

Thank you to everyone who has brought food donations to church for FSW.



You are so thoughtful and kind and it will be so good if we can return to monthly collections with Christmas coming so fast.

Jude's families deserve

some treats and presents more than most. Let's pray that the argument over free school meals during school holidays gets resolved soon as that will help take some pressure off struggling families. Thank you again.



Find out about the work of the **Mission Aviation Fellowship** and pray for **MAF**, their



partners and those they serve at our service in Westfield on 15th November. Guestling's service will be arranged for a later date.

### Contact information

Rev Joy Collins, Priest in Charge of Westfield and Guestling

Email: [revjoycollins@gmail.com](mailto:revjoycollins@gmail.com)

Phone: 07437 797553 or 01424 447643

By post: 23 Croft Road, Hastings TN34 3HP

## THE BENEFICE OF WESTFIELD AND GUESTLING

A letter from Rev Joy 25 October 2020

It's the Last Sunday after Trinity and the clocks go back at 2am on 25th in recognition that the days are getting shorter. As autumn turns to winter, the church season too changes as we move through All Saints and All Souls, Remembrance, and then the Sundays before Advent until Advent Sunday which this year is on 29th November. It's a poignant time of year with the smell of woodsmoke on the air and the late roses



looking more beautiful than ever. We can enjoy scuffing up the dead leaves that crackle underfoot on a pavement walk or sink into the damp carpet of fallen leaves on a walk in the woods. Leaves that are now decaying and forming rich mulch that

will feed the soil for future growth when spring returns. I have been thinking hard how best we can hold our annual Daffodil Service when we remember those loved ones we have lost. The restrictions due to Coronavirus mean that we have a lot less seating space in church than usual and I know just how many funerals I have taken since this time last year. I am also aware that people have lost family and friends to Covid 19 or in other ways and may have been unable to attend funerals when they happened elsewhere. For these reasons we will hold two services in Westfield Church, both at 4pm, on Sunday 1st November and Sunday 8th November. They will be quiet reflective services with some music, although we still

can't sing in church. I am sending invitations to those people I know have lost loved ones since 2016 which will arrive early next week. I'd be very grateful if you could let me know if you are coming and which service you would prefer to attend. Please also get in touch if you have a special reason for coming and don't expect to get an invitation. I am so sorry we won't be able to provide refreshments as in the past, but this year we will have daffodil bulbs which I will bless and you can take home to plant in your own gardens. Any left will be planted in the churchyard as usual. I know that some Guestling folk are regulars at the Daffodil Service but for those who aren't we will be remembering the names of loved ones at the morning service on 8th November, Remembrance Sunday. Mentioning the church yard has reminded me that I need to say thank you to everyone who told me that it was a Parasol Mushroom I photographed in Guestling Churchyard—and very tasty too by all accounts! I didn't get to pick it and cook it but maybe next year.....

This comes with my love and prayers for you all, Joy

**Westfield Church Services**

Sunday	<b>25th October</b>	<b>10am</b>	Morning Praise
Wednesday	<b>28th October</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	BCP Holy Communion
		<b>10-11.30</b>	Private Prayer
Sunday	<b>1st November</b>	<b>10am</b>	Holy Communion
	<b>1st November</b>	<b>4pm</b>	<b>Daffodil Service</b>
Wednesday	<b>4th November</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	Holy Communion
		<b>10-11.30</b>	Private Prayer
Sunday	<b>8th November</b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Remembrance Service in the Churchyard</b>
Sunday	<b>8th November</b>	<b>4pm</b>	<b>Daffodil Service</b>

I'm reading a fascinating book at the moment called **To Speak for the Trees by Diana Beresford-Kroeger**. She observed in Canada that rare species tended to occur in places where a river ran into the sea and fresh water and salt water mingled. They were places teeming with life and where fish and whales congregated. She developed a theory that there must be an essential mineral carried from the land to the sea on the freshwater currents that created a platform for these rarities to flourish. Her hypothesis was proved correct by a Japanese marine chemist who had spent decades of experimentation. He discovered that as leaves decompose on the forest floor they release fulvic acid which is capable of bonding with iron in the soil. Flushed from the forest into the rivers and carried to the ocean, an iron-poor



environment, this oxygenated iron boosts the growth of phytoplankton, creating a marine buffet. He was trying to find the reasons for the widespread collapse of marine ecosystems along the Japanese coast. The lack of iron in the coastal waters stopped the division and multiplication of the plankton and could be directly linked back to the felling and clearance of the trees in the island's



forests. In this way Katsuhiko Matsunaga proved the truth of an old Japanese saying ' **If you want to catch a fish, plant a tree.**'



### **Poppies for Remembrance**

We won't have our usual box of poppies in church this year but Pauline Filsell-Page tells me that there are boxes of poppies in the New Inn, Archers, Londis and Taris' coffee shop with wooden crosses available too.

**Don't forget that you can also give on-line to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal**

<https://www.poppysshop.org.uk/> (control and click)

### **The impact of Covid-19 on the Poppy Appeal 2020**

This year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, you may see less of our devoted volunteer Poppy Appeal collectors in your local communities, but you can still help family, friends, and neighbours to get hold of their poppy and contribute to the Appeal.



**EVERY  
POPPY COUNTS**

**O God of truth and justice,  
we hold before you those people  
who have been injured or  
who have died in active service.**

**As we honour their courage and cherish  
their memory, may we put our faith in your future;  
for you are the source of life, peace and hope,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

### **Last Sunday after Trinity or Bible Sunday 25th October 2020**

#### **Collect**

Blessed Lord,  
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:  
help us so to hear them,  
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them  
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,  
we may embrace and for ever hold fast  
the hope of everlasting life,  
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

### **Westfield and Guestling**

#### **Lectionary Readings**

Psalm 1 Matthew 22:34-46

#### **BCP Readings for Twentieth Sunday after Trinity**

Ephesians 5:15-21 Matthew 22:1-14

**Online services:** Please check the website on Sunday for services for Westfield <http://www.westfieldchurch.co.uk/>

[online-services-for-westfield-church/](http://www.westfieldchurch.co.uk/online-services-for-westfield-church/)

Guestling . [https://www.westfieldchurch.co.uk/online-](https://www.westfieldchurch.co.uk/online-services-for-guestling-church/)

[services-for-guestling-church/](https://www.westfieldchurch.co.uk/online-services-for-guestling-church/)

#### **Guestling Church Services**

Sunday **25th October 11am Holy Communion**

Sunday **8th November 10.45am Act of Remembrance  
with Holy Communion**

Sunday **22nd November 11am Holy Communion and  
Baptism of Rupert Tannett**

## CV19 Homegroup

It is easy to become downcast at the moment; there is little good news and plenty of bad. How should we, as Christians, react? We know that we should be trusting our Lord with our future and so, if we feel despondent, we can feel guilty that we are somehow failing God and so become even more depressed.

King David was known and loved by God and he knew it. David was **sure** God had chosen him to be king of Israel even when it looked as if the current king Saul would take David's life. David was **confident** that God was with him as he faced the giant warrior Goliath and defeated him with a simple slingshot. David **knew God's forgiveness** from even his most public sin when he stole the wife of a loyal soldier and made sure that the man was killed in battle; his heartfelt repentance and sorrow are recorded for us in Psalm 51. It seems David could meet all of life's challenges and yet still worship God with positivity and joy. Yet he also wrote **Psalm 42**.

### Psalm 42 verses 1 and 2

The psalm starts off quite normally with David seeking the presence of God in his life. It is not a superficial attempt, the picture he paints of a desperately thirsty animal panting for water gives us a clue to David's urgent need to feel the presence of God.

### Psalm 42 verses 3, 5-7. 9 to 11a

I have picked these verses out to read first because they

show us clearly that David was not able to shake his low mood. Throughout the psalm he is wondering why he cannot get back to his normal joyful relationship with God.

### Psalm 42 verse 4 to 7

In an effort to dispel his mood, in verse 4, David reminds himself of how things used to be, but it doesn't seem to make much difference. However, David does not give up praying, he brings his sadness to God over and over again. He exhorts himself in verse 5 to put his hope in God and, in faith, he asserts that he will be able to praise God again sometime in the future.

### Psalm 42 verse 8 to 11

Verse 8 gives us a ray of hope. David still knows that God loves him and that his heavenly Father has not left him. As he senses God's presence, he can only pour out his complaint once again. *Why have you forgotten me?* (verse 9). David, in referring to his own despair, utters a prophesy that applies equally to Jesus who, on the cross, cried out those same words. (Matthew 27 v 46).

It is never wrong for us to tell God how bad we feel. We can learn from David how to pour feelings to God and how to apply our faith, even in dark times. At the end of the psalm, David again reminds himself that he must put his hope in God and that, one day, he will praise God again as his Saviour and his God. Christians, of all people, have a sure and certain hope for the future.

Love Cathy