



FSW Christmas notice 2021

We are having a FSW Christmas collection on
Sunday 12th December.

**FSW are requesting Christmas related foods as well
as gifts for 5-6 year olds and teenagers.**

(To help the charity to distribute the gifts
appropriately, **please do not wrap them.**)

Donations can be brought to:

Church Hall Saturday 11th December 10am-12pm

Church Sunday 12th December 10am service

FSW are making a special collection just for Westfield
church so it would be great we can make it worth
their while coming. We are also asking for donations
from the village.



**STOP PRESS: For various reasons, not
least the increase in the number of covid
cases in Westfield, it has been decided
that the usual annual WCA Carols round
the Christmas Tree will not take place as
planned for 10 December. Members of
the WCA wish to protect our residents if
possible and not encourage people
singing too close to each other; we hope
our action now enables everyone to be
well for Christmas.**



THE BENEFICE OF WESTFIELD AND GUESTLING

A letter from Rev Joy 5 December Second Sunday of Advent

It's Saturday afternoon and Dennis and I are back from the Hastings Centre having had our booster jabs. It seemed fairly quiet up there compared to previous visits. There was a lady with a woolly hat on which seemed peculiarly tall and very purple (a good liturgical colour for Advent) - I'm sure she was there last time as well!

On Tuesday I went back to All Saints Church here in the Old Town for the first time since I left for my pre-ordination training in 2013. I was reading the lesson at the funeral of a lovely man, Clive Morris, who had been Churchwarden for almost all the 25 years I spent worshipping in the Old Town. And more years before then. Clem came with me as did my dear friend Yasmin, who I met in All Saints Church Hall when our children were among the first to attend the Parent and Toddler group there. I found myself remembering so many folk from those years and then, with a sad jolt, realizing that there was no point looking around the church for them as so many of them had died. It added to the weight of sadness of the service and the reason we were there.

When you are carrying a weight, these days of morning grey-ness and gloom followed by early nightfall seem to make it harder to shake it off. A bit of sunshine and blue sky like today can help a lot. Our sitting room faces south east so with the sun low on the horizon it can fill the room with light which gets the day off to a good start. Even the first coffee of the morning tastes better!

Henri Nouwen was a Dutch catholic priest and writer who was a wise spiritual guide and theologian. His prayer which

follows reminds us that advent is NOT the season of Christmas, but is a special waiting time. Advent is a season which begs us to slow down, and quiet our hearts in anticipation of the quiet night in which God entered history as a child to show us a different way.

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do

seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things

look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways

long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness,

yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

This comes with my love and blessings, Joy

Westfield Church Services

Sunday 5th December Second Sunday of Advent

8.30 am BCP Communion

10.00am Holy Communion

Wednesday 8th December

9.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday 12th December (FSW) Third Sunday of Advent

8.30 am BCP Holy Communion

10am Morning Praise

Guestling Church Services

Sunday 5th December Second Sunday of Advent

11.00am Morning Praise

Sunday 12th December Third Sunday of Advent

11.00am Holy Communion

FROM GUESTING BRADSHAW SCHOOL'S NEWSLETTER

Thought of the day

Reception and KS1 led a wonderful Toy Service this morning in our hall. The children sang and shared some poems, prayers and lovely artwork.

It was a beautiful service. Thank you to everyone who contributed a toy for the Salvation Army Present Appeal. Mrs Plank, our chair of Governors has taken them to be distributed.



As Mrs Andrews says it was a lovely service on Friday morning. The children sang their hearts out and, as always, it was lovely to hear Mrs Andrews placing Molly's piano. Meriel, Gill Plank and I received their gifts of toys for the Salvation Army appeal and as We Three Kings was played and sung we placed them under the Christmas tree and on the prayer table. We ran out of space by the end as every small child brought something for a child they didn't know. It was very touching. Some of the reception children were carrying toys almost as big as they were. It was a great beginning to the Christmas season.

Rev Joy Collins, Priest in Charge of Westfield and Guestling

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By post: 23 Croft Road, Hastings TN34 3HP

SAINTS OF ENGLAND

St Osmund

Feast Day 4 December
Died 1099

Osmund was a typical Norman statesman/cleric. Having been at the Battle of Hastings, he soon became Bishop of Salisbury, where he built the cathedral at Old Sarum. His foundation was celebrated for the learning of its Canons and for the liturgy at the services, known as Sarum Use which, within one hundred years, was chanted throughout the country.

Osmund was also a member of the Council which accepted the findings of the Domesday Book in 1086.

He was declared to be a saint in 1457, the last Englishman until John Fisher and Thomas More were canonised in 1935.



St Osmund, Bishop of Salisbury

Westfield Notices

Home groups Wednesdays every week 7:30pm @ Cathy and Howard's Cockmartins Farm or Dawn and Jess @ Apple Tree Down.

Prayer Group 1st, 3rd (and 5th when there is one) Tuesdays 7:30pm @ Cathy and Howard's Cockmartins Farm.

Parents, Toddlers and Babies every Wednesday in church 1.30-3pm in term-time

Youth Church Zoom 1st and 3rd Saturdays 4pm.

Email kathyandericdarvill@gmail.com for an invitation.

B4 Lunch

Robin Hood pub
Wednesday 12th Jan
All orders plus deposit to
Eric by Friday
10th December please.

FSW Collection in Church
**Christmas collection will be
next Sunday 12th December**

More details on page 8

Guestling Notices

Guestling Prayer Diaries will soon be available in Church

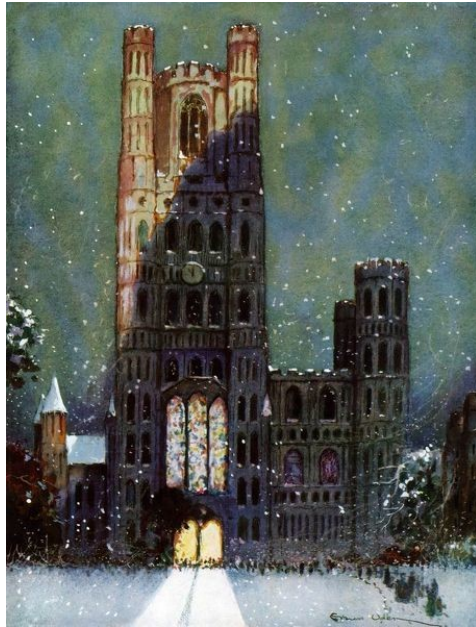
Prayer group meets at the **Chapel of Christ's Stillness** on Wednesday 8th December at 10.30 - 11.30 followed by tea/coffee and biscuits and chat if people wish.

Also **Carols and Lessons** which will be in the Chapel on **Saturday 11th December at 2.30 pm.** - **Carols** followed by Christmas cake and coffee/tea.

The Chapel is located in the Quiet Garden at Moon Cottage, Old Humphrey Farm, Friars Hill, Guestling TN35 4HJ . If you need directions pl01424 813068 ease ask Juliette on 01424 813068 .

Elizabeth Goudge is one of my favourite authors. I hope you enjoy this seasonal extract from *The Dean's Watch*.

" He slept deeply that night. a thing he had not done for months past, then woke at his usual early hour, dressed and made his meditation. Then he left the house for the first service of Christmas Day. As he closed the garden door behind him he stood in amazement, for he had stepped not into the expected darkness but into light. It was neither of the



sun nor the moon but of the snow. The sky was a cold clear green behind the dark mass of the Cathedral, the wind had dropped and the stillness was absolute. The snow was not deep but it covered the garden with light. He moved forward a few steps and looked about him. The roof of the Cathedral, every parapet and ledge, the roofs of the houses and the boughs of the trees all bore their glory of snow. He walked through the garden in awe and joy, thinking of the myriad snowflakes under his feet, each one a cluster of beautiful shapes of stars and flowers and leaves, all too small to be seen by any eye except that of their Creator, yet each giving light. That was why he always wanted a white Christmas."

(The Dean's Watch p321-322)

This week, the RSPB published the latest Birds of Conservation Concern report, alongside our partners, and it's safe to say that it makes for worrying reading.



Eleven new species have been added to the 'Red List' of birds that are most at risk, including greenfinches, swifts and house martins. They join puffins, skylarks and 57 other birds that are now in desperate need of help.

It's easy to feel disheartened when faced with such bad news, but what the report also shows is that we can turn the fortunes of struggling species around. For example, white-tailed eagles have moved from the Red List to the Amber List thanks to conservation efforts made possible by supporters like you.

We know that together we can make a real difference and thanks to your support we're working hard to protect struggling species such as puffins and swifts.

We also know that many of you will be keen to take action yourselves. One way you can help is by putting up a swift nest box, ready for when these migrant birds return in spring. With nesting sites in short supply, providing a much-needed home could make a big difference.



There are lots of other ways you can help wildlife this winter too, from planting trees to gathering leaves.