

Good News Parish Magazine

for Eastling, Otterden, Stalisfield and Throwley

www.goodnews.rf.gd

MARCH 2026



- 4th Stalisfield and Otterden W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 8th Throwley Lanes Clean Up
Throwley Forstal 11.30am
- 10th Eastling Parish Council Meeting
Eastling Village Hall 6.30pm
- 11th Egerton Arts Society
Egerton Millennium Hall 2.30pm
- 12th Local History Society meeting
Charing Parish Hall 7.30pm
- 14th Pizza and Praise for 11 - 17yrs
Lynsted Church 4 - 6pm
- 15th Mothering Sunday Services
Stalisfield Church 10.30am
and Eastling Church 10.30am
- 19th Stalisfield Parish Council Meeting
Stalisfield Village Hall 8pm
- 20th Deadline for April Good News:
goodnewsmagazine@me.com
- 25th Installation of Archbishop Sarah
Canterbury Cathedral
- 27th *Together in Boots* walking group
Doddington Church leave at 2pm

APRIL



- 1st Stalisfield and Otterden W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm



Mothering Sunday Services

Sunday 15th March 2026

10.30am in Stalisfield Church
Followed by Refreshments.

10.30am in Eastling Church
Followed by Refreshments

The Daughters of Mothers

There are certain small things that you notice,
Little things you have started to do,
That prompt you to question, and wonder
If the face in the mirror, is *you*.
The realisation is dawning,
As one year hurtles after another,
That in word, thought and deed,
In gesture and glance,
You have somehow turned into your mother!



By Daphne Kitching

Holy Week Services

29th March Palm Sunday

Eastling 10.30am Benefice Communion

Holy Week Reflection

- 30th Monday 7pm at Oare
- 31st Tuesday 7pm at Newnham
- 1st April Wednesday 7pm at Throwley
- 2nd Maundy Thursday 7pm at Norton
- 4th Saturday 7pm at Lynsted

3rd April Good Friday

Teynham AM Stations of the Cross
Doddington AM Stations of the Cross
Eastling 2 - 3pm Last Hour on the Cross

5th April Easter Day

Wychling 6.30am Sunrise Communion
Eastling 9.00am Easter Communion
Stalisfield 10.30am Easter Service

SUNDAY 8TH MARCH

**THROWLEY
PARISH
LANES
CLEAN UP**

**PLEASE COME ALONG TO
THE VILLAGE GREEN AT 11.30**

**CHOOSE YOUR LANE & COLLECT GLOVES
RUBBISH BAGS ETC BEFORE SETTING OFF.
RETURN WITH YOUR SPOILS FOR A
DELICIOUS FREE LUNCH OF HOMEMADE
SOUP, HOT SAUSAGES, FRENCH
BREAD, CHEESES ETC & MEET OTHER
THROWLEY VILLAGERS. PLEASE BRING
THE DRINK OF YOUR CHOICE**

A GREAT WAY TO KEEP OUR LANES BEAUTIFUL ON A SPRING WALK

What does the season of Lent mean for you?

As a child growing up I had heard about Lent but my family were not church-goers and very few of the Christians that I knew, sincere as they were, took Lent very seriously.

Nevertheless, we enjoyed (very much!) the pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, Hot Cross buns and the anticipation of Easter Eggs, and all that went with it. Lent, much like religion, was not something we paused to consider or indeed had any real importance to us as a family. However, throughout adulthood, a Christian faith has become an embedded part of my life and hope. During this time of Lent I've begun to appreciate the importance of pausing and thinking about the seasons in my life and walk with Jesus.

The word Lent comes from an Old English word "Lenctern" which actually means Spring. Of course Spring in nature is very much a season of hope. It's a season of new beginnings, fresh new life and the hope of summer with its warmer days ahead. For Christians, perhaps especially in these times of the uncertainty,

social and geo-political turmoil, approaching Lent as a season of contemplation and hope, seems vital.

Lent is a forty day period that begins with Ash Wednesday. Many Christians attend a church service during which the sign of the cross with ashes is traced on each of the worshippers foreheads as the minister speaks the words, "From dust you came and to dust you will return. Repent and believe the good news."

These words are a call to live for Christ, the only one in whom true hope can be found. The cross we wear or bear becomes the outward sign of the inner change and joy Jesus has brought into our lives, certainly mine, and an affirmation that his Holy Spirit now resides within us, empowering us to live both for and in him with a deeper love and a greater holiness - and it is worth it.

So Lent, like Spring, is definitely a season of Hope beyond our wildest dreams. The final week begins with Palm Sunday and then through the horror of Good Friday, to the joy of Easter Sunday. It's a season in which we are reminded of God the

Message for the Month

Father who loves us, the Grace of Jesus the Son who has redeemed us, and the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit who is with us everywhere and at all times. All this is possible because at Easter the stone was rolled away and Jesus rose to conquer sin, death and bring us to eternal life.



As we journey through Lent may I encourage you to make it a season of deep and lasting hope. May we carry this hope of the Gospel to all we meet in our daily lives, sharing the knowledge of sins forgiven and peace with God; the joy that he will never leave us or forsake us, and the peace that comes from knowing that in the end nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus - and the best is yet to come.

May God bless you this Lent and of course through Easter too!

Mark Harlow

A personal prayer for Lent

Lord of mercy and light,

In this season of Lent, draw me closer to Your heart.

Teach me to walk humbly, to love deeply, and to forgive freely.

Strip away the noise that distracts me,
and open my eyes to the needs of those around me.

Remind me of my dependence on You,
my prayer deepen my trust in You,
and my giving reflect Your boundless generosity.

As we journey toward the hope of Easter, renew my spirit,
so that I may rise with Christ into a life of joy, peace, and service.
Amen.



Eastling Church

Flower rota

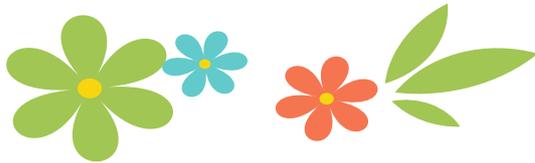
March - Lent, no flowers

Easter Lilies

5th April 2026

Contributions to the display of beautiful Easter Lilies in memory of loved ones will be gratefully received by Bay Lees. Your contribution and the names of your loved ones can be placed in the secure postbox outside The Manor or contact Bay on 07922 484648.





CRAFT FLOWER FESTIVAL

THE PCC OF BADLESMERE AND LEAVELAND CHURCHES INVITE YOU TO CHANNEL YOUR CREATIVITY AND JOIN US BY TAKING PART IN OUR FIRST CRAFT FLOWER FESTIVAL BETWEEN 2 MAY AND 27 JUNE 2026.

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FINAL DATE FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - 30TH MARCH. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ANDREA DENGATE (07774 051810/DENGATE31@GMAIL.COM)



THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

Wednesday 11th March at 2.30pm
(doors open from 2pm) in Egerton Millennium Hall,
Elm Close TN27 9DS

Visual Proverbs: Dutch Genre in the 17th Century

Our lecturer **Hilary Williams** is an Art History Education Officer at the British Museum.

Visitors are always very welcome at £8 (just turn up and pay on the door), refunded if you join. Membership costs £45 for 10 lectures. For further information please contact Christine Willis, our Membership Secretary via cmwillis75@gmail.com or 01233 756377.

Visit our website

www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk

Image provided by lecturer. Jan Steen: *As the old sing, so pipe the young*



Together in Boots

Join us for a monthly mindful walk through woodland

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Humans and well-behaved dogs all welcome

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Clocks go forward
Sunday 29th
March

How God works

A grandmother was taking her young grandson for a walk in the park. The daffodils were in bloom, and it was a beautiful Spring day. Wanting to encourage her grandson's spiritual understanding of the world, she said: "Doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God did all this?"

Her grandson replied: "Oh yes, and God did it left-handed, too." In astonishment, the grandmother asked what he meant. "Well, He must have done," said her grandson, "because we learned at church last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand."



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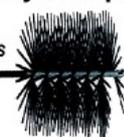
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CHARING & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Cast-iron Firebacks

Speaker: Jeremy Hodgkinson

Often consigned to the dark recesses of old fireplaces, firebacks have much to reveal as social documents through their subject matter and the people who had them made. The talk is a fascinating account of the history behind these pieces of iron, as well as involving the audience in some of the detective work necessary to unlock their secrets.

12th March 2026

Parish Hall, Station Road, Charing

Doors open 7.30pm Talk starts promptly at 8pm
Members free - Guests £3 Membership from £10/year

Two donkeys

Two donkeys were walking the streets of Jerusalem. One said: "Just a few days ago I came down that hill carrying Jesus, and the people were all singing and shouting and throwing down their cloaks and palms for me to walk on. But today they don't even recognise me."



The other donkey replied: "That is how it is, my friend. Without Jesus, none of us amounts to much."

Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.

In February, we had a visit from Sue Shaw to advise us on Plants for the Flower Arrangers Garden. Sue is an instructor from the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies. She showed us some wonderful photographs of plants and flower arrangements. We learned which are the best plants to grow for flower arranging. We also learned about the best time of day to cut flowers and how to cut the stems to extend the life of our floral designs.

At our next meeting, on March 4th, we are looking forward to welcoming Helen Kendal-Tobias who will demonstrate "50 ways to tie a scarf".



W.I. membership is open to women from 18 years of age and we would really love to add to our small village group, so please come along if you would like to meet us and find out more. Membership for 2026 starts in April. Guests are always welcome for a £5 fee which includes home-made refreshments.

Our group is very informal. We meet at Stalisfield Village Hall at 7.30 on the first Wednesday of each month. If you would like to come along, just turn up or contact Helen Brooks on 07477 580727 or Ellie Cameron on 07775 649337.

St. Mary's Stalisfield Easter Service



Join us in joyful celebration on
Sunday 5th April 2026 at 10.30am

Come and share the hope and happiness of Easter with family, friends and neighbours.
Everyone is warmly welcome!

Refreshments will be served after the service with a fun Easter Egg Hunt for the children
We look forward to celebrating with you!



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Parties & Weddings



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jacksonandadams@btopenworld.com
07754 114670

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

Archbishop Sarah Mullally to be installed as Archbishop of Canterbury on 25th March

In a special service at St Paul's Cathedral, at her Confirmation of Election, Bishop Sarah Mullally DBE legally became the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury on 28th January. The Confirmation of Election is a legal ceremony, set within a church service, at which Bishop Sarah, the Archbishop-Elect, legally became the Archbishop of Canterbury. Archbishop Sarah's first act as Archbishop was to take up the Primatial Cross and give the blessing at the end of the service. The Confirmation will be followed by an Installation service at Canterbury Cathedral on 25th March, where Archbishop Sarah will preach her first sermon as Archbishop of Canterbury. Between her Confirmation of Election and Installation, Archbishop Sarah will pay homage to The King and

meet with the leaders of other Christian denominations and other faiths in the UK. She also co-presided at the Church of England's General Synod in London in February, where she delivered the Presidential Address.

By tradition, Archbishop Sarah will begin her public ministry and full programme of public engagements following her Installation.

Bishop Sarah said: "It is an extraordinary and humbling privilege to have been called to be the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury. In this country and around the world, Anglican churches bring healing and hope to their communities. With God's help, I will seek to guide Christ's flock with calmness, consistency and compassion.

"These are times of division and uncertainty for our fractured world. I pray that we will offer space to break bread together and discover what we have in common – and I pledge myself to this ministry of hospitality.

"I want us to be a Church that always listens to the voices of those who have been ignored or overlooked, among them victims and survivors of church abuse who have often been let down.

"I am committed to equipping the Church to be a kind and safe place that cares for everyone, especially those who are vulnerable, as we rise to the challenge of God's call to justice, equity, peace and the care of creation."

Lent Bible Studies with Reflection

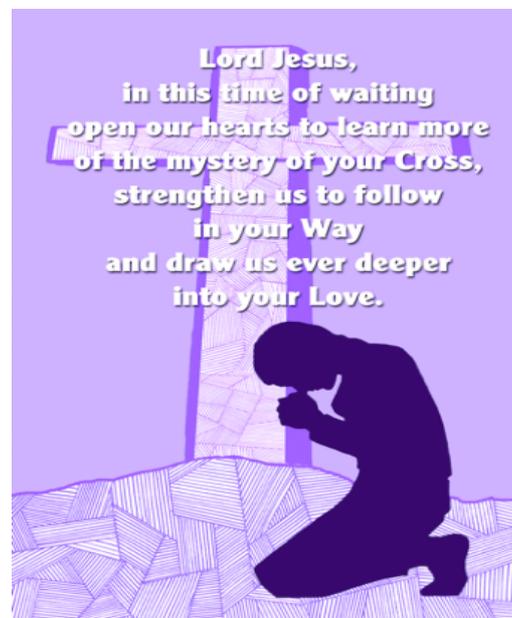
These will be held at Doddington Vicarage on Wednesdays 7.30 - 9 pm.

Each session will be based upon the set Lectionary readings of the preceding Sunday.

25th February; Matthew 4.1-11
 4th March; John 3.1-17
 11th March; John 4.5-42
 18th March; John 19:25b-27
 25th March; John 11:1-45

Spaces can be reserved by emailing Rev Jim Pye jim.pye@kc-hd.org.uk or leaving a message at 01795-890276.

Alternatively, come without notice!



Roasts
M E N U

STARTERS

Smoked Mussels on Toast - *hand picked mussels, braised leek in a creamy smoked sauce on toasted sourdough*
 Goats Cheese & Honey Croquette with a Beetroot Borani Dip
 Bresaola, Celeriac Remoulade & House Pickles
 Soup Of The Day

MAINS

Roast Beef & Yorkshire Pudding
 Chicken Supreme & Stuffing
 Potato & Caramelized Onion Pithivier
 Rump of Lamb (£4 supplement)

All Roasts served with crispy potatoes, seasonal vegetables and gravy

PUDDINGS

Treacle Tart served with Orange Chantilly
 Seasonal Fruit Crumble & Custard
 Chocolate Brownie & Caramel Nut Sundae
 Cheese Plate

2 Courses for £26
 3 Courses for £30

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 Wednesday - Friday from 5 - 7pm - pre order required; please call 01795 890256

Feeling bored? Come and join us on Wednesdays from 12.30pm for board game fun!

Celebrating or holding a special event? We offer buffets, afternoon tea and sit down menus too.

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

Stalisfield Road, Faversham, ME13 0HY
 Tel: 01795 890 256 Email: info@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk



CLOTHES RECYCLING BANKS, EASTLING VILLAGE HALL



The Trustees of Eastling Village Hall are delighted that good use is made of the clothes recycling banks at the Hall. The bins help the two charities, Samaritans and SCOPE (supporting disabled people) raise much needed funds to continue their vital services.

May we respectfully request when depositing clothes and shoes etc in the recycling bins that plastic sacks are not overly stuffed; these are inclined to jam up the “drawers” and deter further deposits, even leading to sacks of recycling left beside the bins. Half-filled plastic sacks or supermarket size plastic carrier bags are ideal and slip into the bins easily.

Thank you for your co-operation. Please continue to support the recycling efforts at the Hall.

Eastling Neighbourhood Watch



Village Warden 07794 010 394
or 01795 890848

Police 101 Emergency 999

I will mention again about the importance of keeping dogs on leads in the vicinity of livestock, especially at this time of year. Any dogs seen to be attacking or even chasing livestock may be shot and the dog owner given a limitless fine, so please follow the country code.

The usual scams are at a peak at the moment; people purporting to be police officers, fake parcel deliverers, door step callers they are all at it, so please be aware at all times. Remember also, there is no such thing as a good deal if you do not know with whom you are dealing.

With regard to the burnt out car in the middle of a field on the Eastling road, the police were made aware on the morning following the crime. Unfortunately for the farmer it is their responsibility to have it removed as it is on their land.

Have a good month
Take care
Alan

South East Water update from your local MP Helen Whately



South East Water’s response to the water outages after Christmas was abysmal. Thousands of people were without water for days, forced to buy water from supermarkets or drive all the way to Headcorn. Many elderly or vulnerable people - who should get bottled water deliveries to their doors - were forgotten or ignored by South East Water. Others were given the wrong information about supplies. Businesses were left in the lurch, schools had to close and the emergency water supply for livestock was grossly negligent, yet again.

Last July, South East Water left people in East Kent without water for up to 8 days and I went through the long list of failures in the company’s emergency response then. The Chief Executive committed to my face that he would fix their failures. What a lie. If anything, it was worse this time.

So, I got together with local MPs to write to the Chairman of South East Water to tell him the Chief Executive has to go. And then I went and met him to tell him so in person. I didn’t do that lightly. But the fact is, he is in charge of South East Water’s crisis response. It failed in the summer and his promises to fix the problems amounted to nothing. Now there is no public confidence in him or South East Water. To add insult to injury, he gets paid around £500,000 a year including a £100,000 long service bonus. His time is up.

I know this problem is bigger than South East Water. We need a secure water supply. So, I will also keep pressing the Government and Ofwat to do more to prevent outages and ensure there is a much better response if there is another emergency.

These water outages raise another issue too. The basic problem is that we don’t have enough water for our population in Kent. What’s going to happen when we have 20,000 more houses in Faversham and Mid Kent? There’s a new reservoir on the way but that won’t be operational until the 2030s. It doesn’t stack up. There’s another letter on the way to the Housing Secretary making exactly this point. The Government needs to think again.

To keep up-to-date with my progress please follow me on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HelenWhatelyMP/>

As ever, if there is anything I can do to help you please contact me.

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

Eastling School (School days only, 8am - 4.30pm) sited in the corridor of Main Building. ME13 0BA

Stalisfield sited at Stalisfield Village Hall, ME13 0HY

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

Eastling Parish Council

The Parish Council Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 10th March** at 6.30pm in the Committee Room at Eastling Village Hall.
All are welcome to attend.

Stalisfield Parish Council

There will be an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on **Thursday 19th March** at 8pm in Stalisfield Village Hall.

All are welcome to attend.

Please see website for details:
www.hugofox.com/community/stalisfield-parish-council-18530/home/

Services in our Benefice

1st March Lent 2

Romans 4. 1 - 5, 13 - 17, John 3. 1 - 17

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

8th March Lent 3

Romans 5. 1 - 11, John 4. 5 - 42

Throwley 10.30am Morning Prayer

Newnham 10.30am Holy Communion

15th March Mothering Sunday

Colossians 3. 12 - 17, John 19. 25 - 27

Eastling 10.30am Mothering Sunday Service

Stalisfield 10.30am Mothering Sunday Service

Norton 10.30am Holy Communion

22nd March Lent 5

Romans 8. 6 - 11, John 11. 1 - 45

Throwley 10.30am Holy Communion

Newnham 10.30am Morning Worship

29th March Palm Sunday

Psalms 118, 1-2, 19 - 29, Matthew 21. 1 - 11

Eastling 10.30am Benefice Communion

Holy Week Reflection

30th Monday 7pm at Oare

31st Tuesday 7pm at Newnham

1st Apr. Wednesday 7pm at Throwley

2nd Maundy Thursday 7pm at Norton

4th Saturday 7pm at Lynsted

3rd April Good Friday

Teynham AM Stations of the Cross

Doddington AM Stations of the Cross

Eastling 2 - 3pm Last Hour on the Cross

5th April Easter Day

Acts 10. 34 - 43, John 20. 1 - 18

Wychling 6.30am Sunrise Communion

Eastling 9.00am Easter Communion

Stalisfield 10.30am Easter Service

High Downs Parish

Rector Revd Paula Jardine-Rose

07516 411269 paula.jardine.rose@kc-hd.org.uk

Parish Administrator Joyce Warren

01795 521831 joyce.warren@kc-hd.org.uk

Associate Priest Reverend James (Jim) Pye

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

Reader Caroline McIntyre (07799 538809)

Anna Chaplain Caroline McIntyre

ramshawcaroline@gmail.com

Reader Pim Baxter (07710 116269)

Church Contacts

Eastling Andrew Baxter, Warden (07749 403727)

Administrator E mail: stmaryeastling@gmail.com

Stalisfield with Otterden

Jenny King, Warden (01795 890366)

Chrissie Webster, Administrator

(07590 351977)

Throwley David Elvin, Warden (07973 837122)

E mail: david.j.elvin@gmail.com

High Downs Parish Safeguarding Officer

Mark Harlow (07979 864000)

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

From The Registers

Funeral

Denis Roger Harrison

16th February 2026 at Eastling

CONTACT THE *GOOD NEWS* EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like to submit articles, or to advertise in the April 2026 magazine, send your submission by 20th March to: goodnewsmagazine@me.com.

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

Anna Chaplaincy

Anna Chaplains are named after the biblical figure Anna, who dedicated her life to worship and prayer and was in the temple when Jesus was presented soon after his birth.

The main purposes of an Anna Chaplain are:

Offering spiritual support to older people who are living in care homes, their own home or sheltered housing complexes, their relatives and staff who look after them.

If you know someone who is elderly unable to attend church, someone who requires prayer, or a listening ear or would like to receive communion.

Please contact Caroline McIntyre at ramshawcaroline@gmail.com or 07799538809

Eastling Primary School

We are already halfway through the school academic year. Our children have been very busy with their learning but also with exciting visitors, trips and themed learning weeks. This term we had Children's Mental Health Week which took place in February on the theme of 'This is my place.'

Following the sad news of the passing of Mr John Davies, headteacher of Eastling Primary School from 1963-1988 I have discovered that for Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee celebrations a silver birch tree was planted on the school field. I was keen to find out the location of this tree and following some detective

work and help from members of the community I have located the tree. In the Silver Jubilee school magazine, it states that a time capsule was buried at the planting of the tree ceremony which the school is hoping to dig up in the near future.

Willow Class had weekly visits to Faversham gym this term which they have really enjoyed, learning new skills and challenging themselves. On Friday 30th January Willow class visited Dover Museum for a Roman Day. They took part in workshops creating a Roman villa and handled Roman artefacts. Oak class visited Seasalter beach on Wednesday 4th February, focusing on their learning about Oceans and

plastic pollution, micro plastics, marine life and their fight for survival. They mapped out where the litter was and the types of litter they identified.

On Thursday 5th February the school football team played an away match against Bysing Wood Primary. The final score was 1:1. Maple class had their class assembly on Friday 6th February based on their learning about materials. Our Friends of Eastling School (FOES) organised a pyjama disco to end the term on Friday 13th February.

For further information please visit our school website where photographs and newsletters are displayed and updated regularly. Melanie Dale, Headteacher

PIZZA and PRAISE

Come and join us in Lynsted Church ME9 0RH, and help us build this group especially for you.

4pm - 6pm

on the following Saturdays in 2026

14th March, 18th April, 2nd May, 6th June, 4th July, 5th September, 3rd October, 7th November, 5th December

Contact for more info:
YOUTH@KC-HD.ORG.UK

or Tel Francette 07929 511596
or just come along

CHAT/GAMES MUSIC PIZZA

The Bible has many stories of mothers who had great faith in God. With their love, care, encouragement and prayers their children grew up to be great people of God.

Across

3. Obed's mother
Matthew 1:5
4. John's mother
Luke 1:57-60
7. Reuben's mother
Genesis 29:32
8. Joseph's mother
Genesis 30:22-24
9. Jesus' mother
Acts 1:14

Down

1. Boaz's mother
Matthew 1:5
2. Solomon's mother
1 Kings 1:11
4. Timothy's mother
2 Timothy 1:5
5. Ishmael's mother
Genesis 16:15
6. Jacob and Esau's mother
Genesis 25:21-26

Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?
Exodus 2:1-3 and 6:20

Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?
Genesis 17:19

Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?
1 Samuel 1:20

Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?
Genesis 4:1-2

Answer the questions then put them into the crossword

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Updates from Citizens Advice Swale

Are you concerned that something you've bought might be fake? How can you be sure and what are your rights? Counterfeit goods aren't only illegal, they can be dangerous, so you'd be right to seek advice.

Counterfeit goods are fake products designed to mimic the authentic ones sold by genuine brands. Sometimes it's easy to spot a knock-off, other times it can be harder to tell. Toys, games, clothing, footwear, e-cigarettes, perfumes and media devices can be counterfeit.

Things to watch out for include strangely low prices from well-known brands and signs of poor quality like missing security seals, bad or non-existent packaging, blurry logos and poor stitching. You may also spot some spelling mistakes in the advert or on the packaging.

Looking at photos from official sellers can help when making comparisons, and it's important to only buy products from reputable sellers.

If you have purchased a counterfeit item, there are some steps you can take to try and get your money back. You're legally entitled to a full refund on fake goods within 30 days of your purchase.

If it's been over 30 days since you paid, but less than six months, the seller can provide you with a real version of the item first. If they can't, then they're legally required to give you a full refund. If you paid more than six months ago, you're only entitled to a part-refund based on how much you've used the item and how long you've had it.

Sometimes sellers might refuse to refund you, and argue the items were obviously fake because they were very cheap, but they're breaking the law by selling them and your legal rights still apply.

If this happens and you paid by debit card, contact your bank and ask to use the 'chargeback scheme'. If you paid by credit card and the item cost less than £100, you can ask to use the same scheme.

If you paid by credit card and the item cost between £100 and £30,000, tell your credit card company you want to make a 'section 75' claim to get your money back.

To report counterfeit goods or get help getting your money back, contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133. You can also report a seller to Trading Standards, which investigates criminal activity.

How can we help you? Drop-in sessions (no appointment necessary):

Sittingbourne

Mondays 10am-12pm - Swale House

Tuesdays 11.30am-1.30pm - Murston Family Hub

Sheppey

Tuesdays 10am-12pm - Sheppey Gateway (except the second Tuesday of every month, which is held at Sheerness East Working Mens Club)

Faversham

Wednesdays & Fridays 10am-12pm - 43 Stone Street, Faversham

Thursdays 10am-12pm - West Faversham Community Centre

Telephone advice: Call Adviceline on freephone 0808 278 7979 (Monday-Friday 10am-3.30pm)

Email advice: Contact us online at www.citizensadviceswale.uk/email-general-advice

Specialist debt advice: Request a call back at www.citizensadviceswale.uk/debt To stay up to date with our opening times, please visit www.citizensadviceswale.uk or follow us on Facebook.

citizens
advice

In the Wood

by Audrey Keen

And in the lonely wood
Each creature seeks to find
Place to build a home
With another of its kind,
And later I may see fox cubs
Or baby rabbits free
To roam the banks or walk
The pathways, here with me.



The First Steps of Spring.

by Audrey Keen

And how I like to look
Upon the resting banks
And watch as tree tops
Greet the spring.
For surely hearts of stone
Would melt to see
This season's wondrous
colouring.

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Dog walkers now face unlimited fines if pets chase livestock

As of the 18th of this month, The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) Act 2025 will become law for England and Wales.

This means that police officers can seize dogs which pose a risk of repeated attacks on farm animals. It also means that dog walkers now face unlimited fines if their pets chase livestock.

Up until now, the maximum fine for worrying sheep, cattle and poultry was £1,000. But the fine is now unlimited, and also now protects llamas and alpacas.

Baroness Coffey, the Conservative former deputy prime minister, said the change was necessary. "Livestock worrying has devastating consequences, both for animals and farmers, and it can be horrific, causing brutal injuries that are tragically often fatal."

Rachel Hallos, National Farmers' Union (NFU) vice-president, hailed the rule changes as "a huge step forward. This legislation will act as a real deterrent and will make a real difference to farmers and their livestock."

Farm animals worth an estimated £2.4 million were severely injured or killed by dogs in 2023, up nearly 30 per cent from the previous year, according to figures from the insurer NFU Mutual.



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