



# *HERSTMONCEUX AND WARTLING PARISH NEWS*

July 2020

50p



## **This Month**

Reverend Richard writes the letter from the Rectory; Rev Peter's Green Page; Melinda's Famous Hymns column covers "What a Friend we have in Jesus", plus the regular columns and news from around the parishes



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## From the Rectory

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Dear Parishioners,

We live at a time when hope is generally low as everybody's life has been affected by the world wide pandemic it's multiple related issues and also things like the Brexit uncertainty!!

In 1939 King George in his Christmas message spoke words of peace to calm our nation. He reminded them of the only true King, the One who can provide true peace and real rest in troubled times then. As he concluded his message of encouragement, he read the preamble of a poem that had been brought to his attention by his young daughter, Princess Elizabeth. Princess Elizabeth was only thirteen years old at the time. The poem that she brought to her father's attention was written by British poet Minnie Louise Haskins (1875-1957). Published in 1908 and was titled God Knows. Here is the full poem which can help us as well in this time of uncertainty and grief, when we all need to find a good and secure anchorage with a sure hope for the future.

### God Knows

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:  
*"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."*

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God,  
trod gladly into the night.  
And He led me towards the hills  
and the breaking of day in the lone East.

And he replied:  
*"Go out into the darkness and  
put your hand into the Hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than light  
and safer than a known way."*

So heart be still:  
What need our little life  
Our human life to know,  
If God hath comprehension?  
In all the dizzy strife  
Of things both high and low,  
God hideth His intention.

God knows. His will is best.  
The stretch of years  
Which wind ahead, so dim  
To our imperfect vision,

Are clear to God. Our fears  
Are premature; In Him,  
All time hath full provision.

Then rest: until  
God moves to lift the veil  
From our impatient eyes,  
When, as the sweeter features  
Of Life's stern face we hail,  
Fair beyond all surmise  
God's thought around His creatures  
Our mind shall fill.

We are here reminded that one day what we have gone through in our lives will all make sense and holding onto God in such dark times will be shown to have been truly wise.

In the Bible St Paul gives us another reason to have hope when we experience severe hardships and trials in life. He said. "We do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal".(2Cor 4v16ff). This is a hope that many people can miss out on, but it fits well with a quote from another well-known poet Emily Dickinson who wrote "We turn not older with years but newer every day".

If you and I start and then continue to put our hand in the hand of God, He will bring good out of all our hard times, and part of that good will be him working in our lives making us renewed and more the people we should be, people fit for His glory in the future.

Hopes like these can help not only us through any situation, but they can also be passed on in order to help others too in their struggles.

God Bless

Richard Steven

## **Prayer of the Month**

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A prayer for July.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love,  
Where there is injury, pardon  
Where there is doubt, faith,  
Where there is despair, hope,  
Where there is darkness, light,  
Where there is sadness, joy.  
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much  
seek to be consoled as to console,  
not so much to be understood as to understand,  
not so much to be loved, as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
it is in dying that we awake to eternal life. Amen  
(St. Francis of Assisi 1182-1226)

### **Important notice regarding All Saints and St Mary Magdalene Churches**

June 15th 2020. It was a great pleasure opening our two lovely medieval churches for individuals to visit once again today. Please make use of them for private prayer.

Here a few important changes to inform you regarding visiting our churches:

1. They should be open seven days a week from around 9am to 5pm.
2. We have restricted the area people are to use in the buildings for ease of cleaning each day.
3. We have provided sanitising wand wash for all to use.
4. We ask you all to write your name, the date and a contact number or address if you visit the church on the sheet provided. So that we will be able to trace people if an outbreak of the Covid Virus requires it.
5. We will also close the buildings for a safe period if health reasons require this.

If you have any enquiries regarding the Churches please talk with:

Rev. Richard Steven 01323 833124.

Mrs Pam Kendall 01323 833079 (Herstmonceux)

Mr David Harding 01323 832150 (Wartling).

## **Cassie Harris**

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Sue, Ros and Kathy (Cassie's daughters) would like to thank everyone in the village and surrounding areas who have sent their condolences, the huge amount of cards, messages and shared lovely memories of mum.

Due to the coronavirus restrictions and risks there could only be a private funeral service for close family. Sue, Ros and Kathy would also like to thank the large number of people who came out on Thursday 11th June to pay their respects and say goodbye to Cassie as she passed through Bodle Street, up Victoria Road and through Herstmonceux village.

Sue, Ros and Kathy would like to let people know that their Mum's ashes will be laid to rest with their dad, Sam Saunders, who passed away in 1985 and is buried in the churchyard at Herstmonceux All Saints Church. They are planning a memorial church service and celebration of her life when they can, and it is safe to do so. If you would like to share your stories and photographs for this occasion, please contact one of her daughters.

## **The Bulls Head Receives CAMRA Award**

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Congratulations to the Bulls Head Boreham Street for receiving the CAMRA award for best pub in the South East of England

Hopefully Mike Corefield will write in next month's magazine about this success.

Richard Steven

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

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*"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."* (Matthew 7:13-14)

In the 1970s, many, including me, thought that we in the UK were on the brink of taking the small gate and narrow road. 'The Good Life,' (inspired by John Seymour's work 'The complete book of Self Sufficiency') was top viewing. Green Living and Green Politics became mainstream.

The children's TV programme 'The Wombles' was all about recycling the rubbish, or, as the series theme said, "Making good use of the things that we find, things that the everyday folks leave behind." Then came cheap oil, cheap products, and an addiction to them both.

Environmentalism became derided by many as Tree Hugging Luddites and even PM Cameron referred to environmental concerns as "Green c\*\*p." Both the possibility and opportunity for change was available, but the gate was not entered and so the road was not taken.

Pope Francis said these words in his Earth Day Address. *"There is a Spanish saying that is very clear about this, It goes: 'God always forgives; we humans sometimes forgive, and sometimes not; the earth never forgives.' The earth does not forgive: if we have despoiled the earth, its response will be very ugly."*

Earth Overshoot Day marks the date when humanity's combined demand for resources, in a given year, exceeds what the Earth can regenerate in that same year. In 2019 the world's date was July the 29th. However, each country has a different consumption of God's provision, and so has a different individual date. For the US it would be in March and for Cuba, it would be in December. We are destroying our own home, and in whose interest is that, I wonder?

Rev Peter

## **Recipes to Try**

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Recipe taken from the Herstmonceux Guide's Cookbook.

### **Weight Watchers Soup.**

1 onion  
1 clove of garlic  
2 carrots  
1 parsnip  
1 swede (small)  
Fresh herbs  
Nb. Any fresh vegetables are suitable

Chop up the vegetables into bite sized pieces. Chop the herbs, save some for decoration.

Place vegetables and herbs in a saucepan and add 3 pints of water. Bring to the boil, turn down and simmer until the vegetables are soft, season with salt and black pepper.

Serve with chopped herbs on the top.

This recipe is one I found on a sheet.

### **Chocolate cookies.**

4 oz S.R. Flour  
1 oz sweetened chocolate powder  
4 oz margarine  
2 oz castor sugar  
Sugar for dredging.

Filling  
2 oz margarine  
1 oz sweetened choc. Powder  
2 tsp. coffee essence or dissolved instant coffee.

Sift together the flour and choc. Powder.

Cream together the marg and sugar. Stir in the flour till evenly blended.

Shape into 24 small balls. Place well apart on greased baking sheets and lightly flatten with a damp fork, sprinkle with sugar. Bake in centre oven 350/180/gas 4 for 15 minutes. Cool on wire rack and sandwich with filling.

Filling  
Cream marg, beat in choc powder and coffee essence.  
These can be sandwiched with a vanilla flavoured buttercream

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## Validity Villages

Herstmonceux Men's Shed to re-open

I am pleased to announce that Validity Villages Men's Shed at Herstmonceux Castle is to re-open on Wednesday 1st July 2020, the same day that the castle gardens and grounds will re-open to the general public.

The Covid 19 situation means that we have had to review our operating rules and some procedures in the workshop to maintain a 2 metre distance between workstations. There will also be hand-gel cleaning stations and facemasks required for work closer than 2 metres.

If you would like more information, please call Alan McInnes 01323 833306.

## Herstmonceux Community Land Trust – Revised Plan Approved

On 28th May 2020 Wealden District Council Planning Committee unanimously approved the Herstmonceux CLT revised application to build 18 homes at Compers Field, also known as Strawberry Field, Windmill Hill.

Proposing approval, Councillor Geoffrey Draper said "This project is the epitome of what I would wish all planning applications to be. It is backed by the CLT.....it is well thought out and well designed. I wish them all the very best and propose we go along with the (Planning) Officers proposals".

The revised application was as a result of Wealden DC having its draft structure plan rejected and having to revert to previous policies, the consequences of which reduced the number of units from 20 to 18. For more information follow us at [www.community21.org/communities/herstmonceuxclt](http://www.community21.org/communities/herstmonceuxclt)

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## **Famous Hymns**

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What a Friend we have in Jesus, Joseph Scriven (c1819 – 1886) *with thanks to Richard Niell Donovan and Diana Leigh Matthews*

Joseph Scriven was all too well acquainted with grief. Born in County Down, Ireland, he aspired to follow his father – who'd been a Royal Marines' Captain in Canada in 1812 – but poor health prevented that. He graduated from Trinity College Dublin, fell in love and got engaged, but the day before the wedding, his fiancée fell off her horse while crossing a river and drowned.

Joseph initially went to Canada in 1845: ill health forced him back to Ireland after a few months. He then travelled to the Middle East as a family tutor, where he had what he called a “Saul of Tarsus moment” in Damascus.

Joseph returned to teach in Canada. He became engaged to Eliza Roche. In spite of tuberculosis, Eliza then participated in a full immersion baptismal service in Rice Lake, developed pneumonia and died before their planned wedding.

Joseph was again heartbroken but leaned on his faith. He spent considerable time praying and studying the Bible and took a vow of poverty. For the rest of his life he gave his time, money and clothes to help the less fortunate and spread Jesus' love and compassion.

The Port of Hope Journal (the local newspaper) reported that he preached *“in the country or on the street corners ... sometimes to their express annoyance. Pelting with fruits and vegetables did not stop him. Arrest didn't deter him. Scriven became a familiar sight around Port Hope, a big man ... carrying a buck and a bucksaw, offering to cut wood for anyone who was unable to cut his own or pay someone to do it for him. But he wouldn't cut wood for hire.”*

In 1855, Scriven heard his mother was ill. He couldn't afford to return to Ireland, so he sent a poem to comfort her. He called it "Pray Without Ceasing". It began, "What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!" A friend submitted it for publication and Charles Converse, an American lawyer and composer, wrote a tune for it in 1868. Scriven wasn't named as author until its publication in a collection of his writings in the 1880s. When a friend asked him about it, he said "The Lord and I together wrote the song".

Joseph became very ill in October 1886. In spite of his friends' care, he apparently stumbled outside, fell into a creek and drowned. His obituary said he "had not an enemy in the world. He was truly a good man and it is to be hoped that the sermons he preached on the streets of Port Hope may be like bread cast upon the waters, the fruit of which may be seen for many days."

From 1875, American evangelist Dwight L Moody used the hymn extensively during crusade meetings. Soon it became one of the best-known hymns in America. It remains popular - a man acquainted with grief, also acquainted with faith, helps us see that faith can triumph over grief. *Melinda Stone*



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## **For the Children**

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As we have no Family Service, Kidz Club or Mega Explorers, it was thought that we could put a bible story and activity with prayer in the Parish News. I hope that you can share this with your children, grandchildren or friends.

### **The Lost Sheep.**

Jesus said" I am the good shepherd" and it is reassuring that as a shepherd looks after his sheep, he cares for them at all times as Jesus does.

Here is the story:

Jesus was talking to a crowd of people and said:

Once there was a shepherd, who had a hundred sheep. He was a good man, who always wanted to do the right thing and he cared about each one of the sheep. He'd count them every evening as they went into the pen for the night. But one day he noticed that one of them was missing. He didn't have to think twice about what to do. He left the ninety-nine sheep safely locked up in their pen and set off to look for the one what was lost. He knew he couldn't leave it too long- a wolf might catch it.

He looked everywhere and when he eventually found the little sheep, he was relieved and delighted. He put it on his shoulders and carried it home. He called all his friends and neighbours to come and celebrate.

This story tells us that God loves each one of us, he doesn't like any one of us better than another, everyone is special to him. God sent Jesus to be our shepherd and he proved his love for us by dying on the cross for all of us. Isn't that amazing.

### **Activity:**

Why not make a cotton wool sheep badge.

Take a piece of cotton wool, stick to a cardboard circle with either googly eyes or black circles of card or felt for eyes. Sellotape a safety pin on back and - a sheep badge.

Or: if mum is making biscuits or cupcakes ask her is you can put some white icing on them and create your own sheep face on them. Enjoy!!!!!!!!!!

### **Prayer:**

Lord, thank you that you love and protect your people  
throughout the world at all times.

Help us to care for each other too, loving each other always.

Help those people who have no food, nowhere to live and no friends or family.  
Amen.



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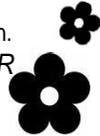
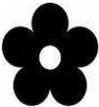
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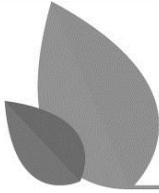
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## Herstmonceux Free Church News

Dates for the diary:

In March we took the sad decision to suspend all our meetings until further notice. This is in line with government advice during the coronavirus (covid-19) outbreak.

For further information, contact our Family and Community Worker, Sylvia Catt 07909 644762.

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, or John and Helen Ford 01323 832266.

**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](http://www.quaker.org.uk)

**HAILSHAM and POLEGATE CATHOLIC CHURCHES**

*Sunday Masses*

Saturday 6:00pm, Sunday 10:00am at St. Wilfrid's Hailsham

Sunday 8:45am, at St. George's Polegate

*Holy Days*

10:00am at St. George's, Polegate; 7:00pm at St. Wilfrid's, Hailsham

**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.

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

**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.

**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 [hwp parishnews\\_subscriptions@hotmail.com](mailto:hwp parishnews_subscriptions@hotmail.com)

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*St. Mary Magdalene, Wartling*  
**www.herstmonceuxandwartlingchurches.com**

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**ASSISTANT PRIEST** Rev. Peter Doodes      Tel: 01424 892329  
**LAY READER** Mr. John King, Camelot, Boreham Street  
Tel: 832997

### **CHURCHWARDENS**

**Herstmonceux** Mr. Gerald Stone      Tel: 833976  
Mrs. Pam Kendall      Tel: 833079  
**Wartling** Mr. David Harding      Tel: 832150  
Mr. Paul Hurlle      Tel: 832980

### **ASSISTANT CHURCHWARDENS**

**Herstmonceux** Mr. Mick Bridges      Tel: 833831

### **PCC SECRETARIES**

**Herstmonceux** Mrs. Melinda Stone      Tel: 833976  
**Wartling** Mrs. Penny Vasey      Tel: 833603

### **PCC TREASURER for both Herstmonceux and Wartling**

Mr. Andrew Phillips      Tel: 832619

### **ORGANISTS**

**Herstmonceux** Mrs. Anne Kenward      Tel: 441244  
**Wartling** Mr. Frank Beeney      Tel: 832587

### **VERGERS**

**Herstmonceux** Mrs. Pam Kendall      Tel: 833079  
**Wartling** Mr. Paul Hurlle      Tel: 832980

### **FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS'**

**Treasurer** Mr. Tim Roberts      Tel: 832400

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