

their community work during the pandemic and thanked everyone who prayed for him when he was ill. He appeared to be grateful but slightly surprised as he commented, *It seems to have worked!*

Stories from two Old Town gardens

This is a corner of our friends' courtyard garden in All Saints



Street. Clem came to their rescue in the week when they both locked themselves out. She was tall and nimble enough to clamber over the wall at the back. During the rescue she noticed this ambitious climbing purple plant outside the kitchen window. Imagine our surprise when we discovered it was something Yasmin had picked up after the Lent Lunch at St Laurence's in 2019 when it

was only a little 2 inch rooted cutting in a tiny pot. Didn't it do well! Clem and I also welcomed a new plant to our garden last weekend. Monika had grown on a wisteria for us in the greenhouse so we will no longer have to rely on trying to train next door's to keep coming over our wall. We've found a space on our south facing wall and it's beginning to look at home. It was brave of Monika to bring it to us as she has only just begun to go out but only for essential trips. She wore gloves and the plant was in a sanitized carrier bag. I wore a mask and we did a safe drive-by delivery in the road.

THE BENEFICE OF WESTFIELD AND GUESTLING

A letter from Rev Joy 5 July 2020

I must admit that I'm glad it's a damp and blustery grey sort of morning on the day the pubs re-open. Hopefully it will be enough to dampen the enthusiasm of those planning an alcohol fuelled celebration of Super Saturday locally. I know it's the re-opening of our churches for services rather than pubs that's on a lot of hearts and minds at the moment. We now have the Bishop's Ad Clerum as well as the Church of England guidance and we are working our way through them to come up with practical plans to keep everyone safe. This includes a comprehensive risk assessment. What it will mean is that, much like going shopping at the moment, there will be queues and hand sanitizing, a one way system to follow, and social distancing measures to observe. Once you are safely seated in a pew there will be no singing or loud voices, no sharing the peace or chatting over coffee afterwards. But what I hope there will be is a restored sense of community, the experience of being within those familiar ancient walls once again, an opportunity to give thanks for the blessings the lockdown has brought and to lament what has been lost - the people, the trust, the confidence—each of you will bring your own grief and burdens to lay down. And my hope is that together we can pray

Loving God, thank you for this house of prayer

where we praise and thank you for all you have given us.

*Help us to go out into the world, refreshed by your Spirit,
to do what you have called us to do in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

We have learnt over the last 100 days or so what we already knew, that the Church of which we are members is not

defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members. In sharing communion we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'. Some of us I know are longing to do this and share Communion once more. At the moment the Church of England is working to update advice on the celebration of the Eucharist. It will then be issued in each diocese by the Bishop. So it means being patient a while longer and making this our prayer.

*Lord, in these days of mercy, make us quiet and prayerful;
in these days of challenge, make us stronger in you;
in these days of emptiness, take possession of us;
in these days of waiting, open our hearts to the mystery of
your cross.* This comes with my love and prayers for you all,
Joy

Sunday 5 July is the birthday of the NHS



2020 has been the most challenging year in NHS history. Those challenges would have been made all but impossible without the help and support of countless individuals and organisations

around the country. On Sunday 5 July, the whole country is invited **to come together again at 5pm** to applaud all those who have been helping us through the pandemic and recognise the vital community connections that continue to support us all.

and inward looking. Christians, because of our experience of the love of God, can bring hope, practical help, support, care, prayer and encouragement to each other and to those outside the church and I know many of you are doing just that during this difficult time.

Philippians 2 v 3 to 4:

Paul now warns against the things that endanger our ministry of love and care: selfishness, thinking ourselves superior to others, kinder, more generous, more understanding, more wise, more discerning, more sensible, more intelligent, more empathetic, better educated, more self-controlled, racially superior. Pride comes in a wide variety of disguises. Look at your motives says Paul, consider what you need but, at the same time, consider the needs of others.

Philippians 5 to 11:

Of course, there will be times when our own needs and those of others conflict. Then what should we do? Paul points us straight to Jesus, our servant king who did not stand on his rights as the Son of God, but who served others, symbolically washing the disciples feet as an example of a leader who serves his followers, and, ultimately sacrificing his life in order to save others.

Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.
John chapter 15 v 12-13.

Love from Cathy

PS: The Prime Minister sent a short message to be shown during the prayer breakfast. He commended Christians for

CV19 Homegroup

First of all, **Naomi**, we all hope and pray you are recovering well from your fall. Just so sorry we can't visit because of the hospital restrictions but hope you will be fit and well again soon.

This morning, along with around 3,000 other people, I joined the Christians in Parliament group for their annual prayer breakfast. This is normally a large gathering in Westminster Hall, but, of course, today it went online. Those taking part were parliamentarians from the Commons and the Lords and it is always encouraging to see that there are Christians at the heart of our public life. The service was very much a celebration of the vital part Christians have played serving their community during the pandemic as they follow Jesus who came not to be served, but to serve. (If you would like to watch it, it is on christiansinparliament.org.uk, there is a link at the top to the prayer breakfast and then press the *Watch online* box.)

The reading for the service was Philippians 2 which I thought we might look at this week.

Philippians 2 v 1 and 2:

Paul urges his readers to consider the benefits that Christians have from being united with Christ: encouragement, comfort, fellowship with the Spirit, tenderness and compassion. If you have felt even just a little of all these blessings, urges Paul, then share them with others. Obviously, these are some of the things that everyone most needs at the moment. We can so easily become discouraged, sad

Fourth Sunday after Trinity July 5th 2020

Collect

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide
we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Westfield

Sermon series: The Life of the Spirit

Romans 8:1-17

BCP Readings: for Third Sunday after Trinity

Romans 8:18-23 Luke 6:36-42

Guestling

Lectionary Readings

Zechariah 9:9-12 Matthew 11:16-19, 25-end

Please check the website on Sunday for services for

Westfield <http://www.westfieldchurch.co.uk/online-services-for-westfield-church/>

Guestling . <https://www.westfieldchurch.co.uk/online-services-for-guestling-church/>

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus
you brought salvation to our wayward world:
draw us into harmony with your will,
that we may find all things restored in him,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Get Involved!
12 JULY 2020
Sea Sunday 2020



Sea Sunday is a chance for all of us to celebrate seafarers together and raise money to support our vital work.

Join us at www.missiontoseafarers.org/sea-sunday on 12th July 2020 for our virtual celebration of Sea Sunday.

This year, you, your church and your community can join with others from the global Mission family to pray, celebrate and fundraise for seafarers.

Please spread the word and let us know that you are joining - Tweet us your #SeaSunday photos @FlyingAngelNews or share with us on Instagram and Facebook and hashtag #SeaSunday2020!

For more information, contact John Dowling john.dowling@missiontoseafarers.org

To donate to Sea Sunday visit www.missiontoseafarers.org/donate

Sadly our usual outdoor Sea Sunday service at Pett Level due to take place next Sunday has been cancelled. It's when people from Fairlight, Pett and Guestling churches come together on the beach outside the Pett Rescue Boat's boat-house with the choir from Guestling Bradshaw School to worship and sing together and raise funds for Mission to Seafarers. In case you can't read the link above where you can access the Mission to Seafarers on-line service it is www.missiontoseafarers.org/sea-sunday and it will be available to view from next Sunday 12 July.

Contact information
Rev Joy Collins, Priest in Charge of Westfield and Guestling
Email: revjoycollins@gmail.com
Phone: 07437 797553 or 01424 447643
By post: 23 Croft Road, Hastings TN34 3HP

I somehow missed this new poem by Malcolm Guite but it seems appropriate to read it now.

Easter 2020.

And where is Jesus, this strange Easter day?
Not lost in our locked churches, anymore
Than he was sealed in that dark sepulchre.
The locks are loosed; the stone is rolled away,
And he is up and risen, long before,
Alive, at large, and making his strong way
Into the world he gave his life to save,
No need to seek him in his empty grave.

He might have been a wafer in the hands
Of priests this day, or music from the lips
Of red-robed choristers, instead he slips
Away from church, shakes off our linen bands
To don his apron with a nurse: he grips
And lifts a stretcher, soothes with gentle hands
The frail flesh of the dying, gives them hope,
Breathes with the breathless, lends them strength to cope.

On Thursday we applauded, for he came
And served us in a thousand names and faces
Mopping our sickroom floors and catching traces
Of that *corona* which was death to him:
Good Friday happened in a thousand places
Where Jesus held the helpless, died with them
That they might share his Easter in their need,
Now they are risen with him, risen indeed.