



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

**November
- December
2021**

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 **Sarah Nicholls**
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

Christmas in Postling

“Let every heart prepare Him room”

This year, we are hoping to do all that we can to celebrate Christmas in the usual Postling way, despite any restrictions due to the Coronavirus. All services and activities will be COVID- secure as far as is possible. We may need to adjust or cancel them at short notice

Friday 10th December 6pm. Christmas Happy Hour

Sunday 19th December 5pm. Advent Meditation by candlelight in the Church

Monday 20th December 7.30pm. Advent Service of carols and readings with the Shepway Singers

Tuesday 21st December 6pm Carol singing around the village, meeting at the village hall

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

There will be a special Coffee Morning and Craft Fair in the Church on Saturday 13th November, from 10am-12 noon.

Thank you to everyone who has joined the rota to keep the church open during daylight hours throughout the winter months

Happy Hour will continue through the winter unless it becomes very cold. The next Happy Hours are Friday 26th November and Friday 10th December. All profits go to the Folkestone Rainbow Centre that runs the Folkestone winter night shelter. If you would like to contribute to the December Christmas Happy Hour on the 10th, please do let us know.

Services in November and December

All services are in the Church unless otherwise stated

Sunday 7th November

9.30am Family Communion

Rev Stephen Dougal

Sunday 14th November *No service in Postling*

10.50am at the War Memorial in Stanford,

Sunday 21st November

By Zoom

9.30am Morning Service

Peter and Sarah

Sunday 28th November

6pm. Sing Something Special and the Bible's Best Bits

Sunday 5th December

9.30am Morning Service

Peter and Sarah

Sunday 12th December

8.30am Breakfast Service

Sunday 19th December

5.00pm Advent meditation

Monday 20th December

7.30pm Advent service of carols and readings with the Shepway Singers

Thursday 24th December

11.30am Crib Service

In Postling Churchyard

Friday 25th December

9.30am Morning Service for Christmas Day

Peter and Sarah

Sunday 26th December *No service in Postling*

Postling Church Flower and Cleaning Rota

October 30th and November 6th

Jane Seymour and Jenny Mannion

November 13th and 20th

Denise Sigwart and Natalia Woods

November 27th

Advent- no flowers, cleaning only

Christmas Flowers 18th at 10am. Everyone welcome!

December 26th

Christine Hobbs

Thanks to everyone who donated food for harvest to the Folkestone Foodbank; more than 70 kilograms of food were taken to the foodbank warehouse.

Postling Action for Conservation and the Environment

Autumn News. November 2021

Debbie Reynolds writes:

Autumn is alive. The dramatic skyscape of autumn fills mornings and evenings with tangible beams of firelight. The sun's position in the sky, as we head into winter, delivers blinding moments and draws out a kaleidoscope of colours in the fields, hedgerows and gardens. These moments mark the end of our summer and the ensuing autumn and winter.

The arable farming calendar draws to a close as the harvest is collected and fields rendered bare of the tall wheat stalks of summer. With barely a breath, the farm work continues and autumn sown crops take their place in the ground.

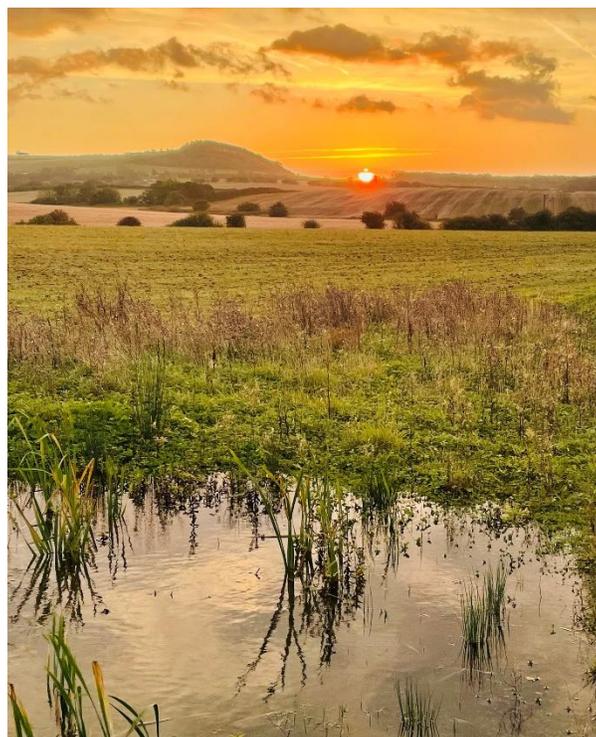
The cows continue to graze lazily, over the downs. Their calves have grown well on the herb rich sward and as their confidence grows, they graze further from their mother's sides. Their coats are becoming visibly thicker as the cooler autumn evenings beckon the arrival of frosts.

This slowed pace of autumn, resulting from full barns of harvest and the satisfaction of next year's food provisions being in the ground, belies the natural world and its frantic need to pursue their quarry and fatten for the long cold empty larder of winter.

It is on this point that we must all take note. The satisfaction of next year's successful harvest sits squarely on the survival of the natural world and all the job roles it fulfils.

It is often spoken, that the agricultural revolution and advancement of mechanisation is the driving force behind the ecological collapse of plant and animal species the world over. Sadly true, these 'revolutions' and 'advancements' are directly degenerating the natural world. It is important to acknowledge that agricultural revolutions have been occurring since the Neolithic era. Mankind's evolution, from hunter gatherers, to settlers with agriculturally based societies, can be regarded as causing the first major changes to the natural world. A second revolution, through mechanization in the early C20 led to exponential population growth. Whilst a third agricultural revolution in the late C20 was triggered by the hybridisation of crops with increased vigour and the discovery and use of insecticides, fungicides and herbicides. The third revolution can surely claim the natural world as a victim of its prosperity.

Doom and gloom will not rectify anything. Solutions and the confidence for us all to identify the role we personally play in the world's recovery, is integral to our success. The Bishnoi community in Rajasthan mark this point clearly through their religion that practices protection of biodiversity and exemplary animal husbandry. In 1737, 363 Bishnois from Khejerli held onto trees and sacrificed their lives when King of Jodhpur started felling Khejri trees in Khejerli village. Now acknowledged through history as the original 'tree huggers' they are testament to activism and the power of people. A temple and monument now stands at the site in memory of the Bishnoi people that 'hugged trees'. Their story underlines a global necessity today, to protect the trees, soils and landscapes that provide the fabric for all our lives. With the Bishnoi in mind, can we not consider and support the modern day sacrifice campaigners are making in the face of ancient woodland removal the country over?



Moving forward to the fourth agricultural revolution... At our fingertips, just within grasp is the movement into precision farming, robotic farming and the identified need to re-connect with the natural world in our gardens, parklands and farmlands. The movement away from and minimised use of fungicides, insecticides and herbicides. The re-learning of soil as a living media and the protection and encouragement of predatory insects.

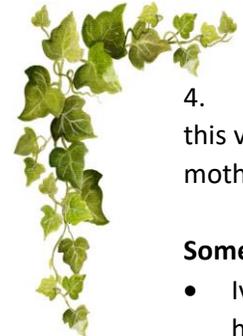
It is time to welcome and be consumed by the richness a wild landscape can bring. Field corners and margins in gardens and fields, undisturbed by footfall and prying dog paws soon fill with small mammals, ant hills and ground beetles. Hedgerows, left to grow and extend their limbs through winter, provide sanctuary, food and hibernation for a plethora of biodiversity. An estimated 50% of hedgerows have been lost since WWII. It is considered that hedgerow loss continues to this day through mismanagement, over management and replacement with non-native species such as laurel, that provide little, if any, value to birds or insects.



How can we add value back into our landscape?

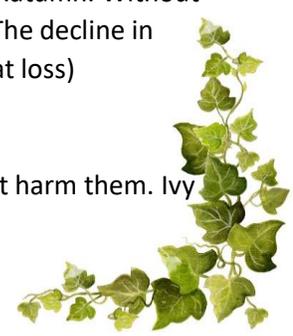
1. Invite predatory insects into our lives... Leaving some fruit on the trees or on the ground provides essential sugar for flying insects such as wasps. Wasps are a fantastic predator with their larvae consuming up to 80 aphids in its life cycle. The adults are important pollinators too.
2. Long stalks with hollow stems provide a cavity for insect eggs, including solitary bees and earwigs. These insects are a gardener's friends. Pollinating and aphid eating are easy tasks for these hard workers. Leave them some habitat and they will repay you tenfold. Catmint, red campion and any plant stalk with a pithy centre.
3. Leaf litter renamed as, *Leaf me on the ground, thank you very mulch!* Leaf litter builds up soil organic matter and soil nutrients. Consumed by worms and recycled as nutrients, leaf mulch is a valuable and free soil dressing, offering weed suppression, plant insulation and insect protection.





4. Leave the ivy hanging! Ivy provides 80% of the required food source for moth species in Autumn. Without this vital nectar source, moths, an essential part of the bats food chain, will continue to decline. The decline in moths can be directly correlated to bat decline and the starvation of roosts. (In addition to habitat loss)

Some ivy facts

- Ivy, Latin name *Hedera helix*, is a native plant. This luscious plant climbs on trees but does not harm them. Ivy has its own root system and uptakes nutrients from the soil.
 - Ivy on a tree does not indicate a tree is in poor health or a tree safety issue.
 - Ivy supports 50 British species of animal!
 - Ivy provides highly valued winter protection for butterflies, moths and insect pupae/eggs.
 - Only mature plants provide flowers. Over cutting and removal will stop flowering.
 - Ivy flowers November to January, providing critical nectar and berries to insects and birds such as thrush and blackbirds.
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5. **#forpeatssake** Autumn, for many, is a busy time in the garden. Planting, moving, expanding, designing. The majority of plants in garden centres are still potted in peat compost. The time has been and past that people should have shouted loudly enough that peat should not be excavated from our precious lands. A huge sequester of carbon, this ancient soil is three times more efficient in storing carbon than a forest. This rare ecosystem is being destroyed for our potting needs and #forpeatssake is raising a voice for us all to get behind. For more information on compost, its value and how you can find fantastic alternatives can be found at <https://www.forpeatssake.org.uk/> . Be Peat Free and Proud!

With COP26 happening now, we need to redress the balance with nature, take up arms with the beetles and pledge to protect hedgerows and wetlands. We can all be activists and join the Bishnoi in their institution to live successfully and in prosperity, with wealth being measured by our success to live on and share a healthy, biodiverse and clean planet. Activism takes many forms, from feeding the birds locally, to supporting campaigners, raising the profile of the need to change and address climate change.