



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

**September
- October
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*

Postling Action for Conservation and the Environment

Larks singing over the downs, swallows swooping around the Court, sparrows chattering noisily in the hedgerows, butterflies feasting on the buddleia, bats hawking twilight insects on a summer's evening; thankfully these are still common sights and sounds in Postling. So many people in the village have talked about how the weeks of lockdown heightened their awareness of the unfolding spring and summer and made them more grateful than ever for the privilege of living in such beautiful surroundings.

But these common sights and sounds are disappearing fast and may not be with us for much longer unless we take action to protect and enhance the environment. For the first time in the 15 years we have lived here, no swallows or house martins nested in the Court garages this summer. How can there be summer without swallows? While it has been good to see so many local people and visitors enjoying Postling downs, this has inevitably increased pressure on this rare chalk downland habitat. The downs are no longer so rich in rare plant species; alongside this impoverishment, insects, butterflies and birds are also being lost. The RSPB states that in the UK, the population of skylarks halved during the 1990s, and is still declining. Debbie Reynolds, at Pent Farm, has watched the main skylark nesting bank on Pent Downs fall silent of ascending trills this year as high numbers of walkers, dogs and cyclists chose it as a major walking route and picnic site. Meadow pipits, another once common ground nesting bird, have all but disappeared from this busy corner of the North Downs, surviving only in small numbers in the field margins.

It's not too late to preserve the special natural beauty and diversity that Postling can support, and it is even possible to enhance it if enough of us are willing to take some quite small and simple measures, and if we are ready to encourage and support landowners to make some more significant changes. New hedgerows and tree planting could benefit all of us by reducing the risk of local flooding, and by increasing shade for animals and humans alike. Allowing more vegetation to develop along the banks of ditches and streams could provide habitat corridors for amphibians and small mammals. Constructing a small log pile in a corner of each garden would help pollinating insects overwinter and build up a ready supply of beneficial predatory insects!

On **Sunday September 20th** **Debbie and Tom Reynolds** have invited us to take a guided autumn walk around Pent Farm to learn more about what we have in Postling, and what we stand to lose. They will explain how the farm is being managed in a way that balances the need to run a business with their desire to enhance the environment. Tea and cakes will be provided afterwards. We hope this will inspire all of us in the village to be a part of PACE: Postling Action for Conservation and the Environment.

Pent Farm Sunday 20th September 3pm for a 1-2 mile walk Solid shoes or boots advised



Services by Zoom in September and October

Sunday 6th September

9.30am Family Communion

Rev Stephen Dougal

Sunday 13th September

9.30am Morning Service

Peter and Sarah

Sunday 20th September

9.30am Morning Service

Peter and Sarah

Sunday 27th September

9.30am Morning Service

Peter and Sarah

Sunday 4th October

9.30am Family Communion

Sunday 11th October

9.30am Morning Service

Peter and Sarah

Sunday 18th October

9.30am Morning Service

Sunday 25th October

9.30am Morning Service

Peter and Sarah

Every Thursday evening at 6pm, there is a live, informal, socially distanced service in Postling Church. Come if you can for a short time of quiet, with readings and prayers

We will be celebrating Harvest- somehow- on Sunday 11th October. Details to follow!

Postling Church Flower and Cleaning Rota

September 5th and 12th

Anne Spratling and Pat Elphick

September 19th and 26th

Sue Hill and Maria Sudworth

October 3rd and 10th

Jenny Haydock and Denise Burgess

October 17th and 24th

Jenny Mannion and Jane Seymour

October 31st November 7th

Gill Dixon

Happy Hour:

Mini Happy Hours will continue in a socially distanced way in different gardens. They will continue for as long as the weather allows and will pop-up every Friday at 6pm. Please let us know if you would like to host one or join one and we will pass your details on to Pam Webster who has kindly organised this.

Peter and Sally Russell write : "While people have really been helpful throughout Postling village; we would like to sincerely thank Annette Battersby, Gill Dixon and Pat Elphick for all their kindness and help during the coronavirus lockdown. We much appreciate all that these very busy people have done for us."

Thank you to the fantastic team who turned up on two very hot evenings to rake up all the grass from the churchyard. Huge thanks to Chris Reynolds who mowed it all in the first place and took it all away.

