



# *HERSTMONCEUX AND WARTLING PARISH NEWS*

January 2022

50p



## **This Month**

Rev Richard writes the letter from the Rectory; Rev Peter's Green Page; Melinda's Famous Hymns column covers "Take my Life and Let it Be", plus the regular columns and news from around the parishes.





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## **From the Rectory**

---

Dear Parishioners,

I am writing this in the middle of December and although I am looking forward to Christmas I am also looking forward to the New Year. Even though, as my Grandson tells me, I am now very old (!?) I can still look forward to all the good things that lie ahead like longer days and spring flowers.

Also, I look forward to the challenges of the new year. I came across a saying the other day: "You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending." (I am sorry but I don't know where this quote originates from as being attributed to C S Lewis in some circles seems to be incorrect). If we can greet the New Year in a positive way it is helpful because there is always something we can do afresh whatever situation we find ourselves in. We can all have another go at something good, even if we got things wrong the last time around. Just as 'Hope springs eternal' so a new year is surely there to give us all another chance.

There is another quote looking at an aspect of this approach to life. "Our greatest glory is not in never failing, but in rising up every time we fall" said Ralph Waldo Emerson. This is a very interesting thought if it is correct, for it is saying that having another go even when we have made a mess of things is the best thing we can do in life!!

When I worked as a Prison Chaplain a picture in a cell block had a beautiful natural scene with another quote that often caught my eye. It stated "Success is a journey not a destination." Apparently this quote continues with "The doing is more important than the outcome" (the source of this quote is Arthur Ashe). We live in a society where many and various different accolades often make people feel like they have arrived in life, but I have come to believe this is quite wrong thinking. We are only as good as our last attempt, for we are all on a journey and even to just try is actually success. In a similar vein Winston Churchill once said, "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

One of the things we should never give up on doing or trying to do is to pray. Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

"For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. (From Luke chapter 18).

I wish you all a 'Happy New Year' of trying to be your best self.  
Richard Steven

## **Prayer for January**

Lord Jesus, You know the burdens I'm carrying.  
Sometimes I'm tempted to stop praying because I don't see the answer I want, but  
today I choose to believe You love me and that You are listening.  
So I will pray and not give up.  
Thank You that you never give up on me.  
Amen.

## **All Saints Parish Church, Herstmonceux**

During December we had a public meeting with the Church Architect Tim Wells in the church to look at draught plans and proposed renovations for the church building.

We also have a major problem of dampness within the building and have to address this before we can proceed with the renovations and redecorations needed to update and safeguard this building. At the moment, we are starting the process by consulting with people in this field of work and working with Chichester Diocese as to which are the best options for us. This will be quite a long process, if anybody would like to know more about the proposals, please consult Rev. Richard Steven or Pam Kendall and we will endeavour to answer any questions.

Of course, our plan will be expensive and we will be looking for any grants available to cover as much of the work as possible. But this letter is to inform as many residents of our Parish as possible that your 12th Century Parish Church will be needing financial help in the coming months.

Please contact Rev Richard Steven at The Rectory, West End, Herstmonceux BN27 4NY on 01323 833124, or Mrs Pam Kendall (Church Warden) at 3 School House, Windmill Hill BN27 4RU 01323 833079 if you would consider being able to help in this regard.

Rev. Richard Steven and Mrs Pam Kendall

## **February Notice**

February the 6th 2022 marks the 70th Anniversary of our Queen Elizabeth's Accession to the throne following the death of her Father King George VI. In recognition of this our Family service at All Saints Church Herstmonceux will be held at 11am and you are invited to join us for this Service thinking about Elizabeth II's reign and thanking God for her. We will also be Celebrating the Christian feast of Candlemas. This will be followed by a Bring and Share lunch in the Church at 12pm.

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

**2nd January**

**Epiphany**

8am

**Wartling** Holy Communion.

Ephesians 3:1-12. Matthews 2:1-12.

10am

**Herstmonceux** Epiphany Family Service.

**9th January**

**Baptism of Christ/1st Sunday of Epiphany**

8am

**Herstmonceux** Holy Communion (BCP)

Acts 8:14-17. Luke 3:15-17, 21-22.

10am

**Wartling** Holy Communion/Plough Sunday.

Isaiah 43:1-7. Acts 8:14-17. Luke 3:15-17, 21-22.

3.30pm

**Herstmonceux** Evensong.

Psalm 47. Isaiah 55:1-11. Mark 1:4-11.

**16th January**

**2nd Sunday of Epiphany.**

8am

**Wartling** Holy Communion (BCP)

1 Corinthians 12:1-11. John 2:1-11.

10am

**Herstmonceux** Holy Communion (CW)

Isaiah 62:1-5. I Corinthians 12:1-11. John 2:1-11.

3.30pm

**Wartling** Rural Service.

**23rd January**

**3rd Sunday of Epiphany.**

8am

**Herstmonceux** Holy Communion (BCP)

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a. Luke 4:14-21.

10am

**Wartling** Morning Prayer.

Psalm 133. Deuteronomy 30:11-15. 3 John 1:5-8.

11.15am

**Herstmonceux** Children's Activity Morning

3.30pm

**Herstmonceux** Celtic Service

1 Corinthians 7:17-24.

**30th January**

**Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

8am

**Herstmonceux** Holy Communion (BCP)

Hebrews 2:14-end. Luke 2:22-40

10am

**Wartling** Healing Service with Holy Communion.

Hebrews 2:14-end. Luke 2:22-40.

5pm

**Wartling** Christingle.

**6th February**

**70th Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth Succession  
Candlemas**

8am

**Wartling** Holy Communion (BCP)

1 Corinthians 15:1-11. Luke 2:22-40

10am

**Herstmonceux** Service of Thanksgiving

Followed by Communal Lunch.

## **Rev Peter's Green Page – COP 26 Outcomes**

The Oxford University paper that appeared online in front of me was titled, "Empirically grounded technology forecasts and the energy transition," to which someone had helpfully prefaced with the scrawled words, "Harry Potter and." So, after wading through barely understandable graphs and words that needed looking up, the paper basically pointed out that: 'The world has made more progress on climate change than you might think, or might have predicted a decade ago,' and that 'Energy Transitions (fossil to renewables) may be much cheaper than you think.'

It was all to do with the Glasgow based COP (Conference of Parties) and the progress that needs to be made to reduce the effects of Climate Change, and as I type these words I can also see, in the side of my screen, news of the damage caused by the US Tornadoes.

I was disappointed by the conference outcome, but certainly not disheartened. Human nature being what it is I would have hoped for more positive outcomes, but there were many agreements. These were on Mitigation, that is reducing emissions. Adaptation, helping those already impacted by climate change. Finance, so enabling countries to deliver on their climate goals, and Collaboration, working together to deliver even greater action. Cop 26 secured near global net zero emission targets from 153 countries, urgent strengthening of targets, and accelerated action on phasing down coal power, deforestation, speeding up the switch to renewables and electric vehicles electric vehicles, and reducing methane emissions.

I was also more than impressed by the work ethos and commitment shown by the Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, the COP 26 President, and these are his words: "We can now say with credibility that we have kept 1.5 degrees alive. But its pulse is weak, and it will only survive if we keep our promises and translate commitments into rapid action. We must now move forward together and deliver on the expectations set out in the Glasgow Climate Pact. It is up to all of us to sustain our lodestar of keeping 1.5 degrees within reach and to continue our efforts to get finance flowing and boost adaptation. After the collective dedication which has delivered the Glasgow Climate Pact, our work here cannot be wasted.

I write this before Christmas, and the loadstar that the wise men followed, led them to the baby Jesus. I pray that there will also be the same success for the nations that follow the loadstar of COP 26.

Rev Peter

## **Wartling Christmas Fair**

Thank you to all who came, run stalls, cooked a lovely lunch and generally made a great day. £1066 was made for Wartling Church funds.

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## **PARISH NEWS**

Please send text copy email (together with your name and phone number) to Miss Katherine Blake, [theparishnews@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

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## **Community Coffee Shop**

Happy New Year to you all.

Our coffee stop will be on Monday January 24th in the Village Hall lounge where we hope to see you all. Hopefully our Christmas get together was well attended,

If we don't get enough people to cover the cost of the hall then I am afraid we will have to close. This would be a shame for the people that do come as some say it is the only time they get to talk to other people.

Please drop in and support us everyone is welcome bring your friends your babies even your husband's, coffee is only £1-00.

Hope to see you there

## **Herstmonceux Church Christmas Market**

Thank you so much to all our stall holders and all the people who supported our Christmas Market for the Church we made about £1046 for church funds.

Happy New Year.

## **Herstmonceux WI**

Happy new year to you all.

Our next meeting will be on the 19th January 2022 in the village hall. Melinda Stone will be giving an account of the "Women of Herstmonceux Castle" We hope that you are able to join us. If you are not a member but would like to come along as a visitor you are very welcome it will cost you £3 but you will get a drink and food as well as the talk. Hope to see all members and visitors on the 19th

Keep safe Trudy

## **Herstmonceux Community Table Sale**

We are having a table sale in the village hall on Saturday the 29th of January 2pm to 5pm to help raise funds to put flowers throughout the village for jubilee year.

The tables will cost £10 and you can sell anything in your space (within reason). We all have things that we are given and never used or just items that we don't want any more, it's a good way of de-cluttering for the summer and making a few pennies. We will make it a fun afternoon

If you would like a table phone Sue on 832485 or Trudy on 832532. Or text Trudy on 07813240480. Which is far the safest way as it's on my phone. Happy New Year keep safe



## **Cowbeech Bonfire Society Charitable Trust 2021/22**

Looking forward to 2022

The pandemic forced the cancellation of almost all the Cowbeech Bonfire Society' events in 2020 and 2021 apart from Spring and Autumn Walks which raised money from the donations given by participants. The Bonfire and Fireworks were cancelled as it felt irresponsible to spend charitable money when we had raised so little. A programme for 2022 is currently being drawn up by the Committee and will be published early in the New Year once dates are fixed and the reservations agreed with key players

Other major factors have affected the Bonfire Society the most significant of which was that our Chairman, Mick Goodsell, suffered a stroke just before Christmas 2020 and after a time in hospital is now in care home. Mick's energy, enthusiasm and knowledge of the local community is greatly missed by the Committee. At the AGM to be held early in 2022 it is proposed that Mick will be President of the Bonfire Society and a new Chairman will be appointed. Three more 3 Committee Members will be and include a new Treasurer. We are also reviewing our processes in the light of new legislation regarding the storage of digital information. A programme of events for 2022 will be published soon.

Further details from Hon Sec Mary Ann Gordon on 01323 833749

## **Ray and Sheldon Club**

The Ray & Sheldon Club, our over 60's Social Club, would like to thank all our members past and present a Very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for a Healthy and Happy New Year.

The Group meet on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month from 2 to 4 pm in the main hall in Herstmonceux Village Hall. There is plenty of free parking. The charge is £3 per visit and £6 annual membership. Our first date of the year is Friday 14th January 2022 when we will having a Quiz, along with Tea/Coffee and Biscuits. Everyone welcome. Enquiries to Anne (Secretary) 01323 441244.

## **Knit and Stitch**

A small group meeting once a month sharing a love of craft or just a time to take a break. Our next meeting is Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January. Please phone Pam if you would like more information. Thanks Pam. 01323 833079.

## **Herstmonceux Church Coffee Morning**

First one of the year. Saturday January 11th. 10am in church building. "Real cakes" and coffee/tea. See you there.

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## **Famous Hymns**

---

**Take my Life and Let it Be** – Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879) *with thanks to Tim Challies and godtube.com*

Do you make (and keep) New Year's resolutions? There's lots of publicity annually about them – especially improved eating, drinking and exercise. In principle, it's good to review one's priorities and *modus vivendi* from time to time, to "turn over a new leaf" where bad habits may have crept in. Maybe this hymn's words could provide a checklist for a more profound assessment of the kind of life we might commit to living?

Frances Havergal was born in Worcester, where her father was a clergyman, writer, composer and hymn-writer. She was unusually gifted: aged four, she began memorizing the Bible (eventually memorizing The Psalms, Isaiah and most of the New Testament). At seven she wrote her first poems. She was a fine linguist - modern languages as well as Hebrew and Greek. She was a talented singer and pianist, in demand for concerts.

However, Frances maintained a simple faith. She never wrote a line of poetry without praying over it. In frail health, she led an active life, encouraging many to turn to Jesus and others to seek a deeper spiritual walk. She valued most her ability to write spiritually beneficial prose and poetry. She strove to live a life fully dedicated to Christ and to those she saw in any physical or spiritual need.

She wrote "Perhaps you will be interested to know the origin of the consecration hymn, 'Take my life.' I went for a little visit of five days. There were ten persons in the house, some unconverted and long prayed for, some converted but not rejoicing Christians. He gave me the prayer, 'Lord, give me all in this house!' And He just did! Before I left the house every one had got a blessing. The last night of my visit I was too happy to sleep, and passed most of the night in praise and renewal of my own consecration, and these little couplets formed themselves and chimed in my heart one after another, till they finished with, 'Ever, ONLY, ALL for Thee!'"

One line of the hymn says, "Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold." In 1878, four years after writing it, Miss Havergal wrote to a friend, "The Lord has shown me another little step, and, of course, I have taken it with extreme delight. 'Take my silver and my gold' now means shipping off all my ornaments to the Church Missionary House, including a jewel cabinet that is really fit for a countess, where all will be accepted and disposed of for me...Nearly fifty articles are being packed up. I don't think I ever packed a box with such pleasure."

The hymn can still be a useful prompt for us today, even if sometimes we see such disparity between the words and our actual state that we have to sing most of it in hope and faith.

I wish you a very happy New Year. Melinda Stone

## **Weather in November – Some Unusual Aspects**

The weather in November divides neatly into two sections. With very few exceptions the first three weeks were dry, dull and mild. The remainder of the month was largely dry and increasingly colder albeit a little brighter. On 26th November Storm Arwen appeared on the scene. Normally, named storms approach from the west or south-west but Arwen developed quickly in the waters between Scotland and Iceland and headed into the North Sea meaning its winds affecting the UK came from the north. These winds were of unusual strength for northerly winds with gusts approaching 100 mph in places. The worst effects were to be found in coastal areas exposed to the north and areas in the north close to the North Sea. Snow was a further hazard in parts of Scotland and Northern England leading to the postponement of Burnley's game against Spurs in the Premier League and the wind exacted serious damage to power supplies.

Down here we escaped the worst effects of Arwen although we had a day of strong winds enhancing the low temperatures. Arwen may have stolen the meteorological headlines for the month but perhaps the main feature for us was the lack of rain amounting to less than 10% of the 1981 to 2010 average for Herstmonceux; good news for contractors cutting farmers' hedges and country walkers. Another oddity was the near complete absence of winds from between north-east and south (looked at clockwise). What this might mean is far beyond my pay grade!

Average temperatures were unremarkable and winds were lighter than usual despite the blast from Arwen. At the end of the month we had two air frosts. Before the colder weather arrived Herstmonceux was the warmest place in the south-east on both the 8th and the 14th. The warmest day of the month was the second of those days with a maximum of 14.6°C. The lowest maximum occurred on the 28th with a mere 4°C. The coldest night was the 28th/29th when the temperature fell to -1°C.

Tim Roberts

## **The Children's Society Boxes**

I am sorry I have been unable to collect your boxes during the year. If you could bring them into a church service before the end of January that would be great, or alternatively give me a ring and I will collect them. Once again I apologise for the delay.

Pam 01323 833079.

## **Shoeboxes**

Thank you to all who filled a shoebox, gave me money towards or items to put into a box. A total of 49 were collected to be delivered to children in Moldavia. This was a brilliant effort and I am sure the children really will enjoy these, possibly the only Christmas present they will receive. Well done.

# Herstmonceux Community Table Sale

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
2pm to 5pm

Tables will cost £10 each

Sell all those unwanted items de-clutter make a few  
pennies

We are raising money to help pay for flowers throughout the village for  
Jubilee year

Please book your table by calling  
Sue on 832532 Trudy 832532  
text Trudy on 07813240480

Suggested as its then on her phone.

## Children's Page

---

Hi, I hope you all enjoyed Christmas, not just for the presents you received and all the special things you had to eat, but being together with your family and friends. Although we do still need to think of those people who did not have special things and were unable to enjoy being with friends and family. Perhaps we can start the year thinking of how we can help those who do not have all the things that most of us have.

We all know the nativity story but did you know that the wisemen didn't visit Jesus for a while after he was born. Here is a little story about the wisemen

In three different countries lived a wisemen who were all astronomers which meant that they studied the stars. One day they all noticed a star they had not seen before, which was amazing considering they lived a long way from each other. As these men were so wise they knew that this star meant that a new king had been born, so they decided to find the king. The transport of the day was the camel, no cars, no trains,



no planes just camels, so they saddled up and set out, the camels were a bit annoyed that they had been disturbed but they were very obedient and did what they were told grumbling a little. Along the way, the wise men and their camels of course, met up and were surprised that they were all following the same star, they agreed to carry on together. They travelled for many days, following this bright star, until they came to a place called Bethlehem. Along the way they had been called to the palace of King Herod who was not pleased to hear the news of a new king, he was the only king and didn't want another one in his land. He asked the wise men to let him know where this king was so that he could worship him. He was bad.....

The wisemen looked for the star and couldn't believe that the star had settled above a stable, not a palace, not even a very grand house but a common stable with lots of animals around. They went in, leaving their camels outside, the stable was smelly definitely not a palace but they found Jesus and knew this was the king they were searching for, they fell down onto their knees and worshipped him. They had bought presents which they gave him, of gold, frankincense and myrr, and went home rejoicing about this new king, but they didn't tell King Herod.



The story of Christmas is not just for the end of December but it is a story that lives on all the year because Jesus is always there for all of us, whether we are shepherds or wisemen or ourselves. He loves us.



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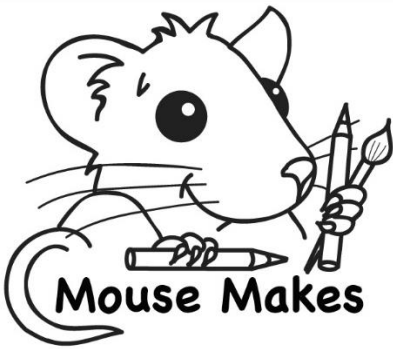


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e-mail [geoffreywhitehead@vinehallschool.com](mailto:geoffreywhitehead@vinehallschool.com)



**But I trust**  
in you,  
O Lord;  
I say,  
**"You are  
my God."**

Psalm 31:14

When I am afraid  
I will **trust** you,  
I praise God for  
His word,  
I **trust** God, so  
I am not afraid.

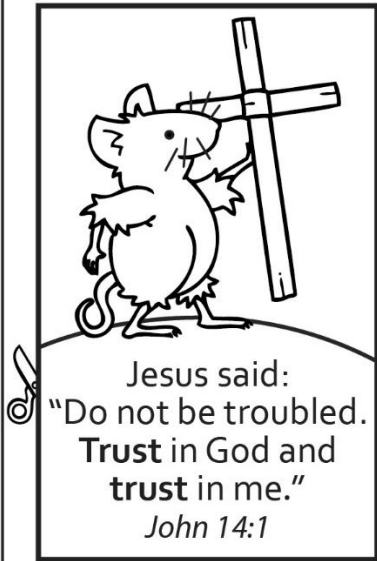
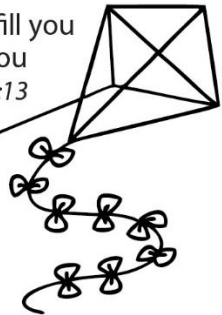
*Psalm 56:3-4*



*The Lord is good,  
a refuge in times  
of trouble.  
He cares for those  
who **trust** in Him.*

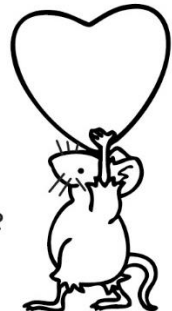
*Nahum 1:7*

"May the God of hope fill you  
with joy and peace as you  
**trust** in Him." *Romans 3:13*



**Trust** in the Lord with  
all your heart and  
lean not on your own  
understanding.  
In all your ways **submit**  
to Him and He will make  
your paths straight.

*Proverbs 3:5-6*



Cut out and colour these cards to  
help you to remember to trust in God.

## **Village Information Centre**

The VIC will re-open after Christmas on Tuesday 4th January 2022 at 10.00 am

### **Important notice**

Due to the increase in Covid numbers we are again advised to avoid close contact with clients. Therefore until further notice I will only provide batteries which I am willing to do by delivering them to you

Please contact me on 01323 844948 and inform me of the battery type you use, your name, telephone number and address. If I am unable to take your call please leave a message on the answer phone and I will get back to you.

You will be required to show evidence of your brown book issued to you by the NHS.

I will keep you informed by posters at the Village Information Centre and in the Parish News of when I am able to return to the centre to provide hearing aid maintenance.

Meanwhile audiology at Broadwater Way Eastbourne (Tel 01323 413783) or East Sussex Hearing Chantry House 22 Upperton Road Eastbourne BN21 1BF (Tel 01323 722505) may be able to help with urgent maintenance issued.

Celia Farrant

### **VITALITY VILLAGES**

The next coffee morning is scheduled to take place in the lounge of the Village Hall on **Thursday 20th January 2022 10.00 am to 12 noon** when we will be having a talk on the history of lace making. However as we go to press we are not able to gauge the Covid situation and I would ask that if you are intending to come that you telephone me on 01323 833673 to see if this meeting is going ahead.

Sheila Charlton

## **Various Reflections on God's Grace for the New Year**

Enter the coming year with renewed hope in the power of God to do through you what you cannot. – John MacArthur

Although our New Year's resolutions may quickly crumble, God's plans never fail. – Charles Stanley

Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the One who is leading. – Oswald Chambers

### PARISH NEWS

Please send text copy email (together with your name and phone number) to Miss Katherine Blake, 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.

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**Would you like your business to reach more of the Herstmonceux and Wartling community?**

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

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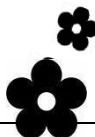
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**Contact Sarah Honeysett, via email on  
[hwp parishnews@outlook.com](mailto:hwp parishnews@outlook.com)**

## **Some Lines To Make You Smile**

---

### **The end?**

A local priest and pastor stood by the side of the road holding up a sign that said, "The End is Near! Turn yourself around now before it's too late!"

"Leave us alone, you religious nuts!" yelled the first driver as he sped by. Then from around the curve they heard a big splash.

"Do you think," said one clergyman to the other, "we should just put up a sign that says 'bridge out' instead?"

### **Free travel**

Living on earth may be expensive, but it includes an annual free trip around the sun.

### **Spotted on a church notice board:**

When you were born, your mother brought you here.

When you were married, your partner brought you here.

When you die, your family will bring you here.

In the meantime, why not try coming on your own sometimes?

### **Cry Pharaoh!**

A visiting minister was very long-winded. Every time he felt he'd made a good point in his sermon, he would repeat it all over again. Finally, the host pastor started responding to every few sentences with 'Amen, Pharaoh!' The guest minister wasn't sure what that meant, but after several more 'Amen, Pharaohs' he concluded his very lengthy sermon.

After the service was over and the congregation had left, the visiting minister turned to his host and asked, "What exactly did you mean when you said 'Amen, Pharaoh?'"

His host minister replied, "I was begging you to let my people go!"

### **Inspection**

My husband, a US Coast Guard pilot, was on an exchange tour with the Royal Navy in England. Everyone who drove through the base's gates was required to hold an official ID card up to the windscreen for inspection by the guards. As a friendly competition, my husband's squadron started flashing different forms of ID, such as a driving licence, just to see how far they could go to fool the busy guards. The winner? The fellow who breezed past waving a piece of toast.

### **Chocolate**

When I look at chocolate, I hear two voices in my head. The first one says, 'You need to eat the chocolate.' The second one says, 'You heard. Eat the chocolate.'





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## **Herstmonceux Free Church News**

We will be meeting at the FREE CHURCH THROUGHOUT JANUARY. The first Sunday in January will be on the bank holiday weekend so we will not be meeting in the village hall this month.

### **Services at Herstmonceux Free Church in January**

On Sundays, throughout January, Covid-19 restrictions permitting, we will hold a Sunday morning service at 10.45am at the Free Church in Chapel Row.

In line with recent government guidance at the time of writing, we ask everyone who comes to wear a face covering and keep it on even while seated.

### **Sunday 6th February 10 - 12 midday**

We look forward to welcoming everyone in the village hall on the first Sunday in February.

For further information see our website: [www.herstmonceuxfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.herstmonceuxfreechurch.org.uk) or contact our Family and Community Worker, Sylvia Catt 07909 644762.

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)  
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<b>Wartling</b>	Mrs. Penny Vasey	Tel: 833603

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