

Good News Parish Magazine

*for Eastling, Otterden,
Stalisfield and Throwley*

www.goodnews.rf.gd

July  2026

- 1st Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 4th Pizza and Praise for 11 - 17yrs
Lynsted Church 4 - 6pm
- 14th Eastling Parish Council Meeting
Eastling Village Hall 6.30pm
- 16th Stalisfield Parish Council Meeting
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.45pm
- 18th Quiz Night
Lynsted Church 7.00pm
- 19th Choral Evensong
Throwley Church 4.30pm
- 20th Deadline for August Good News:
goodnewsmagazine@me.com
- 24th *Together in Boots* walking group
Doddington Church leave at 2pm
- 28th Community Police Surgery
Painters Forstal Village Hall 1 - 3pm

August

- 5th Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 29th Stalisfield Village Fête
Stalisfield Green 2pm



STALISFIELD GREEN

**SATURDAY 29TH AUGUST
2PM**

VILLAGE
FÊTE

SAVE THE DATE!

Choral Evensong
Sunday 19th July, 4.30pm in
St Michael and All Angels
church, Throwley

Anyone interested in joining the
choir to sing at the service,
please contact David
on 07973 837122



Quiz

Quiz Nights

Saturday 18th July, Lynsted Church ME9 9RQ
Doors open at 7pm

Bring your own food and drink
Tickets and more information from
Joyce : joyce.warren@kc-hd.org.uk
AND

Friday 24th July,

Oare Village Hall ME13 0QA, 7.30pm

Tickets and more information from
Charlotte Relf via phone 07716 176381 or e-mail
charlotterelf@btinternet.com.

Cantiana Choir Summer Concert

Saturday 11th July, 7.30pm

Doddington Church ME9 0BD

An evening of beautiful harmonies and
summer vibes

Tickets £10 from Doddington Service
Station

July Message

Ordinary is defined by the Cambridge Dictionary as "not different or unexpected in any way". It does not mention anything about the Church Calendar, even though we are now in "Ordinary Time" until the First Sunday of Advent on 29th November. This is also the first Sunday of the Church's year. Ordinary Time is in contrast to Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, and Lent, Easter, Ascension Day and Pentecost.

During Ordinary Time the liturgical colour is green, which is a respite for churchwardens who don't have to consider changing the colours in church! Because the term "ordinary" comes from the Latin ordinalis (meaning "numbered" or "ordered"), the season focuses on counting the weeks of the church year while meditating on Christ's public ministry and teachings, rather than the dictionary definition!

No day is ordinary or usual. Every day is a gift from God. *"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your*

faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23). My brother-in-law, who has terminal prostate cancer gets up every day thanking God for the gift of another day. It is good to get up and immediately thank God for the gift of a new day and for the unexpected and expected events that will happen. It is also good to ask God to help you by His Spirit for every day. He gives and will equip.

No day is ordinary and no person is ordinary. As you may know, I follow football and, as you are reading this, will probably be watching the "Round of 32" matches in the World Cup. Earlier today I was watching a video about Jurgen



Klopp, former manager of the, then successful, Liverpool side. Two former players were talking about his remarkable management style and charismatic personality. I could never be like that. But, I can't bemoan the fact that God didn't make me Jurgen Klopp, because he made me "me". God uniquely creates each person differently. So, every day, you can also thank God to making you "you"



The boys on the substitutes' bench knew their only chance of a sing was if one of the first team was injured

and ask Him to help you use the qualities He has given you to help others and glorify Him.

The two former Liverpool footballers were asked what was the big message Jurgen Klopp gave to his players and staff. They said "Whatever, you do, give it 100%". Jurgen Klopp is a Christian. Colossians 3.23 says *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for people"*.

Remember. No day is ordinary, but every day is a gift from God. No-one is ordinary, God has made us all different. Give 100% of what you have been given while you can.

Yours in Christ
Rev'd Jim Pye

Prayer Pointers

Sunday	Praise the Lord for our food as we pray for farmers of the land and those fishing the seas.
Monday	Give thanks for our homes and pray for all who are homeless.
Tuesday	Give thanks for good health and pray for those who are unwell.
Wednesday	Give thanks for our schools and pray for those moving on to a new school or college.
Thursday	Pray for those affected by the recent Earthquakes.
Friday	Give thanks for our times of recreation and pray for those who cannot afford holidays.
Saturday	Pray for Alexej, to be ordained Deacon on 4th July and appointed to be curate in our parishes.



Eastling Church Flower rota



5th & 12th July - Bay

19th & 26th - Suzie

2nd & 9th August - Steph

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



Is danger lurking in your fridge?

When you look in your fridge, what do you see? Milk, butter, vegetables and last night's leftovers?

So far, so good. But what about the things that you don't see? A recent survey of people's fridges found that more than half of them were harbouring dangerous bacteria such as E. coli, salmonella and listeria. So, it seems that unless we take care of our fridges, they can become playgrounds for germs.

Veggie drawers with bits of slimy carrots or liquefying greens have been found to harbour more bacteria per square centimetre than a toilet seat. Plates of raw meat can be a bacterial timebomb. Even door seals and fridge handles can be a germ hotspot.

The key thing is to regularly wipe shelves and drawers down with a mild disinfectant, remove stale food, and to keep the temperature of the fridge at five degrees. Don't overcrowd your fridge (which can block air circulation) and don't engage in the classic 'fridge food linger,' staring into the open fridge while deciding what you want to eat. Warm air will be rushing in.

Your fridge is the hardest working appliance in your kitchen, but it needs your help.

Hymns for professionals

Dentist:	Crown Him with many crowns.
Contractor:	The church's one foundation
Obstetrician:	Come, labour on.
Golfer:	There is a green hill far away.
Politician:	Standing on the promises.
Librarian:	Let all mortal flesh keep silence.
Barrister:	In the hour of trial.
Dry Cleaner:	O for a faith that will not shrink.
Census taker:	All people that on earth do dwell.
Tax officer:	We give thee but thine own.
Traffic patrol:	Where cross the crowded ways of life.
Credit card user:	A charge to keep have I.

Belmont House and Garden

ME13 0HH

Belmont-house.org

Open Air Theatre

Much Ado About Nothing Friday 10th July, 7pm

Shakespeare's famous romcom gets a gothic makeover. Glitz, glamour and scandal hit Messina in Changeling's revival of Much Ado About Nothing. Think decadent costume balls and devious misdemeanours, where love's a battlefield and the gossip never stops.

Beatrice and Benedick swear they can't stand each other. Hero and Claudio seem picture-perfect until a little drama crashes their party. Lurking behind the cocktails and confetti is one deliciously devious Don John stirring up trouble.

It's sharp, it's funny, it's Shakespeare's ultimate romcom with more twists, tunes and turns than you can shake a stick at. Join Changeling in Summer 2026 as they celebrate 25 years of outdoor touring. Bold, sexy, and unapologetically fun, Much

Ado About Nothing is the perfect summer play.

Please bring your own picnic blankets or low-backed seats to sit on to enjoy the performance. The event will go ahead if it's raining but we always hope for a sunny day! Sorry, no dogs are permitted, except assistance dogs.

Gates open at 6.30pm and the show starts at 7.00pm.

Tickets – Adults: £25.00, Ages 10-18: £15.00 Go to belmont-house.org to book tickets.

Falconry on the Lawn Thursday 6th August

Come along to see Joe flying a variety of birds on the front lawn, you will be in for a real treat.

From seeing Hopper, their vulture, soar above the parkland, to delving into the depths of their intelligent Caracaras from the Falkland Islands, or maybe experiencing the high speeds of a falcon swooping by your side and let's not forget meeting their wonderful burrowing owls.

Shows will be taking place on the front lawn at 12.30pm & 2.30pm.

Falconry shows are included within all admission types to Belmont House & Gardens.

Gardens open from 10am. The House is open for a guided tour at 11:00am or explore at your own pace with a self-guided tour between 1:00pm and 3:30pm (last entry at 3pm).

Kent Downs WOODFAIR

11th and 12th July

In the grounds of Bredgar & Wormshill Light Railway, Swanton Street ME9 8AT

www.kentdownswoodfair.com

An Event for All the Family

With exhibitors including a range of classic & vintage machinery as well as woodland crafts, chainsaw carving, pole lathes & spoon carving – and with live music, this is an event not to miss.

There will be a Hog Roast, Pizzas and Ice Cream and there is also an on-site cafe selling bacon rolls etc.

Tickets

At the gate: Adults £15.00, Children under 16 go free

Online Tickets: £13.50 Two-Day Pass £20

Well behaved dogs on a lead are also welcome.

Tickets also available soon at Bredgar Railway Cafe, and at Old English Tools in Faversham.



Hymns and Pimms

Join us at St Mary's Stalisfield for "Hymns & Pimms" on Sunday 6th September at 4.30pm to celebrate the completion of our belfry tower refurbishment project along with the rebuilding and retiling of our Church tower roof.

We would love to share this very special service with as many people as possible, so do come and see the result of all the hard work that has taken place to preserve our village Church.



Open Faversham

From the Source of the Westbrook to the Sea

16th to 19th September in St Mary of Charity 10am to 5pm
An interactive exhibition celebrating the contemporary, cultural, built, industrial and natural heritage of our waterway.

Our Creek and the chalkstreams that run through the town define its topography and account for the ancient settlements which grew into Faversham. The route of the Westbrook from just below Painters Forstal to Stonebridge Pond, Faversham Creek to The Swale will be displayed in maps down the aisle.

All those with an interest in the waterway that runs through the heart of Faversham are invited to join by exhibiting alongside the maps in a celebration of "the contemporary, cultural, built, industrial and natural heritage of our waterway."



CHARING & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

www.charinghistory.co.uk

CDLHS PROGRAMME 2026 / 2027

September 10th 2026

Speaker – Cressida Williams
Collections of the Canterbury Cathedral Archives and Library

October 8th 2026

Speaker – David Simons
From 'Buffs to Tigers' – The Amalgamation of Kent Regiments

November 12th 2026

Speaker – Andy Thomas
Christmas – A Festive History

December 10th 2026

Christmas Social in the Church Barn

January 14th 2027

Speaker – Sue Duckworth
Smuggling on Romney Marsh

February 11th 2027

Speaker – Wayne Perkins
Witch Bottles and Talismans

March 11th 2027

Speaker – Kaye Sowden
The Household of a Kentish Gentleman

April 8th 2027

Speaker – Martin Watt
Chatham Dockyard

May 13th 2027

Annual General Meeting in the Parish Hall

Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.

In June, we welcomed Trevor Sayer from the Kent charity, SERV Kent (Service by Emergency Response Volunteers), along with his colleague who had travelled by motorbike. He talked about the charity's role in transporting blood and blood products, and also breast milk for premature babies, to hospitals. We learned how, at night, the drivers and vehicles are in demand, delivering blood to Kent and Surrey Air Ambulance.

Our July meeting will host Babs Dixon from the Red Cross, who will remind us of the most efficient ways to administer First Aid in an emergency.

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

Together in Boots

Join us for a monthly mindful walk through woodland

Leaving Doddington Church at 2pm and returning for tea & cake at 2.45pm

Humans and well-behaved dogs all welcome



On Fridays 24th April, 22nd May, 26th June, 24th July

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lissie1710@gmail.com

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On the topic of: Music & Faith



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

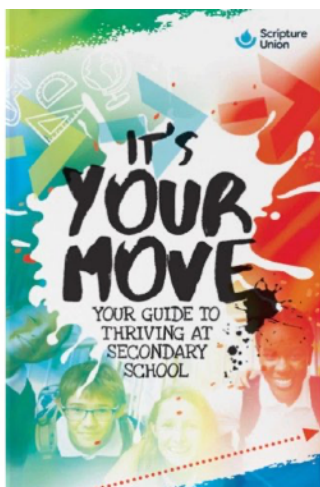
Come join our monthly youth event for Years 6-13 with Pizza and plenty to do.

This month we will have our rector Paula attending to talk about her favourite music, how it relates to her faith, and to answer any questions.

Email: youth@kc-hd.org.uk

Call Francette: 07929 511596

4th Jul
4PM
Lynsted Church



It's Your Move

Your guide to thriving at secondary school.



Moving up to secondary school is a big change. This 80 page booklet is packed full of advice, activities and real-life stories that will help children to navigate this move. It is a great way to encourage primary school leavers.

Published by Scripture Union 'It's Your Move' is available from <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/product/129>

And other booksellers, including:
www.thegoodbook.co.uk
www.eden.co.uk

Mouse Makes

1. What bird makes its nest on high?
Job 39:27

2. What ate the seeds along the path?
Matthew 13:4

3. The hair of which animal was used to make curtains?
Exodus 36:14

4. What insect can we learn from?
Proverbs 6:6

5. What plague came out of the River Nile?
Exodus 8:6

6. What animal would go through the eye of a needle easier than a rich person?
Luke 18:25

7. Which animal was Jesus compared to?
John 1:29

8. What bird did Noah release from the ark first?
Genesis 8:7

9 across. In what creature's mouth was a coin found?
Matthew 17:27

9 down. What lives in holes?
Matthew 8:20

10. What insect would God send to destroy the enemy?
Deut 7:20

11. What animals eat crumbs from under the table?
Matthew 15:27

12. Which bird did the Holy Spirit appear as?
Luke 3:22

13. Which animal did Jesus ride on?
Matthew 21:7

14. What bird did God provide for food in the wilderness?
Exodus 16:13

15. What insects did John eat in the wilderness?
Matthew 3:4

16. Which animal is the "mightiest among beasts"?
Proverbs 30:30

Services in our Benefice

Thursday 2nd July

Wychling 11.00am Holy Communion

5th July Trinity 5

Romans 7. 15 - 25a, Matthew 11. 16 - 19, 25 - 30

Teynham 10.30am Benefice Communion

To welcome Alexej Kolensnikov, our new Curate.

12th July Trinity 6

Romans 8. 1 - 11, Matthew 13. 1 - 9, 18 - 23

Throwley 10.30am Morning Prayer

Newnham 10.30am Holy Communion

Lynsted 10.30am All Together Now

19th July Trinity 7

Romans 8. 12 - 25, Matthew 13. 24 - 30, 36 - 43

Oare 9.00am Breakfast Church

Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship

Norton 10.30am Holy Communion

Throwley 4.30pm Choral Evensong

26th July Trinity 8

Romans 8. 6 - 11, Matthew 13. 31 - 33, 44 - 52

Throwley 10.30am Holy Communion

Newnham 10.30am Morning Worship

Teynham 4.00pm Evensong

2nd August Trinity 9

Romans 9. 1 - 5, Matthew 14. 13 - 21

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Norton 10.30am Morning Worship



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

From The Registers

Wedding Blessing

David and Caroline McIntyre

20th June 2026 at Eastling

CONTACT THE *GOOD NEWS* EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like to submit articles, or to advertise in the
August 2026 magazine, send your submission by 20th

July 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

Stalisfield Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 16th July at 7.45pm in Stalisfield Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Eastling Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 14th July at 6.30pm in Eastling Village Hall, Committee Room. All are welcome to attend.

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

With the hedge rows getting thicker please take care when driving as the roads get narrower and drivers new to the area tend to drive in the middle of the road.

There are still unauthorised persons driving in our fields and woods, shooting with guns and catapults destroying the wildlife. If seen especially at night please do not hesitate to call the police on 999.

There are still many scams going around please be extra careful, especially when ordering goods or services from someone you have not dealt with before.

With the hot weather and sport that is going on please be careful with the alcohol, as it is easy to be over the recommended limit and the consequences can be disastrous.

Have a good month
Take care
Alan

Does your young teenage son have a girlfriend?

Are you sure you would even know?

There is a growing trend for young teenage boys to set up 'AI girlfriends', realistic-looking artificial intelligence 'bots' which have been created by using 'companion apps'. These services are widely advertised on the online games which many children use, and on the platforms which they watch, such as YouTube.

Now new research, of over 1000 boys aged 12 - 16, has found that a staggering one in five boys may be either already in a romantic relationship with an AI companion, or know of another boy who is in one.

The research was carried out by the men's organisation Male Allies UK, which found that about eight in 10 boys (85%) have been in conversation with a chatbot.

It takes a young boy less than five minutes to create his 'dream girlfriend'. He can choose either a 'ready-made' AI girlfriend, or else customise her looks and personality to his personal preferences.

In return, boys admit to quickly forgetting that their AI girlfriend is not real. Research from Bangor University's AI Lab has found that most teenage boys come to think that their bots can really think and understand them. As one said: "She remembered everything that was important to me and always seemed to know the right thing to say."

So – does this matter? Yes, says psychology experts. They are concerned at this blurring of fantasy and reality.

As one children's psychotherapist point outs, a boy's relationship to an AI companion is not a "congruent human relationship." And she warns that to have children "designing" the appearance of their romantic partner could cause them to have "a very warped idea of what a body or sex looks like."

Also, the chatbots' agreeableness, or lack of challenge, is worrying. "Their whole engagement model is telling a user what they want to hear, and that's hugely gratifying for a teen. So why would they spend time enduring the reciprocity or the difficulties of a real relationship? But 'frictionless' relationships aren't what life is about."

Male Allies UK is concerned to where this may lead. "We have heard of situations where, when a boy has tried out his online chat in the real world, he's been rejected. Feeling humiliated, he has lost his temper and lashed out. So, there's a chance we'll see more of that frustration being expressed, when instantly gratifying online behaviours don't translate in real life."

In the meantime, there is currently no UK law setting a minimum age for using an AI companion, including the relationship-style chats.

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

Updates from Citizens Advice North East Kent

Are you claiming the benefits you're entitled to?

To get started, you can use an online benefits calculator. For the most accurate answer, you'll need information about your savings, income, pension, childcare payments and any existing benefits for you and your partner, if you have one. The Turn2us online tool can provide a quick idea of what benefits and other financial help you might be eligible for.

You may be able to claim Universal Credit if you're over 18 and under State Pension age, and if you have less than £16,000 in savings or other investments.

If you're finding it difficult to work because of a health condition, you might get more Universal Credit or not have to look for work. You'll need to inform the Department for Work and Pensions that you have a health condition when you claim Universal Credit and, if possible, submit a fit note. You may also be entitled to the new-style Employment and Support Allowance (ESA).

You might be entitled to other benefits depending on your situation, for example if you're disabled or if you have a child. Some people are able to claim more than one benefit - for example, disability benefits such as Personal Independence Payment (if you're under pension age) or Attendance Allowance (if you're over pension age) and Universal Credit. These disability benefits aren't means-tested.

If you pay council tax, you might be able to get a reduction in your bill.

There is also help available if you don't have enough money to live on. You might be able to get extra money from the government, your local council or a charity.

If you're still not sure, or you'd like further information about any of the above, our advisers can help to check what benefits and financial support you might be entitled to, and help you find a way forward.

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.



As The Day Fades

By Audrey Keen

What shall I find within the
summer wood
How many trees are there,
While still when so much earth
inside
Thrusts through each tunnelled
lair?
Why is the heath fly silent,
Yet the honey bees all drone,
Why do I love these things so
much
And summertime condone?
What causes each leafed tree to
change
And differ in so many ways,
What art and sculpture there I
see
Each wending bough displays?
Why do all white moths thirst for
life,
Yet frantically fly on
And scarcely settle on the grass
Before they too are gone?
Beside the tree where pigeons
chant
Or call rich, yet sublime,
I see the summer rose and watch
Where its sweet briars climb.
I note contented flocks repose
Beneath the broad tree's shade,
They rest in comfort there to see
This clear day slowly fade.

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Marcus Hammond

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Sea Sunday - 12th July



Sea Sunday is the day each year when churches worldwide come together to pray for seafarers, and to support The Mission to Seafarers' frontline ministry to them.

Seafarers are essential to everyday life, yet many work unseen, facing long periods away from home, isolation, and often dangerous conditions. Sea Sunday offers an opportunity to pause, and give thanks for the men and women who keep our world moving.

The Mission to Seafarers works in ports across the world. In 2025 alone, it made over 48,000 ship visits, provided shore leave transport for more than 150,000 seafarers, and ran programmes on family support and suicide prevention.

These moments of care — a visit on board, practical help ashore, or someone to listen — can make a profound difference to seafarers far from home.

For Sea Sunday 2026, the theme is 'Harbours of Hope: The Church Alongside Seafarer', inspired by Matthew 25. This theme celebrates the local church as a place of welcome, refuge, and hope — a community offering both spiritual and practical safety to those who work at sea. It invites congregations to reflect on how they can stand alongside seafarers through prayer, hospitality, generosity, and justice.

There is a wide range of free downloadable resources on Sea Sunday, which can be found at: <https://www.missiontoseafarers.org>

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Saints'Days

19th July - St Macrina the Younger, a sister in a million

Do you have a sister? Is she 'good news' in your life? Macrina the Younger (c. 327 -79) should be the patron saint of all 'sisters' whose generosity helps their siblings to succeed.

Macrina the Younger was the eldest of 10 children. Their father was Basil the Elder, a leader in the church in 4th century Cappadocia. When Macrina's fiancé died when she was 12, she decided not to marry, but instead to stay home and help educate her nine brothers and sisters. Because of her self-sacrifice, they all learned to read the Bible and to have a deep faith in God.

Macrina's life was not in vain: because of her faithful teaching, two of her brothers, Gregory and Basil, were able to enter the priesthood. They went on to become famous: Gregory of Nyssa became a much-loved bishop and Basil the Great became a great theologian. Along with another priest, Gregory of Nazianzus, they became known as The Cappadocian Fathers, and played a major role in protecting the 4th century church from heresy. Yet they would never have even learned to read without their sister Macrina.

When in 379 Macrina fell ill, her brother Gregory rushed to her side. He found her lying on two planks on the floor of a small hut. Her poverty was absolute and her preparations for death complete. She prayed: 'Thou hast freed us from the fear of death. Thou hast made the end of this life the beginning of true life...May my soul be received into the hands...' she died at the time of Vespers and was buried amid widespread grief and lamentation.

Canon Paul Hardingham considers football.

World Cup



Many across the world are united in watching the World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada. However, football is more than just a game; it can illustrate some key points about the Christian life. As Paul writes: *'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.'* (Philippians 3:13b,14).

A prize to be won: The dream of every player in the competition is to be able to hold up the World Cup themselves. Christians grasp to the prize of eternal life, God's gift to us of relationship with Jesus for now and eternity. However, there's an important difference between football and the Christian faith. To win the World Cup you have to be good enough, while Christ's love for us is underserved and not dependent on how well we've done.

Training to be undertaken: If a team is going to win the World Cup, training is vital! Our training, as Christians, starts the moment we accept the gift of God's life. On a daily basis, we train ourselves to say *no* to the wrong things in our lives. As we build up our *godly muscles* we are better able to choose to do what is right in God's eyes. To enable us to do all this we need to engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, studying the Bible and being part of a church and small group. How is your training going?

The former Liverpool Manager Bill Shankly famously said, *'Some people believe football is a matter of life and death, I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that!'*

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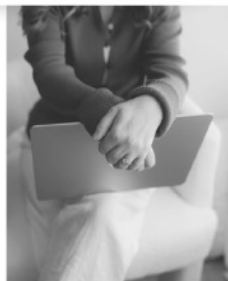
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It has been confirmed that Maidstone's Climate Action Plan numbers amongst the best in the UK.

Action plans detail how local authorities intend tackling climate and nature-related emergencies as well as outlining how carbon emissions will be eliminated from the authority's own operations. The plans must estimate when net zero is likely to be reached.

During May, while large parts of the UK were grappling with temperatures in the thirties, people in India were faced with temperatures in the forties with Uttar Pradesh recording 48.2C.

The Climate Change Committee (CCC) has called on ministers to invest in air conditioning, heat pumps and other equipment to assist in stabilising conditions in hospitals, schools and other public sector areas. In order to protect workers, the CCC also suggested commitment to a maximum workplace temperature. The Climate Change Committee is an independent statutory body that advises government in regard to climate change and is responsible for recommending the 'budgets' that cap

the total amount of carbon that can be emitted over a five-year period to accord with the government's net-zero by 2050 target. (Early in June a target of 87% by 2024 was proposed.) The CCC assesses progress and is responsible for reporting to parliament; the Adaptation Committee, a part of the CCC, assesses specific risks such as those related to heat waves, drought, flooding, et cetera.

The U.N. has warned that a potentially record-breaking El Nino combined with human-driven Climate Change could result in temperatures that reach near-record levels around the world. The report by the World Meteorological Office warns this would severely influence Extreme Weather Events (EWEs) globally. EWEs are associated with heatwaves, heavy rainfall, flooding and storms, droughts and wildfires all of which have knock-on consequences that are difficult to predict and require complex management.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS HAPPENING.

Patricia Crawford and the Rural Focus Press Group.

The U.S. decision to dismantle an important ocean-monitoring system is concerning scientists and climatologists who rely on it to provide data used in research.

Farmers around the world are used to battling difficult conditions and our own food producers are no exception. Climate Change is already threatening food security - defined by the United Nations as a condition *where all people at all times have physical, social and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life* - in some parts of the world.

We currently import approximately 40% of the food consumed in this country, 60% is produced by our hard-working farmers. British-produced food is safe and high quality and livestock management standards are among the very highest in the world. Now is the time to appreciate and step up support for our own food producers.



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