



HERSTMONCEUX AND WARTLING PARISH NEWS

November 2020

50p



This Month

Rev Richard writes the letter from the Rectory; Rev Peter's Green Page; Melinda's Famous Hymns column covers "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind", plus the regular columns and news from around the parishes



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From the Rectory

Dear Parishioners,

One of the myths of our modern world is that all humanity needs to do to experience wholeness, redemption, utopia, whatever you want to name it, is to continue the forward march of progress until we fix ourselves up enough. But experience tells us that, no matter how great our external lives are, there is always still something amiss.

The Bible tells us that when the universe was first created God turned the initial chaos of the elements into this amazing good beautiful and orderly universe, (if you don't agree with this claim please see the footnote), and that we humans were given this whole world to look after as a gift, and were given the task to continue progressing this order (see Genesis 1). Having been given this capacity we have been progressing throughout human history, and many of our advances are quite remarkable.

However, the bible also clearly tells us that a new chaos entered this ordered universe, a much more dangerous one was unleashed when people initially and subsequently turn away from a relationship with this creator God (Genesis 3 and the rest of the Bible!!). G K Chesterton wrote 'We talk of wild animals but man is the only wild animal. It is man that has broken out. All other animals are tame animals; following the rugged respectability of the tribe or type'. Man says 'I do what I want to do because I want to do it'.

Where can we each spot the results of this chaos at work in our own lives?

A Doctor once took an informal poll over a three year period. The poll asked this question "If you had one desire that you knew would be granted without any question what would you ask?"

In answer 87% responded by saying that they would ask for peace of mind and soul! Inside of all of us there is a battle, whoever we are.

This chaos has then caused us, as a race, to have a very checkered history as was predicted (Genesis 3). As a result not only have we had backward steps in our progress but also so much misery and disorder among us.

But this problem as with all problems has a solution. By way of a prophesy we are told that a man will destroy the source of all this chaos (Genesis 3v15).

Jesus came as a man and fulfilled this role on earth at Easter time around the year 30AD, and as a result of his death and resurrection he is able remove this chaos from each and every one of us.

He says to you and me 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid' John 14v27. To start or restart this process in our own lives all we need to do is pray to this Jesus sincerely, 'Thy will be done in me'.

N.B. "To pray thy will be done I must be willing, if the answer requires, that my will be undone". (Elizabeth Elliot).

God Bless
Richard Steven

Footnote: Some people might turn off at this point because they have been led to believe that the universe all around us was formed by chance, if you have such a view please consider these words by C S Lewis.

"If the solar system was brought about by an accidental collision, then the appearance of organic life on this planet was also an accident, and the whole evolution of Man was an accident too. If so, then all our present thoughts are mere accidents — the accidental by-product of the movement of atoms. And this holds for the thoughts of the materialists and astronomers as well as for anyone else's. But if their thoughts — i.e. of materialism and astronomy — are merely accidental by-products, why should we believe them to be true? I see no reason for believing that one accident should be able to give me a correct account of all the other accidents. It's like expecting that the accidental shape taken by the splash when you upset a milk jug should give you a correct account of how the jug was made and why it was upset."

From C.S. Lewis (1898–1963), The Business of Heaven, Fount Paperbacks, U.K., p. 97, 1984.

Prayer for November

In this Remembrance Season.

Merciful God, we pray for peace in our hearts and homes,
In our nations and our world,
For the peace which is your will, the peace which we so badly need. Amen

For Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday.

We remember today especially those victims of the two world wars and other conflicts that have happened since. We remember all those who received terrible injuries, and those whose loved ones were injured or never returned. Help us to do all we can to work for peace in our time.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the leaders of the nations at this time, asking you to pour out your spirit of reconciliation on them. Give them a longing to bring freedom from fear and freedom from want for all peoples. Give strength and courage to those who bear heavy responsibilities for the peace of the world.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

November Services in Herstmoncux and Wartling Parish Churches

1st November

- 8am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Wartling.
- 10am Family Service All Saints, Herstmoncux.

8th November

- 8am Holy Communion. All Saints, Herstmoncux
- 10.50 am Remembrance Sunday Services at both Churches.
Please contact Richard Steven in order for us to book you in.
ra_steven@hotmail.com or phone 01323 833124.

15th November

- 8am Holy Communion St Mary Magdalene, Wartling.
- 10am Holy Communion All Saints, Herstmoncux.

22nd November

- 8am Holy Communion All Saints, Herstmoncux.
- 10am Morning Prayer, St Mary Magdalene, Wartling.
- 3pm Christingle Family Service, All Saints Herstmoncux

29th November

- 8am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Wartling.
- 10am Advent Sunday Service, All Saints Herstmoncux.
- 3pm Christingle Family Service. All Saints Herstmoncux.
Please contact Richard at: ra_steven@hotmail.com or 01323 833124
to book your family in for this service.

6th December

- 8am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalene, Wartling
- 10am Advent Family Service, All Saints Herstmoncux

Every Sunday there is also a 6pm online or by phone informal service.

Contact Richard on ra_steven@hotmail.com or phone 01323 833124 in order to be able to join us on these services.

Remembrance Sunday

This year we will be holding a Remembrance Sunday Service at both Wartling and Herstmonceux Churches at 10.50am. 8th November 2020.

If you wish to attend either of these services, we will require you to book beforehand in order to avoid disappointment as numbers are very limited due to Covid 19 restrictions. However, we do have two services rather than the usual one to enable as many people to attend as possible.

You can book a place for yourself and those you will be attending with by contacting Richard Steven on 01323 833124 or by email: ra_steven@hotmail.com. When you contact us please state which church you wish to attend and who you are booking on behalf of as we need to know numbers. Also please do not assume you have a firm booking until we confirm your request.

Christingle Service

We are still going to hold a Christingle Service this year but it will have differences obviously due to Covid.

Due to social distancing, the number of people attending will have to be monitored. Please could you ring Pam 833079 or email pamwartling@gmail.com or speak to Richard or myself about coming.

Although we know that the children like to make their Christingles this will not be possible this year but we will make them for them.

Please come on November 29th at 3pm in Herstmonceux Church.

Christmas will be different this year but let's try and carry on as much as possible in a safe way and enjoy the moments.

Love Pam.

Christmas Village Theme

The village Christmas theme this year will be Christmas Carols and our outside lights, Christmas trees provided by the Parish Council and hopefully, decorations outside our homes aim to go up by 6pm on the Sunday 29th November i.e. 3 weekends before Xmas Day. The theme has been chosen by the Scouts and youth groups this year.

It will be lovely to have our village looking sparkling and festive to cheer us all, as it has been such a difficult year for everyone. Please do join in and make your home part of the village theme. Perhaps we can come and guess what Carol you have chosen.

Rev Peter's Green Page

Melinda pointed out recently, that looking after the environment, which is also caring for the children's future, is actually a delicate balancing act. Do we buy local as opposed to a big supermarket? And as you do, is it better to have a delivery in a diesel van, than driving to that supermarket? There were many other totally relevant questions as well, so monthly I will attempt to answer them.

Round the World Non-Stop Sailing Record Breaker, Dame Ellen MacArthur said that When you sail around the world, at times you can be 2,500 miles away from the nearest town, and yet surrounded by (mainly) plastic and other rubbish. Search on-line for 'The Great Pacific Garbage Patch,' it is estimated to be three times the size of France!

What is needed then, is a circular economy. An economy that is based on the principles of designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems. This is not so difficult as may seem, I am sure that many reading this will have seen 'The Repair Shop' on the BBC, the antidote to today's throwaway culture. This shows just what is possible with well-designed and well-made items that can last for generations and can be repaired and reused.

Being concerned about the legacy that the children of only the next decade will inherit, begins at home, and, perhaps, taking 'The Repair Shop' as our inspiration. We cannot all be a Suzi Fletcher or a Will Kirk, but we can look at our purchases with different eyes. Can we repair them, or, can another do so? Let's start with ourselves.

Modern technology has given us some amazing materials. Even with limited spare time we have the hands-on power to make major changes to our own homes, but sometimes this freedom comes at a price. We have easy access to a whole host of powerful and poisonous chemicals, and can casually purchase wood plundered from irreplaceable forests, or metals that cost the Earth in terms of energy and mining impacts. Existing legislation doesn't stop these products from reaching our shops, so it's down to us as individuals to inform ourselves by being obsessive label readers, so to reduce the impact of our own purchases. The rules of thumb are the same as in any green decision, buy and use only what you really need; reuse existing materials; source any new materials from sustainable resources, and avoid toxic chemicals and paints where possible. If, however, they are totally essential to what you're doing, take care in the choosing, using and disposing of them. (Part 2 next month.)

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Healthy Wealden

Wealden District Council have recently launched a webpage called Healthy Wealden, here you can find lots of information on outdoor areas to explore, getting active, healthy living and events and activities within the Wealden area.

To view the Healthy Wealden website visit: <https://www.healthywealden.co.uk/>.

For those on Facebook there is also a Healthy Wealden Facebook page for update health and wellbeing information, events and campaigns in Wealden. You can find the page by visiting <https://www.facebook.com/HealthyWealden/>

Village Information Centre

The Centre is now open three days a week viz Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday 10.00 am to 12.00 noon until Christmas.

Memorial Bench

My brother Chris and myself recently installed a new Memorial Bench in Herstmonceux churchyard in Memory of our parents Daphne and William (Bill) Brown.

Our parents lived in the village for many years running a local building firm and becoming involved in a number of local organisations.

Norman Brown



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Famous Hymns

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind John Greenleaf Whittier (1807 – 92) with thanks to sermonwriter.com and phillsacre.me.uk

John Whittier grew up on a Massachusetts farm. While he didn't have the advantage of a higher education, a district school teacher introduced him to poetry. He became particularly fond of the poetry of Robert Burns. While he began life as a farm-boy and shoemaker, he subsequently became a successful journalist, editor and poet.

Whittier was a lifelong Quaker whose faith shaped his life and much of his writing. He didn't intend to write hymns for two reasons: First, he didn't feel competent musically. Second, in his Quaker tradition, hymns were not sung in worship. Other people set several of his poems to music, but "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" is the only one that's had nearly universal acceptance.

This hymn's verses come toward the end of a longer 1872 poem entitled, "The Brewing of Soma." (Those of you who read or watched *Brave New World* recently may remember that Soma was also the name of the happy pills handed out so freely in that.) Soma was a sacred ritual (probably hallucinogenic) drink used since perhaps 2000BC in Vedic, and then Hindu, worship to induce religious frenzy. It may have included magic mushrooms, cannabis & opium among its ingredients, to help whip up religious enthusiasm. The poem likens this to some Christians' use of 'music, incense, vigils drear, and trance, to bring the skies more near, or lift men up to heaven!'

Whittier, appalled at the frenzied revivalism of his day, asks God to "Forgive our feverish ways" – these days the word "foolish" has been substituted, moving away from Whittier's original concerns. He honours quiet qualities of religious devotion — "purer lives", "deeper reverence" and "simple trust"— qualities learned from, and practised in, his Quaker faith.

The tune we commonly use for this hymn was written by Sir Hubert Parry in 1888 for a contralto aria in his oratorio *Judith*. In 1924 the director of music at Repton School Derbyshire, obtained permission from Parry's estate to set the words of *Dear Lord and Father* to the *Judith* melody. To make it fit, the last line of each verse is repeated. The tune's now called *Repton*.

In 2016, Phill Sacre (Assistant Minister of a C of E church in Essex) commented "The more I think about this hymn the more I dislike it: I disagree with the main idea – that in order to hear God speak you just need to be still. Yes, we don't need frenzied dancing or drugs to communicate with God. But that doesn't mean we can dispense with words altogether. Sadly, I think (like *Love Divine*) this hymn should be relegated to the history books." I disagree. My personal view is that there is a time for words, and also a time for silence – God gave us two ears and one mouth, and perhaps we would benefit from using them in the same proportions. What do you think?

Melinda Stone



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White Christmas Cake Recipe to Try

Now is the time when some people make their Christmas Cake, or indeed, some have already done it. Most of my family don't like a traditional cake but one of my daughters makes an alternative one when she can. This was a White Christmas Cake very different but lovely.

The recipe serves 36 people (or portions) but she halved the ingredients but not the cooking time. Here is the recipe:

Ingredients:

175g candied pineapple pieces 125ml orange juice
425g sultanas 450g butter
250g glace cherries 475g icing sugar
150g dried currants 8 eggs, separated.
425g pecans, chopped. 375g sifted plain flour.
50g candied orange peel 50g candied citron (Lemon peel)

- Chop pineapple, sultanas and cherries. Combine with currants, peel and citron, soak in orange juice overnight.
- Preheat oven to 140C/Gas Mark1. Place a small pan of water in the oven. Line one 19x12x9cm(1kg) loaf tin and two 17x11x 8cm (500g) loaf tins with parchment or doubled greaseproof paper.
- In a large bowl, cream butter and icing sugar together. Stir in beaten egg yolks. Stir in fruit, juice and nuts. Mix in sifted flour.
- In a clean bowl, beat the egg whites to peaks. Fold into batter.
- Put butter into cake tins and fill tins 2/3 full.
- Bake for 2-2 ½ hours until golden brown or until skewer comes out clean when inserted.

This doesn't need to be made too far in advance and is lighter than your average cake.

Remembering Frank Beeney

Frank Herbert Beeney 13th August 1938 ~ 24th September 2020

Frank died peacefully on the 24th September at St Wilfrid's Hospice. He was both the editor and printer for this magazine for nearly twenty years. Frank had served on Wartling Church PCC for at least 36 years and was our organist at Wartling church for 45 years. And as many of you will know he faithfully served us and our community in many other ways as well.

At his funeral the eulogy presented by his daughter Deanne spoke about his great inner strength seen especially as his health declined. We were reminded how he had always sought to do what is right and proper throughout his life, and how he was a very meticulous person who had achieved so much. And overall he was a much loved, kind man, who was full of life.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Joan, and daughters Deanne and Helen at this sad time.

Message from Joan

On behalf of the family and myself I would like to say a big thank you to all friends and neighbors' who have helped and supported me through Frank's illness. He is at peace now.

Also, thank you for all the beautiful cards, messages and flowers we have received. Joan Beeney (24 The Ridgeway).Tel.no.01323 832587.

Windmill Hill Horticultural Society

WHHS President Frank Beeney

One of the many ways in which the team of Frank and Joan have helped the local community is as stalwart supporters of the Windmill Hill Horticultural Society, enjoying our annual outings and serving in various roles on the committee over many years. Frank was an active president in his final years and was in his element handing out the awards at the annual Flower Show, giving particular encouragement to younger prizewinners. He managed to work out all the points for the cups and prizes over the short lunch break, and liaised with great humour and generosity towards Alan Sephton, who took over and needed a computer to do the same job. Frank's



wizardry with the PA system, and competence managing the raffle with Joan helped to make the show run smoothly; he will be sorely missed and remembered with much fondness and gratitude.

The Horticultural Society extends its heartfelt sympathy to Joan and the family.

Please look at our website www.windmillhillhortsoc.org.uk for more pictures of our online virtual Show for October.

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Children's Page

For the children and parents and grandparents.

November 29th is the first Sunday in Advent and usually before the start of Advent. I go into school to make and explain an Advent Wreath. Both of our churches have advent wreaths displaying candles which are lit every Sunday approaching Christmas Day. Each part of this wreath has a meaning:

We start with a ring, (I use a green flower arrangers ring) symbolising God's love for us – it has no beginning and no end – it goes on and on.

Next there are 5 candles, usually 4 purple and 1 white (some churches use 1 pink, will explain that later)

The 1st candle is the candle of hope – the hope we all have in the coming of Christ – it can also be called the candle of prophecy, promising that Christ is coming.

The 2nd candle is the candle of love – signifying the love of Christ. Can be known as the Bethlehem candle.

The 3rd candle is the candle of joy – the joy we can all experience in the coming of Jesus, in some churches this is the pink candle but in our churches we use the purple one. This candle can sometimes be called Mary's candle or the shepherds candle.



The 4th candle is the candle of peace, sometimes called the angel's candle. This candle is lit on the last Sunday before Christmas.

On Christmas Day we light the white candle which is in the centre of the wreath and represents the light of Christ shining in the world.

We finish making our wreath by covering it in greenery, of course using holly and ivy amongst any other greenery you like. This represents the life that God provides for us.

Perhaps you can make a picture of an advent wreath and each Sunday before Christmas colour the flame of one of the candles or put glitter on it. You could possibly put it in the window showing people that Christmas is coming.

Advent



Harvest Festival Word Search

B O N F I R E X D B N O H H L D A
D W A I R E Y F A S C P O D O G U
E Q S R T W E U R W T L T E Y E T
Y T G E T Q B I K D U Z C U K Q U
H Y Y W O O L Y H A T U H K U Y M
X O M O Y Y L P M F E N O N E R N
M Z N R E M E M B R A N C E D H A
P N O K I H M J B I K Y O S Z K X
F R O S T M E L R P L T L D C N M
K Y E E N K V U S O P X A V W C L
R S C A R F C J N M S C T S Y B Y
Y E X B P O A F T B E A E T G F R
G L O V E S R R U T Q V A A I S E
D P V U R P W D O E A Y R R P R D
W P I N W L G Y L E B G T S A I W
M A R S H M A L L O W S D T R W P

Bonfire

Frost

Autumn

Gloves

Scarf

Woolly hat

Apples

Leaves

Marshmallows

Dark

Remembrance

Hot chocolate

Stars

Fireworks

Help Our Wildlife

A quarter of mammals in the UK are at risk of extinction, and this decline will continue unless their habitats are restored and some species are reintroduced.

So warns the chair of Natural England, Tony Juniper, referring to a recent list of endangered animals issued by the Mammal Society, and approved by the United Nations.

UK mammals most in danger are the greater mouse-eared bat, the water vole, the hedgehog, hazel dormouse and Scottish wildcat. The European wolf is already extinct.

Tony Juniper advises that reintroducing some mammals would help others at greater risk. For example, introducing more pine martens would help control the grey squirrels, which in turn would give our native red squirrels a better chance.

As one professor of environmental biology said: “Here in Britain we are managing to send even rodents towards extinction. Things have to change rapidly if we want our children and grandchildren to enjoy the wildlife that we take for granted.”

Perhaps you could share with us what things you are doing to help our local wildlife so others can get some ideas of things they could be doing as well.

Where Do You Store Your Various Food Items

Where do you put your parsnips and eggs, and what about the potatoes and onions?

The correct answers, according to new government guidelines, are that the first two belong in your fridge and the second two belong in your cupboard.

More guidance on storing food safely can now be found on Wrap, the Government’s food waste watchdog. The aim is to stop households throwing so much food away. And so Wrap.org.uk offers advice on storing everything from aubergines to onions, bananas to cheese, fizzy drinks to wine. It could be a good refresher course for many of us, and a lifeline for younger people trying to get the most out of their weekly shop.

Do you have any ways of storing food that you would like to share with others? Send us an email and let us know.

Things to Make You Smile

First Communion

My three-year-old niece, Kelly, went with a neighbour's little girl to church for her First Communion practice. The minister had the children cup their hands, and then went solemnly down the line, giving each child a piece of bread, and intoning: "God be with you".

This made quite an impression on Kelly. She came home and told her mother to cup her hands and bend down. Kelly took a piece of bread from her sandwich, placed it in her mother's hands, and whispered, in her most angelic voice, "God will get you."

Fire in church

The town's fire prevention officer was conducting a health and safety course at the local church. The officer said to the minister: "Now imagine this: it is a Sunday morning and you have a number of people, spread socially distanced, throughout your church building. Some are in the choir stalls, some are in the kitchen, and some are in the nave. Suddenly, a big fire breaks out. What are the first steps you would take?" The minister thought carefully for a moment. "Really big ones," he said.

The congregation

A minister was considering a move to a busy town-centre church, and wanted to know what the congregation was like, and especially the church council. So, he rang the minister who had just retired from that church. The retiring minister hesitated a moment and then replied: "Some of them are wise; some are otherwise."

With the forthcoming US Presidential Election in mind...

A candidate came home in the small hours and gave his wife the wonderful news:

"Darling, I've been elected!"

She was delighted. "Honestly?" she demanded.

He laughed in an embarrassed sort of way. "Oh, why bring that up?"



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Herstmonceux Free Church News

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

For further information see our website: www.herstmonceuxfreechurch.org.uk or contact our Family and Community Worker, Sylvia Catt 07909 644762, or John and Helen Ford 01323 832266.

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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.

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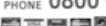
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