

Parish Magazine

The Parish of Sutton with Seaford

Happy Christmas &
A Peaceful New Year



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INVITATION



December 2022- January 2023

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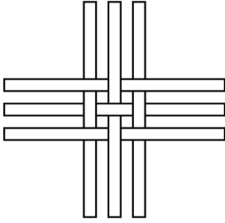
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Parish Magazine

St. Leonard's & St. Luke's Churches

December 2022-January 2023

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Parish News

Seaford Parish Women's Group

Friday 9th December

Women's Group are collecting for their Stopover Charity to provide Christmas presents for the young girls who live at Stopover and 2 toddlers under the age of two. We will hand over our gifts to the Stopover representative at a combined Mothers' Union Advent Service in St. Leonard's Church on Friday 9th December at 2.30pm. Gifts can be brought on the day or left at the back of St Leonards Church. Please wrap them in Christmas paper, and children's gifts should be labelled "child" and approximate age. Tins of biscuits or snack bars are also welcome and need not be gift wrapped. Suggested ideas:

For the young girls/adults (not children) Toiletries, Socks or Tights, Hats, Scarves or Bags, Hair Accessories, Make-Up, Nail Varnish or Jewellery, anything pretty and brand new.

Gifts for babies aged under of 2 years: Toys, clothes, bibs & books

Monday 19th December

Women's Group will hold a social evening of carols in St. Luke's at 7.30pm with a focus on the Hanukkah Festival of Lights. Refreshments, mince pies and prayers will close the evening.

Monday January 16th 2023

On Monday January 16th Women's Group will hold their AGM and election of Committee, followed by an Upside-Down Raffle. If you don't know what that is, you had better come and join us on January 16th. Our meetings are

usually held in St Luke's Church Walmer Road starting at 7.30. We enjoy fellowship, listening to interesting topics, refreshments and closing our meetings with evening prayers. New members are always welcome.

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

Wendy Ogilvie has for some years over seen our pastoral care. At the end of December, she will step back from this role. Please give thanks to God for her devoted and selfless service and pray for James and Derreck and the Churchwardens as they review the provision of pastoral care in the parish.

The Children's Society

Many thanks to all in Seaford who are box holders for The Children's Society. This year we have raised £651.45 from our boxes. It is good to support this very worthwhile charity in the forefront of concern and action to help vulnerable young people in this country. If you would like to have a collecting box for donations and loose change or become a supporter of The Children's Society, please contact Ruth Willox on 01323 891895.

Gift Day

Thank you so much to those of you who gave over the Gift Day week. It is really important because it has helped us get on with repairing the windows, help run Holiday Club for free and to be able to give the children a simple packed lunch to take home. Both of which we feel are really important gifts. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Seaford Parish Men's Meal

Progress is being made in arrangements for our meeting in January but no definite date is available yet. Once settled, details will be in the news sheet and news email. Men come to the meetings from a range of backgrounds. There are lively conversations! After the meal we have a speaker who may keep us informed about some aspect of their work in the church. It is always a stimulating talk. Do join us!

Lighting in St. Leonard's

Perhaps you saw the scaffolding inside St. Leonard's that was up to replace various bulbs so we hope that you'll notice the church being much better lit now.

Parish Lunch

Parish Lunches will be served on Wednesday 4th December and Wednesday 11th January starting at 12.30 in St Luke's. For more details and a ticket for the lunch contact Sue on 01323 480415, or Julia 895073.

Ukraine

Seaford has done an amazing job of raising about £17k over 2022. A lot of it has been given out in grants to hosts and refugees particularly in these last few months as some of them start to find accommodation of their own. Nonetheless there is a need for more hosts, particularly to host those Ukrainians who have been in England for six months or so. You will find more details on page 29.

Warm Banks

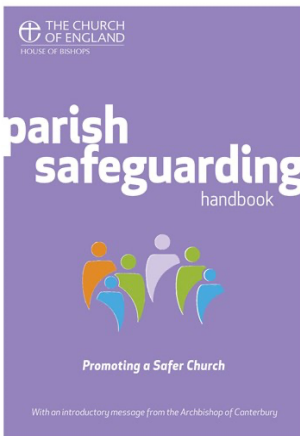
St. Leonard's is not easy to keep warm in any usual sense of that word as we go through the winter. All that heat whirls up to the top of the high roof. But we are determined to remain open between 10.00am and 1.00pm throughout the week and will be working to make some spaces inside the Church warmer than others. We will have the kettle on so if you're passing and would like a coffee do pop in.

Parish Safeguarding

Copies of the Parish Safeguarding handbook can be found in both St. Leonard's and St. Luke's. The handbook summarises the responsibilities of parishes including information about types of abuse, what to do if you have concerns about people, how to create safe environments and more.

Details of our own safeguarding policy and practice can be found at www.seafordparish.org.uk/safeguarding

For further information please contact Ruth Saunders, James or Derreck.



Christmas Services

St. Leonard's and St. Luke's Churches

A Service of Lessons and Carols

St. Leonard's on Sunday 18th December at 6.00pm

St. Luke's@7 Contemporary Carols

St. Luke's on Sunday 18th December at 7.00pm

Messy Christingle

St. Leonard's on Wednesday 21st December at 4.00pm

Crib Service

St. Luke's on Christmas Eve at 3.00pm

Nativity

St. Leonard's on Christmas Eve at 6.00pm

First Communion of Christmas

St. Leonard's on Christmas Eve at 11.00pm

Christmas Holy Communion

St. Leonard's on Christmas Day at
8.00am and 9.30am

Christmas Holy Communion

St. Luke's on Christmas Day 9.30am


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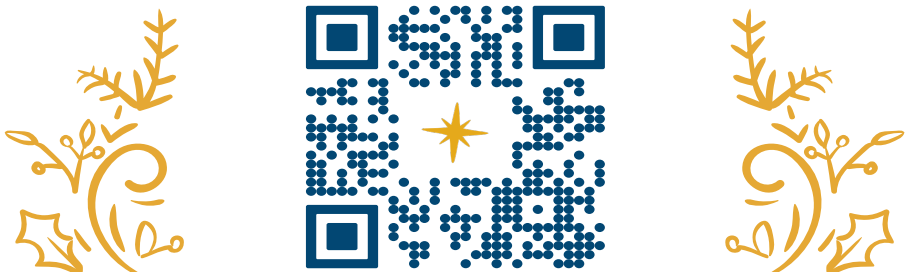
YOU'RE INVITED TO FOLLOW THE STAR AS WE EXPLORE THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS TOGETHER

Explore 12 days of reflections, starting 24 December 2022

Each day, read or listen to a Bible passage, short reflection and prayer, in the way that suits you:

- ✦ Download the free Follow The Star app
- ✦ Sign up to get the reflections by email for free
- ✦ Tell your smart speaker to "Ask the Church of England for today's Follow the Star reflection"
- ✦ Call the Daily Hope free phone line to listen each day: 0800 804 8044

To get the app or signup to emails, visit cofe.io/FollowTheStar, or scan the QR code.



⊕ THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



celebrate the
Reason
for the season



Christians awake! Salute the happy morn

How do you get ready for Christmas? I like to put the tree up as early as possible. I try to buy cards that are charity but also (this is the tricky bit) show something on the front of the reason for the season and if (even rarer) I can find a card that has *Happy Christmas* in it, or perhaps even a scripture then I've done well.

When I teach people about Holy Communion, the wafer and the body, the wine and the blood, I use Christmas presents as an analogy. Perhaps you get a pair of socks (again) with a tag saying 'with love Auntie Jan'. What's the important thing here? Is it the socks or is it the love? You know the answer. Is it the wafer or is it the love of Jesus. It might make you look differently at the little wafer and tiny sip of port. But I think you could also apply the same metaphor to how you go about your Christmas presents. Too many of us go into January with debt

because we have bought into the thought that we must show our love through the size of the present. Please don't do that. Instead aim to be generous in faith and hope and love.

I like carols. A rarely sung favourite of mine is *Christians awake! Salute the happy morn, whereon the Saviour of mankind was born*. I like it for two reasons. One is because of its prayerful way of telling the Christmas story through shepherds and angels, his life and through 'the bitter cross'. It builds up in me a sense of hope that in the midst of our ecological and economic problems yet here in Christ is hope in human form and this leads us to sing with the angels a 'glad triumphant song'. The other reason I like this carol is because of an elderly gentleman I once knew who told me how he would sing this carol every Christmas in his Prisoner of War camp. Now that is how to keep faith and hope alive!

Don't forget to look to the St Leonard's Church facebook page as I continue to produce a thought for the day every

morning (on carols over Christmas!) and at 6pm a short live moment of evening prayer.

Blue Christmas and New Nostalgias

Elvis sung this song about heart break and having a sad Christmas. Its tough when the adverts and glittery lights call us to have a chirpy Christmas when actually that's not how we feel.

On 6th December, St Leonard's will be hosting the St. Wilfrid's Hospice *Lights of Love* service. Apparently, we've done this before but this is new to me. I hope it will give people an opportunity to come and light a candle and pray and be allowed to have a blue Christmas. Do have a slow read of the services page and our many Christmas services. Many will stir up for you fond memories of nostalgia and for others there will be small pangs of pain tucked away in them too. Keep at it, for each of these services is a breeding ground for faith and hope.



Don't read this until January

This is after all a December/January edition so save some for the New Year. For many of us January is a dull month, the excitement of Christmas lights have come down, yet the nights still draw in early and soon the credit card statement will be here (see above for my advice on how to try to not start the

year in this way). It can leave us feeling tired and weary. Or, if you will allow it, it can with a little bit of prayer and worship, be the launch to noticing a new wave of hope this year.

The Magi will be arriving shortly, and over January in Church we will be looking at different bible characters and their Epiphanies, their moments when they realized that God was calling them.

On 8th January, I hope we'll sing *Brightest and Best are the sons of the morning*. It's a song about the Star that guides the Magi to the Messiah. Here's the call for us to offer a gift but all that is really wanted is '*the heart's adoration, Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor*'. Like the Christmas tag: 'with love auntie', so now we give our hearts to God, with love from me, from you.

So, as we turn into this year, pray for hope and vision, a guiding star, to lead you into this year. We have no idea what the ups and downs will be but we have just celebrated again the arrival of faith and hope and love, of God's very presence into our world, and through it the invitation to find in Jesus that the *hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight*.

You might use this moment to pray through your Christmas card list or to pray through the Church members phone book. There's bound to be names you don't know, pray God's blessing upon them!

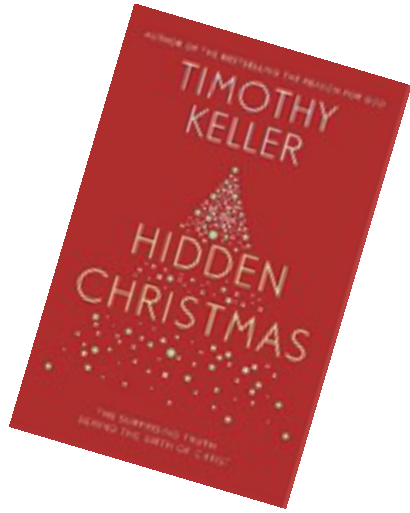


Hidden Christmas

Timothy Keller

Publisher: John Murray Press.

ISBN: 9781473642591



Timothy Keller is one of my all-time favourite Christian authors. One reason for this, apart from the fact his books are eminently readable, is that he always manages to find startling and surprising truths hidden in plain sight within biblical themes, scriptures, history and stories and then tells us how they can and should very powerfully relate to the way we live out our faith from day to day.

‘Hidden Christmas’ doesn’t disappoint in this respect. This book is accurately sub-titled ‘The surprising truth behind the birth of Christ.’ It looks past the familiar story that we have known and loved and prods us to look at some surprising facts. For example, he digs into the genealogies of both Mary and Joseph and reminds us of how the birth of Jesus is firmly grounded in history. Receiving this as absolute truth he explores what this might mean for the faith of Christians whenever and wherever they are. Timothy Keller’s deceptive writing style very effectively uncovers so many deep, often overlooked truths.

I would highly recommend this, and in fact any other Timothy Keller book if you really need a faith affirming read. And, I might say, who amongst us doesn’t need that?

Timothy Keller was born and raised in Pennsylvania, was educated at Bucknell University, Gordon-Cowell Theological Seminary and Westminster Theological Seminary. With wife Kathy and three sons he moved to Manhattan in 1989 founding the Redeemer Presbyterian Church, whose three congregations now number over 5000 people attending weekly. He has written 14 books with ‘The reason for God’, and, ‘The prodigal God’ both selling in excess of two million copies.



The donkey carefully walked along the
narrow stony road,

He somehow knew that he was carrying
a very precious load.

For on his back sat a gentle lady, Mary
was her name,

And with her husband Joseph, to Bethlehem they came.

When Joseph saw the darkening sky, his looks became more worried

As, failing to get a room at the Inn, to a stable nearby they hurried,

And there in the warmth of a lowly stable, Jesus Christ was born.

A brilliant star in the sky above signalled this special dawn.

Three wise men came and gave some gifts, but the donkey had also given,

He'd given his care whilst carrying Mary, and never had to be driven.

The donkey turned as he heard a voice say, "For what you've done for Me,

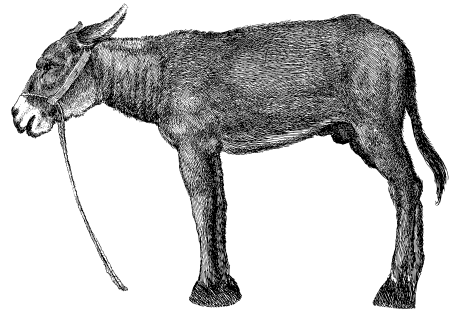
The sign of the Cross will be on your back, for everyone to see".

How humble and proud the donkey felt, as he gazed at the baby Divine,

And so it is right down through the years, all donkeys bear this sign.

He stood and watched this lovely scene, in which he'd played a part,

His old grey head held high with pride, and happiness filled his heart.





The Wonder of the Shepherds

The Ven. John Barton considers that first Christmas night...and how it might guide us in our proper reaction to Jesus' birth...

The 'wonder' of the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem

Shepherds in first century Palestine would have been attuned to the wonders and ravages of nature: star-lit nights, cold and heat, storm and calm, and the unwelcome attention of predators, both animal and human. They would have been more aware than we of human dependency on the seasons, and more respectful than us of the precarious nature of existence. Fear, as well as appreciation, would have shaped their religious sensitivities.

Some think the shepherds near Bethlehem may have been guarding sheep for the Jerusalem Temple, which used them as part of the sacrificial ritual of Judaism in those days. Yet the kind of work shepherds did and the hours they had to keep barred them from orthodox religious observance; they were regarded as uncouth and untrustworthy and were not allowed to give testimony in law courts.

It was typical of St Luke (the only New Testament writer to refer to the shepherds) to put them in the forefront of his narrative. Luke is the writer who

favours the underdog: tax collectors, sinners, women, old and poor people and non-Jews all figure favourably in his account. Deliberately he sets before us shepherds as the first Christmas worshippers. They already knew how to wonder.

William of St Thierry wrote: "A man who has lost his sense of wonder is a man dead." The 19th Century scientist Michael Faraday wrote: "Let us consider... how wonderfully we stand upon this world. Here it is that we are born, bred and live, and yet we view these things with an almost entire absence of wonder..." This is no plea for anti-intellectual faith, but rather for the discovery of an extra dimension. Wonder is the prime ingredient of worship, and we need to recover it and use it. It takes practice.

William Blake encouraged us to look into the ordinary and see the extraordinary:

"To see a World in a Grain of Sand,
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower:
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand,
And eternity in an hour..."

The late Michael Mayne, Dean of Westminster wrote, "A sense of the sublime leads to a sense of awe, which is I suppose that combination of wonder and fearfulness you may feel in the presence of what takes your breath away. It is not afraid in the sense of feeling scared, but rather an awe-struck sense of amazement that the ordinary

is rather more extraordinary than the extraordinary... it is not the rabbit out of the hat but the rabbit out of the rabbit that is so surprising..."

So, in the astonishing story of heaven-come-to-earth in Bethlehem, of divinity in a cowshed, it is shepherds who receive the revelation. Not priests, not presidents, not philosophers. "An angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified." For all they knew it might have been bad news. "But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord!'"

The response of the shepherds was to go and see. Not to question or even to reason. The main constituent of their belief was already wonder. They were accustomed to marvelling, for they were surrounded by a world of marvels. So, they went to look. And as they looked, they marvelled. Later, they were to return "glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard."

The Ven. John Barton spent 20 years in parishes and was the Church of England's Chief Broadcasting Officer before becoming an Archdeacon in the Midlands. Though officially retired, he has worked for both Archbishops and conducts services in dozens of East Kent churches. He is also trying to learn how to write, with the aim of linking daily life to the ever-present Christ.

A Christmas Prayer...


Thank you for creating us and for loving us so much that you sent Jesus to become one of us and to be our way to you. This Christmas may we know the love, peace, comfort and joy that only You can give, no matter what our circumstances. And may we reflect Your light and love in this dark world to bring glory to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.



"Does anyone have a light, please?"



Rodney didn't know how she'd got in, but she seemed keen to audition for the nativity play...



An African Adventure

Derreck Lee-Philpot

Passport... check. Visa... check. Currency... check. Tickets... check. Toothbrush and spare underwear... check. All present and correct, off to the airport!

It all sounds so simple doesn't it, but the trip to the airport that Friday 6th October 2022 was the culmination of two months' work and preparation, some of it out of our control and influence. Thirteen hours later we landed in Juba, South Sudan. Juba is the capital and only international airport. Despite having only two terminals, one for departures and one for arrivals it was chaos, two flights landed just 30mins apart, so we were directed to the 'departure' terminal to pick up our bags and go through customs – organised it wasn't! One thing did help smooth our way; we were wearing clerical collars. Clergy/Pastors are held in high regard in South Sudan. As the customs officers opened our cases and saw the teaching books in their own language, they looked up and saw our collars and sheepishly apologised and waved us through.

Outside the terminal the heat was 38oC and the humidity stifling. We eventually found the diocesan driver (asleep in the car park!) and were taken back to the Diocese Guest House adjacent to the city cathedral. In Juba we had (as foreigners) to register with the Police (15,000 SS£), change currency to SS£ (£1 = 670 SS£) and book internal flights (120,000SS£) to our first conference at Wau – first problem.... no flights available. The Bishop in Juba intervened and got us flights for Sunday instead of Monday, the extra day proved useful. The Church in Sth Sudan consists of 8 Provinces and 61 Dioceses. The dioceses can be 250miles across, about the same as driving from Seaford to Sheffield. With so many dioceses Bishops (and archbishops) are like speed bumps, every time you turn around you trip over one! Currently I am on first name terms with five bishops and three archbishops – not many associate priests can say that!

The flight to Wau was 1hr 15mins, in an elderly turbo-prop aircraft long out of service in Europe, I was quite pleased

when we touched down safely. Wau airport is tiny, a couple of buildings and a car park, again the temperature was in the high thirties and standing in the sun was debilitating even with light clothing and wide-brimmed hats. We waited for our cases in the car park and were met promptly by the diocesan driver to take us to the Diocese Guest House where we would be based for the first conference.

The following day (Monday) I woke up after a dreadful night's sleep feeling awful. Nauseous, dizzy, sweating, feverish, I slowly got dressed, drank a bottle of water (thinking I was dehydrated), took my anti-malarial with some dried apricots and promptly threw up, just as one of the team was walking by. They got me back onto the bed, called the team leader and house manager. I remember little else until the evening when I was taken to hospital and the consultant said I probably had malaria and he was going to give me a series of injections over 24 hours, three jabs at 200ml per shot – the equivalent of a bottle of water! The jabs and three days of tablets cost SS£600, about 90p. Back at the guest house I proceeded to sleep for the next 36 hours only broken by the hour-long ride to the hospital for the jabs. True to his words I was mentally focussed (but physically exhausted) 36 hours later. Many thanks for all your prayers during that time.

That Wednesday morning I felt fit enough to lead the main morning teaching and ministry session on the Holy Spirit. This was a two and a half hour teaching session with a half hour ministry session, although it was open ended and would last as long as was

needed. I would be speaking/teaching for around 75 minutes being translated making it a 90 minute to 2 hour session. I used water, buckets, sponges, balloons, as visual aids. Most of the front row got wet during the talk, which covered the Holy Spirit at creation, through the OT, in Jesus life in the NT, the difference between 'coming upon' and 'living within', I also spent time explaining all nine of the spiritual gifts we have access to when filled with the Spirit. At the end I gave an opportunity for those not filled with the Spirit to ask the Father for that. They stood in anticipation and as we all prayed the Spirit came gently and sweetly. First some trembled and shook (like the 17thC Quakers), then gentle weeping from those convicted of and confessing sin, then laughter as a sense of joy swept through the building. In all 43 people who stood received the Holy Spirit into their hearts for the first time that morning, and most (unprompted) were speaking in tongues.

I was exhausted and just wanted to rest and eat. The biggest surprise was the Bishop who leapt into the dining hall crying out, "What has happened to me?" He went around the team asking the question and quoting chunks of scripture about the Holy Spirit including Peter's sermon at Pentecost and Paul's encounter with the Ephesian Christians and he just kept saying, "Now I understand". He was overjoyed at receiving God's gift, but also he now understood passages of scripture which were a mystery to him previously.

On Sunday I preached at a tiny but full (120 believers) church. They have a habit of applauding during the sermon if you say something they agree with,

find funny, or just 'hits the spot'. It was quite disconcerting at first, but not as troubling as after the service. In the 'vestry' afterwards (when you are feeling tired, hot, thirsty etc) a line forms for you to pray along, usually but not exclusively for healing. The first two women had malaria (I recognised the signs!) when I suggested they attend hospital I was told it was too far away and anyway they couldn't afford the treatment. Another wanted prayer because she was told she would lose her baby with hospital care, another couple were desperate for a child but couldn't conceive, another had awful shingles and another a woman with severe back pain – she left the vestry walking upright for the first time in days. The two women with malaria got a message to us as we were leaving for the next conference that their fever broke that evening, isn't God just amazing? We will probably never hear about those concerned about their pregnancy and conception; I can only trust in God for their healing. But even that wasn't as scary as getting a lift home on the pillion of a motorcycle driven by a wannabe racer (a churchwarden) on roads resembling a vehicular obstacle course!

The following day we left for Tonj, two hours by 4x4 on roads that were designed for donkeys not vehicles. We arrived at 2.00pm to be greeted by over seventy folk who had been waiting for us to arrive in the sweltering sun from about 11.00am. We had to shake hands and greet them all, then went into the Cathedral for a time of praise and worship. Their welcome was overwhelming, and that welcome lasted all the time we were there.

After the service we were shown our rooms in the cathedral compound in the middle of the village/town, then we were brought water to wash with prior to our evening meal. Much to our shock the ladies offered to wash our feet, Bishop Peter who visited UK often and had been at the recent Lambeth conference intervened (probably seeing the consternation on our faces) explained that being English we wouldn't be comfortable with that. A compromise was reached when they washed our hands instead. That sense of sacrificial service continued, another example was when they offered to give us hot water to wash with in the evening. Hot water... luxury!!!!!! But we found washing with hot water in the evening just made us sweat even more and so went to bed dripping wet. So we asked if we could have the hot water in the morning instead. Just a moments thought brought the answer... yes. Imagine our horror when we realised later that to heat the water for about 6.30am when we got up they would have to arrive at the compound to build the fires and get the water at about 4.00am just as the sun was rising! They would not leave until we had eaten around 7pm, then wash up and go home around 8pm, then rise at 2am to walk to the compound to heat our water. Yet they refused to change and insisted on continuing. During the four days we were there they also 'killed the fatted calf' – literally. Hearing we ate cow (beef) in the UK they decided to buy and slaughter a cow in our honour. The cost of a cow is about 200US\$, the wage of a parish priest there was about 45US\$ per month. In Tonj very few had paid employment, most lived off their land (often glorified allotments) and by



What an exciting time we have had since the last magazine!

Holiday Club

We had a fantastic time at holiday club with 45 children each day.

We spent the week looking at Joseph and how his life had changed, been falsely accused, been saved and then showed forgiveness, all in the theme of Cops & Robbers. We had local police come along to support the children and inform them about what they do too. Crafts throughout holiday club ranged from baking, intruder alarms, junk modelling, clay money pots and mug shot photo frames, as well as a load of additional crafts too. 50 packed lunches were made every day for children who needed/wanted them, some of these even went out to siblings who were too young to attend holiday club.

We ended holiday club with an awards night holiday club session where we show cased what the children had been learning and gave the parents/carers a taste of what holiday club was like. This had been well attended with approximately 50-60 people, with a prize for the best dancing parent too with our worship songs.

The leaders who came along were absolutely amazing, a huge thank you to all of those who helped with the

running of the holiday club, it is by no means easy... but it is extremely fun and worthwhile!

We raised sufficient funds to completely cover the cost of our holiday club. Thank you once again to all who made this possible.

Sparks

This group has had over 30 children attending the sessions, every single week since we have been back from the summer holidays (most weeks reaching closer to 40 children). There is a consistent group of children who come to this group every week and for them this is their Church service as they find out more about Jesus.



We have been using the Faith in Kids resource called 'The Dangerous Club', which is not actually dangerous at all. But it does allow the children to make connections from week to week and forms a basis of how the evening is going to be structured.

We currently are running with volunteers being stretched on a weekly basis to be able to cover all aspects. We currently have one child who attends who needs 1-2-1 with a regular person. This is currently provided, but it means

that the member of staff can then not do any other duties during that session. This is not something we will be giving up on as the child loves to attend the session and be treated same as every other child in terms of being able to engage with the sessions. So we need more volunteers to continue to support the group.

Ignite

Ignite has had a small but steady group of about 6 young people who come to the Ignite.



We usually start with a talk/discussion point based on faith and then move to games, sports, crafts, etc. Recently we have been making pizza, cookies, competing in food challenges, nerf blaster night, using the Nintendo Switch and playing dodgeball (a firm favourite).

Recently we have been gifted some money to use for some games. We will be purchasing basketball hoops and an air hockey table in the near future. We have 3 others which we will continue to look for funding for. A huge thank you to those who have made donations.

Currently we are ok for leaders in the Ignite group, due to few young people in the group. We have also had some great support from two of our older young people who come along to help with the running of the group and who are keen to be part of the staff team for Ignite.

Tots' Treats

Tots' Treats have been running well with around twenty coming



along to each session. Recently we have purchased new play mats which are far easier to lay out for volunteers. As well as the mats we have also purchased a sandpit which the children very much enjoy, although keeping it tidy is slightly more of a task. This has led to more conversations between parents standing around the sandpit which is positive.

We do however have some issues with the running of the groups. First are volunteers, we don't have enough, this means that we have had only 2 people to organise a group of 30-40 people (when you include parents and toddlers). This is not sustainable. We will at some point have to look at closing sessions if we cannot get more volunteers. There have been several requests made to the Church, however no one has come forward to offer support. We also have leaders who are looking to step down as they reach a time where they would like to slow down a bit. Second is the struggle of moving the chairs in St. Leonard's as they are so heavy. The majority of people can slide or move some, but when there are 60-70 chairs to be moved this becomes a hugely difficult task. This is something which needs to be addressed in the future, especially as St. Leonard's becomes more used as a community hub.

Messy Church

Messy Church has been running for 3 months at the earlier time of 9.30am-11.00am in St Leonard's Church. This currently seems to be working well, although we may have to revise the timings very slightly by moving half an hour later, but for the time being it will remain at 9.30am. However timings will be different for Christmas Magic on 3rd December when Messy Church will begin at 2.30pm.

Messy Church generally has a good number of volunteers who come along and support each session, a few more would be very much welcomed just to sit and talk with parents and help children make the crafts. A huge thank you to the volunteers who come and help. Messy Church Christmas will be busy, the team are currently planning for this, however it is likely that we will need additional volunteers to help support the sessions, i.e. fire marshals for Christingle, additional welcomers, etc. So please speak to Stefan for more information.

Thanks

We are all very grateful for the support we have received from The Wellington Hotel, who have made donations to cover the cost of food, drinks and resources for the Sparks and Ignite groups. This enables us to continue to make these groups free. The Wellington have done this two months in a row and have pledged to continue to make this a regular gift, wherever they can. So if you have some free time and are looking for a place to sit and

have a meal or drink (at a reasonable price), head in there and feel free to let them know how grateful we are for their ongoing support.

Leaders

The leaders who have come along and supported throughout all of these really important groups have just simply been amazing. Their work and dedication has been huge and there is no way we could run our groups without them! I may well be the Children, Youth and Family Missioner, but it takes far more than just me to run the sessions, it takes a whole team who know and love God and who want to share that with as many people as possible. So thank you team!

However, I need to share with you something that is very concerning for me. The team are running out of steam. As you will have read we simply do not have enough volunteers to run all our groups as we would like. This means we may well need to close groups if more additional volunteers do not come forward. There is a high need for more free or low cost groups in the community, made more important with the cost-of-living crisis. This is a time to get out into the community, not withdraw resources and groups. Notices have gone into the news sheet for additional volunteers; however, no one has come forward to support the groups we currently have. In some cases, it is the same volunteers coming to support several groups to ensure they can keep running, as they can see the value in these groups. But, this

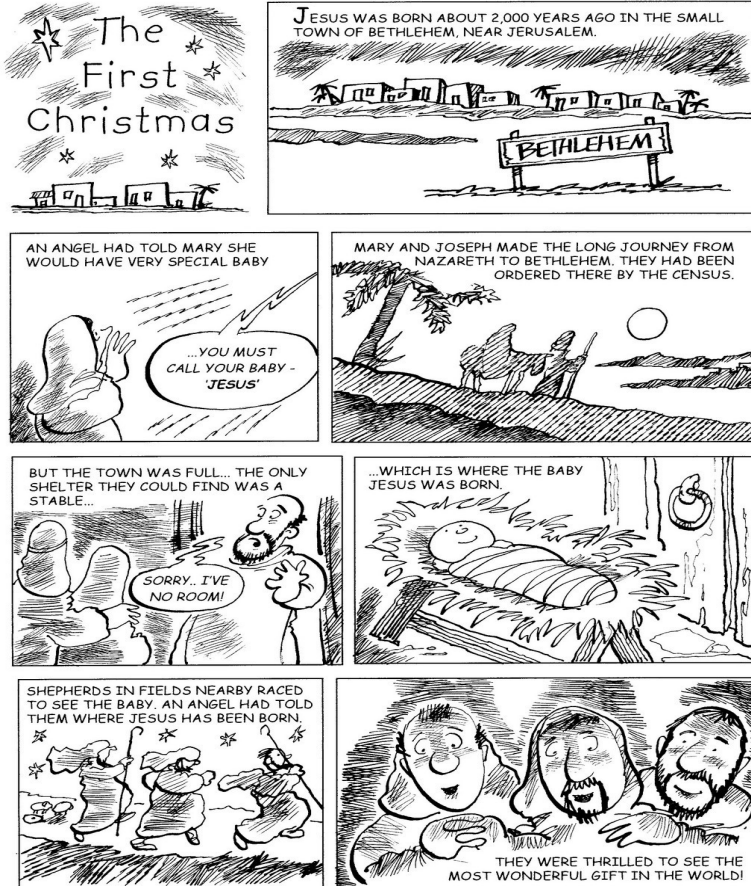
causes burn out when placed next to their other commitments and will not last.

The Children, Youth and Family Team requires a lot of volunteers, because there are so many different roles to take care of. It is one of the most rewarding ministries you could ever volunteer for. Quite literally impacting young people now so that in the future the seed of Jesus has that potential to become a mighty oak tree. But the

children are now no longer the future of the Church, they are the present of the Church, just as all of us are! Please pray for this volunteering issue, ask God to guide you to do what you can to support the children, youth and family work.

Contact me to find out more about what volunteering entails. God bless.

cyfw@seafordparish.org.uk
07506143476





Maureen Bryant, artist

Ruth Saunders

It has been such a delight to see Maureen Bryant back in church recently. She has been living in Eastbourne for a while, but is now back in Seaford, living at Beachlands, where everyone would be welcome to visit. Maureen is very happy to be back in Seaford, and it has meant that her son has been able to bring her to church, which she has loved.

People will already have seen the cards made from Maureen's prints and paintings which we have been selling in the church. She and her family have now, generously donated 13 prints to be sold to raise money for the church, where Maureen and her husband Phil, who died some years ago, found a place to worship happily, when they moved from Brighton.

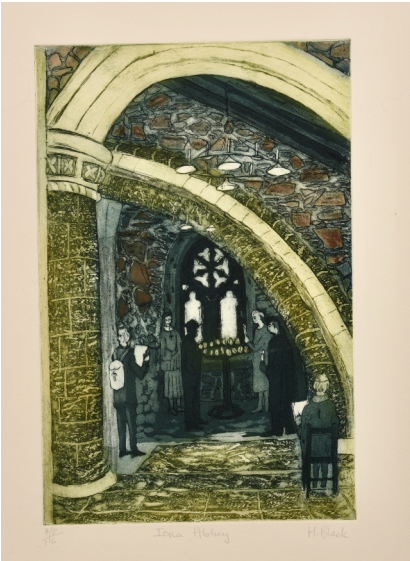
Maureen's CV is impressive and a few quotes will remind us of the scope of her talents.

Maureen was born and educated in Blackheath. She studied painting and lithography at Goldsmiths, and later Embroidery design and then etching at Morley College. She has exhibited in many mixed shows, including the Royal Academy, and as a long-term resident of Greenwich, led the Greenwich Millennium Embroidery Project which completed a large work showing the history of the area. And her work is in several public collections including The National Maritime Museum, National Museum of Wales and Graphotek Berlin.



'Maureen has always been interested in man's relationship to his surroundings. Since moving to Sussex in 2001, she has been influenced by the sea and the monolithic grandeur of the South Downs. She has continued to draw inspiration from the superb scenery of the Cuckmere Valley and the ever-changing light on the cliffs of Seaford Head'.

The photos give an idea of just some of the prints, but if you would like to see the originals or would be interested in buying one, please do speak to me.





Lunchtime Concerts

John Baker

2023 Season in St. Leonard's Church

2023 will be the sixteenth series of Lunchtime Concerts at St Leonard's Church. My aim was to provide a free hour long Saturday Concert that residents and visitors alike might enjoy. Fifteen years and 147 concerts later I think its fair to say they have proved successful, with audience numbers ranging from sixty to one hundred and twenty each month.

The Concerts remain free and self supporting by the donations given at the end of each concert by our generous audience, to whom we are deeply grateful.

Saturday 18th February

Adam Repa (piano)



Saturday 18th March

Phil Hopkins (classical chromatical harmonica) and Rosemary Kemp (piano)

Saturday 15th April

Gerard Brooks (organ)

Saturday 20th May

Charlotte Wicks (mezzo soprano)

Saturday 17th June

Larisa Trio (violin, cello & piano)



Saturday 15th July at 1.00pm

Sam Lewis (trumpet) and Adam Repa (piano)

Saturday 19th August at 1.00pm

D'Arcy Trinkwon (organ)

Saturday 16th September

Hammig String Quartet



Saturday 21st October

Julia Kemp (soprano) and Rosemary Kemp (piano)

Saturday 18th November

Clare Beesley (historical flute) and Peter Churchill (piano accordion)



All concerts begin at 1.00pm.



This prayer diary offers a focus for personal and corporate prayer.

I will lift my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 121: 1&2)

Pray for Mission Partners during December

CHURCH ARMY

“Going for those suffering the worst in life” - Wilson Carlile (founder)

- Pray for those Church Army personnel working in areas of deprivation in UK & within the more than 40 Centres of Mission.
- For those working with children & young people suffering with mental health difficulties.
- For the homeless receiving help from the Marylebone project in London.
- Pray for all Church Army people working in ministry, under some stress
- Praise God from whom all Blessings have flowed over 140 years of outreach, in Word and Deed.

MOTHERS UNION

- Nationally Mothers’ Union are supporting "16 days of activism against Gender based violence (#No more 1 in 3)", campaigning against all forms of abuse. Also the Literacy, Trauma and healing programme in South Sudan. Please pray for continued progress & positively changed lives for those affected.
- Pray for young people in Eastbourne YMCA to know they are part of a large loving family and are valued.
- For “Stopover” in Brighton, supporting homeless young girls.
- For all families in these difficult and challenging times.

SUNDAY - The Church Worldwide

- Pray for the renewal of the Church in vision, service and the power of the Holy Spirit, revealing the love and saving power of Jesus.
- For all in Christian leadership seeking to preach the gospel and minister to those around them with wisdom and courage.
- During Advent that many will seek the Christ child and in the coming year will trust in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

- Pray for the sanctity and preservation of Christian marriage and for the healing of family breakdown and division.
- A renewed desire for the Word of God to change lives and make us to be more like Christ.

MONDAY – The UK

- Pray for King Charles III and Rishi Sunak, Prime Minister, to be men of justice and integrity, leading through the challenging issues facing the UK.
- For the Chancellor of the Exchequer that his new financial measures will bring economic stability and just support for the needy and fearful.
- Northern Ireland facing fresh elections to restore devolved local government and services. A peaceful solution to the stalemate between political parties and the EU.
- Social media. For parliamentary online safety bill to bring protection from harmful material especially for children and young people whilst preserving democratic free speech.
- Strike action impacts on many lives. Pray for negotiations between all parties, that fair solutions may be found.

TUESDAY - Parish

- Pray for James, Derreck and their families especially during this busy season.
- For those taking part and leading services, that visitors will find a warm welcome among us, and that the familiar message of Christmas will be received afresh.
- For the Churchwardens and the PCC in the new financial year.
- For those ill at home or in hospital. For those living with chronic ill health and those who care for them, to know God's peace, healing and wholeness.
- Give thanks for Wendy's devoted and selfless service as Pastoral Care Co-ordinator. Pray for God's blessing for the future and for James, Derreck and the Churchwardens as they review the provision of pastoral care.

WEDNESDAY – Children and Young people

- Give thanks for the amazing leaders, helpers and children from the half term holiday club, for teamwork, safety, fun and learning about Jesus.
- Pray for Stefan and Alice, the leaders and helpers at Tots, Sparks and Ignite as they share the true Christmas story with parents and youngsters.
- Ask God how you can play your part in supporting this vital work to grow and enhance the Church of today and tomorrow.
- For families worshipping together, to discover all that God has for them.
- Give thanks for the growing relationships with local schools – pray that the story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem will have fresh impact this Christmas for children, parents and staff.

THURSDAY – For those living & working in

1st December: Church Lane, Church St, South St, Broad St, Place Lane,

8th December: Clinton Place, Clinton Lane, Blatchington Road, Richmond Terrace

15th December: Saxon Lane, Blatchington Hill, Sutton Park Rd, Avondale Rd, Warwick Road

22nd December: High Street, Crouch Lane, Crooked Lane, East Street,

29th December: West Street, Green Lane Dane Road, Dane Close.

5th January: West View, Pelham Rd, West Street, Chatham Place, Richmond Rd,

12th January: Barcombe Close, Barcombe Avenue, Steyning Road, Steyning Close,

19th January: Findon Close, Lindfield Avenue, Ladycross Close, Rodmell Road

26th January: Chittenden Ave, Trenchard Close, Mabey Drive, Berry Lane, Montgomery Way

FRIDAY – Seaford

- Give thanks for the local Foodbank and SEA climate hub Community Larder. Thank God for local Churches' responses to the need for Warm Spaces.
- Pray that those struggling financially will be able to access support and be helped to make wise choices.
- *Churches of Seaford* - for leaders and people, for God's blessing on their Christmas worship and renewed vision for 2023.
- *Care Homes* – that staff and residents will be able to enjoy the Christmas celebrations. For staff as they face ongoing challenges and demands of caring.
- Give thanks for local businesses and tradespeople who continue to provide individual quality services in spite of financial uncertainty and pressure.
- For those who have been bereaved this year or who face Christmas alone.

SATURDAY – World

- Thank God for signs of progress of Ukraine to reclaim their territory, giving thanks for their fortitude, perseverance and tenacity. Continue to pray for a speedy resolution and lasting peace. For wise support and intervention by UK.
- As we celebrate Christmas and the New Year, pray for those living in areas of war and civil unrest, that they might know lasting peace and reconciliation.
- For the increasing number of migrants arriving in Europe, seeking refuge and asylum. For government collaboration to seek fair and just solutions to immigration; asylum seekers accommodation, unaccompanied children and people trafficking.
- For those living daily with the challenges of shortage of clean water and sanitation, famine or shortages of staple foods – a compassionate sharing of resources and action from those nations who live in plenty.
- Following the COP 27 talks, that resolutions made will result in renewed commitment and swift action to benefit all.

Pray for Missions Partners during January

LAMA MINISTRIES – LAMA HOUSE OF WORSHIP

- Pray for Michael as he begins a 1 year online Chaplaincy course with Waverley Abbey.
- Pray for Ana as she takes on role of Emergency Foster parent. For the abandoned newborn & for his mother to be found & receive care.
- For Lesley & the family for good health and protection from harm
- For the ongoing work with the Detention Centre. For those who have come to know Jesus as they leave and take their place in society again. For permission to minister the Gospel & worship in the Home for Girls
- For the development of LAMA House of Worship & opportunities to minister in different locations

HOMELINK

- Pray for Gary & Shaun in their important roles as client managers
- All in our District who are looking for a home
- All those moving home who need a grant for basic furniture or carpeting.
- Good support from Lewes District Council for the project & clients
- Success in finding an Administrator



Saturday Prayers at 8.30am each Saturday are on Zoom.

Use the following log in: Meeting ID: 731 3210 2295 Passcode 1UWEx6

Prayer@7 at 7.00pm on the second Sunday of each month at St. Luke's

Prayer Ministry is available in the Holy Spirit Chapel at St. Leonard's during Communion on Sunday and at St Luke's at the end of each service.

SEAFORD FOR UKRAINE



If you have thought about hosting Ukrainian individuals or families but are unsure about the commitment in terms of support needed, ESCC are actively looking for hosts who would be interested in re-hosting Ukrainians who are already here.

Many people are nearing the end of their 6 months with current hosts and for various reasons they need or want to move on. The situation back in Ukraine is still very uncertain and many are unable to return home as yet. However the local housing situation makes it very difficult for them to find affordable rented accommodation. It's a whole new challenge for us all but accommodation is still very much needed.

The advantage for hosts is that they don't need to complete the visa

processes, or help guests apply for benefits, GP registration, schools admission etc. Many Ukrainians who have moved to the local area are already working and will have been studying English since their arrival.

As hosts you can also meet the guests before you make your final decision.

This is still quite a commitment so please make sure everyone in your household supports the decision.

If you want more information or to register interest you should contact ESCC ukraine@eastsussex.gov.uk or Florence Grover, titling your email Re-hosting, florence.grover@3va.org.uk

Seaford for Ukraine will continue to offer support and advice if Ukrainian guests do come to live with you.

For all the latest news and details of any changes please see the weekly news sheet or subscribe to our news email at www.seafordparish.org.uk/latest



Proposed Budget for 2023

The out turn of the 2022 budget is not known at this point, but the forecast deficit will not be as great as anticipated, thanks to the generous giving of our congregations.

But 2023 is still going to be challenging and I forecast the same overspend as we faced last year, even with potential income of £50,000 from the proceeds of the sale of St. Leonard's Hall.

I project expenditure of £335,500 and income at an optimistic level of £301,400. This will give us a deficit of £34,100.

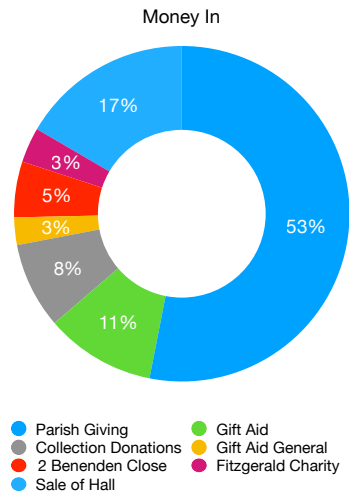
There is little room for manoeuvre as many of our costs such as council tax, salaries and contracted utilities are predetermined.

As a church we need to consider our priorities and how we can ensure that we continue God's work in the parish.

Money In	
Parish Giving	£160,000
Gift Aid	£32,000
Collection Donations	25000
Gift Aid General	£8,000
2 Benenden Close	£16,200
Fitzgerald Charity	£10,200
Sale of Hall	£50,000
Total income	£301,400

Money Out	
Ministry	£190,000
Staff Costs	£57,000
Mission	£18,500
Utilities	£50,000
Professional Fees	£20,000
Total expenses	£335,500

Money Left Over	
Income minus expenses	-£34,100





In the last magazine I told you about a visit from the Diocesan Advisory Committee. They were very encouraging and we are due for a letter from them in mid-December.

They liked the idea of putting the kitchen under the tower and going out the north wall where the toilet is at the moment, by a couple of meters so that we can have two toilets as well as an accessible toilet, all on the flat level. They weren't sure about the age of the wall that would need to be widened in order to achieve this until they told us that it is what they call modern and what we call 1870s.

The mezzanine idea has been shelved on grounds that it costs more than what it could usefully be used as. The DAC came up with some creative ideas for storage. My favourite was putting a tall cupboard area on the back of the

wooden screen in the Holy Spirit Chapel. The plan to screen in the Chapel remains.

They liked the idea of moving the altar dais step back a couple of feet. This would enable us to have another row of chairs at the front and help with the space needed at the back. A small lift, instead of a long ramp, would be preferable as a way of making the side chapel accessible for all.

The next steps will be to invite English Heritage, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and the Church Buildings Council to comment.

But we would like to hear from you so at the **Open Church on 28th January**, we will have a big print of the plans laid out so do come and have a look and and explore.

SHEPHERDS ARISE!

Quire & Band directed by Mary Motley

OLD SUSSEX CAROLS

with voices, flute, fiddle, bassoon, serpent, clarinet & concertinas

DANCE TUNES & READINGS from SUSSEX SOURCES

SUSSEX MUMMERS PLAY

St. Leonard's Church,
Friday 16th December at 7:30pm



Seaford's Christian Aid is affiliated to 'Churches Together in Seaford' and one of our most successful fund-raising events is our annual QUIZAID EVENING. Each year, it's been a sell out and our next Quizaaid event will be on:

**Friday, 27th January
at 7.00pm
CROSS WAY CHURCH,
Clinton Place**

You can make up your own teams of six members or we can help ticket holders arrange a team on the night. The evening is always great fun and there will be a light supper and a Raffle. Please bring along your own drink and glasses. To ensure that we keep within the maximum number of people that the hall can accommodate, tickets will need to be purchased in advance and will be £7 (to include a simple supper) Tickets are available from your Christian Aid representative, or by calling (01323) 894899.

We look forward to seeing you at this happy event and in the meantime, to thank you for your support and wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas

This Christmas, our church family can stand with our global family in Malawi; families like Flyness Tembo's. With ongoing support and the generous gifts of churches like ours and the 'Social Support for Resilience Project', 15,000 of the most vulnerable families in Malawi are now building their resilience to climate shock.

'We have learnt about irrigation, how to make fertiliser from manure and how to apply it to the fields' explains Flyness, showing us her new garden, which is growing maize, soya, groundnuts and beans as well as vegetables and fruit. Her garden is yielding sufficient produce to feed family as well as selling the surplus to earn income. '...Christian aid's partner here taught us the importance of having a garden..now I am able to feed my family...' www.christianaid.org





I was 11 and we had just had the Queen's Coronation. Other than that things were much the same as always. At Seaford Children's Theatre we were busy rehearsing for our pantomime Jack and Jill, at the Queen's Hall. I had my first big part as Jack. Kathleen Marsh produced and directed the pantomime and many children in the town were appearing in it. Television was in it's early days and only certain people had a set or could afford one.

As always Woolworths with its wooden floors was putting up decorations with silver lametta hanging from the globe lights. Children were buying Christmas presents for the family. My aunts usually got Evening Paris perfume in blue glass bottles. Ha! Ha!

Christmas at St. Leonard's had the usual services. On Christmas Eve there was the lighting of the tree together with the singing of carols. The Bible Class did a nativity play the previous Sunday at the Simmons Institute, the old Church Hall. Also on Christmas Eve Seaford Children's Theatre sang Christmas carols at Seaford House Hotel in Crouch Lane, where we all received a bag of sweets...happy days!

Most people in town seemed to know everyone else. The week following Christmas we had a trip to the Brighton Hippodrome pantomime or an ice show at the sports stadium. I'm afraid things were much simpler then, but they seemed so much more exciting! All was as expected.

 **Lewes, Seaford and District Branch** 

Please contact: Jean: 01323 892930

**KITTENS TO ELDERLY CATS
ALL NEED LOVING HOMES!**

 **Neutering** 
We can also help towards the cost of neutering your cats and kittens.
Please phone 01273 813111 (Option 3) and leave a message including your phone number so that we may contact you.

**DO YOU HAVE ROOM FOR A FURRY FRIEND?
-PHONE FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION IF YOU CAN HELP**



Thank you to our bell ringers

There is something particularly English about the sound of church bells. People say they like the sound of St Leonard's bells, however badly the ringers know they have been ringing. Behind that magnificent sound there is skill, dedication and a will to be the best and yes, if not rung correctly, the bells can be very dangerous, the heaviest bell is a little over thirteen hundredweight, about half the weight of a Mini !



There are more than twenty ringers to ring our eight bells, including a few who are in the early stages of learning the art. They give up a great deal of their time for the benefit of the church. Except when covid did not allow them to ring, they have never missed a Sunday ringing for the main service, they ring for cafe church which brings people in to see what is happenig, they ring [if asked] for weddings or funerals, they ring for special services as well as for civic or national events - all to the glory of God.

Ringng is good for physical and mental agility but, importantly, it has a social side; coffee after Sunday ringing for those not attending St Leonard's, a trip to the pub after practice nights, meals together at certain times of the year, once a year a day's outing to ring in a series of towers with a pub lunch in the middle. Though many of the ringers





the 18th and until after the funeral. On the day of the funeral the bells were rung continuously for an hour from 10am to 11am. Particular thanks are owed to the tower-captain, Debbie, for her enthusiasm and organisational skills, not to mention her agility for putting on the muffles and removing them.

This magazine will be published in time for “the festive season”. Christmas will be a busy time for ringers, with a number of services for which there are requests for ringing.

We always ring the New Year in. We would ring for a while before Midnight, then usually a glass of bubbly and a final ring to make sure everyone knows that the new year has actually arrived. God save the King

do not attend St Leonard's church, they all know what the main purpose of church bells is – to summon people to church.

Very special thanks to our ringers for all the ringing on the announcement of the death of Queen Elizabeth II. The tower only possesses 8 muffles, so it was only possible to ring half-muffled (they should have been fully-muffled for the death of a monarch). Even half-muffling is a bit of a task; the bells have to be rung down, members climb up to the bell-chamber, get down under the bells and fit the muffles on one side of the clapper, then there is a similar task to take muffles off. The bells were rung at Mid-day on Friday 9th September to announce the death with bells half-muffled. Then again on Saturday 10th at mid-day to acknowledge the Proclamation of the new king, when by tradition the muffles had to be taken off again. The muffles were back on for Sunday ringing on 10th and twice on





As we approach 2023 there are some changes for the Mission Partners we have supported as a parish.

Church Army - until now we have sent our contributions to help two specific Centres of Mission – Southampton under the leadership of Tim and Kathy Hyde but this centre has now moved and Tim and Kathy made redundant whilst the other, Hackney has closed and the former leader Steve Plumb has moved to a new job. We will continue to send Church Army a donation but it will be to support their Mission Centres in general around the UK.

Danny Gill – who was formerly working with Mission Aviation Fellowship has been studying in the UK for his commercial pilot’s licence and writes: - “I’ve just finished my second module of exams about a month ago. So I’ve now completed 18 out of 26 exams. I plan to sit the last 8 exams at the end of January.

I’ve been talking to MAF in Kenya also, they have asked me whether I could help them with flying next year as they will go from 3 pilots to 1. I have said I could help them for three months after I complete my exams, which could mean I travel to Kenya to fly there from March-June.

This would help me as I need to complete flight tests for my UK license when I return. So if I have done some recent flying I will feel more up to date and it should make the training in the

UK easier. Also when I come to apply for jobs I will have more recent experience which will help.

I’m hoping to continue my flight training after the possible MAF Kenya work. From June-July. God willing I can be ready with a license to apply for jobs in August. It’s a long journey and feels like it’s taking quite some time. However I know it is completely worth it. Rosie continues to complete her GP training at Royal free hospital in London. She has completed nearly 1 and a half years with another 1 and a half to go!”

We have stopped supporting Danny financially but please continue to pray for him and Rosie as they discern God’s will for the future.

Mission Direct- Rewired Africa – Chris Chester writes

“This year has seen my last trip to Zambia with Mission Direct Rewired. After 11 years I feel it is time to move on as the number of volunteers has declined and this year there was only myself. The lack of volunteers has also had an impact on the work we can achieve with this year being a last trip around the schools and projects we have worked with making repairs where we could. Mission Direct now have a local IT specialist who will support these schools in the future as and when necessary. We have also identified a couple of charities which will support them with equipment

moving forward. It is with sadness therefore that we will be closing down Rewired Africa at the end of this year.

In total we have installed over 300 computers and laptops into the schools and projects over the last 11 years in Zambia plus around 40 in Zimbabwe and 300 in Congo Brazaville. Although these feel like significant steps it is just scratching the surface for the non-government funded schools.

Alongside this we have run 12 workshops in schools to support the teachers.

I have developed my faith through this work and feel a great sense of achievement that I have been able to be involved for so long. I would like to thank everyone who has offered prayers for our work and our partners and inspirational words at the right time.

Finally this work would not have been possible at all without the financial support of the parish and many individuals who made donations to Mission Direct to support our work.

Psalm 13:6 'I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me.'

Grace and Festo who we used to support, originally when they were in Tanzania and until December 2021 in Liskeard, with our donations to Church Mission Society. Grace who has recently started training as an ordinand sends her love and prayers whilst



writing, "I was away last week for a week of training, most of my study happens one day a week at college so this was a more intense learning experience with 21 lectures over 6 days plus morning and evening worship and various other meetings. The family coped pretty well without me but I think we are all glad to be back together again.

Please thank everyone for their continued prayers we really appreciate it and it gives us the strength to keep going when we are faltering.

Please pray for:

- My studies as deadlines loom and I juggle family life, study and placement.
- Festo as he coaches a boy in one of our local primary schools once a week. That he can be the adult in his life who is consistent in every way.
- Festo as he establishes a link between our church here and his home church in Tanzania. We are hoping to establish a Compassion centre in the village through the link.
- For Grace as she has taken on oversight of pastoral care in our local church and tries to create a structure and team that will ensure that nobody falls through the net.

Your Cops and Robbers holiday club sounds fantastic. Research has shown that the way to grow the Kingdom of God and therefore his church is through engaging with young families so I pray with you that you will see much-lasting fruit from this endeavour amongst others that your church are engaged with."



All done. The completed shoeboxes were taken to Link to Hope in Ferring on Wednesday 9th November by David and myself. A total of 64 boxes, 37 Family and 27 Elderly, will be on their way to Eastern Europe with many, many others from all over the UK.

At Link to Hope headquarters volunteers pack large brown boxes with elderly or family shoeboxes. This year, as in previous years, I have been heartened by the sheer weight of these boxes. Think of 2x2lb bags of sugar and you will understand what I mean - yes, that shows my age.

The number of items enclosed in each box is amazing and our thanks go to everyone involved, to Inner Wheel and the Women's Group, as well as many individuals. To those who gave items for the boxes and those who gave money towards buying things and for transporting them thank you everyone. Also to people who have knitted for us. There is a lady who knits hats, scarves and gloves every year and she is already knitting for next year. Thank you MW.

Thank you again for your support, love and prayers as we send boxes of smiles to Eastern Europe.

For further details contact Hazel on 01323 892883 or 07890 726957.



Photographs of David and Hazel at Ferring, courtesy Link to Hope



Over thirty years ago the Rev Jim Smith and his wife Mary from Heathfield went to Ghana and bought some land just north of Accra. It is now a complex of buildings and land which includes a church and a school. Now in their seventies they are still active and regularly go out to Ghana for around three months at a time.



The school has 130 children. Their classrooms are within the walled compound with plenty of space around in the complex of buildings. Nearby is a larger school facility for the older children with two classrooms, but with two more needing completion. There is also the first floor above which at present only has the pillars in place.



Close by there is land set aside for a two storey teachers' training centre, much needed in the area. All of this has been accomplished by prayer first and foremost,

and faith. Jim has had a prophetic gift for many years and simply acts on what the Lord tells him. As the money comes in so the base and its work has grown. There is still much to do; a computer suite is in process and after that a medical centre, again something much needed in the area. If the Lord wants it He will prompt the people to give and support it.

All of this has been possible because of the support from a body of people scattered around the UK and Ghana. Jim has built up a network fellowship that



meets via WhatsApp, YouTube and Facebook. It includes a branch here in Seaford with David and Pat Farey who moved here in June. David is a former Anglican vicar and a trustee for the charity. They host the Beacon Sanctuary at their home which broadcasts a cross on YouTube 24/7 as well as a weekly message for the network on YouTube and WhatsApp.

To learn more visit the website on www.servingafrica-mission.org or emailing David and Pat on beacongracechurch@gmail.com.



Terry Howell

Helping people into Housing

Carols The Ashdown Singers visit us again with a Carol Service at St. Thomas More church on Sunday December 4 at 3pm. You will be surprised by the high standard of the choir ! (refreshments afterwards.) Donations to HOMELINK.

The New Client Manager:: Shaun has been appointed and has settled in very well working alongside Gary. Gary reports that he is bringing a wealth of experience and professionalism since he has been both an Estate Agent and Local Authority Housing Officer. He is motivated by his Christian faith. It is fortunate that he has had time to learn our procedures as Gary is taking a well-earned holiday in India during November. Without a competent Client Manager in post we would have had to close for the month.

A New Client

We helped our first **Ukrainian** refugee family with an interest-free loan for rent in advance to move into private property. The family consists of a grandmother, mother, and her son of 14. The mother now has a full-time job with the NHS. The flat they owned in Ukraine has been destroyed and they have lost everything.

Families were placed for six months with sponsors supported by a

government grant. The host family in Seaford asked them to leave after six months. Unfortunately Lewes District Council could only place them in emergency accommodation in Brighton. However with the support of local councillor Christine Brett she has found a property in Seaford for £900 pcm. She is paying the damage deposit herself. LDC is expecting government money for Ukrainians but it is so slow that LDC asked us to help. The reason we can help is not only finance but the speed at which we can work, which has been praised by many of our clients.

New in the New Year: A New Chair. Our chair of Trustees, Joan Wignall is retiring after about ten years. She has done a great job in networking, finding support, and supporting others. The good news is that we have a new chair waiting in the wings!

A New Secretary Our Hon Secretary Chris Tutt is also retiring. She was a founder member at the heart of the charity even before we started in 1998 and has done more work than anyone else to keep us on course. We hope to replace her with a paid administrator but this may be difficult.

New Loans We had 129 loan applications this year and 108 interviews resulting in 44 tenancies: less than last year, mainly because of the difficulty in finding a place to rent. The reasons for applying for a referral or

applying for a loan in September were: section 21 no fault eviction 4; assault by a neighbour 1; overcrowded 2; flat too expensive 1; asked to leave 3; domestic violence 1; street homeless 1; sofa surfing 2; temporary accommodation 3; anti-social behaviour 1. This snapshot shows the wide range of reasons our clients have to seek a loan from us.

A matter for concern is the small number of applicants referred from Lewes district Council, only three in the last quarter. We also have difficulty in communicating with some of the housing department. We hope to improve contacts in the future.

New Grants We are continuing to give as many grants for white goods and

carpets as before with 75 grants given this year to those moving into new accommodation. We have an annual budget of £20,000 for this purpose and we are on track to spend at least that much.

New Trustees We are asking for trustees to oversee our work. We should be appointing another from Churches Together in Seaford.

Please Pray for:-

- Gary and Shaun in their important roles
- Success in finding an administrator.
- Our new Chair as she takes over;
- A new Secretary to be appointed;
- New Trustees to be found.

HOMELINK is a registered charity led by a Board of Trustees (including two from our Parish) and run by a Management Committee, all of whom are volunteers. Other volunteers help in a wide range of roles.

HOMELINK normally employ five part-time staff: two Client Managers; a Repayments Officer; a Finance Manager; and an Administration and Development Officer;

HOMELINK's office is rented from Age Concern in the House of Friendship in Lewes. Assessments are currently made by phone.

One Solitary Life by Margaret Coggins

He was born in an obscure village. He worked in a carpenter's shop until He was 30. He then became an itinerant preacher. He never held an office. He never had a family, or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He had no credentials but Himself.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure of the human race.

All the armies that ever marched and all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat and all the Kings that ever reigned, have not affected the life of Man on earth as much as that.



Life And More Abundant Ministries

LAMA



Dear Friends,

Kevin

This month we visited Tondo, Manila twice to help Kevin - one of our more recent boys at LAMA House. His friend messaged asking for help as the police had apprehended him, he needed proof that he was only 16 years old. Michael sent a picture of his birth record and another picture of him in a LAMA family group. Fortunately, it was enough for the police to release him, but not until they had questioned him trying to find out names of boys involved in theft, and hitting his feet with a baseball bat to prevent him from running. We met up with him in Tondo on his release, he was limping and scared. Tondo is the poorest and most dangerous place in Manila. Around 600,000 people live in small, ramshackle dwellings made from whatever they can scavenge, many children live on the streets. Kevin lives in the deepest slums with a couple who took care of him as a child.

When LAMA House closed during the pandemic, we placed Kevin with an Aunt living in a nice home outside Manila but shortly after she sent him to live with his father, without our knowledge. He ran away to Tondo where he now lives. Michael tried to



persuade him to come home with us but the family needs him to take care of them as the couple are disabled and there is a baby to care for, while their son goes to school. The street-children crowded around us when we arrived, openly sniffing solvents - curious to know why we were there. There are no words to describe the level of poverty or the problems families face every day.

We talked for a while, trying to find solutions - gave money and prayed with them. Kevin cried as we prayed, he always does. The family seem kind to him but he feels indebted to serve them as long as he lives under their inadequate roof.

I cried and prayed for days, the faces of the children and worries for Kevin haunting me. We lost contact with Kevin's friend, his last message said Kevin had a high fever - I guessed his foot was broken but they had used all



the money we had given him to pay the electric bill and buy rice and food - an X-ray or hospital visit was unthinkable for them. Michael was stopped by traffic police on the way out of Manila, predatory police took his license - he had to return for it after a week. Life in the Philippines!

Michael visited again, after queuing for most of the day to get his license back, and Kevin seemed OK - carrying the baby of the family's niece. Michael bought food again for all the children gathered around. We plan to find a church there to partner with, perhaps the Salvation Army who have a church and school nearby - there are several organisations doing feeding programs, education and medicals - but the needs are so great. We are told a dash-cam is the way to avoid illegal traffic fines. Please keep Tondo and Kevin in your prayers - prayer avails much!

Regional Rehabilitation for Youth

I wish we could video Chapel services at RRCY for you to see. I have been to so many churches, chapels and youth gatherings in my lifetime - and none compares to what happens when these boys worship Jesus! We often tremble because the Presence of God is so real, and are tearful as we see God moving in their hearts.

We usually have around 50 boys attending. This week a new boy sat on the edge of the meeting - when we closed the service the other boys suggested he give a testimony. He was nervous so another boy shared his story first, how God made a way for him to go home for the funeral of his older brother - he cried as he thanked God for His care. The new boy got up and stood behind the microphone.

He said he was arrested and did not know why. He is a Christian and served in his church. He asked us to pray the case would be dismissed and he could go home. We all gathered around him and prayed. Amazing, he must have told the boys he was a Christian when he arrived. Courageous! It is wonderful to be a part of what God is doing! Cover us in prayer and let's see the power of the Holy Spirit work wonders for these little ones. Your prayers make a difference.

Thank you for helping us. May the Peace and Love of Jesus fill your hearts and homes this Christmas and blessings for the New Year.

Lesley, Peter, Michael, Jeli, Ana & Simon.



Order of St. Richard

The Order of St Richard was founded in 2019 and is an award made in recognition of exceptional Christian service in a deanery, parish, or local community. Some 40 lay people from all four archdeaconries in the Diocese [Horsham, Brighton and Lewes, Hastings, and Chichester] each received the award from Bishop Martin at a ceremony in Chichester Cathedral on Saturday 8th October. These included Diana Woodcock and Malcolm Anderson.



Diana received her award for her faithful and pastoral care of her church congregation. Malcolm received his for enabling the parish to use modern technology and his work in the wider community.



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Readings for December-January

Lectionary



4th December: Advent 2

Isaiah 11.1-10
Matthew 3.1-12

11th December: Advent 3

Isaiah 35.1-10
Matthew 11.2-11

18th December: Advent 4

Isaiah 7.10-16
Matthew 1.18-25

25th December: Christmas Day

Isaiah 9.2-7
Luke 2.1-20

Christmas
starts with
Christ

1st January: Epiphany

Psalms 72.1-15
Matthew 2.1-12

8th January: Baptism of Christ

Acts 10.34-43
Matthew 3.13-17

15th January: Epiphany 2

Jeremiah 1.4-19
John 1.29-42

22nd January: Epiphany 3

1 Kings 19.1-18
Matthew 4.12-23

29th January: Epiphany 4

Ezekiel 1.1-18
John 2.1-11

Selected by Jim Holmes

Poetry



I Saw a Stable by Mary Coleridge

I saw a stable, low and very bare,
A little child in the manger.
The oxen knew Him, had Him in their care,
To men He was a stranger.
The safety of the world was lying there,
And the world's danger.



#GOD with US



December

Calendar

Saturday 3rd	10.00am	Seaford Christmas Magic	St. Leonard's
	2.30pm	Messy Church	
Sunday 4th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.30am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
Wednesday 7th	9.30am	Tots' Treats	St. Luke's
	11.00am	Matins	St. Leonard's
	12.30pm	Parish Lunch	St. Luke's
Thursday 8th	9.30am	Tots' Treats	St. Leonard's
Friday 9th	2.30pm	SPWG/MU Stopover service	St. Leonard's
Sunday 11th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	The Meeting Place	St. Luke's
	7.00pm	Prayer@7	St. Luke's
Tuesday 13th	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
Wednesday 14th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Thursday 15th	9.30am	Tots' Treats	St. Leonard's
Friday 16th	5.45pm	Family Movie Night	St. Luke's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.30am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
Sunday 18th	6.00pm	Service of Lessons and Carols	St. Leonard's
	7.00pm	Contemporary Carol Service	St. Luke's
	7.30pm	Parish Women's Group	St. Luke's
Monday 19th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	4.00pm	Messy Christingle	St. Leonard's
Wednesday 21st	3.00pm	Crib Service	St. Luke's
	6.00pm	Nativity Service	St. Leonard's
	11.00pm	First Communion of Christmas	St. Leonard's
Saturday 24th Christmas Eve	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
Sunday 25th Christmas Day	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Wednesday 28th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's

Calendar

January



Sunday 1st	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.30am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
Wednesday 4th	11.00am	Matins	St. Leonard's
Saturday 7th	9.30am	Messy Church	St. Leonard's
Sunday 8th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	The Meeting Place	St. Luke's
	7.00pm	Prayer@7	St. Luke's
Wednesday 11th	9.30am	Tots' Treats	St. Luke's
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	12.30pm	Parish Lunch	St. Luke's
Thursday 12th	9.30am	Tots' Treats	St. Leonard's
Friday 13th	2.30pm	Mothers' Union	St. Luke's
Sunday 15th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.30am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7	St. Luke's
Monday 16th	7.30pm	Parish Women's Group	St. Luke's
Tuesday 17th	Magazine copy date		
	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
Wednesday 18th	9.30am	Tots' Treats	St. Luke's
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Thursday 19th	9.30am	Tots' Treats	St. Leonard's
Sunday 22nd	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	The Meeting Place	St. Luke's
Wednesday 25th	9.30am	Tots' Treats	St. Luke's
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Thursday 26th	9.30am	Tots' Treats	St. Leonard's
Sunday 29th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.30am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's



Regular Services & Groups



Services in St. Leonard's Church

Sundays

- 8.00am Holy Communion: a quiet said service
- 9.30am Holy Communion: a service with choir and hymns
- 11.30am The Meeting Place: informal worship (1st and 3rd Sundays) with pastries from 11.00am

Wednesdays

- 11.00am Matins: a quiet said service (1st Wednesday)
- 11.00am Holy Communion: a said service (2nd to 5th Wednesdays)



Services in St. Luke's Church

Sundays

- 9.30am Holy Communion: a service with hymns (1st and 3rd Sundays)
- 9.30am The Meeting Place: informal worship (2nd and 4th Sunday) with bacon rolls from 9.00am
- 7.00pm Prayer@7: a short time of worship followed by prayer (2nd Sunday)
- 7.00pm St. Luke's@7: Contemporary worship (3rd Sunday)

Tuesdays

- 11.00am Prayer Ministry and Communion (2nd and 4th Tuesdays) followed by refreshments

Monday	Women's Group	7.30pm	St. Luke's	1 st & 3 rd Monday
Tuesday	Bell Ringers	7.30pm	St. Leonard's	Weekly
Wednesday	Tots	9.30am	St. Luke's	Weekly*
	Parish Lunch	12.30pm	St. Luke's	1 st Wednesday
Thursday	Tots	9.30am	St. Leonard's	Weekly*
	Choir	7.00pm	St. Leonard's	Weekly
Friday	Mother's Union	2.30pm	St. Luke's	2 nd Friday
	Sparks	5.45pm	St. Luke's	Weekly*
	Ignite	7.30pm	St. Luke's	Weekly*
Saturday	Messy Church	9.30am	St. Leonard's	1 st Saturday
	Open Church	10.00am	St. Leonard's	See calendar
				<i>*Term time</i>



Clergy

Revd. James Hollingsworth	01323 893508	vicar@seafordparish.org.uk
Revd. Derreck Lee-Philpot	01323 893391	dlp@seafordparish.org.uk

Children, Youth & Family Missioner

Stefan Bracher		cyfw@seafordparish.org.uk
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Parish Office- calls can be taken Monday to Friday 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Charlie Christie	07391 787130	admin@seafordparish.org.uk
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Churchwardens

Fred Bass	01323 893054	fred@seafordparish.org.uk
Liz Morgan-Jones	01323 890644	liz@seafordparish.org.uk

Deputy Wardens

Janet Kent (St. Leonard's)	01323 490050	janet.seaford@btinternet.com
Paul Waller (St. Leonard's)	01323 872088	
Joanne Lalla (St. Luke's)		joanne.lalla@btinternet.com

Parish Treasurer

Paul Waller	01323 872088	atreasurer@seafordparish.org.uk
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Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

Wendy Ogilvie	07779 248730	
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Prayer Pastor

Sue Griffiths		prayerpastor@seafordparish.org.uk
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Safeguarding Officer

Ruth Saunders		safeguarding@seafordparish.org.uk
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Magazine

Distribution	01323 892883	David and Hazel Bramley
Editor: Malcolm Anderson	01323 891252	magazine@seafordparish.org.uk

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