

Good News Parish Magazine

for Eastling, Otterden,
Stalisfield and Throwley

www.goodnews.rf.gd



JUNE 2026

- 1st - 27th Craft Flower Festival
Leaveland Church ME13 0NP 10am-4pm
- 2nd PC Morris Drop in Police Surgery
Painters Forstal Village Hall 1 - 3pm
- 3rd Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 6th Throwley Village Fête
Throwley Forstal Green 1 - 5pm
- 6th Pizza and Praise for 11 - 17yrs
Lynsted Church 4 - 6pm
- 7th Animal Service
Doddington Church 3pm
- 10th Egerton Arts Society
Egerton Millennium Hall 2.30pm
- 10th Eastling Gardening Club
Eastling Manor 6.30pm
- 14th Doddington Open Gardens
from Doddington Village Hall 12 - 5pm
- 19th Eastling Defibrillator Training 6pm
Eastling Village Hall (*Booking required*)
- 20th Deadline for July Good News:
goodnewsmagazine@me.com
- 20th Charing Village Fête
Clewards Meadow 12 - 9.30pm
- 26th *Together in Boots* walking group
Doddington Church leave at 2pm
- 28th Summer Fête
Eastling School Field 12 - 3pm

JULY

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

SATURDAY 6TH JUNE THROWLEY FETE

1PM TO 5PM

STALLS, PUNCH & JUDY
CREAM TEAS & CAKES
FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES
DOG SHOW & MUCH MORE

6PM TO 11.30PM

BAR, LIVE MUSIC FOR:
THROWLEY VILLAGERS
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FRIENDS OF
EASTLING PRIMARY
SCHOOL

SUMMER fête

GAMES GIGGLES &
GIANT INFLATABLES!

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**SUNDAY
28TH JUNE**
12pm - 3pm

Bar and Ice Cream Stall, BBQ, Basket Ball Hoop, Fishing Game,
Tug of War, Teddy Stall, Coconut Shy, Bottle Tombola, Lucky Dip,
Face Painting, Jolly Jars, Raffle, Inflatable Area and more....!

Friends of Eastling School, Charity no. 1056183 friendsof-eastlingschool@gmail.com
<http://www.eastling.kent.sch.uk/friends-of-eastling-school/>
Assistance Dogs only.

June Message

Whenever I see this image of the Earth setting, with the surface of the moon in the foreground, taken by the Artemis II crew from the window of their spacecraft during their lunar flyby in April this year, it never fails to amaze me. If it has this effect from a photograph, how must it have been for the crew experiencing this from space.

In his recent article in the Church Times *Time and Space to contemplate*, Andrew Davison quotes one of the astronauts, Victor Glover, who when asked how he had felt said that he “wanted to thank God in public” for what he had just experienced.

The image inspired me to return to the first chapter of Genesis and read again the creation story.

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also



made the stars. God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth” (Genesis 1:1,16-17).

It is easy to lose sight of how extraordinary earth is, especially when our days are filled with what is happening around the world, the conflicts, the devastation, the suffering, poverty, homelessness, the damage to our planet and much more.

In this part of Kent, at this time of year, it is a privilege to witness the glories of creation, the vibrant colours of nature, something new appearing in the garden each day, in the hedge-rows, the intense bird song from early in the morning, the new growth in the fields. Everywhere

there is the abundance of nature, each day is a gift.

And for me this picture, *Earthset*, is a reminder of the beauty of our earth. We are stewards of this fragile planet, and it needs our care.

In the words of Sam Wells, the Vicar of St Martin in the Fields: “Why should Christians care about the fate of the Earth? Because cherishing creation is the way we show God our gratitude”.

Pim Baxter
Reader

God is love: let heaven adore him;
God is love: let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
He who laid the earth's foundation,
He who spread the heavens above,
He who breathes through all creation:
He is love, eternal love.

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Prayer Pointers

- Sunday** Praise the Lord for the beauty of the earth, the wonder of the universe and the abundance of His love for all who follow His word.
- Monday** Give thanks for our fathers, pray for them and for men who are unable to have children of their own.
- Tuesday** Pray for children who have never known their father.
- Wednesday** Pray for all taking exams this month.
- Thursday** Give thanks for all receiving the health care they need; pray for those who are unwell or needing a diagnosis.
- Friday** For the Lord's blessing on those preparing for ordination this year.
- Saturday** For our farmers working with the effects of climate change.

Eastling Church Flower rota



- 7th & 14th June - Dorothy
21st & 28th - Azra & Chris
5th & 12th July - Bay
If you would like to join the flower arranging rota, please call Bay on 01795 892036.

Boasting

Three boys in the schoolyard were bragging about their fathers. The first boy said, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a poem, they give him £50."

The second boy said, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a song, they give him £100."

The third boy said, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"



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...well you cannot fault the efficacy of the new 'Planned Giving' scheme...



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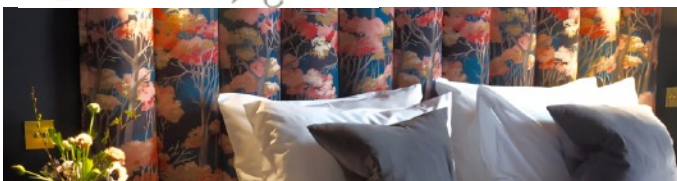


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THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

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

Millennium Hall, Elm Close, Egerton TN27 9SR

Wednesday 10th June at 2.30 pm: LA SERENISSIMA – THE MUSIC OF VENICE presented by **Patrick Craig** a Vicar Choral at St Paul’s Cathedral. For 20 years he combined this with an international career singing over a thousand concerts with the world-renowned early music consort The Tallis Scholars

<https://auroranovachoir.com/director>

Please note that a short AGM will begin at 2.00 pm.

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

See also our website www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk

Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.

Reports at our AGM in May showed that our WI branch is in good heart, having had a successful year and with membership at a healthy level. We are always happy to welcome new members to our friendly group. The response from members to our project to fill shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child was fantastic; we look forward to being able to hand over these to the Westwell Church collection later in the Autumn. Members enjoyed a varied social time to round off the evening.

We look forward to welcoming Trevor Sayer from the Kent charity, SERV Kent, on 3rd June. He will talk about the charity’s role in transporting blood and blood products to hospitals 24 hours a day.

W.I. membership is open to women from 18 years of age. 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 7.30pm 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.



Kingsdown & Creekside and High Downs Churches

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By the Revd Roy Shaw, a retired but active priest in the diocese of York, where he is a spiritual director.

Giving thanks for fathers

There is no finer sound in the world than your child calling you 'daddy', or 'dad'. I love it!

And as I look around our neighbourhood, dads today are far more involved in their children's lives than when I was a child. Pushing prams, holding hands while out on a walk, bathing, playing games. Dads are in all these activities and more. I see the dads on either side of our house, and they obviously love their kids with all their hearts.

The month of June brings Fathers' Day - this year on the 21st June. May all dads reading this be pampered like never



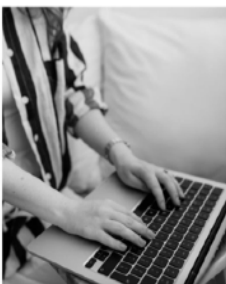
before! If it's a fine day, it may be a case of 'Stand back everyone - dad's going to bar-b-q'. But before we get carried away, let's spare a thought for those who for one reason or another couldn't be dads, or whose dads fell far short of the high expectations we invest in them, or who lost a dad at a crucial time in life and feel a permanent ache where 'Dad' should be.

Our Christian faith teaches us to look at God as 'Father' - we address Him as such in the opening words of the Lord's Prayer, and it was Jesus' custom to talk to God as 'Father'. Maybe, taking into account those who have had a very mixed experience, or a bad experience of fathers, we should qualify what we say of God and call Him 'the Good Father', or 'our Good Father'.



Because that is what the experience of countless Christians would testify to; that God is a good father. I think of the picture Jesus paints in the parable of the Prodigal Son; the father on the look-out for his wayward son day after day, and when he sees him in the distance runs all the way to him to embrace him. Now in Jesus' time, in that culture, fathers did NOT run, least of all to welcome returning no-goods who had wasted half the father's fortune. Fathers were people of dignity. Run? Never!

Jesus has turned that on its head. We can be sure that a welcome awaits us; we turn to God, or return to God, and find that He's already half-way towards us, coming at speed to embrace us.



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Email: michaelratcliff80@gmail.com



CHARING & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

www.charinghistory.co.uk

Our season of Talks for 2025/26 has been extremely successful, and details of those for 2026/27 will be published in the July Parish Magazine. A big 'thank you' to all our members and friends, for your support

We will have our usual Stand at this year's Village Fete (20 June), where the theme will be more 'Memories of Charing'

This time we will recall the earlier days of:

- The Church Barn
- Charing Station
- The A20
- Church Bells

Some historical artifacts will also be on view

We look forward to seeing you!!

Keith Oram

Eastling Gardening Club

The Gardening Club has been reborn!

Taking advice from the success of the previous Gardening Society, the club will meet monthly and offer local garden visits; talks; advice; the sharing and swopping of plants and hopefully a Garden Show later in the year. Emma, Suzie, Sue and Bay have volunteered to organise events but are always open to suggestions and help.

New members always welcome.

The next date for your diary is a visit to John and Bay's garden at The Manor.

June 10th, 6.30pm



Hymns and Pimms

Coming soon to Stalisfield Church, further information in July Good News



Benefice of Kingsdown & Creekside
with High Downs

Pet Service

A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
FOR OUR ANIMAL FRIENDS

Doddington Church
Sunday 7th June
at 3.00pm

Short service of celebration and blessing
for small caged animals and dogs on leads.
Sorry we cannot accommodate ponies or horses.

Followed by refreshments

SUNDAY 14TH JUNE
12PM TO 5PM

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Social Media –Instagram



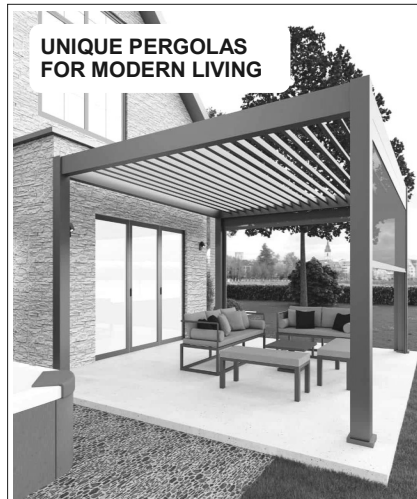
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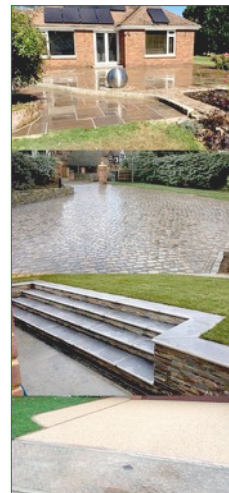
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Services in our Benefice

31st May Trinity

2 Corinthians 13. 11 - end, Matthew 28. 16 - end
Doddington 10.30am Benefice Communion

Thursday 4th June

Wychling 11.00am Holy Communion

7th June Trinity 1

Romans 4. 13 - end, Matthew 9. 9 - 13, 18 - 26
Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion
Norton 10.30am Morning Worship
Doddington 3.00pm Animal Service

14th June Trinity 2

Romans 5. 1 - 8, Matthew 9. 35 - 10. 8
Throwley 10.30am Morning Prayer
Newnham 10.30am Holy Communion
Lynsted 10.30am All Together Now

21st June Trinity 3

Romans 6. 1b - 11, Matthew 10. 24 - 39
Oare 9.00am Breakfast Church
Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship
Norton 10.30am Holy Communion

28th June Trinity 4

Romans 6. 12 - end, Matthew 10. 40 - end
Throwley 10.30am Holy Communion
Newnham 10.30am Morning Worship
Teynham 4.00pm Evensong

5th July Trinity 5

Romans 7. 15 - 25a, Matthew 11. 16 - 19, 25 - 30
Teynham 10.30am Benefice Communion
To welcome our new Curate.



Online
Daily Worship

9am Morning Prayer continues on
the Benefice Facebook Page

via <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/>

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

CONTACT THE **GOOD NEWS** EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like to submit articles, or to advertise in the
July 2026 magazine, send your submission by 20th June to:
goodnewsmagazine@me.com or
hilaryharlow.goodnews@gmail.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



Updates from Citizens Advice North East Kent



We're seeing an increase in reports of retail scams.

For example, you buy a jacket online and when it arrives it looks nothing like the images shown. The company tells you if you want a refund you have to pay to ship it to an address in China.

These companies are known to convince people they're based in the UK by using deceiving brand names and having UK websites or postal addresses. Some create AI-generated images of fake products, and even make up backstories about the origins of the brand.

What they actually do is ship low-quality items from overseas that can look nothing like the images advertised. Shoppers are then told to pay expensive international shipping fees if they want their money back.

Understandably, many people don't bother, because the cost of shipping takes a huge chunk out of the refund they'd receive. The scammers know this, and it's how they take advantage of people.

There are a few steps you can take to help you spot and avoid these scams:

- Check reviews before buying from a company you haven't used before.
- Watch out for too-good-to-be-true prices.
- Be mindful of targeted shopping adverts on social media.
- Check the company's delivery information. Overseas stores offer shipping to the UK in a much longer timeframe.

When sellers turn out to be based overseas, UK consumer laws are far harder to enforce, so it can be difficult to recover your money. If you've been caught out by this type of scam and you paid by debit or credit card, you may be able to get a refund from your bank or credit card company.

Citizens Advice can offer support with individual situations and we advise you to report scams to us too - please call the Citizens Advice Consumer Service helpline on 0808 223 1133 or chat to an adviser online at citizensadvice.org.uk.

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)

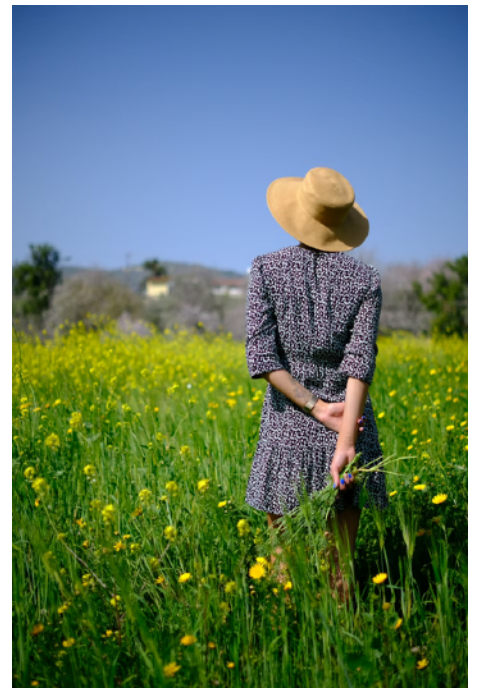
Faversham

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 & specialist debt advice: Contact us online at canek.org.uk
Citizens Advice North East Kent operates across Canterbury district, Swale and Thanet. If you live or work in any of these areas we can support you. To stay up to date with our opening times, please visit canek.org.uk or follow us on Facebook.



Looking Back.

by Audrey Keen

I see them still
(though not here now),
The horses and the gentle cow;
The fields and meadows
Are empty - bereft,
And sad once the animals
Died and left.
But the hedge is the same
The sky, the trees
Nothing, it seems,
Will alter these.
Big buzzards fly
So without fear,
Where plovers once
Would greet me here.
And on this, oh so scorching
day
I walk the meadow left for hay,
But the horses I loved, the cows
and sheep
Witnessing their play or
contented sleep,
Are secreted in my mind and
time;
For life was wondrous then -
sublime.
And I have lived through winter
chill
And summer skies above,
But faith has always deemed
That we shall meet again -
In spirit and in love.

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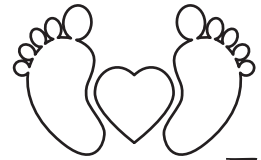
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CLIMATE CHANGE IS HAPPENING.

Patricia Crawford and the RURAL FOCUS PRESS GROUP.

French researchers are concerned that the Atlantic Ocean's main current, Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), is more than likely to collapse earlier than previously thought.

Driven by human activities related to Climate Change, the current has been slowing for decades but now a new study suggests AMOC could slow by between 42 and 58 per cent by 2100. AMOC plays an immensely important part in regulating Earth's climate. Not all climate scientists agree with the most concerning estimates but few disagree that Greenland's melting ice sheet is triggering changes to this crucially important current.

If the most pessimistic calculations were fulfilled the consequences would be catastrophic for the Americas, Africa and Europe. Scientists are repeating earlier reports that indicate Europe is warming twice as fast as the global average.

The conflict in the Middle East and the ongoing problems related to use of the Strait of Hormuz have resulted in severe economic problems in a large part of the world and, with vessels having to take longer routes, efforts to restrict Climate Change are seriously impacted.

UK farmers are continuing to battle with high operational costs, some of which amount to a 200% increase. Food producers in many other parts of the world are similarly affected and the knock-on consequences are being felt throughout the supply chains. It is important we recognise that the decisions we make, in regard to where and how the food we buy is sourced, influences the UK's ability to ensure Food Security.

Repeating what has been said before: food produced in this country is safe and the welfare standards maintained are among the very, very best in the world.

Buy British!

Books that everyone interested in the natural world may want to read: *an Immense World* by Pulitzer prize-winning Ed Young, *Roam: Wild Animals and the Race to Repair our Fractured World* by climate journalist Hillary Rosser.

A reminder: this year's

Open Farm Sunday will be held on 7 June.

Twenty years since it was devised by LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming), it is a fantastic way to find out about the work undertaken by our farmers. Events and demonstrations for people of all ages. <https://farmingsunday.org>

Eastling Neighbourhood Watch



Village Warden 07794 010 394
or 01795 890848

Police 101 Emergency 999

For any scam, cyber attacks or calls, please report them on
0330 123 2040

There have been reports of late of 4 x 4 vehicles, mainly of elderly models, touring Eastling and local villages carrying undesirables probably up too good. These vehicles have been closely monitored and the police kept fully informed and vehicle nos passed on. We are not entering any crime wave so there is nothing to worry about but if anything suspicious is seen please report it.

As we all know social media is a very dangerous article so be careful.

Sadly scams are a part of everyday lives, please always be very careful.

One particular one is of persons calling at homes offering to carry out work on your property at a very cheap rate and then, whilst taking the money, not carrying out the work - so take care.

Have a good month
Take care
Alan

Defibrillators in our Villages

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

Eastling sited in the old Telephone Box, The Street, Eastling. ME13 0AZ

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

Defibrillator Heart Restarter

Anyone can use it
No training necessary

For an unconscious person
NOT breathing normally

Call 999 → Start CPR → Switch on defibrillator → Follow its instructions

Resuscitation Council (UK) logo and Red Cross logo.

Eastling Defibrillator

The suppliers of the new defibrillator are offering a free training course on Friday 19th June 6 pm to 8pm in Eastling village hall.

They can accommodate 12 participants so it will be on a first come basis. Please contact julia.bailey98@outlook.com to secure your place.

Eastling Primary School

The Friends of Eastling Primary School (FOES) organised the school's first ever Sponsored Colour Run to fundraise for a set of swing bars for Outside Play and Learning (OPAL). The event was a huge success and the school raised a staggering £3810 which included an extremely generous donation of £1000. OPAL continues to go from strength to strength and recently the school had a donation of four hammocks, which the children absolutely love.

Maple class have been attending weekly Farm School sessions at Nonington for the term. In week one the children helped to move the sheep and their lambs to a different part of the field. This involved learning about the use of electrical fences and solar power by creating a new section of fencing. The children also collected wild garlic to use in the second week of farm school to make garlic bread. They have watched the sheep being sheared, played in the grain in the barn before learning about growing crops.

On Thursday 23rd April the fire brigade came to the school and delivered Fire Safety Talks to each class. The whole school enjoyed a Bluebell walk in Eastling woods on Friday 24th April.

On Wednesday 6th May Willow class went to Living Land where they had an enjoyable day learning about farming, food production, local produce and local community organisations.

The RNLi came to school on Thursday 7th May to talk with KS2 about keeping safe at the beach. Willow class went into Faversham on the morning of Thursday 14th May as part of their geography learning to look at physical and human features. In the afternoon the whole school joined the Live School Workshop with Joe Wicks.

The FOES organised the Great Eastling Bake Off on Friday 15th May with children from across the school taking part. There were lots of wonderful creations and the Star Baker was awarded to Seren for her cake depicting a field of horses. Following the judging at the end of the day the FOES sold the cakes raising money for the school.

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



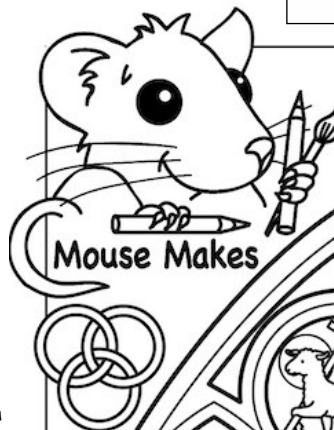
On the topic of: Sport & Faith



- Crafts
- Games
- Music
- Time to Relax
- Time to Talk
- FREE FOOD

Come join our monthly youth event for Years 6-13 with Pizza and plenty to do. This month we will have sporting activities, and be looking at the link between sport and faith. For more info Email: youth@kc-hd.org.uk Call Francette: 07929 511596

**6th Jun
4PM
Lynsted Church**



"May the grace of the Lord **JESUS CHRIST** and the love of **GOD** and the fellowship of the **HOLY SPIRIT** be with you all."

2 Corinthians 13:14

V HIW VENLR SLAEP LG HALDOOR EMEWOR D PBREADW HLALPHA EEMCG JY RMEHOEK DMIRSST SAVIOUR PNESNSU OUNTLOT MESSIAH RLGBFIS KEOMEGA	O ISD JYIAM ACGODJM LROCKUA MELORDJ IABBAGE GTDEBES HOYRFET TRAHATY YGHOIEF VSWLARA OHEYENT JEHOVAH IKINGLE SHIELDR SAVIOUR	V UDE TRUTH THAHSRI OSPOWER ULFLIFE POWYNDR AWISDOM DBEPBVC VWTIREO OIEREFM CTRIFAIF ANNTTRO TEACHER ESLGIFT DSGUIDE THELPER
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| <p>JESUS • CHRIST
SON • SAVIOUR • LORD
EMMANUEL • MESSIAH
SHEPHERD • LAMB • WAY
TRUTH • LIFE • DOOR
BREAD • WORD • HEALER
VINE • ALPHA • OMEGA</p> | <p>GOD • FATHER
ABBA • LORD • JEHOVAH
YAHWEH • ALMIGHTY
HOLY ONE • SAVIOUR
ETERNAL • CREATOR
KING • MAJESTY • JUDGE
SHIELD • ROCK • I AM</p> | <p>HOLY SPIRIT
GIFT • HELPER • WITNESS
COMFORTER • GUIDE
ADVOCATE • WISDOM
POWER • TRUTH • BREATH
LIFE • ETERNAL • DOVE
WIND • FIRE • TEACHER</p> |
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