



*HERSTMONCEUX AND WARTLING*

# PARISH NEWS

August 2022

50p



## This Month

Rev Richard writes the letter from the Rectory; Melinda's Famous Hymns column covers "O Jesus I have Promised", plus the regular columns and news from around the parishes.



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## **From the Rectory**

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Last month 700 tiles were replaced on All Saints Church Herstmonceux roof following on from the storm earlier in the year. After this storm had passed I had found some tiles from the church in the road which is at least 100 feet from the building. The advice not to go out when this storm hit was very wise indeed! A very large tree was also blown down along the first footpath on the other side of the road (heading North) which you now have to go under in order to use this footpath. This trees fall has also pretty much demolished an old shed in the woods there.

I have included a circular walk in this edition of the Magazine for anyone including families. It is a prayer or reflective walk that could take only around 20 minutes. It goes from inside the Church (open every day from around 9am to 5pm) taking you past places and things of interest and ends back in the churchyard. The aim is to take you from life's start to life's end in thinking about the meaning of life. The fallen tree is an interesting addition as we near the churchyard to reflect on the fact that our earthly lives do not go on forever, and can be cut short at any time, even a mighty and strong tree can suddenly fall. Please do this walk and use my notes sometime this Summer.

The main reason I am a Christian is probably because I want to believe it is true, just like I believe every movie should have a happy ending, because basically that is just how things should be.

So what do we find in Christianity, we find an answer to our biggest problem suffering and death. The historical resurrection of Jesus Christ in human history is the evidence that human history is going somewhere, and it is heading somewhere very good. This good future beyond our current lives is certain for all those who look to Jesus for salvation. In the words shared by Julian of Norwich 'It was necessary that there should be sin; but all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well'. These things are certainly something worth reflecting on.

God Bless  
Richard Steven

## **Cover Photo**

This is a photo of the workmen in July replacing lost and broken tiles At All Saints Church as a result of storm Eunice earlier in the year.

The men replaced 700 tiles in one day!! Some tiles reached the road, where the photo was taken from, when the storm was raging.

## **August Services in Herstmonceux and Wartling Parish Churches**

### **Sunday 7th August. 8th Sunday after Trinity**

- 8am Wartling Holy Communion (BCP)  
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16. Luke 12:32-40
- 10am Herstmonceux Family Service.

### **Sunday 14th August 9th Sunday after Trinity**

- 8am Herstmonceux Holy Communion (BCP)  
Hebrews 11:29-12v2. Luke 12:49-56
- 10am Wartling Holy Communion (CW)  
Jeremiah 23:23-29. Hebrews 11:29-12v2. Luke 12:49-56.
- 6pm Herstmonceux Evensong (BCP)  
Psalm 119:17-24. Isaiah 28:9-22. Luke 12:49-56.

### **Sunday 21st August 10th Sunday after Trinity**

- 8am Wartling Holy Communion (BCP)  
Hebrews 12:18-end. Luke 13:10-17
- 10am Herstmonceux Holy Communion (CW)  
Isaiah 58:9b-end. Hebrews 12:18-end. Luke 13:10-17.

### **Sunday 28th August 11th Sunday after Trinity**

- 8am Herstmonceux Holy Communion (BCP)  
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16. Luke 14: 1, 7-14.
- 10am Wartling Morning Prayer (CW)  
Psalm 119:161-176. Jonah 3:1-9. Revelation 3:14-22.
- 6pm Herstmonceux Compline (BCP)

### **Sunday 4th Sept 12th Sunday after Trinity**

- 8am Wartling Holy Communion (BCP)  
Philemon 1-21. Luke 14:25-33.
- 11am Herstmonceux Family Service.

## **Summer Fair**

This year's fair is on August 27th at Herstmonceux Church. We hope to have stalls, games, tombola, raffle, and teas. We have something a bit different this year, as the charity Send a Cow are coming and they are bringing a cow(don't worry its not real) which you can milk. If you would like a stall, please give me a call, the cost being a donation to church funds. We would love to have some food stalls this time, but anyone is welcome. If you would like to help, there is a meeting in Herstmonceux Church on Monday 8th August at 9.30am to talk about the fair, or ring/speak to me about how you can help.

Pam 833079.

## **Do you need help regarding food supplies?**

A Message from Hailsham Foodbank.

We know that anyone can find themselves at crisis point for a number of different reasons. In order to provide the most appropriate help for the circumstances of your situation we work with local agencies. If they feel you are struggling to put food on the table, they will issue you with a foodbank voucher. The local agency can also provide long term support if needed to help address some of the issues behind the reasons for your crisis.

Our foodbank works with a number of different agencies, such as Citizens Advice, children's centres and health visitors. To find out more about the agencies that hold our vouchers and how you can get help, please contact us.

When you visit a referral agency they will take some basic details from you to complete the voucher. This will help them to identify the cause of your crisis and offer practical guidance. It also means we are able to prepare suitable emergency food for the right number of people.

Once you have been issued with a voucher, you can exchange this for a minimum of three days of emergency food at your nearest foodbank centre.

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## **Knit and Stitch**

Would you like a time to switch off and just do something that you enjoy doing just for yourself. A bit of knitting, crochet, sewing, any craft or just come along and chat (we are all good at that)

We meet in the Herstmonceux Information Centre 2.30 – 4pm.  
Next meeting August 17th come and join us.

## **Village Information Centre**

The opening hours of the Centre are Monday to Friday 10.00 am to 12.00 noon.

### **Hearing Resource Sessions**

Sessions will be held on a Friday twice a month (**August dates 5th and 19th between 10.00 am and 11.45 am for 12 pm finish**) when we are able to offer maintenance of most types of hearing aids and replacement batteries. **Please remember to bring your brown NHS book.** As maintenance can involve very close contact you are requested to wear a face covering and I will be using PPE for the foreseeable future. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Celia Farrant (local volunteer for Eastbourne Hearing)Windmill

**Join us for a  
Great Family Afternoon!**

**Herstmonceux and Wartling Churches'**

# **Summer Fair**

**Saturday August 27th  
2.00-4.30 pm**

**Stalls - Games - Raffle - Tombola  
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**Herstmonceux Churchyard**



**Church Road BN27 1QJ**



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**Organised by Wartling and Herstmonceux Parish Churches**

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## **Prayer Walk with Stations**

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A family circular walk from All Saints Church Herstmonceux BN27 1QJ

### **Station one.**

The Church (always open from 9am -5pm, every day)

A Church building has stood here for a thousand years, possibly much longer as the Kingdom of Sussex was converted to Christianity at the end of the seventh century. This building is dedicated to the worship of the Christian God. It represents him in its design and by many things inside. It is a primarily a place where people can meet with God in a personal way. When this happens we are meeting the one who is the source of all creation. God says "Seek me and live" (Amos 5:4)

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, I would like to know more about this special kind of life that you offer. Amen.

### **Station two.**

The Altar, at the east end, on your left after you enter.

This is the heart of the church building where we have the Lord's table with a cross. On this table Holy Communion with bread and wine is shared. When Jesus came to earth his main purpose was to do what was necessary out of his great love for us to save us from all our sins. In this part of the church every week we normally remember the fact that this was achieved at the cost of his life for us all, the bread and wine represent this to us as a sacrament<sup>1</sup>.

"But because of our sins he was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. We are healed by the punishment he suffered, made whole by the blows he received. He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53v5)

"God proves His love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us". (Romans 5v8)

### **The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester:**

Thanks be to Thee, my Lord Jesus Christ For all the benefits you have given me, For all the pains and insults you have borne for me. O most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother, May I know You more clearly, Love You more dearly, Follow You more nearly. Amen

### **Station three**

The Font. A stone bath on the North side

The Font in this church has been used to baptise or wash in water thousands of people as repentance and faith are expressed over hundreds of years. Baptism speaks to us of new spiritual life being offered to us by Jesus Christ. This font has been used to Baptise many very young people and also many older people a well. If you are young or old and have received Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord you are born again and Baptism signifies and promises the new spiritual birth. It is a sacrament<sup>2</sup> from God. "If any one is a Christian he is a new creation." (2 Cor 5v17)

**Reflect** on the fact that we all have the chance to start again in life through Jesus Christ. Now the walk really begins.

See the map below for the entire walk. When you leave the Churchyard turn right and walk to the end of the public road, then keep walking keeping to the left on the private road until you come to a foot path on your left.



#### **Station four.**

The footpath into and across the Castle Campus.

As we grow older we learn. This campus is a place of education. The people who work and study here will be leaders in their fields because of their advanced knowledge and honed skills.

If we study the Bible with a view to following God we will not only be educated in finding out the type of people we were made to become and what we are here for on earth. We will also discover who God is and what he is like. We will then be being equipped for living the right way in every situation.

“All scripture, inspired of God, is profitable to teach, to reprove, to correct, to instruct in justice, that the man of God may be complete, fully fitted to every good work.” (2 Timothy 3v16-17)

Reflect on the need to read the Bible.

**Prayer:** Lord, your word is a light to my path, please help me read it and find you in its pages. Amen

#### **Station five**

On your left, The Ministry of Defence Satellite Tracking Observatories.

We live in a world where evil exists in many forms. We need to protect ourselves, our friends and our communities the best we can from those who would seek to do us harm.

“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5v8)

Reflect on making the right choices in life. A manuscript of the middle ages compared life to a game of chess. The anonymous author wrote:

“Wherefore play the game of life warily, for your opponent is full of subtlety, and take



abundant thought over your moves, for the sake of your soul”

**Prayer:** Help me Lord to be led by you when I make decisions. Guide me into the best way ahead and save me from evil in all its guises. Amen.

### **Station six.**

The Old Oak Tree.

God wants the very best for all of us. Including a good long life. If people will make him their God, things will turn out much better for them than otherwise. This old tree has been around for hundreds of years, and if you are nimble and fairly small you may discover on climbing it that it is hollow and you can hide inside it!!

“I have come that you might have life in all it’s fullness” Jesus (Jn 10v10). “Unlike the past, invaders will not take their houses and confiscate their vineyards. For my people will live as long as trees, and my chosen ones will have time to enjoy their hard-won gains.” (Isaiah 65v22)

**Reflect** on the fact that practical blessings follow those who seek God and goodness.

### **Station seven.**

Herstmonceux Castle

This lovely Castle represents, among many other things, strength and security. Those who trust in God discover his protection from all harm.

“God is bedrock under my feet, the castle in which I live, my rescuing knight. My God the high crag where I run for dear life, hiding behind the boulders, safe in the granite hideout.” (Psalm 18v2)

**Reflect** on where your security is found in times of trouble. Is it a totally reliable and safe?

### **Station eight.**

The Woods.

We are told that once upon a time our whole country was woodland. In the woods and forests we find great resources, such as timber, fresh breathable air, and much wildlife. God has great resources that are available to us all and more to those who seek Him.

“For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird of the mountains, and everything that moves in the field is Mine. If I were hungry I would not tell you for the whole earth and everything in it is mine”. Psalm 5v10-12

**Reflect** on the fact that we all have needs and that all we have to do is ask God to meet them whenever we lack something important. We can use the Lords prayer to address such needs, do you use this prayer? You could say it now.

### **Station nine.**

The Christmas Tree in the wood!!

This tree has been mysteriously decorated each Christmas for many years by an anonymous person. The Christmas tree reminds us that every year we celebrate the most amazing birth in human history. So amazing that it has cut history in half, BC and AD.

BC stands for before Christ and AD comes for the Latin ‘anno domini’ meaning ‘in the year of our Lord’. The calendar year and the dates of all our births are all in reference to

the birth of Jesus, such is his impact on our world. This is quite rightly so, because he is the Lord God himself coming among us as a man.

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9v6)

**Reflect** on whether this Jesus has made an impact on you yet?

Note: As you now return to the Church there is a footpath that can take you under a very large fallen tree. Please take care if you use this footpath but it can help us reflect on the fact that earthly lives never go on forever, and can be cut short at any time, even a mighty and strong tree can suddenly fall.

### **Station ten.**

The Churchyard

Tens of thousands of people have been buried in this Churchyard. They are all buried with their feet facing to the east. This is the practice of all Churchyards. The understanding behind this is that all people will rise from their graves with resurrection bodies to greet Jesus when he returns to Israel (in the East) at his second coming.

“The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” (1 Thess 24v16-17)

**Reflect** on the fact that all human history is progressing according to a plan, and most importantly that this plan is in the hands of a loving and good God who will return at the right time.

### **Station eleven.**

Visit a Single Grave, and enjoy the view.

We will all die, this life is given to us in order for us to become the people we should be, for we are human beings not human doings. To be the person we should be the most important thing in this life is that we learn to walk with and enjoy our creator and redeemer. We will then be made ready for his heaven.

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6v8)

“Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” (Psalm 23v6)

**A prayer** for those who are unsure but would like to know more about the Christian God: God if you exist (and I don't know if you do), and if you can hear this prayer (and I don't know if you can), I want to tell you that I am an honest seeker after the truth. Show me if Jesus is your Son and the Saviour of the world. And if you bring conviction to my mind, I will trust him as my Saviour and follow him as my Lord” Amen (from John Stott)

**A prayer** for anyone who would like to follow the Christian God:

Lord Jesus Christ, thank you that you are the Lord who came to die on the cross for us all so that we could be forgiven and set free.

I am sorry for all the things I have done wrong in my life.  
Please forgive me.  
And please come into my life by your Holy spirit to be with me forever.  
Thank You, Lord Jesus. Amen.

If you have said either of these prayers sincerely, God will be helping you.

We do hope that you have all enjoyed this fun and reflective circular walk.  
To contact us please phone The Rectory on: 01323 833124.  
For more information about us see our website:  
[www.herstmonceuxandwartlingchurches.com](http://www.herstmonceuxandwartlingchurches.com)

## **English Country Dancing**

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Bodle Street Hall, Wednesday evenings 8:00pm to 10:00pm. The club welcome new members. No need to bring a partner.

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## **Horticultural Society**

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Not long now until our much awaited Summer Show, which has not been held for the last two years due to Covid. The deadline for entries is Wednesday 3rd August 6pm.

Schedules explaining how to enter and listing all the different classes are available from Boreham Mill Nursery, The Bull's Head Boreham Street, Geo's Coffee House Herstmonceux and online at <https://windmillhillhorticulturalsociety.wordpress.com>

You can join/rejoin the Society at the Show for £5, and our programme of talks at the Reid Hall on the first Thursday of every month will restart on Thursday 1st September.

Please contact Penny Vasey on 01323 833603 with any queries or for further information.

## **Windmill Hill Windmill**

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Although the windmill at Windmill Hill is without its sweeps (hopefully the new sweeps will be fitted in October), we are still open to visitors every Sunday from 2.30-5 until mid-September. There is plenty to see and we offer tours at 2.45. 3.30 and 4.15. We also have some special events including an afternoon of music from Zamboogie on Sunday 7th August (tea and cakes available), and our Heritage Day opening on 11th September (open 12-4).

For up-to-date news about the windmill, look for our Facebook Page – The Windmill at Windmill Hill.

## **Famous Hymns**

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**O Jesus I have Promised, John Ernest Bode (1816 – 1874) *with thanks to sermonwriter.com & wordwisehymns.com***

John Bode was an Anglican clergyman serving a small parish near Cambridge when his 3 children approached confirmation in 1866. Bode wrote this 6-verse hymn (our parishes' hymnbook – "Hymns Old & New" - gives 5) especially for the occasion, telling the children it included "all the important truths I want you to remember." We don't know what tune Bode used. Several have since been associated with these words. They're very familiar, but as always it's important, as we sing, to think about what the words actually mean.

It was originally, "O Jesus, We Have Promised"— several children were being confirmed. As "O Jesus, I Have Promised," it's a fitting hymn of commitment for every Christian, reminding us of our promises to Jesus, seeking His protection from dangers and temptations – and reminding us of Jesus' promises too.

A promise is a personal pledge to do, or not to do, something. More formally, it's a vow or covenant to act in a certain way, often a commitment made before witnesses. Giving our word lays on us a solemn responsibility - "Better not to vow, than to vow and not pay" (Ecclesiastes 5:5). In this hymn, we promise to serve the Lord to the end (v1), and follow (obey) Him forever (v4). The hymn recognises this will involve spiritual warfare (II Tim. 2:3-4; 4:7), and that we have a tendency to "wander from the pathway" (Rom. 7:15; Gal. 5:17). Yet Jesus promised to be ever with the believer (Matt. 18:20). This must be more than simply a doctrinal assertion: if we're to live a consistent, effective Christian life, we need Christ as our guide and strength.

V2: The world constantly seduces us with "sights that dazzle," and "tempting sounds". Temptations to go astray are "ever near". We need Jesus to be nearer still, and we need spiritual perception to "feel" Him near, if we're to be kept from sinning.

V3: Threats to spiritual welfare don't only come from outside. Our sinful nature is easily stirred to "storms of passion," and "murmurs of self will", so we need to hear God's voice, loud and clear. "Speak, and make me listen," says John Bode.

V4: Jesus has promised that not only will He be with us here and now, but that we can look forward to an eternity with Him. "Where Thou art in glory, there shall Thy servant be" (Jn. 12:26; 14:2-3). We pray, "O give me grace to follow".

V5: Reminiscent of "In his master's steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted," (Good King Wenceslas), Bode prays, "Let me see Thy footprints, and in them plant mine own." It's a way of saying we want to follow Jesus' example of holiness and love. To accomplish this we rely on "Thy strength alone", and the hymn ends powerfully reminding us Jesus is not only our Saviour but also our Friend.

Melinda Stone



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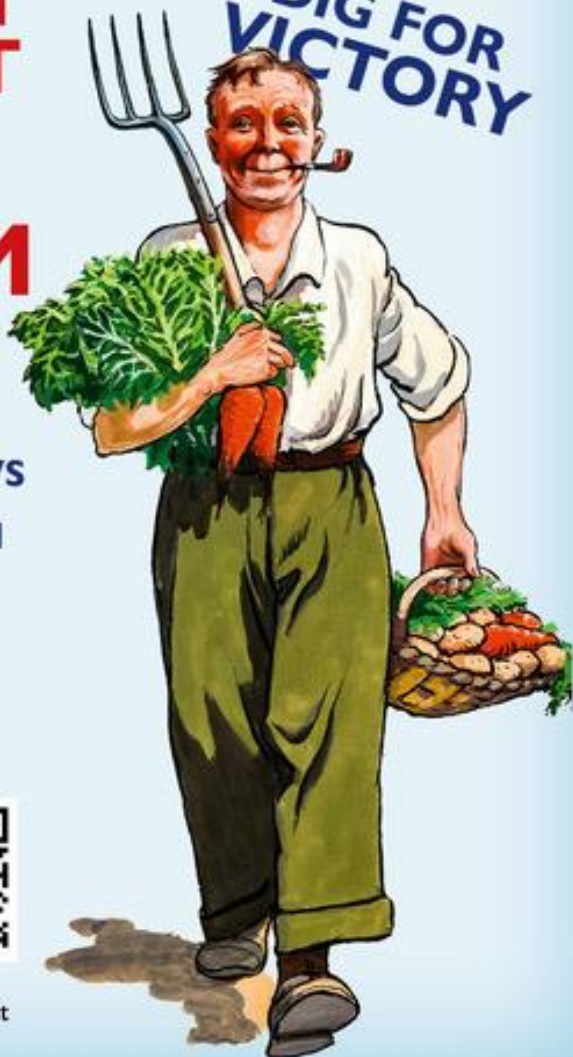
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## **Weather in June and Early July – A Visit from the Mediterranean?**

Any readers of this column may not expect me to devote too much space to the fairly mundane weather we experienced in June. As the deadline for copy beckons later today forecasters are threatening us with temperatures not previously experienced in the UK. Whatever is going on? Large swathes of Continental Europe have been dry and hot this summer with the heat in Eastern Europe in June surging north for a time to give record high temperatures in parts of Scandinavia and the Arctic Circle. Water levels in both the Rivers Rhine and Rhone have fallen to such an extent that the barges which are a key part of the transport hub in those parts are unable to operate. This time last year the same area was awash with floods.

In August 2021 it became extremely hot in Southern Europe but the climate here remained temperate thanks to our prevailing westerly winds. The difference at the moment is that heat which has been building for days over France and Spain is set to be drawn northwards over us on a gentle south or south-easterly breeze.

The first week's weather here this month was dry and fine with high pressure in charge. Temperatures were unremarkable and, for many, it was ideal summer weather. Heat began to build, coincidentally perhaps, when Messrs Djokovic and Kyrgios stepped onto Wimbledon's Centre Court. The 11th, 12th and 13th were humid making it uncomfortable. Drought conditions are in full swing and it is difficult to see from where our next rain is coming – a storm on the 20th perhaps.

Enough, for the moment, of the Mediterranean's visit to Herstmonceux and we must look at June's weather. June began unsettled and quite cool and it was during the first 10 days that the majority of the month's rain fell. The coldest days of the month were the 1st and the 7th with a daytime maximum of 17°C and the 1st also gave us the coldest night (6.5°C). The weather settled down from the 11th. It was mostly dry and sunny with daytime maxima rising to a peak of 27°C on the 18th when Herstmonceux was also the warmest place in the UK. This followed the warmest night of the month (16°C). A storm followed late that evening. The rest of the month was predominantly dry often with quite large amounts of cloud and just a few showers.

Regarding trends over the last 30 years the average daily maximum was about 0.5°C above the 1991 to 2020 average and about 1.5°C above the 1961 to 1990 average so the score is clearly on the proverbial door. Looking at only the last three years the year so far has been warmer than last year but cooler than 2020. Rainfall so far this year has been less than 65% of what we can usually expect. In June 1.40 inches (35 ml) fell.

Tim Roberts

## **St Wilfred's Shop**

Our little shop in the village opened recently and we are appealing for volunteers. If you have a few hours to spare weekly / monthly and would like to help please contact us by calling Anna or Vanessa on 01323 832387 or call into the shop anytime 9-5, Mon – Sat.

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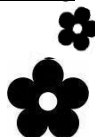
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### **August break**

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### **Services at Herstmonceux Free Church this month**

On all Sundays in August there will be a service at 10.45 at the Free Church in Chapel Row.

A zoom link will be available for anyone who prefers.

### **Sunday 4th September**

We look forward to welcoming everyone in the village hall after our summer break. Our theme in September will be New Opportunities. There will be free tea, coffee, breakfast and chat with optional activities.

For the zoom link or further information please contact Sylvia 07909 644762

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