill entitled Undressing Antiques which will include valuations of 20th century ceramics and glass.

Our 2024-25 season starts in September

For further details about this and other lectures visit our website at <https://theartssocietyegerton.org.uk>

For further information please contact Christine Willis, our Membership Secretary via cmwillis75@gmail.com or 01233 756377.

See also our website www.theartssocietyegerton.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 or join for a year's lectures.

**Our next lecture is on the Thursday 25
January 2024 at 11.00am on
"Monopoly" by Roger Mendham.**

Coffee and biscuits will be served from 10.20am.

Almost everyone has played Monopoly at some time in their life. It is one of the world's most popular and enduring board games. But, how well do you really know it? This talk starts with the original Landlord's Game of 1903 and its evolution into the game as we know it today. Based on the classic 1936 London version we then take a photographic journey around the locations on that Monopoly board. Expect some surprises as we explore the relationships between the various properties, look at the ones that don't actually exist and uncover the story behind the game we all know so well - or do we? Biography

A keen and accomplished photographer Roger has gained Distinctions from the Royal Photographic Society and is currently the President of the Surrey Photographic Association. His artistic taste is predominantly 20th century and he is particularly interested in the visual aspects of art. He has studied the evolution of photography from its earliest days in the early 1800s to becoming a major art form in the late 20th and now 21st centuries. An experienced public speaker, his talks are all richly illustrated with both his own and images from some of the leading photographers in history.

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





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Sunday Services

7th January 2024 Baptism of Christ

Acts 19. 1 - 7, Mark 1. 4 - 11

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

14th January Epiphany 2

Revelation 5. 1 - 10, John 1. 43 - 51

Throwley 10.30am Morning Prayer

Newnham 10.30am Holy Communion

Lynsted 10.30am All Together Now

21st January Epiphany 3

Revelation 19. 6 - 10, John 2. 1 - 11

Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship

Norton 10.30am Holy Communion

28th January Epiphany 4

Revelation 12. 1 - 5a, Mark 1. 21 - 28

Throwley 10.30am Holy Communion

Newnham 10.30am Morning Worship

Lynsted 10.30am Family Communion

4th February 2nd Sunday before Lent

Colossians 1. 15 - 20, John 1. 1 - 14

Doddington 10.30am Holy Communion

Online Daily Worship Continues

As well as the services in our churches, the daily 9am Morning Prayer at Lynsted 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/>



"The vicar really is taking all of January off to recuperate, then."

High Downs Parish

Rector Vacant

Benefice Administrator Joyce Warren

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Associate Priest Reverend James (Jim) Pye

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

Curate Reverend Caroline Turvey

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Reader Caroline Ramshaw (07799 538809)

Anna Chaplain Caroline Ramshaw

AnnaChaplaincy@outlook.com

Reader Pim Baxter (07710 116269)

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Administrator E mail: stmaryeastling@gmail.com

Stalisfield with Otterden

Jenny King, Warden (01795 890366)

Administrator Shirley Pritchard

Email: Stmarystalisfield@gmail.com

Throwley Tim Jones, Warden

Email: timothydavid.jones@yahoo.co.uk

High Downs Parish Safeguarding Officer

Mark Harlow (07979 864000)

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

Our Curate Reverend Caroline Turvey, will be leaving us soon to take up a new position as Vicar of the Canonry Benefice, near Canterbury, and her last service here will be a Benefice Communion, 10.30am at Doddington church on Sunday 4th February.

The Good News team thanks Caroline for all her work and sends blessing for a great time ahead.

CONTACT THE GOOD NEWS EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

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

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

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

07799538809

Updates from Citizens Advice Swale January 2023

citizens
advice

Is your new year's resolution to make a difference to the lives of others? We're looking for volunteers to join our friendly team. With full training, you'll gain new skills, meet new people, and make a real difference to our clients by helping them overcome the problems they face.

We're looking for volunteer advisers to support our clients with information and advice, to help with issues such as benefits, debt and employment. We're particularly looking for people to join our Sheppey team, but we'd welcome applications from any area.

We're also looking for new trustees to join our board - particularly people with finance, marketing or fundraising skills, or understanding of the housing sector. We'd welcome applications from people with lived experience of the type of issues that Citizens Advice Swale supports.

Volunteering with us has proven to be a rewarding experience with many citing 'making a difference', 'boosting confidence', 'meeting new people' and 'improving job prospects' as benefits.

For an application form, or to find out more, visit www.citizensadvice.co.uk/volunteer/, call 01795 417666 or email admin@citizensadvice.co.uk

How can we help you?

General Advice:

- Drop in at Swale House, Sittingbourne (Mondays, 10am-12pm), Sheppey Gateway (Tuesdays, 10am-12pm) or 43 Stone Street, Faversham (Wednesdays and Fridays, 10am-12pm).
- Call Adviceline on Freephone 0808 278 7979.
- Send an online request at <https://citizensadvice.co.uk/email-general-advice/> (Monday-Wednesday).

Debt:

- Request a call back at <https://citizensadvice.co.uk/debt/>

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.



Childhood Memories

by Audrey Keen

Pale lilac I remember most
And tiger lilies gay,
The rooks, the cattle brown
And sunny meadows left for hay;
The pigs in styes, the little chicks
While goslings grew to geese,
And baby lambs developed
A lovely woolly fleece.
And though these are but
memories
And all those mentioned gone,
The thoughts recur again
And so the love for these lives on.



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The Ven John Barton how to live and die well.

Good preparation for our death

“Thank you” - “I’m sorry” - “I forgive you” - “I love you”.

These are the most common words spoken by people in their last moments of consciousness before dying. That’s what Dr Kathryn Mannix tells us, and she should know, having spent her whole career working alongside dying people, and learning from them.

Her YouTube video, What Happens As We Die, has been viewed more than a million times, and her book With the End in Mind: How to Live and Die Well, is a bestseller.

When the Church of England Book of Common Prayer was first published in 1662, infant mortality rates were high, and the average life expectancy was about 40 years. So

the BCP gave precise instructions to the Vicar when visiting sick people: pray with them; exhort them to forgive all who have offended them, and to make a Will. Even in 1901, men could not expect to live beyond 45 on average, with 49 years for women.

Today, less than half of UK adults have made a Will, and even fewer have discussed their funeral arrangements with those closest to them. This leaves the next-of-kin floundering when the funeral director asks for instructions. It can also cause family arguments at the very time they need to support one another in their grief.

Unlike our predecessors, we shy away from death and even use a

special language for it. Instead of dying, people ‘pass away’. They are not dead, but ‘lost’ or ‘departed’. Dr Mannix says, “We have no cure for death. We’re getting better at postponing it, but sooner or later it comes to us all”. When we face up to the process of dying, which isn’t nearly as bad as many imagine, it allows us to plan ahead, and to talk openly to our nearest and dearest, instead of avoiding the issue.

Our last conscious days can be very precious. We can shed many of the things which preoccupied us and rediscover what really matters. In the end, it will be love.

The Citizens Advice website lists some very useful and clear advice on **Death and Wills**, such as What to do after a Death; Dealing with the Financial Affairs of someone who has died; Arranging a Funeral; Complaining about a Funeral; Who can Inherit if there is no Will; What to do if someone Dies Abroad

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/family/death-and-wills/wills/>

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DOG WALKING FOR THE WINTER

Reflecting Faith: God's Acre

By The Revd Dr Jo White

I thought we'd spend a few months at the start of this New Year considering the outside of a church building, and the gardens around it.

For many churches this will include a churchyard, though not necessarily. If your church does stand in a churchyard, then it may be what is known as a 'closed' one, meaning that burials and interments no longer take place other than within an existing family grave. An 'open' churchyard is one where burials and

interments are still able to take place. The maintenance for open churchyards is the responsibility of the church, whilst once closed (which, for Church of England churches, has to be agreed by Parliament) the maintenance is passed to the local or parish civil council.



These days, with the many financial cutbacks, Councils often try to refuse to take on a churchyard. But as it is a statutory obligation, they have no choice, and many will simply reduce the number of grass-cutting sessions to fit their slimmed budget.

Churchyards have not always looked as they do today, with memorial stones of varying shapes and sizes. Originally, they were simply left grassed and in towns this became one of the few green areas. People were buried there without any permanent marker being placed, nor any other official record of placement kept.

The thinking was that their life here on earth had ended and the person was now with God in heaven. Only those people in 'God's kingdom' would be allowed to be buried in the consecrated grounds, so anyone who had taken their own life, or unbaptised babies, would not be allowed.

Church buildings are usually built facing east - the place of the rising sun - and the people's entrance is on the south wall. This gives access to the churchyard from the south, and in European countries that means your first experience of entering the churchyard and the building is on its sunny side.

It was common practise to bury to the south of the church, as this was the lighter and warmer side. The richer and more influential folk would request to go as near to the altar - the Holy of Holies - as possible; even if that was outside the building itself.

Over the course of time folk wanted - and richer folk could afford - a marker for where their loved one lay. This idea of having a permanent marker reflected the attitudes at the time, of visiting the place of rest specifically marked. Not just to know where to visit and even bring a picnic for the family on a good weather day, especially in working busy town areas; but also, to recognise the importance of their loved one's life.

This month

Try and visit a churchyard with very old memorials. Have a look at all the different different materials, styles, wording and embellishments. What message do they give to you?

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Eastling Parish Council Meeting

Monday 15th January at 6.30pm in the Committee Room, Eastling Village Hall
Members of the public are welcome to attend

Stalisfield Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 11th January at 7.30pm
Stalisfield 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

Many thanks for all the information received over the last year which has greatly contributed towards it being a relatively safe and crime free area within the village and local area. Any information received is always passed on with the contributor remaining anonymous.

Listening to the radio this morning there has been 199 persons charged with drink/drug driving in the follow up to Christmas and last year there were 13 deaths and 92 serious injuries caused by drink/drug driving.

Keeping this in mind I do wish everybody a safe and healthy new year

Take Care
Alan

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All in the month of January

It was:

700 years ago, on 8th Jan 1324 that Marco Polo died. This Venetian/Italian merchant, explorer and writer is best known for his book *The Travels of Marco Polo*, which detailed his travels along the Silk Road in Asia.

200 years ago, on 8th Jan 1824 that Wilkie Collins, British novelist and playwright was born. Best known for *The Woman in White* and *The Moonstone*, which is regarded as the first modern British detective novel.

175 years ago, on 13 Jan 1849 that the Colony of Vancouver Island was established. It became part of Canada in 1871.

150 years ago, on 25th Jan 1874 that Somerset Maugham, British playwright, novelist and short story writer, was born. One of the most popular writers of his era.

125 years ago, on 20th Jan 1899 that Clarice Cliff, British ceramic artist, was born.

100 years ago, on 22nd Jan 1924 that Ramsay MacDonald became Britain's first Labour Prime Minister.

80 years ago, on 17th Jan to 18th May 1944 that the WW2 Battle of Monte Cassino, Italy, took place. This Allied victory is regarded as the hardest-fought and bloodiest battle of the war, with around 250,000 casualties.

75 years ago, on 26th Jan 1949 that the 200-inch (five metre) Hale Telescope at the Palomar Observatory in California was used for the first time. It was the world's largest optical telescope until 1976, and it is still in active use.

60 years ago, on 11th Jan 1964 that the US Surgeon General published a report which concluded that cigarette smoking caused lung cancer and chronic bronchitis. This was the first official US government report on the health issues of smoking.

Also 60 years ago, on 13th Jan 1964 that Bob Dylan's album *The Times They Are A-Changin'* was released.

50 years ago, from 1st Jan to 6th Mar, 1974, a three-day working week was introduced in the UK, in order to conserve coal supplies (used by power stations) during a miners' strike.

40 years ago, on 22nd Jan 1984 the first Apple Mackintosh computer went on sale.

25 years ago, on 1st Jan 1999 that the euro officially became the new currency in 11 European countries.

15 years ago, on 3rd Jan 2009 that the cryptocurrency Bitcoin was launched.

10 years ago, on 27th Jan 2014 that Peter Seeger, American folk/protest singer died. Best known for *Where Have All the Flowers Gone* and *If I Had a Hammer*.



HIGH EOWAS
EST. 2021
youth
STALISFIELD

Stalisfield Youth Group

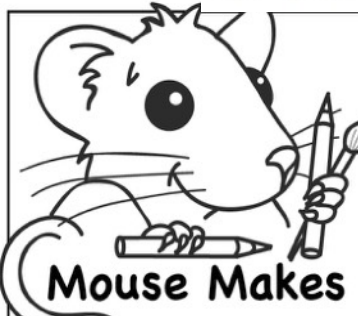
January dates:
10th and 24th in
Stalisfield Village Hall
7 - 8.30pm Free to all 11-18yr olds.

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 on 07929 928 046



RECONNECT
Kent Children and Young People





Mouse Makes

EPIPHANY is the time in the Church year that we remember when the 'wise men' or 'Magi' followed a star that led them to the Christ child Jesus. They bowed down, worshipped him and left *three* special gifts.

Where was Jesus born?

Luke 2:1



What three gifts did the wise men give Jesus?

Who was the king?


Luke 2:1

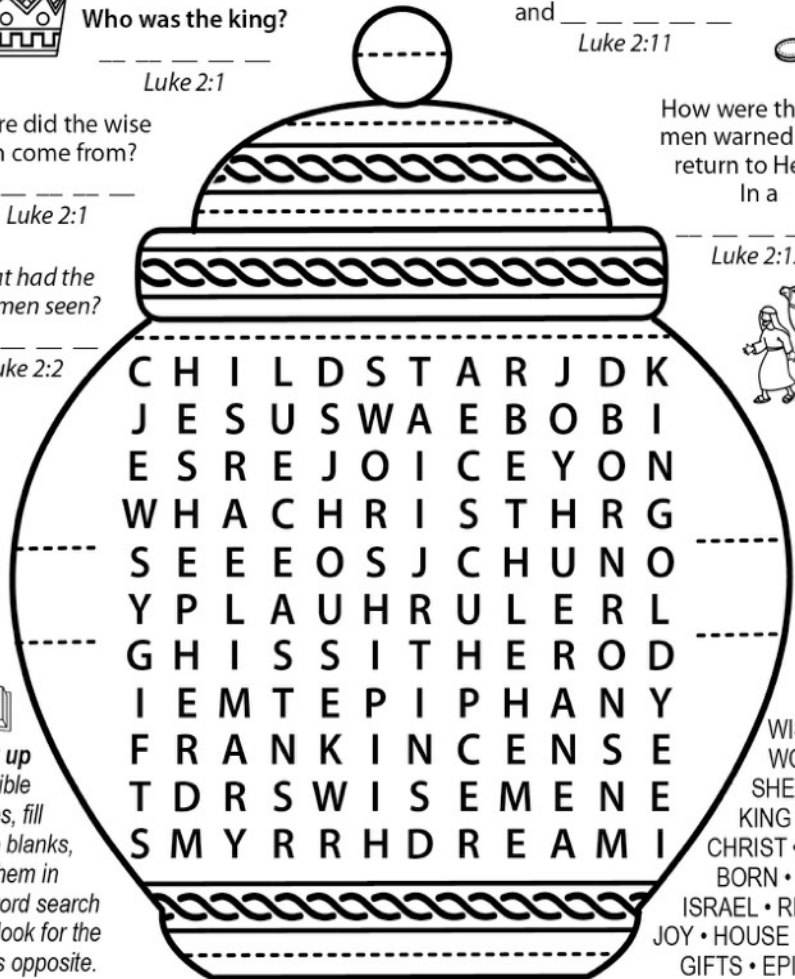
and -----
Luke 2:11

Where did the wise men come from?
the -----
Luke 2:1

How were the wise men warned not to return to Herod?
In a -----
Luke 2:12





What had the wise men seen?
a -----
Luke 2:2

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

JESUS
WISEMEN
WORSHIP
SHEPHERD
KING • JEWS
CHRIST • CHILD
BORN • RULER
ISRAEL • REJOICE
JOY • HOUSE • MARY
GIFTS • EPIPHANY

Look up the Bible verses, fill in the blanks, find them in the word search then look for the words opposite.

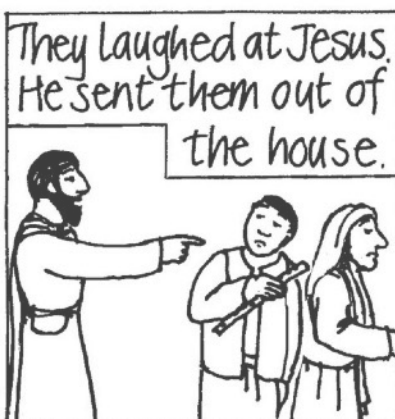
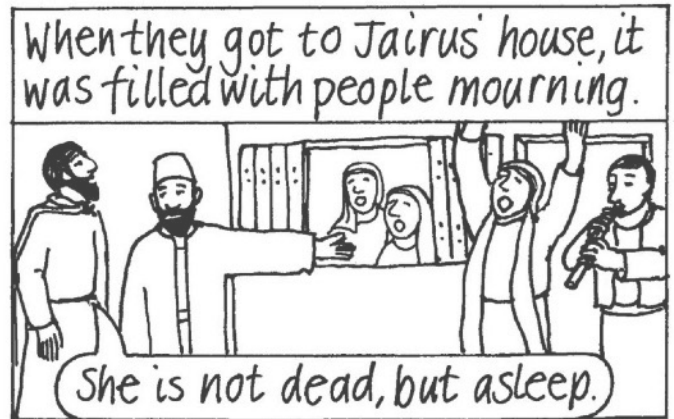
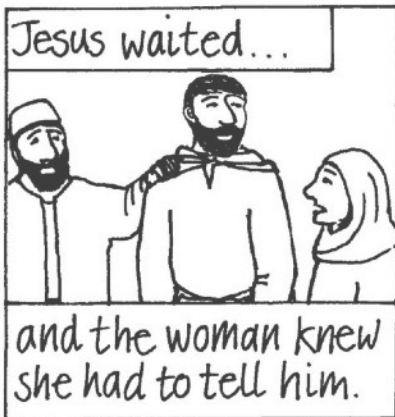
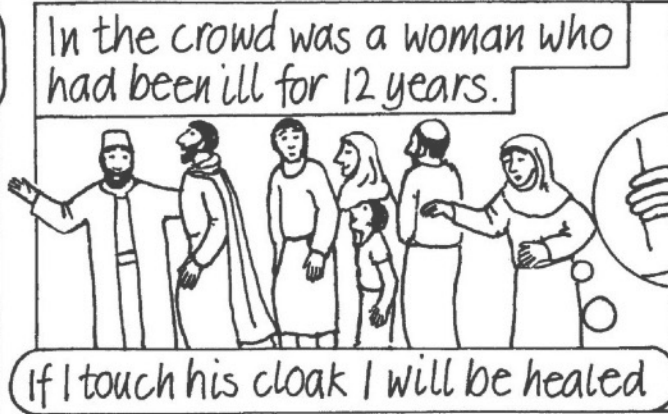
How many other words can you make from the letters in EPIPHANY?

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Lk 8:40-56, Mt 9:18-26, Mk 5:21-43

Jairus, a town leader, had a 12 year old daughter who was ill and about to die. He came to Jesus and knelt at his feet...



e	s	w	k	c	t	b	s	g	c	l	i	i
e	m	o	u	r	n	i	n	g	i	o	a	f
f	l	m	b	e	l	i	e	v	e	r	m	e
x	d	a	u	g	h	t	e	r	x	y	l	e
j	v	n	u	t	j	v	d	i	s	c	k	t
e	c	h	e	g	l	e	k	t	q	o	k	a
s	l	m	k	e	h	e	n	n	z	m	f	a
u	o	s	w	c	h	e	a	l	e	d	a	m
s	a	t	u	a	r	o	d	d	s	l	i	s
x	k	o	j	a	i	r	u	s	e	w	t	o
y	t	o	p	o	z	t	i	s	z	r	h	e
k	g	d	d	p	o	w	e	r	e	k	f	y
t	p	b	a	f	r	a	i	d	d	y	t	t

come

feet

cloak

Jairus

power

something

mourning

daughter

girl

knelt

twelve

leader

faith

waited

believe

laughed

woman

stood

afraid

house

healed

Jesus

touched

parents