



*HERSTMONCEUX AND WARTLING*

# PARISH NEWS

February 2023

50p



## This Month

Rev Richard writes the letter from the Rectory; Rev Peter's Thoughts Page; Melinda's Famous Hymns column covers "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say", plus the regular columns and news from around the parishes.





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## **From the Rectory**

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St Valentine.

The year was 270AD Claudius, the reigning Roman emperor of the time, was a warlord, intent only upon preserving his empire and routing his enemies. Christianity was not on his like list. His primary interests were military, and he would stoop to nothing to ensure that his mighty army remained loyal to him.

It was Claudius's maniacal grip on the military that led him to install a very foolish policy empire-wide. Claudius had a problem on his hands when it came to the army. Believe it or not, his men would actually prefer to get married and stay home with their wives and families rather than risk their lives and sacrifice for their country! Military recruiting was suffering because of the petulant affection between man and wife. Love was getting in the way of patriotism! Claudius would have none of it. Being the man with the big stick, he could make laws and enforce them, too.

So he did. Claudius passed a law forbidding anyone to get married. Obviously, this was an outrage. Was he serious? No marriage?

Living in this anti-Christian and anti-marriage climate, was Valentine. Valentine was a Christian priest in Rome. He knew from the Bible that marriage was good and honoured by God. He knew that marriage was lawful according to the Christian faith, so he took it upon himself to perform Christian marriages—contrary to the law. As a priest, he performed secret marriages for couples who desired to be married bravely defying the anti-marriage edict. It wasn't just marriages that Valentine was working on. He was also trying to protect persecuted Christians who were being chased down and haunted by the aggressive Roman leaders. Christians knew that they could flee to Valentine to find protection.

Valentine was taking a huge risk. Not only was it absolutely forbidden to marry or to perform marriages, but it was also a criminal offense to aid or abet Christians—especially ones whom the Roman Empire had on their hit list! Valentine was enmeshed in what the Roman Empire considered high treason and traitorous activity. Although he was being loyal to his faith, he was flying in the face of Roman law. The Roman government hunted him down and locked him up in prison. Now, Valentine—protector of Christians and performer of marriages—was himself suffering for his love and devotion to God.

It got worse. Valentine, true to his bold character, tried to convert Emperor Claudius to Christianity. This had gone too far. Claudius demanded that Valentine recant his faith and submit to the cruel and godless tyranny of Rome. Valentine staunchly refused. The Roman Prefect condemned him to torture and death. He was beaten violently, then beheaded. Valentine was martyred for his faith.

According to legend (and probably false), Valentine himself fell in love during his time of imprisonment. The daughter of the prison guard met Valentine and fell head over heels in love. As the story goes, their romance was the prototypical saga of steadfast love, broken only by the tragic death of Valentine. He wrote a note to her, allegedly penned on

February 14, the day before he was beheaded. He signed the note, "Love from your Valentine." Henceforth, we have the first Valentine's Day card.

Although the story of Valentine's Day is shrouded in mystery, buried in tradition, and (thanks to commercialism) stripped of its significance, we can bring some of the truth back. The truth is, love can't be squelched, outlawed, or stamped out. (Written by Daniel Threlfall, from Share Faith Magazine)

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

I love good romance in stories and films and I think marriage as defined by the Bible is by far the best place for romance to blossom flourish and even revive when it has died down. But for me the significance of Valentine's life was not that he sent the first Valentine's Day card or even performed secret marriages, it was that he believed in and sought to follow the God of all conquering love, of which romantic love is just a part. This deep love is available for us all, at all times, as C S Lewis wrote in his book Mere Christianity "look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in."

Richard Steven

## **A Prayer for February**

A Bible verse on Love. "This is real love - not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins". 1 John 4v10

A Prayer about God's Love

Love has its source in you, Jesus our Saviour God. It flows from you like an ocean, into a world as unyielding as any shoreline cliff. And like the ocean which batters, erodes, and wears away even the hardest stone your love persists, finds cracks and inlets, in hardened hearts, flows inside and works a miracle. Who would think that water was more powerful than granite, love mightier than the hardest heart. Thank you, Jesus our Saviour God, for the power of your love. Amen

## **Richard Steven's Retirement**

You are all invited to an Afternoon Tea for Richard and Alison on Sunday 19th February at the Reid Hall Boreham Street 2.30 – 4.30ish, to say thank you for all they have done for the parishes and the villages. If you are unable to get there, please ring for a lift.

There is also a collection, if you would like to contribute, please give your donation to Penny or Paul in Wartling Church, John or Kitty in Herstmonceux or leave in the Information Centre in Herstmonceux Village in envelope marked churches.

For any further information please contact church wardens.

## **Services in Herstmonceux and Wartling Parish Churches This Month**

**5th February**

**3rd Sunday before Lent**

- 8am Wartling Holy Communion (BCP)  
1 Corinthians 2:1-12. Matthew 5:13-20
- 11am Herstmonceux Family Service  
Followed by bring and share Lunch.

**12th February**

**2nd Sunday before Lent**

- 8am Herstmonceux Holy Communion (BCP)  
Romans 8:18-25. Matthew 6:25-end
- 11am Wartling Holy Communion (CW)  
Genesis 1:1-2:3. Romans 8:18-25.  
Matthew 6:25-end
- 3.30pm Herstmonceux Evensong (BCP)  
Psalm 148. Proverbs 8:1,22-31.  
Luke 12:16-31

**19th February**

**1st Sunday before Lent**

- 8am Wartling Holy Communion (BCP)  
2 Peter 1:16-end Matthew 17:1-9
- 10am Herstmonceux Holy Communion (CW)  
Exodus 24:12-end. 2 Peter 1:16-end.  
Matthew 17:1-9

**22nd February**

**Ash Wednesday**

- 7pm Herstmonceux Imposition of Ashes/  
Holy Communion  
2 Corinthians 5:20.b-6:10.  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21.

**26th February**

**1st Sunday of Lent**

- 8am Herstmonceux Holy Communion (BCP)  
Romans 5:12-19. Matthew 4:1-11.
- 10am Wartling Morning Prayer (CW)  
Psalm 119:1-16. Jeremiah 18:1-11.  
Luke 18:9-14.
- 11am Herstmonceux Children's activity
- 3.30pm Herstmonceux Celtic Service  
Luke 15:1-10

**5th March**

**2nd Sunday of Lent**

- 8am Wartling Holy Communion (BCP)  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17. John 3:1-17
- 11am Herstmonceux Family Service  
Followed by bring and share lunch.

## **Rev Peters Thoughts**

If I asked the question, “how are you”, would you immediately think “busy?” Our daily worries and concerns are often totally exhausting. The world is a challenging place, and we only have to listen to the news for a few minutes to appreciate just how complex our lives are becoming, and unfortunately with complexity comes pressure and stress.

In this frantic rushing world of ours, we need to make time for ourselves. So how do we juggle all our issues and yet have time for ourselves and ensure that we protect our own well-being? Listening to those with overstressed lives, I have come to the realisation that there are some simple things that can be done at the outset that make a huge difference, and can stop a problem growing into a crisis.

One of the small changes that can be made and can have a big effect, is simply by saying no. It doesn't mean no forever, it just means not right now. We might feel that in doing so we're letting others down, or we may miss out, or we might not get asked or invited again. But it might be helpful to remember that every time you say no to one thing you're actually saying yes to something else. It's just a question of what you will be saying yes to.

In a previous life, I had the letters KISS and TLAR in view. They stood for ‘Keep It Simple Stupid’ and, ‘That Looks About Right’. It is so easy to involve oneself in things that are overcomplicated, unrealistic or unsustainable. Space through simplicity gives flexibility and room for when life is challenging, and we struggle. Life inevitably throws up issues, but a simpler life gives time and space to deal with them more effectively

Slowing down is next. This may seem difficult, but it is actually essential. often people feel guilty when they take time for themselves, but slowing down and doing one thing at a time means that you have peace and time for yourself. Take time just to be you. It may be difficult but sit in silence and listen to your body and mind and to what they're asking for.

It is so easy to have a list of jobs that needs to be done, but then find that this list only gets longer. The more that is ticked off the longer it gets as even more things get added. Friends of mine have three lists on their kitchen notice board. one list is headed, “things we really must get done” the other is headed, “things we might get done” and the final list, “things we will probably never get done.”

Rev Peter

## **Vitality Villages**

The next Vitality Villages coffee morning is to be held from 10.00 am to 12 midday on Wednesday 15th February 2023 in the Friends Meeting House West End Herstmonceux when Pam Clatworthy will be showing us how to make cards. We welcome everyone to join us in a cup of tea or coffee a fun quiz and a chance to meet friends old and new for a chat. Please come and join us and bring a friend.



## Children's Page

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Well we've had Christmas now we are looking forward to Easter. We talked about Advent being the getting ready for Jesus coming at Christmas, now we go into the time called Lent, when we get ready for Jesus dying and rising again. Lent is a time of preparation we need to look at the things we do, are they what Jesus would like us to do, are we what Jesus would like us to be? Don't worry none of us are but we can try to be all he wants that's all Jesus asks us to do....to try.

One of the stories that we look at during Lent is the story of Jesus when he was in the desert and the devil tried to tempt him. Jesus spent 40 days in the dessert all by himself thinking about the best ways of telling people all about God when the devil came along and tried to get Jesus to do things that God would not have wanted him to do.



Jesus was really hungry, he hadn't eaten for 40 days so the devil said to him, why not take these rocks and turn them to bread, but Jesus refused.

Next the devil took him to the top of the temple in Jerusalem and he told Jesus to throw himself down to prove that he was God's son because, if he was the angels would save him.

Jesus refused to put God to the test.

The third test was the devil took Jesus to the top of a very high mountain and told him to look around. The devil told him that he could give Jesus all of the beautiful country that he could see if he fell down and worshipped him, again Jesus refused saying that he would only worship the one true God, his father.

We are all tempted to do things we shouldn't, sometimes there is little voice in our heads that say, go on it won't hurt, we need to learn to listen and think what is the best for God, for those around us, family, friends and everybody you meet.

Other people can sometimes try to persuade us to do things that we know we shouldn't do and it can be very hard to say "NO" but we need to remember that Jesus said "No" to the devil and I am sure he found it quite hard as well.

Pam

## **Famous Hymns**

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**I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say** - Horatius Bonar (1808-1889) *With special thanks to Charles Pavey, Organist & Choirmaster of Holy Trinity Malvern*

This hymn is a particular favourite of mine, although we don't sing it very often. It builds on three teachings of Jesus:

Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

John 4:10-14 Jesus in conversation with a Samaritan woman by a well.

John 8:12 "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Each verse of the hymn sets out an offer of Jesus, and in accepting it the reader's life is changed. The hymn's appeal may well be its focus on the gospel call of Christ to come to him, look to him, drink, and rest, and the simple call to obey and to find in him all that he has promised.

Horatius (Horace, to his friends) Bonar "prince of Scottish hymn writers", was born, ordained in 1837 and died in Edinburgh, coming from a long line of ordained ministers (serving between them for 364 years). Nevertheless, he was independent-thinking and strongly evangelical. During the "Disruption" in 1843, the evangelicals, including Bonar, pulled out of the national Church of Scotland to form the Free Church of Scotland. After 27 years at Kelso, Bonar moved to Chalmers Memorial Church, Edinburgh, erected for Dr Thomas Chalmers, Bonar's friend and leader of the Free Church movement in Scotland. In 1883, Bonar was elected the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

Bonar began writing hymns when he was superintendent of a Sunday school in Leith. Despite his intimidating physical appearance, Bonar loved the children and was concerned about how little they understood of the metrical Psalms sung in the Scottish church of his day. They didn't enjoy the words or the tunes, so he set out to write a few hymns with simpler lyrics and already familiar and popular tunes. These were received enthusiastically, and gradually he started to write hymns for adults too, as well as being a prolific writer of letters and books.

The hymn tune most commonly used ('though I've also sung it to Dykes) is Kingsfold. Published in *English Country Songs* (1893), the folk tune's thought to date back to the middle ages: it had been set to several texts over the years. Ralph Vaughan Williams heard it in Kingsfold, West Sussex (hence its name) and introduced it as a hymn tune in *The English Hymnal* (1906). Both tunes shift from a minor towards a major key in the second half of each verse, emphasising the transformation the words describe following a positive response to each of Christ's offers – the music serves the words very well.

Take some time this month to read Jesus' invitations to you as recorded in the Gospels and reflect on your response to Him. Melinda Stone



## **Weather in December and Early January 2023 – Very Mild & Very Wet**

This column last month left us in the grip of a very cold spell for early winter. This did not last long, and the day of transition proved to be the Sunday before Christmas, a day of gloom, mist, rain and temperatures lifting slowly during the day. Since then, there has not been a single air frost and the coldest day was on Boxing Day (8°C) which was a bright and sunny sequel to a murky Christmas Day. From mid-December to mid-January almost nine inches of rain has fallen often accompanied by strong winds with gusts to gale force and above. Almost all of the winds have come from between south and west with temperatures well above normal.

For an explanation we probably need to look to the USA. From 21st to 26th December parts of the USA and Canada were subjected to historic cold. Snow was abundant in many areas none more so than upstate New York where places such as Buffalo were blanketed by huge amounts of snow (56 inches) developing over Lake Erie. There were large drops of temperature in a short space of time. On the 21st, Cheyenne in Wyoming saw the temperature drop from 6°C at 13:05 to -16°C at 13:35, sub-optimal if you had gone out without the required extra kit! The resultant plunge of cold air seems to have enlivened the jet stream which had been weak for much of the month until then.

Data for December 2022 showed an average maximum temperature of just over 7°C and an average minimum of just under 3°C, both cold by the standards of recent Decembers. The highest maximum was just over 14°C on the very last day of the year and the lowest was 0.5°C on the 13th. The lowest minimum was almost -5°C on the 10th but on the 20th it did not fall below 10°C. The total rainfall for the month was almost five and three quarter inches. In the end it was the third most windy month of the year.

What of the year as a whole? Many readers will be aware that, despite the cold spell in December, it has been the warmest year on record for the UK (records began in 1659) and the joint fifth warmest worldwide (since 1880) according to NASA. Those that believe they know consider, in the absence of major volcanic activity, 2023 will be warmer still, pointing to the replacement of the La Niña (cold water welling up from the depths) effect in the Pacific by a neutral or El Niño effect (warm water rising to the surface). Even if these predictions hold good there is no guarantee it will be hotter in the UK given that our weather is so influenced by the Atlantic. Here we had seven days when the temperature exceeded 30°C including five days in a row from 10th August. The pièce de resistance for heat was 19th July when we had our highest daytime maximum of 37.5°C and highest nighttime temperature of 19.3°C. The lowest both occurred in December 2022 transpired to be a wet year despite fears otherwise. Here I measured over 37 inches almost 70% of which fell in the final 4 months of the year. Who would have thought after that dry spring and summer?

January so far has been very mild, windy and wet with little by way of respite. The 9th, 11th and 13th were exceptions to this trend providing some weak winter sunshine. We may moan about these miserable conditions, but they are nothing compared with those in the Western United States which since the New Year has been experiencing the so-called Pineapple Express an atmospheric river of moisture. This has dumped huge quantities of rain in California and Oregon with massive snowfall over the Sierra Nevada and the

Cascades. San Diego had 10 inches of rain in one day. Despite the damage caused, the rain and snow will not alleviate the drought conditions which have lasted for so long.

As the second half of January beckons whilst I complete this column, colder weather looks set to return but not with any particular vengeance. There is no sign at the moment of any major cold spell. Let us hope February proves less turbulent with no cold sting to the last instalment of this winter's tale.

Tim Roberts

## **Ray and Sheldon club for the young at heart over 60's**

For the Young at Heart over 60's.

Are you looking for new things to do this year?

Are you newly retired or new to Herstmonceux and surrounding villages.

The Ray and Sheldon club is for everyone over 60, we meet twice a month on a Friday afternoon in Herstmonceux village hall from 2pm to 4pm. It's only £4 each visit and it includes a cup of tea/coffee, biscuit and a good chat after the activity for the week. We have a varied and interesting programme planned for 2023 which include trug making, quiz, an outing, Parkinson choir and talks from the fire brigade and Raystede to name but a few. Why not come to a meeting and see for yourself what a friendly group we are!

February 10<sup>th</sup> we are going to the Kingshead for lunch and 24<sup>th</sup> we have a talk from St Wilfred's Hospice

Contact Liz 833733 or Carol 831985 to find out more.

## **Herstmonceux Women's Institution**

For our February meeting we are very pleased to announce that well-known **local singer, Rosie Page**, will be providing us with some first-class entertainment. Rosie will be singing "**Songs of ABBA**", which will be guaranteed to blow away the February winter blues!

Come along and enjoy! We welcome new members any time and those who might just want to try a "taster session" with us. Every month, we have excellent entertainers or speakers on a wide range of topics - followed by a light supper. A great way to make new friends!

**Wednesday 15th February - 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.**

## **Rev Peter's Green Page**

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I occasionally get asked if there is any good environmental news, and the most certainly is. I'm writing this on the 14th of January, on my phone I have one of those clever little apps that shows the National Grid live. As I write this 59.8% about energy is provided by renewables, that is solar, wind, and hydroelectric. Only 7.4% of our energy is from fossil fuels, that is coal, and gas, the 16.3% of other sources comes from nuclear and biomass. The figures for the last week are almost the same. The fact is that according to the International Energy Agency, renewable energy will represent the majority of power generation globally by 2025. Considering the present war in the Ukraine, and often Europe's reliance on Russian gas for energy, these figures are certainly very good news.

France banned short-haul flights between Paris and Nantes, Lyon, and Bordeaux in favour of train travel. France also plans to cover every parking lot in the country with solar panels. Short private jet flights are also subject to the ban. In the UK, a Welsh Hospital, Morriston Hospital in Swansea now has its own Solar Farm. Hospital Officials had originally hoped the farm serving the Hospital would save about £480,000 in energy costs. But the rise in the electricity price mean that is now closer to £1m. Welsh NHS chief executive Judith Paget said more hospitals across Wales were "exploring the possibility of solar power". And across the E.U., countries have agreed to cut their heat-trapping gas emissions by at least 55% in the next eight years.

Single-use plastic plates, cutlery and a host of other items are set to be banned in England from October. The Department for the Environment said the ban will also cover single-use plastic bowls, trays as well as certain types of polystyrene cups and food containers, as the Government seeks to curb the "devastating" impact of plastic on the environment. England uses around 2.7 billion items of single-use cutlery per year, with only 10% recycled. The change will mean that from this October the public will not be able to buy the banned items from retailers, takeaways and food vendors. Although the Fast Food and takeaway outlets are complaining about increases in prices due to the cost of the items that must be recyclable or compostable, the fact is that single use plastics are cheap at the supply but extremely expensive for us all to clean up after their use.

## **Help Needed**

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If you live on the main road in Windmill Hill or on the Wartling Road, we need somebody or bodies to deliver the Parish News once a month in these areas. It isn't onerous you just need to pop in door and collect the year's subscription at the beginning of the year. If you would like further details, please contact John King 832997.

We also, need someone who would be willing to be a publicity office for any events. This would involve making posters, distribution of these, advising Parish News and any other outlets of any events coming up. Both Wartling and Herstmonceux hold several events during the year, either for upkeep or the churches or renovations/repairs. If you feel that you would like to know more about this please talk to Pam 833079 or 07801374831.

## **Village Information Centre**

The **VIC** is open Monday to Friday between the hours of 10.00 am and 12 noon. Also on Fridays in February between 12 noon and 2.00 pm when we would be pleased to see anyone who would like to come in and have a chat with a cup of coffee or tea and biscuits to boot.

During my absence in February. It will be possible for you to get support for hearing aid maintenance either from

Audiology at Park (Eastbourne Park Primary Care Centre) Broadwater Way, Hampden Park, Eastbourne BN22 9PQ. However you need to send your hearing aids in with a description of the problem. This would need to be sent by special post to be signed for on arrival and include a stamped addressed envelope for their return. If you use email, I would suggest informing them of your intention to send and reasons if you are able. Email: [esht.audiology@nhs.net](mailto:esht.audiology@nhs.net)

Spare batteries and replacement spares, tubes/domes can be ordered from audiology if you are able to fit them yourself

**\*You will not be seen if you just arrive at audiology and they are unable to take phone calls direct\***

There is a central call phone number 0300 13 15679 but is often too busy to get an answer

In Hailsham at Age Concern Charles Hunt Centre (by Waitrose car park) they hold sessions for batteries and maintenance on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month 9.45 am to 11.45 am.

At East Sussex Hearing Chantry House 22 Upperton Road Eastbourne BN21 1BF Tel 01323 722505 Voice/text mobile 07950 855580. email: [manager@eshrc.org](mailto:manager@eshrc.org) website [www.eshrc.org](http://www.eshrc.org) They are able to offer batteries and maintenance. I suggest contacting them prior to attending to confirm times and days of sessions and outline the problem if spares are required. They can also supply batteries by post.

In an emergency a card of batteries can be obtained from the **Information Centre** until such time that you are able to get supplies from any of the options above.

March Hearing Sessions will be held at the **Information Centre on Friday 3rd March and Friday 17th March 2023 between 10.00 am and 11.45 am**

Celia Farrant

## **We Need You!**

Although The Parish News is sponsored by the church, it is a community magazine. Have you got something that you think that people would like to know. Perhaps a story about life as it was in the village in past times, or stories about what happens now. A hint, a recipe, anything that you are interested in. Please send anything to the address in the back of the news.

## Children's Activity Morning

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Our February activity morning is on the 26th February in Herstmonceux Church 11am.

This is a very easy morning, with story, games, craft and fun and laughter learning about Jesus. Primary school age but if you are older and want to come you will be very welcome. This is for families so please come along and join us.

Ring Pat Honeysett 833925 or Pam Kendall 833079 if you would like further details or just turn up. Hope to see you there.

## Windmill Hill Horticultural Society

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Growing and showing since 1884

The AGM & Quiz will be held on **Saturday 11th February 2.30 pm** in the Reid Hall, Boreham Street

Dates for your diary:

.....

Thursday 2nd March 7 for 7.30 pm

Kathrine Lynn

Learning to Love Weeds

.....

Thursday 6th April 7 for 7.30 pm

Alison Marsden

Gardening for Wildlife

**Seed and plant swap**

.....

Thursday 4th May 5.00 pm

Visit and introduction to Furnace Brook Lakes and Nursery

by pearly queen Diane Gould, Trolliloes Lane, Nr Hailsham BN27 4QR

.....

Thursday 1st June afternoon

**ANNUAL OUTING: A Private Garden in Lindfield**

.....

Saturday 5th August at 2:00pm:

**WINDMILL HILL SUMMER SHOW**

We are always pleased to welcome new members, and hope that the programme we have planned for 2023 will prove interesting and helpful whether you are a novice or an experienced gardener.

Penny Vasey

p.vasey@btinternet.com



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The Dunn Village Hall, Rushlake Green

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**[www.warbletonbrassband.org](http://www.warbletonbrassband.org)**

**Also contact us if you require a  
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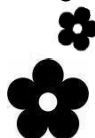
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## **Herstmonceux Free Church News**

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### **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:

12th February, 19th February, 26th February

Everyone is welcome to come along. A zoom link will be available for anyone who prefers.

### **Sunday 5th March at Herstmonceux Village Hall**

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

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