



**“NEWS from the PEWS”**  
**The Parish of POSTLING**  
Part of the Elham Valley Group of Churches

**November  
- December  
2020**

*The Bi-monthly Newsletter of St. Mary & St. Radigund's Church, Postling*

Priest in Charge: **Rev Jane Weeks**, The Vicarage, Vicarage Lane, Elham 840219  
Hon. Curate: **Rev. Stephen Dougal** Bereforstal Farm Bungalow, Elham 840750  
Churchwardens: **Peter Le Feuvre** 863780 and **Chris Reynolds** 862436  
Treasurer: **John Ayris** 07770-667214 PCC Secretary **Pat Elphick** 863536  
Safeguarding Officers: **Helen Calderbank and Sarah Montgomery** 863780

*If you have an item about an event in the villages that you would like included in the newsletter, please contact Peter Le Feuvre, Normandy, The Street, Postling. Tel. 863780 or [plefandsem@doctors.org.uk](mailto:plefandsem@doctors.org.uk)*

**Christmas in Postling**

*We are hoping to do all that we can to celebrate Christmas in the usual Postling way, despite the restrictions due to the Coronavirus. All services and activities will be COVID- secure and will comply with the guidance and law in place at the time.*

*Sadly, there will be no refreshments and any event may have to be cancelled at short notice.*

*For any service in the church, the law requires that everyone should wear a face covering.*

**Wednesday 15th December 6pm.** Advent Meditation by candlelight in the Church

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 6pm** Carol singing around the village, meeting at the village hall

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 7.30pm.** Advent Service of carols and readings with the Shepway Singers

Numbers for this service will be strictly limited, with a maximum of about 20 people, all socially distanced.

Please book your seats in advance- let Peter Le Feuvre know if you would like to come.

Preference will be given to Postling residents

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 6pm** Advent meditation by candlelight in the Church

**Thursday 24th December 11.30am** Christmas Eve Outdoor Crib Service in the Churchyard

**Friday 25th December 9.30 am** Christmas Day Morning Service in the Church

**One hundred and forty two kilograms!** That was the weight of the food and other items donated by the village to the Folkestone Foodbank from the harvest appeal. Thank you!

Huge thanks to **Jim Nicholls** who has been painting the inside of the church porch over the last few weeks.

**And thanks too to everyone who has joined the rota to keep the church open during daylight hours throughout the winter months**

Mini Happy Hours continue on the fourth Friday of every month in a socially distanced way, compliant with the law. If you fancy an end-of-the-week drink with your friends and neighbours, do let Pam Webster know.

**Postling Desert Island Discs by Zoom has kicked off its autumn series: 7.30 pm every Thursday evening. If you would like to receive a link, please do let us know**



## **Become a Cut Above the Rest**

**Twenty people from the village had a tour of Pent Farm over two weekends to see what is being done on the farm to enhance habitats and the local environment.**

### **Debbie Reynolds writes:**

Autumn is a critical season for wildlife. Birds, small mammals and amphibians rely on the rural larder of fruits, nuts and insects to increase their body fat prior to the ensuing cold hunger gap.

Hedgerow cutting in autumn removes an entire food supply, extending the hunger gap from October through until March. Bare hedgerows eliminate small insects, spiders and larvae, with additional removal of autumn foliage that offers protection and shelter through early winter. The alternative is hedge cutting from December to February. Hedges cut during this time retain protection, shelter and an essential food supply deep into the winter season. A hedge with benefits: Hedgerows provide shelter for livestock, break up the ferocity of wind across crops and aid in the reduction of flooding and soil run-off through soil stabilisation and deep rooting. Autumn foliage and fruiting also delivers a vivid palette in the garden and field boundary. There is little not to like about a healthy, well connected, full hedge.

We can identify opportunities in our own gardens and farms to allow hedgerows to grow. Many species such as hawthorn do not fruit until their second year of growth. Endangered species such as Turtle Dove, have suffered a 93% decline since the 1970's. This beautiful summer visitor relies on mature hedgerows with a species-rich grassland close by to provide insects for their chicks. Just one Turtle Dove was recorded in Monks Horton in 2020. The tree sparrow is now locally extinct due to habitat loss.

Winter is a time for planting too. We can look for opportunities to fill in hedgerow gaps to extend hunting strips for bats. Native hedgerows should be bursting with thorn, hazel, dogwood and field maple providing a glut of food and shelter. In contrast, hedges such as laurel provide little food.