



HERSTMONCEUX AND WARTLING PARISH NEWS

March 2022

50p



This Month

Rev Richard writes the letter from the Rectory; Rev Peter's Green Page; Melinda's Famous Hymns column covers "Forty Days and Forty Night", plus the regular columns and news from around the parishes.





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From the Rectory

Dear Parishioners,

We all do need to check our lifestyles because of the climate emergency. I read this new year that the average person in the UK will by the second week in January have a larger carbon footprint than an average person in Uganda has for a whole year! This fact came from the Send a Cow charity.

Our bi monthly afternoon Cafe style Rural Service at Wartling continues to be well attended. The next Cafe Church Service will be on the 20th of March again at 3.30pm at Wartling Church and the speaker is an ambassador for the Send a Cow Charity. This Christian charity helps African farmers become self-sufficient in feeding themselves, and financially independent from their farming practices. Send a Cow teaches farming practices that enable farmers to have a carbon footprint that takes more carbon out of the atmosphere than is produced. In 2020/21 they supported 728,000 people across 30 projects in six countries in east and southern Africa.

This charity does not just work with cattle farming but with many aspects. The name goes back to the 1980's when in the UK, milk quotas were forcing farmers to slaughter healthy dairy cows, and in response to an appeal from Uganda for milk, Send a Cow started by embarking on a project sending some of these cows to Uganda. I am sure we can all learn a lot from the ideas this charity employs as well as just being inspired and encouraged by their work.

With the right ideas and practices Dairy farming in the UK could, as well as feeding us with many wonderful healthy products, also give us other sustainable products. Dairy farming is sometimes looked down upon in the UK these days. This concern is often linked to pollution, but far from this being a problem, the dung from our dairy herds could be used to give us nearly 20% of our domestic electricity. A 500 cow dairy herd can supply electricity to 2000 homes! This can happen as a result of on farm anaerobic digesters producing biogas and then electricity, as reported on Country file on February 13th.2022.

God Bless
Richard Steven

Prayer for March

God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
Taking, as He did, this sinful world
As it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make all things right
If I surrender to His Will;
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life
And supremely happy with Him Forever and ever in the next.
Amen. (attributed to Reinhold Neibuhr, 1892-1971)

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March Services in Herstmonceux and Wartling Parish Churches

Wed 2nd March **Ash Wednesday.**
7pm **Wartling.** Imposition of Ashes/Holy Comm.
2 Corinthians 5:v20B-6:v10. Matthew: 1-6, 16-21.

Sunday 6th March **1st Sunday of Lent.**
8am **Wartling** Holy Communion (BCP)
Romans 10:8b-13. Luke 4:1-13.
10am **Herstmonceux** Family Service

Sunday 13th March **2nd Sunday of Lent.**
8am **Herstmonceux** Holy Communion (BCP)
Philippians 3:17-4:1. Luke 13:31-end
10am **Wartling** Holy Communion (CW)
Genesis 15:1-12, 17, 18. Romans 10:8B-13.
Luke 4:1-13
3.30pm **Herstmonceux** Evensong (BCP)
Psalm 119:73-88. Jonah 3: Luke 18:9-14.

Sunday 20th March **3rd Sunday of Lent**
8am **Wartling** Holy Communion (BCP)
1 Corinthians 10:1-13. Luke 13:1-9.
10am **Herstmonceux** Holy Communion
Isaiah 55:1-9. 1 Corinthians 10:1-13. Luke 13.1-9.
3.30pm **Wartling** Rural Service.

Sunday 27th March **4th Sunday of Lent/Mothering Sunday.**
8am **Wartling** Holy Communion (BCP)
2 Corinthians 5:16-end. Luke 15:1-3, 11B-end.
10am **Herstmonceux** Mothering Sunday Service.
Exodus 2:1-10. Colossians 3:12-17.
John 19:25-27.

Sunday 3rd April **5th Sunday of Lent/Passion Tide.**
8am **Wartling** Holy Communion (BCP)
Philippians 3:4B-14. John 12:1-8
10am **Herstmonceux** Family Service.

Rev Peter's Green Page

This is what the raw face of homelessness is. It is written by Sy, who was homeless in 2018/19 in Eastbourne, and he dedicated it to the Volunteers of Warming Up The Homeless. I have the permissions to publish this.

"Close the door and lock it. Bring the key, pull up a chair by the fire. Comfy? Now let's look at the key you used and think about all that it represents to you. Warm by the fire isn't it? You have just locked the door on the outside world, safe in your own home, you can do anything you want now, within the law of course. Friends round for dinner, watch the telly, a soaking hot bath, read a good book. The choices are pretty endless. Sure you may argue with the family, have to wash the dishes, do a bit of the ironing, pay some bills but in general things are OK. Now think hard. Close your eyes and concentrate. You know what a panic you get in when you lose the key for a few minutes, well what would it feel like if for some reason that key, and all it represents, was suddenly taken away from you? Permanently, suddenly, almost without warning, you no longer have a door to lock. Redundancy, fleeing from violence, thrown out, partnership break up, mental a breakdown, the wrong decision at the wrong time.

It's starting to look a dark isn't it? Where do you go? Who do you ring? Oh sorry you can't ring you no longer have a phone anymore. You don't have anything anymore. You have no idea what to do, this sort of thing only happens to drunks, druggies and tramps doesn't it? Starting to get cold yet? Your world is collapsing around you, and you are helpless. You wander aimlessly, dazed, you've heard of hostels but they're not for you are they? You have more dignity, more pride. The night is getting darker, maybe just curl up in a Hut on Eastbourne sea front knowing that the night angels would be with you soon. Trudy and the Warming Up The Homeless team will be along soon. Feeling so low and helpless, giving up on life, but the night angels won't let you, after listening to all your troubles and strife. These angels are normal people who fill you with positivity, trust me they really care about your life. Food, clothes, and breakfast packs they give to all the homeless about, oh, and let's not forget the big meaningful hugs Trudy always gives out. Some days are better, some days are worse, but after the warming up the homeless team have been, your singing and thinking happy thoughts and about what's life really worth

I'm now nearly totally back on my feet, but still have a way to go, but whenever I see a homeless person, I think of Trudy and her angels and thank my lucky stars. I genuinely believe thanks to her and the angels I'm still here today because of them. And now I get the chance to thank them all. So Trudy and all the warming up the homeless team I thank you from the bottom of my heart, you really did get me the love and inspiration to make this new start." Sy.

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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 (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

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Fundraising

I know that quite a few of you won't have received the Parish News before this event happens, but felt that I would still put it in just in case.

As the start of the preparations for the renovations are now really getting a move on, there has been lots to sort out, which has made it very slow and it will not be quick still but at least it is moving forward at long last.

Although we have money promised towards the work, we need to look at how we can raise more to pay for all the work needed. It is exciting just thinking about what could be done to make our church so welcoming, comfortable and a building for all to enjoy both now and for generations to come.

On the 26th February there will be a coffee morning in Herstmonceux Church 10-12noon when not only coffee/tea and homemade cakes will be served, but it is an opportunity to talk of future events already planned and give everyone chance to be involved in these, or even bring any ideas of something they would like to do.

For those of you who have got their news in time, please pass on this event to others. It will be given out in all services, and on the community page as well.

Thank you for all who have been concerned and your patience in the planning of this project.

It will get done.

Pam

Pancakes in the Church

Come and enjoy a pancake in Herstmonceux Church on Shrove Tuesday 1st of March at 5ish.

There will be lots of delicious pancakes with lots of choice of fillings, lots of good company.

Maybe, even a chance to toss a pancake or two.

See you there.

English Country Dancing

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Auction

Come along to a fun evening. 2 course meal with James Braxton running an auction after. The Lamb Inn on March 31st at 7pm.

Cost £15. There are a limited number of spaces so please ring Pam on 01323 833079 to book yours.

Proceeds from this will go to both Herstmonceux and Wartling Churches.

If you have any items you are willing to donate for this cause, please also ring Pam.
Thank you

Dates for your Diary

Thursday April 14th

Shoe cleaning in aid of All Saints Renovation Fund will be taking place all day at the Information Centre. More details to follow next month.

Saturday May 7th - All Saints Plant Sale

This popular event will be held in the Village Hall in the morning. Shortly our thoughts will turn to sowing seeds and cultivating beds, any extra seeds sown or perennial plants split, divided and potted up would be greatly appreciated as the Plant Sale relies entirely on donations.

The Ray and Sheldon Club

The Ray & Sheldon over 60's club was started and has been running since the 1950's. It was set up by two community nurses for older people who may feel isolated and lonely. There is something for everyone. Members enjoy quizzes, speakers, singers, beetle drives, and meetings always include a chinwag, a cup of tea and biscuits. The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month from 2pm to 4pm in the large meeting hall at Herstmonceux Village Hall, Hailsham Road. There is plenty of free car parking outside. Charge is £3.00 per visit and there is a £6.00 annual membership fee. Enquiries to Anne 01323 441244 (Secretary) or Carol 01323 831985 (Treasurer). Ow will be made very welcome.

Wartling Village Hall Trust AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**TO BE HELD AT THE REID HALL, BOREHAM STREET
THURSDAY 31st MARCH 2022 at 7.00PM**

New committee members are always welcome, if you'd like to be involved
please email us: reidvillagehall@gmail.com
Closing date for applications 29th February 2022

Community Coffee Shop

Next date 28TH FEBRUARY 10am to 12am

Our coffee stop has become very popular so we are going to have them TWICE in March MONDAY 7TH AND MONDAY 28TH 10 to 12 am in the Village Hall lounge.

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

Shrove Tuesday

Tuesday 1st March 3-30 Recreation ground

Pancake day this year falls on Tuesday March 1st we would like to have some fun and do races in the recreation ground, if it is wet we will move to the new bit of car park.

There would be races for all age groups from toddlers to the merry aged. A few nibbles will be supplied for starving children. It won't cost you anything and you may win a prize all pans and pancakes will be supplied, Please come along and join in.

Herstmonceux WI

Our next meeting will be March 16th 2022 at 7-30pm in the village hall. The speaker is Jenny Hibbard, the title for the evening is "loose ends" how to write a story in 3 words. She is really interesting, some of us have seen her already and I am sure you will enjoy the hands on story telling.

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. Please could you let Philippa know (email secretaryherstmonceuxwi@gmail.com) if you are coming Hope to see all members and visitors on the 16th. Keep safe, Trudy

Table Sale

Herstmonceux Village Hall Saturday March 19th 9am to 12noon. Come along grab a bargain. There are loads of different tables some crafty some dressy and some very different and a cake table. Have a coffee and maybe a slice of homemade cake. See you there.

Information 01323832532 or 01323833485

Herstmonceux Lunch Club

February's Lunch Club went really well with several more new members enjoying a tasty Pork, Leek and Cider casserole, mashed potatoes and vegetables followed by a yummy sherry trifle. Well done cooks and helper, your hard work was really appreciated by everyone, especially as we had our annual Hygiene check. As new secretary I'm learning how much more goes on behind the scenes. More cooks are still needed as the group expands.

The first afternoon sessions also went well with 21 guests staying on to play 'Beetle Drive', and I was impressed with the different designs of beetles, and congratulations to Jean Everingham for winning the most points. Many thanks to Rachel Gunn from Library Services for her support and generous donations.

Lunch Club and Afternoon session will meet again on Monday 14th March and Terry has kindly offered to run a Local Quiz for us.

If you are over 60 years old and would like to join us please ring Alison on 07765425419.e this revised version for Lunch Club.

Village Information Centre

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

Hearing Resource Sessions

Sessions will be held on a Friday twice a month (**March dates 4th and 18th between 10.00 am and 11.45 am for 12 pm finish** when we are able to offer maintenance of most types of hearing aids and replacement batteries. **Please remember to bring your brown NHS book.** As maintenance can involve very close contact you are requested to wear a face covering and I will be using PPE for the foreseeable future. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Celia Farrant (local volunteer for Eastbourne Hearing)

VITALITY VILLAGES

The next Coffee Morning will be held in the lounge of **Herstmonceux Village Hall on Thursday 17th March between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon** when **Jenny Seale** from the Sussex Express will be giving us a talk. Refreshments of tea coffee biscuits and cake. A fun quiz. A warm welcome awaits you.

Knit and Stitch

Just for March we need to change the day to the Tuesday, so we meet on the 15th March at 2.30pm at The Information Centre. Come and see us, although we are a crafting group we do more chat than craft, so even if you are not a knitter etc. come and have a cuppa

See you there. Pam 833079

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Famous Hymns

Forty Days and Forty Nights: George Hunt Smyttan (1822 – 70) with thanks to *conservativewoman.co.uk*

Lent, commemorating Jesus' time in the wilderness, begins on 2nd March. The Bible says Jesus ate nothing for 40 days and 40 nights. It wasn't until the 40th day that Satan (or the Devil, or Tempter, depending on your translation) came to tempt Him. Satan isn't omniscient, but he does observe us, marks our weaknesses and weak moments, and chooses his battles with us accordingly.

George Smyttan wrote this Lenten hymn. Born in Bombay, where his father was head of the district medical board, he studied in Cambridge, and was ordained in 1848. After a brief curacy in Northumberland, he became rector of Hawksworth near Newark-on-Trent, Notts from 1850.

In 1854, he published a poetry book to raise funds to build a school house in Hawksworth. He published several other poems and sermons to raise money for good causes. At Easter 1858 a new organ was dedicated in Hawksworth church, probably paid for by the rector.

Smyttan was an associate of Dr David Livingstone. As Organising Secretary he ran many fundraising events for the Universities' Mission to Central Africa. He resigned from Hawksworth in 1858 due to ill health. In 1859, he sold his property and belongings to fund travel to Central Africa. However, his poor health stopped him joining the ill-fated first mission to Africa in the early 1860s, when most of the missionaries died (mainly from malaria).

Smyttan did marry, but he was travelling alone in Germany when he died suddenly in Frankfurt. His widow Fanny was an interesting person in herself: her older sister was the charismatic women's rights campaigner and activist, Josephine Butler, who had a major role in improving conditions for women in education and public health. After George's death, Fanny helped Josephine with her 'Home of Rest' for outcast women (mainly prostitutes) in Liverpool.

Forty Days and Forty Nights was first published in Penny Post in 1856, entitled Poetry for Lent: As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing. It's since been altered and adapted into the version we sing today.

Its sombre tune is called Heinlein, or Aus der Tiefe (Out of the deep) from the hymn to which it was originally paired. It's attributed to Martin Herbst (1654-1681), a German Lutheran priest, and first appeared in a Nuremberg publication of 1676. Herbst was pastor of St Andreas' church in Eisleben. This was Martin Luther's home town and he preached his last sermons at St Andreas. Herbst died in the town aged 27 from plague.

This hymn reminds us that we aren't alone when we face wilderness(es) in our lives, and that we should call on Jesus to help us when evil of any kind presses on us. This will help us to resist, and so achieve "peace divine". It ends with a prayer that Jesus will

keep us close by His side, so that we will appear with him at “th’eternal Eastertide”. Let’s use that prayer this Lent. Melinda Stone

Weather in January – Unsettled at First but then Dry and Quiet

The weather has made a pretty good fist of Dry January with the exception of the first week or so which was distinctly unsettled. Low pressure dominated until the 10th when the barometer rose sharply. This set the tone for the remainder of the month in the south of the UK. With high pressure so dominant in our part of the world it meant the mild south-westerly winds were steered over Northern Britain and here the month was very mild throughout. The high pressure meant the wind speed was significantly below the long term average and the average pressure for the month was markedly higher than usual.

The month began with the warmest New Year’s Day on record. A maximum temperature of 16.3°C was recorded in Central London. Both our mildest day (14.5°C) and mildest night (11.4°C) occurred then the early part of the month saw our wettest day on Saturday the 8th when over half an inch of rain fell driven by strong south-westerly winds; not a day for the faint-hearted. The mildest part of the month fell during the first 11 days, although our coldest night occurred on 5th/6th when the temperature fell to -3°C, after which it was colder as sunny days (12th to 14th, 17th, 18th, 30th and 31st) with night time frosts were interspersed with days of January gloom and occasional drizzle. The light winds failed to shift the cloud for days on end. Visibility was often poor making it murky and miserable for long spells. There were 5 air frosts slightly below the average for the years 1991 to 2020.

Rain fell on 11 days during the month 8 of which occurred in the first eleven days of the month. This is 2 less than the average for Herstmonceux during the long term average. There were only just over 30 millimetres of rain, two thirds less than normal. The average maximum temperature was 8.5°C and the average minimum just under 3°C both figures being slightly above the thirty year average. Winds were predominantly from between south-west and north with barely any wind from between east and south being the quarter which brings us most of our really cold weather

Just as November ended with a named storm so too did this month with not only Storm Malik (named by the Danish Met Office) but also Storm Corrie, following hot on Malik’s heels, battering Northern Britain. We were unaffected apart from a slightly stronger breeze.

The combined effect of La Niña and a strong polar vortex should keep winter at bay for most of February at least but the absence of winter rain in November and January must be a source of growing concern particularly given the lower annual rainfall in 2021.

Tim Roberts

Advance Notice

I am having a St Georges day party at the Herstmonceux Village hall on the 23rd April. Look for details next month for those that patronise some Britishness. Laurence Keeley.



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Children's Page - Lent

1st March is the beginning of Lent and just like Advent gives us the time to prepare for Christmas, Lent give us the time to prepare for Easter.

We begin with Shrove Tuesday, a day when Christians long ago used up all the tasty foods, such as butter, eggs, sugar and fat to mark Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness. Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to eat these - hence tasty pancakes with honey, jam, lemon and sugar, yum

Ash Wednesday really is the beginning of Lent, 40 days before Easter.

I came across this story and I thought you might like it. It is told by a boy called Jake who lived in the time when Jesus was alive.

The desert near where we live is rocky and beautiful, with Lizards, small birds, and plants which store water for themselves in their fleshy leaves. You wouldn't want to stay there for long, it's not a very good place to live. Many years, before I was born, my ancestors wandered in the deserts for years with Moses. He bought them out of Egypt to the promised land. God told them to keep the first part of their harvest as a thank you offering and to share a really good celebration meal to mark the occasion, inviting everyone who lives nearby.

At this time, people choose to go into the desert to spend time praying to God and sometimes people go without food, to show their love for God. I heard that Jesus did both of these, he went into the desert and spent 40 days there. He must have been very hungry and I am told that Satan tempted him to make food for himself but he didn't, he remembered to put God first and didn't give in to all that Satan wanted him to.

Jesus is well known as a holy man, but even he had to make the effort to pray and spend time with God, his father. He was tempted to do things that he shouldn't do. We all need to take time to talk to God and not be tempted to do things that we know are wrong, even if it is not easy. This is Jake's story, but I think we can all take time to do something we find hard to do during Lent. I have friends who give up chocolate or biscuits or any kind of nice things, that's hard and I am not asking you to do this unless you want to do but perhaps take time to be nice to someone who you don't like or do something that you find hard to do.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, help us to think of you during Lent. If we give up something or do something we find hard to do, be with us in our trying. Amen.



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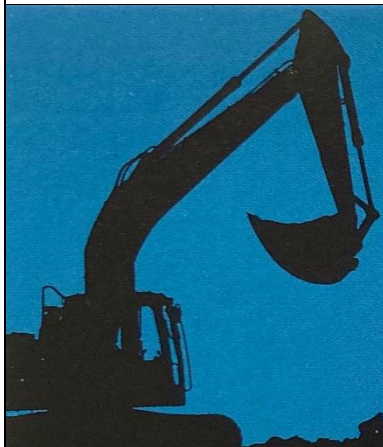


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Rev Peter's Thoughts

For decades since WW2, farmers have been encouraged by governments to increase crop production and so lower farmgate prices. Alongside this, the Supermarkets use their bargaining power to drive farmgate prices as low as possible. This has put huge pressure on our farmers, as to survive they must supply their produce at the lowest possible price, a farmer who does not make a profit from their work does not farm. But the same demands have also put huge demands on the soil, and ploughing, once the main part of field preparation before drilling, that is planting the seed in the soil by machine, is now seen as a large part of the present soil health problem.

Mindful of these concerns, many farmers are turning away from ploughing in favour of minimum tillage cultivation methods, and a reduction in ploughing is restoring and improving soil health. Unploughed land maintains more organic matter, increasing its natural fertility, and this is assisted by the planting of cover crops, such as clover. Cover crops also retain the soil, preventing soil runoff into streams and rivers, which is becoming an issue with the increased rainfall at the time of drilling (seeding) the soil. In addition, a cover crop such as Clover also stores nitrogen in its roots, which lowers the need for nitrogen fertilisers, the seed often being drilled through the Clover cover crop.

Many of these different methods are assisted by the latest technology. From precision computer-controlled seed drilling machines, a solar-powered unmanned seed drilling and weeding machine to driverless tractors, farms have seen changes over the last twenty odd years just as big as the computer industry has seen.

All farmers are aware that they farm with nature, there is no way that it is possible to farm against it. It does appear, however, that Governments and Supermarkets, with their over-reliance on science and technology, and an underlying economic system that favours competition over collaboration looks to have ignored that.

The intensive agriculture that the government and supermarkets have demanded has caused arable soils to lose 40 to 60% of their organic carbon, and the impacts of climate change pose further risks. UK soil contains about 10 billion tonnes of carbon, roughly equal to 80 years of annual greenhouse gas emissions.

Extended periods of wet weather can cause widespread damage to soil structure. Very heavy rainfall and thunderstorms cause soil erosion which exacerbates flood risks. Soil carbon loss is an act of economic and environmental self-harm. If we are serious about the Committee on Climate Change's target of net zero by 2050, then we need investment, and above all, a vastly increased appreciation of the work and dedication of our farmers.

PARISH NEWS

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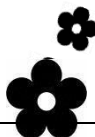
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Herstmonceux Free Church News

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Services at Herstmonceux Free Church this month

On Sundays 13th, 20th, 27th there will be a service at 10.45 at the Free Church in Chapel Row.

A zoom link will be available for anyone who prefers.

Sunday 3rd April 10 – 12 midday

We look forward to welcoming everyone in the village hall on the first Sunday of next month. Join us for free tea, coffee, breakfast and chat with optional activities.

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