

GUESTLING NEWS: Sarah is doing the Moonlight Walk this weekend in aid of St Michael's Hospice. Please speak to her directly if you would like to sponsor her.
Please remember to ensure the tap in the porch has been securely turned off to avoid flooding. Thank you.
Dave Brown's funeral will be on Thursday 23rd September at Hastings Crematorium at 3.15pm. There will probably be a lot of people there but Laurie says she would be very touched to see some friends from Church.



Just some of the lovely flowers for Dan's funeral

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

THE BENEFICE OF WESTFIELD AND GUESTLING

A letter from Rev Joy 19th September 16th after Trinity

It's been a busy week with the start of a new term feeling. Monday saw Nik and I visiting Whitegates Care Home. They have managed to stay COVID free throughout and are understandably cautious. Nik and I had to do lateral flow tests before we were allowed to access the decking at the rear outside the residents' sitting-room. Nik examined the portable sound system they brought during the lockdown and Hannah and I looked at the logistics of offering an outdoor Harvest service next week. It may just be me outside with the residents sitting indoors looking out through the French windows. We'll see how it goes!

Tuesday was my first assembly at Guestling Bradshaw School and it was good to be back. The Hall is big and I just had Years 1 and 2 with me. The theme this term is 'courage' and I shared with them how Mrs Andrews, their headteacher, had helped me overcome my fears when I told her I was quite nervous after all this time away from school. We sang He's got the whole world in His hands and I did my best to remember the actions which gave some of Year 2 the giggles. Wednesday was Dan's funeral with a full church and a real atmosphere of love surrounding and upholding Jo and Claire. Many mourners wore blue which was Dan's favourite colour. On his way into church someone proudly showed me his blue tartan braces! The WI then did everyone proud with the tea in the Hall afterwards.

I am writing this on Thursday afternoon. Clem has just returned from a long East Hill walk with the dogs and all three of them are hot and tired and thirsty. It's Clem's birth-

day tomorrow so I'm trying to get ahead—Sunday's service next. I'm so glad Jim is preaching this week!

Term starts next week for our Parents and Toddlers. The session will be in church from 1.30pm-3pm on Wednesday and Dawn and I will take turns week by week, but we could really do with some extra help. Please have a think if you could offer some time to meet new Mums and their babies and welcome toddlers to church. Thank you in advance!

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

Westfield Church Services

Sunday 19th September Trinity 16

FSW DONATIONS TO CHURCH PLEASE

8.30am BCP Communion

10am Holy Communion

Monday 20th September

7.15pm **PCC in Church Hall**

Wednesday 22nd September

9.30 Holy Communion

Sunday 26th September HARVEST

8.30am BCP Communion

10am Morning Praise

Guestling Church Services (see back page for news)

Sunday 19th September *Trinity 16 on line service only*

Thursday 23rd September NO Choir Practice

Sunday 26th September Trinity 17

11am Holy Communion

Sunday 3rd October *Trinity 18 on line service only*

Thursday 7th October Choir Practice

Sunday 10th October HARVEST (more details soon)

11am Holy Communion

A Prayer for Climate Change

We know that whatever emotions we might be feeling about the climate crisis, we have a God who hears us and who we can talk to about anything. Here's a prayer you could use from Eco-Church Connect, an A Rocha project.

A short chat with God about climate change.

Heavenly Father, we're anxious about Climate Breakdown. It's already causing wildfires, crop failures, killer heatwaves and floods.

We're angry: it's so unfair, hitting the poorest hardest, Adding to human conflict and compounding nature's struggles.

From youngsters to grandparents, we need some hope:
To see governments stopping the bad stuff and driving the good,
A fair transition to a low carbon economy, a nature-friendly way,
Acting boldly on the science; no more denial or delay!

And this year, Heavenly Father, the climate summit will be in the UK too

It's exciting and daunting: what should *your* people do?

We will praise you for your creation; commit our churches to act;

Work together across neighbourhoods and nations;

And call all leaders to be bold, just, honest with the facts;
So, help us, Heavenly Father, to worship, act and speak up.

Yes, we will worship, act and speak up.

The millionaire rewilding the countryside, one farm at a time: Julia Davies had one only goal in mind when she sold her share of the outdoor equipment company Osprey Europe a few years ago. The entrepreneur decided she was going to spend her millions turning back the clock – by returning swathes of the British farmland to wilderness. Nature is in crisis in the UK, she argues, and its threatened wildlife needs all the protection it can get.

A few months ago, the first steps towards her rewilding dreams were taken with the purchase of 170 hectares of fields and meadows that surround Court Farm, near Bere Regis, Dorset. The land cost almost £4m but thanks to the prospect of a bridging loan from Davies, Dorset Wildlife Trust has been able to acquire ownership and has begun creating a nature park there.

Pastures where Friesian cattle once grazed and fields of wheat, maize and barley – which fed the Court Farm herd – will now be returned to nature. New woodland will spread over the pastures, wildlife and plants from hedgerows will colonise fields while a network of deep ditches which have drained the farm for decades will be filled in and blocked. Wetlands will return to the landscape – along with populations of frogs and newts. Other new residents will also be enticed to make homes at Court Farm. These could include yellowhammers; silver-washed fritillaries and sand lizards. “Wildlife in this country has been pushed to the margins for too long,” said Davies. “We have been farming far too intensively and badly need to give wild animals and plants a chance to reclaim the countryside.”

Thank you to the Guardian for this.

Trinity 16 Sunday 19th September 2021

Collect

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers
of your people who call upon you;
and grant that they may both perceive and know
what things they ought to do,
and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
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

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37

BCP Readings: for Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Ephesians 3:13-end Luke 7:11-17

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Current COVID Guidelines in Church

We have a PCC on Monday 20th when we will be reviewing the COVID guidelines in Westfield including keeping the church open as it used to be. Please continue to be mindful of other people who may be more nervous or vulnerable than you are.

**PLEASE THINK ABOUT COMING ON THE COFFEE ROTA SO THAT
NO-ONE HAS TO DO IT EVERY WEEK**

Dr Elizabeth Johnson writes:

Biblical writers elaborated the good news using concepts of liberation, reconciliation, justification, victory over the powers, living in peace, fullness of life, being freed from slavery, adoption, and new birth as God’s children to name but a few. These long-untapped resources . . . open doors to understanding more varied dimensions of what is meant by the mystery of redemption.

One result has been renewed awareness of New Testament texts about cosmic redemption that previously just flew by. These texts that extend the promise of a future to all of creation are few in number, but they are strong. . . . The great hymn in Colossians which draws on the Wisdom tradition and the history of Jesus in equal measure, is suffused with this insight:

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominations or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. . . . For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (Colossians 1:15–20)

This passage from Colossians has also been central to my understanding of and teachings on the Universal Christ in recent years. Johnson continues:

The drumbeat of “all things” repeated five times in this short text, coupled with reference to “all creation,” “everything,” and the encompassing “things visible and invisible,” drives home the blessing that flows to the whole world from the cross. . . .

The visionary writer of the book of Revelation hears “every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them” singing praises to the Lamb (Revelation 5:13), and perceives a climactic event of transformation where the One who sits on the throne says, “See, I am making all things new” (21:5). . . . The New Testament includes a hope-filled vision of the whole universe pervaded with divine promise.

Would God bring all of creation to heavenly glory, while leaving out most of humanity, who are made in God’s own “image and likeness”? I can’t imagine that this would be so!

Elizabeth A. Johnson, *Ask the Beasts: Darwin and the God of Love* (Bloomsbury Continuum: 2014). 223–224.

