



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

**May
- June
2021**

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

Rector: **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, or if you are not receiving News from the Pews regularly, and would like to do so, please contact

Peter Le Feuvre, Normandy, The Street, Postling. Tel. 863780 or plefandsem@doctors.org.uk

Postling Church is OPEN (almost) every day and you are always welcome to visit.
You will find a calm place for peaceful reflection

Postling is Opening Up!! (subject to the law)

Open Gardens. Churchfield and West Court Lodge will be open under the National Gardens Scheme on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th June, from 12 noon to 5pm.

Teas and refreshments at Vicarage Farm, with profits for the Church. It would be wonderful if you could volunteer to help:

- ✓ **Bake a cake or two**
- ✓ **Set up, serve teas and clear up for either or both of the two days.**

If you can help, please contact Annette Battersby at annette.battersby6260@hotmail.com or 07921-139879

Village Open Gardens. Sunday 1st August. Here is a chance for you to open your gardens for the afternoon. The more, the merrier - they don't have to be free of weeds. Please let Annette know if you would like your garden to be added to the list.

Happy Hour is back at last! To kick off, the first Happy Hour will be on Sunday evening 27th June from 6pm either in the church or in the churchyard, depending on the weather; the ideal opportunity to have a glass or two with your friends and neighbours.

And so are the Craft Mornings in the Village Hall. They will begin again on Saturday 3rd July, from 10am-4pm. Just bring your craft and come along. More details to follow.

There WILL be a Postling Progressive Supper on Saturday August 7th. Don't miss this highlight of the village year. Details and invitations to follow.

We are hoping to be able to hold a Celebration Summer Concert in the church.

And don't forget the annual Orchid walk on the Downs... and maybe a Flower and Butterfly Walk too.

Services in May and June

Sunday 2nd May

9.30am Holy Communion	By Zoom	Rev Stephen Dougal
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Sunday 9th May

9.30am. Morning Service	By Zoom	Peter and Sarah
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Saturday 15th May

5pm Informal Evening Service for the NOVENA* in Postling Church		Peter and Sarah
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Sunday 16th May

9.30am Morning Service	By Zoom	Peter and Sarah
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Sunday 23rd May *Pentecost*

No service in Postling

9.30am Celebration Holy Communion on the green outside **Stanford** Church

Sunday 30th May

No service in Postling

9.30am Holy Communion outside the church at **Acrise**

Sunday 6th June

9.30am Holy Communion	By Zoom	Rev Jane Weeks
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Sunday 13th June

9.30am Morning Service	By Zoom	Peter and Sarah
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Sunday 20th June

9.30am Morning Service	By Zoom	Peter and Sarah
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Sunday 27th June

9.30am Morning Service	By Zoom	Peter and Sarah
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* The Novena is the nine days from Ascension Day to Pentecost. On each day there will be a service in one of the churches in the Benefice, and our service will be on Saturday 15th May. Do come if you can- it will be our first service in the Church since last October. The details of all the other services can be found at <https://elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk/>

Postling Church Flower and Cleaning Rota

May 1 st and 8 th	Elisa Croucher and Pam Webster
May 15 th and 22 nd	Malliet Pattrick and Sarah Nicholls
May 29 th and June 5 th	Jane Seymour and Jenny Haydock
June 12 th and 19 th	Denise Sigwart and Natalia Woods
June 26 th and July 3 rd	Christine Hobbs

Postling Coffee Mornings

With Pat Elphick and Marieke Van Eldik leaving the village, there is a hole left in our village life with no-one organising the monthly coffee mornings in the church. Would you be willing to join a rota to help to keep them going? Please let us know if you are able to help. Thank you!

Migrants, Mud and No Mow May

Postling Action for Conservation and the Environment Spring Article May/June 2021

Debbie Reynolds

It has been a daily joy to share Pent Farm with a 100 plus strong flock of fieldfares hoovering up insects to strengthen themselves before their final flight to breeding grounds in Northern Europe & Russia. Their passing heralds the arrival of summer migrants. Swallows & house martins once again swoop & dive for their sustenance, & our apparent delight. Cuckoo & turtle dove are also returning to our shores although their numbers are diminishing year on year with a combined crush of hunting across Europe & endless tidying & eradication of once common wildflowers that should host their chicks' insect larders.

Since reading an article by a young student, Dakota Reid, in the recent RSPB Nature's Voice, I have been haunted by her fear for her future. She sees herself living through the challenge of ecological collapse & climate disruption left by a generation & government she identifies as failing to appreciate the seriousness of this issue. Can we, hand on heart, tell Dakota, that we understood & changed? That we embraced the structure of nature as opposed to curtailing it for an alternative vanity? Or that we positively sought opportunities to link nature and give it a safe passage rather than truncating & constraining its effort?

We are part of this natural world, our organic form no more & no less complicated than the intricacies of branching oak or pupating butterfly. The difference is that we have a choice. We can bring our local environment alive. Young voices, such as Dakota's, can trust us to be a generation that does care about her future.

Things to do in May/June

1. Leave a shallow tray of water amongst the flowers for bees and other insects. Long dry spring and summer months dehydrate and kill thirsty pollinators. Bees can drink up to their own body weight each day and some nursing bees need water to make a jelly to feed their larva. Leave pebbles standing proud in the water for the bees to land on and avoid drowning.
2. Create an area of soft mud. Consider an upturned dustbin lid or tray. With April 'achieving' one of the driest months on record recently, swallows and house martins are struggling to find and make mud pellets for building and fixing existing nests. Blackbirds and thrushes also use mud in their nest constructions. Providing this valuable resource could support numbers of these birds returning to Postling.
3. No Mow May. Plantlife UK, a national organisation, states that incredibly simple changes in mowing can result in enough nectar for ten times more bees and other pollinators. Plantlife survey results from previous years found that the highest production of flowers and nectar sugar was on lawns cut once every four weeks. This gives 'short-grass' plants like daisies and white clover a chance to flower in profusion, boosting nectar production tenfold. To sign up for No Mow May visit <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/our-work>



Give pollinators a helping hand and create an uncut border or sunny patch in your garden. Try to connect unmown areas to allow movement of ground dwelling pollinators including numerous bugs and beetles.

Pent Farm Barn Owl Update

The barn owls are busy transporting feasts back to their lodgings. The picture below features a proud parent holding an unsuspecting field vole.

The provision of long tussocky grass and undisturbed margins is critical for the successful breeding of small mammals. Barn owls will feed each chick up to 7 small mammals a night.



