## HERSTMONCEUX AND WARTLING

## **PARISH NEWS**

December 2022

50p



## This Month

Rev Richard writes the letter from the Rectory; Rev Peter's Thoughts Page; Melinda's Famous Hymns column covers " Good King Wenceslas", plus the regular columns and news from around the parishes.



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## From the Rectory

Dear Parishioners,

'I'm dreaming of a white Christmas' is the biggest selling Christmas song of all time. However, it may well be that the days of a White Christmas here in Sussex are becoming a distant memory due to climate change! And even the message of Christmas itself, is it really nothing more than a dream?

In 'Christmas a history' by Judith Flanders, she writes that the rituals of Christmas allow us to believe, if only for a day a year, that a world exists where we are loved, protected and cherished and Christmas, unlike anything else, somehow does appear to offer it all. Christmas does have many traditions that offer us many good things, some of which we can all hopefully enjoy this year. But, Christmas is also celebrating a historical event that offers something more permanent than the ground we stand on.

J R Tolkien an academic scholar at Oxford University last century known best for writing 'The Lord of the Rings' and 'The Hobbit', wrote a much less well known book called 'Tree and Leaf'. In this book he argues that in the Christian story both myth (representing the things we long for) and history have combined, and he argues that the story of the birth of Christ 'has pre-eminently the inner consistency of reality'.

It seems that the main reason that Christmas is so wonderful is not just because it is based around such a good story about how things should be with accompanying rituals, but because the story is actually true and offers us all through the birth of Jesus, the gift of a saving King, not just to be with us at Christmas time but also throughout the year in order that we be indeed loved, protected and cherished.

The heart of the Christmas message is that Jesus was born on Christmas day to save us from our sins as the Angel Gabriel said to Joseph. Elsewhere in the Bible the effect of this salvation for us is spoken of with reference to whiteness "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow" (Isaiah 1v18). It can still be for each one of us a 'White Christmas' in deepest sense when we experience Christmas with Christ.

Please do not ignore this wonderful transforming message of a truly wonderful White Christmas being offered us all from God in order to fulfil our greatest hopes and dreams in exchange for, at best, a temporary fix.

I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas

Richard Steven

## A Christmas Prayer adapted from the Hymn 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to me, I pray;
Cast out my sin and enter in,
Be born in me today.
I hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
Oh, come to me, abide with me,
Our Lord Immanuel! Amen

## Children's Christmas Eve Celebration

Join us for this joyful celebration on Christmas Eve 3.30pm in Herstmonceux Village Hall. All ages welcome, puppets, children participation in all, singing and lots of fun.

## Knit and Stitch

There will be no meeting in December for Knit and Stitch but we start again in January, please look in the January Parish News for the date.

## Bingo Afternoon

Thank you to all those who went to the Bingo Afternoon at the Village Hall, with a very special thank you to The Bingo Club for running the afternoon.

£380 was raised and donated to Herstmonceux Church Renovation Fund.

## Herstmonceux All Saints Christmas Fair

Herstmonceux All Saints Christmas Fair December 10th if you would like to book a table to sell your crafts etc. please TEXT Trudy with your name and what you are selling thank you on 07813240480. Or call 01323832532 Thank you

## **Herstmonceux WI**

Our next meeting will be December 14th 2022 at 7-30pm in the Herstmonceux village hall. A Christmas fun and games evening all to do with pantomime

If you are not a member but would like to come along as a visitor you are very welcome it will cost you £3 for the evening. Hope to see all members and visitors on the 14th.

Keep safe Trudy

## Church Register July 2021 - September 2022

For All Saints Church Herstmonceux and St Mary Magdalene Church Wartling.

## **Baptisms**

Jesus said, "The water that I will give [you] will become [in you] a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4:14).

01/05/2022 Thomas Haig 02/10/2022 Ciaran Russell -Wood 02/10/2022 Violet Wood

## Weddings

Jesus said: "He who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh"

25/10/2019 Matthew Wood and Tamarra Neil

14/08/2020 Scott Richardson and Danielle Merchant

10/07/2021 Wayne Alsop and Jessica Elliot.

17/07/2021 Anthony Warnes and Marie Cannon

24/07/2021 Jack Winn and Esme Botham

29/07/2021 George Filsell and Victoria Bower

12/08/2021 Brian Middleton and Marie Clark

28/08/2021 Edward Wheeler and Emma O'Neil

04/09/2021 David Bell and Amelia Braxton

20/11/2021 Tristan Martin and Katherine Calvert

21/05/2022 Alexander Mitchell and Jade Algeo

03/06/2022 David Wake and Isobel Curtis

23/07/2022 Aiden Croucher and Aimee Taberer

03/09/2022 Daniel Harris and Gemma Payne

10/09/2022 Callum Jeromson and Imogen Boyd-Wallis

## Vitality Villages

The next coffee morning will be held from 10.00 am to 12 noon on Wednesday 21st December 2022 in the Friends Meeting House West End Herstmonceux (Please note the change of day to Wednesday and the change of venue)

We welcome everyone to join us for a cup of tea or coffee, homemade cakes or biscuits with a fun quiz and a chance to meet friends old and new for a chat Please come and join us and bring a friend

Wednesday 21st December – Singalong

For more information or directions to The Friends Meeting House please contact Sheila Charlton on 01323 833673 or Janet McInnes on 01323 833306 or 07889159824

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

Sunday 4th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

8am Wartling Holy Communion (BCP)

Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12

11am Herstmonceux Family Service

Sunday 11th December 3rd Sunday of Advent/Wartling Carols

8am Wartling Holy Communion (BCP)

James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

10am Herstmonceux Holy Communion (CW)

Isaiah 35:1-10. James 5:7-10. Matthew 11:2-11

6pm Wartling Carol Service

Sunday 18th December 4th Sunday of Advent/ Herstmonceux Carols

8am Herstmonceux Holy Communion (BCP)

Romans 1:1-7. Matthew 1:18-end.

10am Wartling Holy Communion

Isaiah 7:10-16. Romans 1:1-7. Matthew 1:18-end

6pm Herstmonceux Carols

Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve

3.30pm Herstmonceux Village Hall.

Children's Christmas Eve Celebration.

11.30pm Wartling Midnight Holy Communion (CW)

Isaiah 9:2-7. Titus 2:11-14. Luke 2:1-14.

Sunday 25th December Christmas Day

10am Herstmonceux Christmas Family Holy Communion

Luke 2:1-20

Sunday 1st December 2nd Sunday of Christmas

8am Wartling Holy Communion (BCP)

Hebrews 2:10-end. Matthew 2:13-end

10am Herstmonceux Family Service

## **Village Information Centre**

## **Coffee Mornings**

The next Vitality Villages coffee morning is a Christmas singalong. It will be held from 10am – 12 midday on Wednesday 21 December 2022 in the Friends Meeting House, West End, Herstmonceux. We welcome everyone to join us coffee or tea and mince pies, a singalong, a fun quiz and a chance to meet friends old and new for a chat. Please come and join us and bring a friend!

### PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DAY TO WEDNESDAY AND CHANGE OF VENUE

For more information or directions to The Friends Meeting House, please contact Sheila Charlton on 01323 833673 or Janet McInnes on 01323 833306 or 07889 159824

## Choir

The choir has joined the choir at Herstmonceux Castle This choir comprises of students and staff from the castle and Bader College and is led by Shelley Katz and Diana Gilchrist, the musicians in residence at the castle.

Shelley is keen to point out that the choir is for all abilities and singers do not have to read music or even have sung before. The object of the choir is to have fun and meet other people whilst learning to sing together.

The choir meets at 7pm on Tuesday evenings in the ballroom and you need to be at the castle's side entrance by 6.50pm where you will be met by a student who will accompany you to the ballroom.

If you wish to attend, please enter the castle grounds via the main entrance on the Wartling Road and if the barrier is down, use the intercom on the right of the entrance.

Please contact Janet McInnes for more information: 01323 833306 or janetmcinnes@yahoo.co.uk

## **New Project with Herstmonceux Castle**

Vitality Villages and Herstmonceux Castle have agreed a project to make the small area of woodland, adjacent to the 1066 Footpath and opposite to Herstmonceux Church, into a quiet space for walkers and the community to sit and enjoy the peace and quiet and the wonderful views across the Pevensey Levels.

The woodland is owned by Herstmonceux Castle, and community use of this space is not to create an alternative entrance to the castle but merely an opportunity to pause and benefit from the beautiful setting.

At present, the site is quite overgrown with bramble and nettles but if you are interested in helping to clear the site, we are starting work from 10am to 12 mid-day on Friday 25 November 2022. It may be muddy and wet so please wear appropriate clothes and footwear. We will have garden gloves if you don't have your own.

Janet McInnes on 01323 833306/07889159824or janetmcinnes@yahooo.co.uk

## **Rev Peters Thoughts**

My mother was a daughter of the East End of London, living through the devastation of WW2. Her family had been through much in her life. A sister dying at the age of 11, a brother dying from diphtheria and her father dying young, amongst other family tragedies, had left her with an outlook on life that I have attempted to follow. I was wondering what she would say about the present situation in our country, and I could imagine her voice quite clearly, "we are where we are, Peter." Her attitude was quite simple and straightforward, "we will just get on with it." So, how would she confront the problems? She was very much, 'work for the best, but prepare for the worst,' and so would always be ready to face future eventualities.

And so I thought of her (as indeed I so often do) but especially this time when I sat down to decipher, for the third time in the Parish News, what the latest Government action from the UK's third Prime Minister in 2022 and fourth Chancellor in 2022 was for the country's finances and future. There is little doubt that there are difficult times ahead, interest rates have gone up, along with food prices, and there are threats of power outages and a period of austerity.

We all use energy, and so need to save wherever we can regarding this. First of all, the 'Price Cap.' The price cap is not a maximum limit on consumer energy bills, but rather a cap on how much suppliers can charge per kWh of energy used and a maximum daily standing charge. So, the more you use the more you pay, and the less you use, the less you pay.

Chancellor Jeremy Hunt announced that the government's two-year Energy Price Guarantee, originally stated to last for two years from October 2022, will now only last for 6 months. This means that the Energy Price Cap (not the guarantee, but the price cap underneath) will be back from April when the Energy Price Guarantee ends. The projected new energy price cap, which will start in April when the price guarantee ends, will be up 73% taking a bill for typical use (but please don't forget, use more pay more, use less pay less) from £2,500/yr. to £4,350.

The analytics firm, 'Cornwall Insight' which makes predictions based on energy costs, such as the price of gas and oil on the open market, thinks the price will then drop slightly in July 2023, although it would still be up by nearly 60% overall when the cap will then be down 15% in July, to £3,700 a year for typical use.

We live in uncertain times, but when I take services at our two Churches, I am standing in the footsteps of those that also lived in and through uncertain times. They faced the Civil War, The Plague, and The Black Death. Two World Wars, the great depression, and the Spanish Flu epidemic.

Yes, we also live in uncertain times, as indeed did my Mum, and she managed not only by being very frugal but also by being a part of a caring community. A community of family and friends that were a supporting group, a caring and sharing supporting group. So, what would my mum's (Helen) response be to what appears to be a disaster." "This isn't a threat, it's the chance of an amazing new start, so let's get on with

She would, undoubtedly, be right. Rev Peter

## **Village Information Centre**

The opening hours of the Centre are Monday to Friday 10.00 am to 12.00 noon. Please note that the Centre will be closed from 24th December through to Tuesday 3rd January 2023 inclusive.

## **Hearing Resource Sessions**

Sessions will be held on a Friday twice a month (December dates 2nd 9th and 16th 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.

**NB** Apologies but I will not be available during January and February 2023. If you need batteries by then I can give you more before Christmas. In an emergency staff at the Information Centre can give you one card to keep you going.

Celia Farrant (local volunteer for Eastbourne Hearing)

## **Warming Up the Homeless**

I know I have spoken before about this charity but it is a good one and very relevant.

Most of us used to think of the homeless mainly on the streets of big cities but I was surprised to learn how many people (and this number is growing) live on the streets in our local areas. Even more surprising to me, was the number of families who are homeless and living in very basic accommodation.

Thank you to those people who support this charity by leaving things in the church at their collection point and also, thank you to those who have already donated small gifts for the children at Christmas, which we are still collecting, so if you could just buy an extra gift with your Christmas shopping, great. The ages they collect for are birth to 17 years, so that gives plenty of scope. If you bring them to the church or give me a ring I can collect. Food is also very welcome, especially things that can go into packs like crisps or chocolate biscuits etc. The team from WUTH give out hot food each evening and also a food pack for the following day. Warm clothes, sleeping bags, tents, blankets etc. Imagine being without shelter what would you need? Also, surprisingly enough dog and cat food, coats etc. often the only friend a homeless person has, is their pet. Thank you. Pam.

Join us
every first Sunday in the month
for an ecumenical
Social Sunday Evening
at

The Friends Meeting House West End Herstmonceux from 7.00 pm



A time to reflect on the past month and prepare for the next, with unprogrammed discussion on local issues and prayer.

Call 01323 833647 for further information or just turn up (light refreshments will be provided.)

## **Famous Hymns**

**Good King Wenceslas: John Mason Neale** (1818-1866) – with thanks to *Wikipedia, guernseydonkey.com, clausnet.com & classicfm.com* 

Wenceslaus (c.907 - 935, a.k.a. Vaclac the Good) was Duke of Bohemia. His paternal grandfather had been converted to Christianity by Saints Cyril & Methodius. His mother's father was a pagan tribal chief, although she was baptized before she married. When Wenceslas' father died in 921, mother reverted to paganism and arranged her devout Christian mother-in-law's assassination. Bohemians chose Wenceslas to rule them, but to avoid disputes, Bohemia was divided between Wenceslas and his younger (jealous twin?) brother, Boleslaus the Cruel. Their mother was regent until Wenceslas' 18th birthday when he promptly banished her.

Wenceslas was a good ruler, an excellent administrator and revered for his kindness to the poor. He introduced education and successful law & order systems. On 28th September 935, as Wenceslas entered his chapel to pray, Boleslaus with three noblemen stabbed him to death. Wenceslas' last words were, "Brother, may God forgive you." Boleslaus was so revolted by what he'd done that he rejected the pagans who'd supported his bid for greater power and spent the rest of his life doing the kind of good deeds his brother had started.

Wenceslas was almost immediately regarded as a martyr, becoming patron saint of the Czech Republic. He wasn't promoted from Duke to King of Bohemia until Holy Roman Emperor Otto Ist gave him the title posthumously. One 12th-century preacher said of Wenceslas, "no one doubts that, rising every night from his noble bed, with bare feet and only one chamberlain, he went around to God's churches and gave alms generously to widows, orphans, those in prison and afflicted by every difficulty."

In 1582 a song about the coming of spring was published in a Finnish collection for schools. In about 1853, the British Envoy in Stockholm gave a copy of this rare book to John Mason Neale. Neale was interested in restoring Catholic ceremony, saints' days & music to the Anglican church. In 1849 he'd published *Deeds of Faith: Stories for Children from Church History* telling Christian legends (including St Wenceslas) in romantic prose. In his *Carols for Christmas-tide* (1853) he adapted the prose story into a poem, used the spring melody from the Finnish book, and added a reference to Saint Stephen's Day (26 December) to celebrate the long tradition of charitable giving on the Second Day of Christmas.

Some people really don't like this carol. It's been called the "product of an unnatural marriage between Victorian whimsy and the thirteenth-century dance carol", or "ponderous moral doggerel". The Oxford Book of Carols (1928) included it but commented this was "not without hope that, with the present wealth of carols for Christmas, *Good King Wenceslas* may gradually pass into disuse". But that hasn't happened: Although Christmas isn't mentioned, this carol's message of kindness, generosity and giving to those less fortunate than ourselves, is what makes it so fitting for the season. May we strive to emulate the Good King's example daily, not just at Christmas. Melinda Stone

## Children's Page

When you read this, we will be starting the time of Advent. We asked Mega Explorers what did they think that Advent meant, well after a bit of prompting it was decided that it meant getting ready or waiting. Again the children were asked, What are we waiting for? Guess what the answer was: yes-Father Christmas/presents, one or two did answer Jesus so that was good. It is a shame that the real meaning of Christmas is a bit lost in the hype of everything else happening. Lets put Jesus first this year, of course we all enjoy the fun of Christmas, the presents, the food, the meeting of families getting together, but don't forget if it wasn't for Jesus there would be no Christmas. Let's give the gifts of love, understanding and patience to each other.

I came across this story and thought it was lovely:-

On the first Christmas Day a sad little glow-worm watched as all the other creatures brought their gifts to the stable. No-one noticed him for he was a dull, grey colour and had nothing to give. Then a Jenny Wren, who was taking hay

nothing to give. Then a Jenny Wren, who was taking hay to line the manger, dropped a small piece in front of him. Slowly and with a great effort the glow-worm picked it up and laid it gently by the side of the baby Jesus. Then a wonderful thing happened. The radiant light of His Halo touched the worm as it crept away and from that day on, it has carried its own light.



It just shows that even the littlest of creatures are special to Jesus.

### For the older ones

Two teenagers were reading the text outside the church at Christmas time. "Hm," said one, "The church is trying to poke its nose into Christmas now." Her friend's reply was not heard, let's hope she said the right things.

## Children's prayer.

Lord Jesus, help us to think of you at Christmas. To remember why you came. Presents and things are nice but help us to think of those children who have nothing. Your love is the best present of all.

Amen.

## Community Coffee Shop

Herstmonceux Village Hall - The last Monday of every month 10am to 12am Next meeting is December 19th 2022 not Boxing Day. This is just a one off as its Christmas

We are going back to just one a month so next meeting in the new year will be January 30th 2023 Please drop in and support us everyone is welcome coffee or tea is only £1.00 and there is cake. Hope to see you there

## Rev Peter's Green Page

I have been privileged to live in a farming area for some years now, and what is obvious is that farmers are great at looking after livestock and crops, but not themselves. They are state of the art when talking about animal health, soil health, and crop health, but not so when talking about their personal health and how to look after themselves as well as they do their livestock and crops.

It is a fact that people find it difficult to relate to the struggle of agricultural workers because they are in a minority, and sadly, undervalued. The truth is that while farmers have always faced unique challenges, the economic crisis had make matters much worse.

Nitrogen fertiliser has rapidly increased in price, from just over £200 /t in Spring to around £700 /t by the end of Autumn. Phosphate and potash prices have also increased by over 70 per cent over the same period. Grain feed prices have also been rising, leaving farmers questioning how fertiliser and other input cost increases can be managed and absorbed. All farms, especially pastoral ones, use electricity in their outbuildings and dairies, as well as diesel in their tractors, etc.

When the village pub was a focal point, farmers would meet regularly and exchange news and views and talk and listen. But now the village pub, as it was, is just a memory, and often farmers just struggle on, having no option other than to push themselves physically and mentally beyond where it's sensible.

Professor Matt Lobley, co-director of the Centre for Rural Policy Research, said: "The issue of the sense of disconnection between farming and non-farming people has come up repeatedly in our research over a number of years. We now know that the loneliness and isolation that can stem from this impacts the mental health of farming people. Farming people are key workers and we should all have a stake in helping improve their health and wellbeing."

The researchers also said there was a need to strengthen connections between farming and non-farming communities, whether that be by enhancing local opportunities for community engagement with agriculture, or more generally improving public dialogue in relation to food and farming. But they also called for a 'more positive and empathetic approach' from Government and regulators when it comes to shaping and enforcing policy and legislative requirements, particularly since associated paperwork and inspections have long been identified as key sources of stress for farmers.

We are lucky in our area in living in wonderful countryside, and this is because our farmers have tended and cared for it over generations. We should be very grateful to them, and appreciative of them.

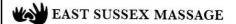
Rev Peter



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#### **PARISH NEWS**

Please send text copy email (together with your name and phone number) to Miss KatherineBlake, theparishnews@hotmail.com (c/o Parish News). Deadline is midday on the 15th of the month prior to publication.

N.B. due to new arrangements no copy can be accepted later.

#### PARISH NEWS SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you would like a copy of the Parish News delivered to your door each month for the discounted rate of £5:50 for the year, then please contact Chris Edwards on 01323 833207 or email hwparishnews\_subscriptions@hotmail.com

Would you like your business toreach more of the Herstmonceux and Wartling community?

Advertising in the Herstmonceux and Wartling Parish News for the year (12editions) ranges from £40 to £125 depending on the size of the advert.

Contact Sarah Honeysett, via email onhwparishnews@outlook.com

## Weather in October and Early November 2022 - Warm and Wet

Readers whose youth, like mine, was largely misspent may recall Albert Hammond's song of fifty years ago, 'It Never Rains in Southern California' the chorus of which went:-

It never rains in California But girl, don't they warn ya It pours, man, it pours

The weather this year has had elements of that about it; drought until mid-August, the summer heat and now autumn warmth and bounteous rain. For almost all of the time covered by this piece, winds have come in from the south blowing us in air of sub-tropical origin. Low pressure has taken up residence to the west of the UK ensuring this supply of warm moist air has continued. Looking at the 30 year averages over the last 60 years we could have expected daytime maximum temperatures in October varying between 14.58°C from 1971 to 2000 and 15.34°C from 1991 to 2020. This year the average daily maximum was just over 17°C. The warmest day was the 27th when the temperature almost reached 20°C and the coolest day was the 10th when the maximum was just under 16°C. It is unusual for there to be such a small difference between the coolest and warmest days just emphasising the consistent warmth of the month.

The average minimum temperature for October was 10.5°C with the warmest night on the 5th when the temperature did not fall below 16°C, a warm night even at the height of summer. The coolest night fell on the 11th with a minimum of just over 5°C. We had colder nights in May and September. The 30 year averages show a similar warming trend as the daily maximum temperatures and this October's average daily minimum was also about 1.7°C above the 1991 to 2020 average. I understand October 2022 was the fifth warmest of all time in the UK.

Perhaps the most unusual day in October was Sunday the 23rd when we experienced three thunderstorms, hot sunshine and some unusual clouds. Winds were lighter than usual with rainfall in fact slightly below average but there was enough to build on the cascades of September. If water companies' nerves were starting to twitch at another drier month these were rapidly allayed by the events of the first nine days of November when over six inches fell buffeted by strong to gale force winds at times. At 04:00 on the 1st there was a gust at Herstmonceux of 51 mph. Also, on the first day of the month there was more than twice the rainfall that fell in the whole of November 2021, admittedly a month of extremely little rain. Herstmonceux was the wettest place in the UK on the 6th. In the last three months we have had almost double the rainfall of the previous seven and a half months. Nature gives as well as takes away and the pattern of this year is strongly reminiscent of the weather in 1976.

As if to underline the warmth this autumn, Porthmadog in west Wales recorded a maximum temperature of 21.2°C on 13th November, this with the onset of meteorological winter just over two weeks away. It is set to be cooler for the rest of the month with temperatures returning to near average. Certainly, there is no sign of any cold weather yet. What might the winter hold? Liz Bentley, Chief Executive of the Royal Meteorological Society, tentatively suggested that in a La Nina year, as this one is, the coldest part of

the winter tended to be at the beginning with milder and more unsettled weather at the end. We will see.

COP27 has hardly yet brought any positive news in the battle against climate change and a cynic may be forgiven for suggesting that the population in the UK may not be entirely averse to the warmer weather we now seem to be enjoying; hardly an encouragement for us all to make the changes needed to parry the threat to the world as we know it. Just a thought.

Tim Roberts

## Cowbeech Bonfire - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022

After three years without a Bonfire, Cowbeech was able to resume this activity on Friday 28th October 2002. Somethings had changed:

- the venue moved to a field at Cow Farm (thanks to David Powell)
- there was a new local provider of fireworks and musical accompaniment
- we were not able to satisfy the licence requirements for a bar but folk brought their own bottles and soft drinks and tea and coffee were available

Everything went very well: We had a wonderful dry and warm evening,

Attendance at the event was so large the excellent food supplied – roast hog, burgers and hot dogs all sold out. (so not a scrap was wasted)

We made an excellent profit of £4,000+ for our Local Good Causes Fund. Once again a huge community effort with a wonderful atmosphere and a chance for neighbours and friends to meet again. So this must rate as a top event for Cowbeech

We soon hope to publish our Calendar for 2023 Mary Ann Gordon, Committee Member

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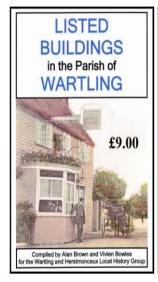
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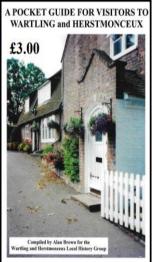
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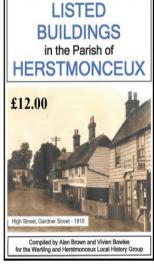
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## Herstmonceux Free Church News

## Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December – 10am to 12pm

We will be meeting at the village hall on the first Sunday of the month. Our theme this month will be Time for Christmas so we welcome everyone to join us for our festive first Sunday. Come for tea, coffee, festive food and a chat or join in the optional Christmas activities. You are welcome to drop in when you wish and leave when you wish.

### Services at Herstmonceux Free Church this month

On these Sundays, there will be a service at 10.45 at the Free Church in Chapel Row: 11<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>(Christmas Day). Everyone is welcome to come along and a zoom link will be available for anyone who prefers.

## Christmas Carol Service, Sunday 18th December at 4pm

You are warmly invited to come and share a service of Christmas carols and readings with us on December 18th at 4pm. This will be followed by refreshments. We welcome you to stay and enjoy these.

## Next First Sunday at the Village Hall will be February.

There will be no meeting at the Village Hall on New Year's Day so our next meeting at the Village Hall will be Sunday 5th February.

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

## RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS) HERSTMONCEUX LOCAL MEETING

We meet at 10.45 on the first and third Sunday of every month. Join us for a quiet hour of worship and reflection at the Friends' Meeting House, West End, Herstmonceux BN27 4NR or call 01323 844269 for more details. www.quaker.org.uk

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Wartling	Mrs. Penny Vasey	Tel: 833603
PCC TREASURER for both Herstmonceux and Wartling		
	Mr. Andrew Phillips	Tel: 832619
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Herstmonceux	Mrs. Anne Kenward	Tel: 441244
Wartling	Mr. David Oakenfold	Tel: 724676
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Herstmonceux	Mrs. Pam Kendall	Tel: 833079
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