

## FARM AFRICA

A big thank you to everyone at Guestling who joined in our Harvest Sale after our service on 4th October, whether bringing or buying! Neil was able to send over £150 to Farm Africa which is a great result!



## IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM FSW

Someone from FSW's head office is coming through Westfield on Wednesday, 28th October and is happy to collect any food donations we may have stockpiled at home. Please bring them to church before then.



Thank you

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## THE BENEFICE OF WESTFIELD AND GUESTLING

A letter from Rev Joy 18 October 2020

I had a surprise this week in an email from a cousin on my father's side of the family. He was marking the anniversary of his mother Marjorie's marriage to Stanley Smith on 14th October, Battle of Hastings Day, in 1939. Marjorie was my father Tom's older sister and she was marrying in to a Quaker family. Her brother Fred was in a sanatorium with TB and my father Tom had just been conscripted into the army at 18 so neither of her siblings were at her wedding. She and Stan had a brief honeymoon and then spent the war at Spicelands Quaker Training Centre in Devon where over 400 conscien-



tious objectors learnt farming and agriculture, driving ambulances and working as hospital orderlies. Stan wrote a book about that time called Cups without Saucers. The photograph my cousin sent is not of Stan and Marjorie but of Marjorie's parents, my paternal grand-parents, Percy and Ellen Britton. Percy died from a chest infection in the Great Smog of London in the winter of 1952. I

was born the following April so we never got to know each other. My Mother was very sad as she said he was as gracious as he was handsome and he was much loved and missed. My Grandma carried on living in Muswell Hill until 1961. She always visited us in the summer holidays for a few days and her favourite thing to do was to be driven to the West Hill so

she could admire the view from the car. I hadn't thought of that connection with where we now live until this week. I seem to have done so many funerals and burials of ashes this year that I find I'm carrying quite a ragbag of snippets of the stories of all those lives with me. I hope you don't mind me sharing this snippet of my family history with you today. There's so much that I wish I knew or could have asked when they were alive. Getting old is harder than expected!

Here is a photograph of one of our treasures with its Hastings Pottery mark that I wrote about last week. I guess you'd describe it as a bud vase. If a sudden frost



comes we may use it for one of the late rosebuds we're enjoying in the garden just now. This comes with my love and prayers for you all, Joy



**Westfield Church Services**

Sunday	<b>18th October</b>	<b>10am</b>	Holy Communion and APCM
Wednesday	<b>21st October</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	Holy Communion
		<b>10-11.30</b>	Private Prayer
Sunday	<b>25th October</b>	<b>10am</b>	Morning Praise
Wednesday	<b>28th October</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	BCP Holy Communion
		<b>10-11.30</b>	Private Prayer

**Guestling Church Services**

Sunday	<b>25th October</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
Sunday	<b>8th November</b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Act of Remembrance with Holy Communion</b>

lies as long as we abide by the "Rule of six" So we were truly **thankful to God** for what he has been and will continue to do amongst all his people.

So, I have some reflections on Thankfulness for you.

"In ordinary life we hardly realise that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich." **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

**It opens our eyes to see ... that life is a gift, and God gives us good gifts.**

It is the first step to come into God's presence and is the heart of worship – **Psalm 100.**

**It helps us connect with the giver, including God and other people**

It is a spiritual discipline.

**It stops us taking people and things for granted or act differently in our age of entitlement.**

It gives us a new perspective on life.

**It is an antidote to anxiety and bitterness.**

It opens the door to surprise, wonder and joy.

Do any of these resonate with you?

But to close I would very much like to leave you with a Thankfulness challenge!

Take **Psalm 136** as a model and write in your own words a psalm of thanksgiving and praise, but by drawing on your own life experience and using the constant refrain **"for his steadfast love endures forever"**. When you finish, share your psalm with God. **From your friend and Lay Minister, Ken.**

*PS Piglet noticed that even though he had a very small heart, it could hold a rather large amount of thankfulness and gratitude.*

*Adapted from A.A Milne*

### Thoughts from Austen Way.

My dear friends,

When I visited the Crowhurst Healing Centre last year and during my time of receiving prayer ministry. I was given by the Lord a verse from scripture, the verse was Isaiah 43:19, *'See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland'.*

After I received this verse which was very appropriate for me at that time, I was so thankful which started me thinking recently about thankfulness. Then I was in my study reading the bible and I have always liked Doctor Luke's gospel from Chapter 17:11 -19. I read about the ten lepers who were cleansed and healed by Jesus, but the one who came back to thank him was told *'your faith has saved you!'* Something deep and life-transforming was happening in his heart as he expressed his gratitude to God. As we know he would never be the same again.

You see thankfulness is a powerful and truly transformative act! All this started me thinking what we have got to be thankful for even in this time of pandemic.

The outbreak of Covid-19 earlier this year has been extremely difficult for so many people especially for those who have had to shield, not seeing our relations and all the people who we normally come into contact. Yet sometimes it is in the hard times that God can do much deeper, and even start new things in our lives.

But even in these dark times we can still be thankful, we can be thankful that our churches are allowed to open. Beryl and I were extremely thankful that we can now go to church like we did last Sunday. It was really good to see all our friends at Guestling. We can be thankful that we can still see our fami-

### **Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity 18th October 2020**

#### **Collect for St Luke**

Almighty God, you called Luke the physician,  
whose praise is in the gospel,  
to be an evangelist and physician of the soul:  
by the grace of the Spirit and through the  
wholesome medicine of the gospel, g  
ive your Church the same love and power to heal;  
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**

Isaiah 35:3-6 Luke 10:1-9

#### **BCP Readings for Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity**

Ephesians 4:17-30 Matthew 9:1-8

**Online services:** Please check the website on Sunday for services for Westfield <http://www.westfieldchurch.co.uk/online-services-for-westfield-church/>  
Guestling . <https://www.westfieldchurch.co.uk/online-services-for-guestling-church/>

O God, forasmuch as without you  
we are not able to please you;  
mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit  
may in all things direct and rule our hearts;  
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

## CV19 Homegroup

My Scripture Union notes this week have had the theme of *God is Light*. Jesus' disciple John used this idea in the opening paragraph of his gospel when describing Jesus; we read it often, particularly at Christmas time.

***In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.***  
John chapter 2 v 4 and 5.

There are also three short letters in the New Testament attributed to John. In the first letter, John describes the Christian life as *walking in the light*.

### **1 John chapter 1 verses 5 to 7**

In verse 5, John reminds his readers that he has real authority in what he says because he has heard it all from Jesus, *God is light and in him there is no darkness at all*. Immediately, in verse 6, John applies that to the way we live our lives. We cannot claim to be Christians if there is any darkness in our lives, anything that we are unwilling to bring before the God of light.

John is not saying that we will be perfect. Verse 7 explains our state. We must be walking in open communion with God every day, allowing his perfect, holy light to shine into our deepest soul, into every corner of our mind and heart. If there are failures and sins, as we know there will be, then John says, .... *the blood of Jesus, his son, purifies us from all sin*. Furthermore, if we walk in the light, we enjoy that very special fellowship that Christians enjoy together.

### **1 John chapter 1 verses 8 to 10**

Just in case his readers had not quite got the point, John spells it out in verse 8. There is only a problem in our

relationship with God if we deny our sinfulness; if we convince ourselves that, in this particular instance, we know better than God because God does not quite understand the situation we are in. In this state of mind, we can easily convince ourselves that wrong is right; it is probable that many of us can think of times when we have done just that. John warns us not to be self-deceived. We have only to confess our sin, be open with God about our struggles and failures and be willing to walk in his light again and God forgives us and restores us (verse 9). Just to be sure that we have understood the consequences of knowing better than God, John underlines the implications of our self-deceptive thoughts, we make God out to be a liar and we cut ourselves off from him (verse 10).

Personally, I find the idea of walking in God's light really helpful. When I pray, am I being open and frank with God? If so, no matter what the situation, I can be confident that God will lead me through it. Even if I mess up at times, his love and forgiveness is all I need. On the other hand, if I feel I am unwilling to discuss something with God, that's a clear warning that I am holding something back and I am in danger of stepping outside God's circle of light.

Studying God's word helps us greatly in this. Scripture Union has promoted bible reading for over 150 years and takes it motto from Psalm 119 verse 105:

**Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.**

Let's pray for each other that we may all learn to walk in the light every day.

Love Cathy