

# Parish Magazine

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

**You designed and made the  
earth,**

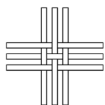


**You made summer...**

**and winter.  
Ps 74:17**

**October-November 2023**

Suggested donation **£1.00**



# SEAFORD PARISH CHURCH

ST LEONARD'S AND ST LUKE'S

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# WELCOME

## **Do the Bible and Science contradict each other?**

For the Christian, the Bible is God's Word to us; it tells us about His character and creative purposes, how He has related to people in the past, and His promises for the future. Science is a specific way of studying the world, exploring the physical properties of things – a wonderful way to explore God's creation. So, the question to ask if the Bible and Science seem to be contradicting each other is, have we made a mistake in interpreting one or the other?

Science is very good at answering certain types of questions: 'What size is it?', 'How fast does it travel?', 'What is it made of?', and so on. Questions like 'What's it for?', 'What should I do with it?', and 'What's it worth?' can't be answered using scientific methods. Some of the misunderstanding in discussions of Science and Religion come from not recognising the limits of science.

It's also important to recognise what the Bible is, and what sorts of questions it can answer. The Bible was written well before people began to investigate the world in ways we would recognise as scientific. Of course, people in the Ancient Near East were studying the world around them, observing the movements of the stars, the processes of life and death that happened all around them, the seasons, the behaviour of physical objects, and so on. But they did not study the mechanisms underlying these things systematically using the tools of science, and they did not see or describe the world in scientific terms – not because they weren't intelligent, but because Science, as we know it, wasn't happening at that time.

Instead, the biblical writers used words that were commonly used in their own cultures to record events, share truth and wisdom, and tell stories that convey deep truth about God's character. If we want to understand God's intention in inspiring these words, we need to do some careful work to connect with those ancient writers and find out what they meant, before we can discover what those words mean to us today.

These principles can help us have far more fruitful conversations about Science and Christian faith. If we allow any apparent conflict between Science and the Bible to fuel our search for understanding, not only will we learn as individuals, but we will be able to draw others into a conversation that is relevant to wider society today.

### **Bible Sunday 2023**

Bible Sunday is on 29th October this year, a day set aside in the church calendar to celebrate the gift of God's word.

# Parish News

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## Harvest Celebrations

On Sunday 1st October we will be celebrating harvest and the 60th anniversary of the ordination to the diaconate of Rev. Colin Pritchard. The Archdeacon of Brighton and Lewes, Venerable Martin Lloyd Williams will be preaching at 9.30 in St. Leonard's. From 12noon there will be a Harvest Picnic also in St. Leonard's. Bring your own lunch and join us.

## Curate

From June 2024, we will be joined by Carole Darling for her curacy as a Self-Supporting Minister. She will be commuting from Lewes to us on Sundays and two days during the week. Please start to pray for her.

## Remembering and Holding Grief

On Sunday 22nd October at 3.00pm in St Leonards there will be the annual Memorial Service. A time for you to come and in a worship filled space offer up to God that odd mixture of sorrow, tears and joys and memories of those you have loved and lost. There will be space for you to light a candle and the names of any particular people will be read out as part of our prayers. You would be most welcome.

## Coffee, Prayer Ministry & Communion

You are welcome to join in our next Service of Prayer Ministry with Communion at St. Luke's on Tuesdays 10<sup>th</sup> October, 14th and 28th November at 11.00am. Coffee will be available from 10.00am to 12.00pm.

## Seaford Parish Women's Group

Please note that Women's Group now only meet on the 3rd Monday of the month, unless advised of additional meetings.

## Parish Lunch

The next Parish Lunches will be on Wednesdays 4th October and 1st November. To book a place please call Sue on 01323 490415 or Julia on 01323 895073. We serve a hot meal followed by dessert, tea or coffee for just £6.00, and the added enjoyment of eating together with friends.

## St. Luke's @7

St.Luke's@7 is on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. The next two will be October 22<sup>nd</sup> and November 26<sup>th</sup>. Folks gather and share supper at 5.45pm with worship from 7.00pm. Everyone is welcome, if you want supper please let Kate Steer know.

## Parish Magazine

The copy date for the December-January edition of the Parish Magazine is Tuesday 14th November. Items of news and articles of interest are most welcome and should be sent to [magazine@seafordparish.org.uk](mailto:magazine@seafordparish.org.uk).

## Fortnightly News

The regular news sheets with updates and reminders is published every two weeks. You can also receive this as an email. Please do ensure that you are receiving this. If you are not on our e-mail list you can sign up through our website at [www.seafordparish.org.uk](http://www.seafordparish.org.uk).

## **The Meeting Place**

On Sunday 5th November at 11.15 in St. Leonard's Holy Spirit Chapel, there will be a new-look 45min service. This will then run on the 1st and 3rd Sundays each month. There will be a time of meditative worship, and a reflective thought, leading to the aim of the service to be prayer, prayer for each other and ourselves, an opportunity for us to practice the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and to minister to one another. Do ask Derreck or James for more info. Please do continue to pray for this service as we continue to discern where God may want to lead us as we begin a new time of The Meeting Place... and of course please do come along. Maybe we will not all fit into the chapel.

## **Women's Intercession & Bible Day**

Any women interested in Biblical intercession are invited to a Women's Intercession and Bible Day on Saturday October 14th from 10.00am to 4.00pm at Seaford Baptist Church. There will be two sessions with a lunch break between. The day will be led by Gay Hyde who leads these events throughout the UK. There is no charge though a thank offering will be taken, drinks will be available but please bring a packed lunch if you plan to stay for the day. For further information please contact Sally Crowther on 01323 890207 or by email at sallyanddavid.crowther@gmail.com. Gay comes from Eastbourne and is a member of Gateway Church Hampden Park and has been leading these days for 20 years. Esther 4: 14 speaks of God's call to intercede for our nation for such a time as this .

## **Safeguarding Training**

Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility, so we would love as many members of the congregation as possible to attend one of the training sessions in October. All PCC members, people with permission to officiate, deacons, workers with children and anyone who leads the various fields of mission the church offers, must complete the training. However we also want to include people who are church sitters, coffee makers, members of the prayer group, welcomers at the door, anyone involved in pastoral care visits to people at home or in residential care, those who lead services in homes or make holy communion visits etc. In fact everyone in the congregation would be most welcome, because safeguarding is not just about what happens in church, it must also be part of our every day lives in the community. This does not of course, stop people doing the course individually on line, or you can do both!

The sessions are being held on:

- Saturday 14th October from 10.00 to 12.30 at St. Leonard's
- Sunday 15th October from 11.00am to 1.30pm at St Luke's.

Coffee, the best biscuits and lively debate will be included.

## **Celebrating Bible Sunday**

Churches Together in Seaford are holding a service to celebrate Bible Sunday at Chyngton Methodist Church, Millberg Road, Seaford, BN25 3ST on Sunday 29th October, 2023 at 6.00pm.

# Parish News

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## Shoebox Appeal 2023 Update

Ideas for fillers: supermarket offers! Please ensure that nothing edible is included, except sweets and/or chocolates with a best before date after 30th June 2024, craft kits, sewing kits, screwdrivers, razors, small games, hair accessories to name a few.

Our many knitters have been knitting during the year, one lady is knitting for next year before the boxes have left this year. David and Hazel Bramley delivered 3 large boxes of knitted items to Link to Hope headquarters along with some lovely teddies and other toys on 7th September. Knitting yarn is still always useful. Contact Hazel and she will get it collected and shared with our many knitters. This will enable them to continue to produce blankets, hats, scarves, mitts and gloves.

If you have access to the internet don't forget to check out the Link to

Hope website, [www.linktohope.co.uk](http://www.linktohope.co.uk) where you will be able to find more information about the many projects which



are supported. Videos of the areas in Eastern Europe where your boxes of smiles are taken and pictures of families who receive them, along with the people who help them, make interesting reading to give us some insight about their lives. Please pray for them.

Completed shoeboxes need to be brought to church by 3rd November as they will be blessed on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November.

Thank you so much for your continued support. For more information ring or text Hazel Bramley, on 07890 726957 (please do not use the landline) or email [bramleyd620@btinternet.com](mailto:bramleyd620@btinternet.com)



**St. Leonard's  
Open Church Cafe**

**Free refreshments  
& conversation**

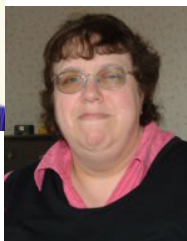
**Saturday October 28th  
10.00am to 12.30pm**

# Lunchtime Concerts in St. Leonard's Church

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 21<sup>st</sup> October at 1.00pm**

Julia Kemp (mezzo soprano) & Rosemary Kemp (piano)



Julia was a Music student and Choral Scholar at Trinity College, Cambridge where she graduated with a first in music. Previously she sang in the National Youth Choir of Wales and in a number of regional ensembles.

Rosemary a former scholarship pupil and prize winner at the Royal College of Music London, has performed and taught piano, harpsichord and electronic keyboard professionally.

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 1.00pm**

Charity concert for St. Cecilia's Day in aid of Christian Aid Clare Beesley (historical flute) & Peter Churchill (piano accordion).

A specialist in historical flutes, Clare performs with orchestras, ensembles and in solo recital Europe wide, Clare travels the globe serving as an examiner for ABRSM.

Peter a graduate of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, works as a community musician in Birmingham. He runs several prison choirs, directs Birmingham's Choir With No Name and plays accordion with mega-folk band The Destroyers.



# I'm back!

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## James Hollingsworth

### Sabbatical

I've had a super Sabbatical over June, July and August. Thank you so much to all of you who helped and carried on doing what you do and thank you to those who didn't wait to see what the Vicar might say but just got on with it. There is a lot to be said for doing a good deed and seeking forgiveness afterwards! I was glad to come back to only 550 emails. So thank you so much for letting me have a good Sabbatical. You may have read from my blog (<https://seafordparish.org.uk/blog/>) about my trip to Israel. I had planned to have a quiet time in Jerusalem, to wander into cool churches and read my bible and pray. However, I bumped into some Americans who invited me to swim in the Dead Sea, to go with them to Masada, Bethlehem, Hebron and so I ended up having a fantastically exciting time!

I re-wrote 30 hours of my Church History lectures. Most only needed a polishing up. But as you flick through my blog you can see book reviews on Femina a Church History with a focus on the women involved and other books.

Lucy and I went to the Scottish island of Iona to be part of the worshipping community living in the Abbey. There we cleaned the toilets for a week and worshipped in the ancient Benedictine

monastery and prayed for you.

I was given a book by one of you (thank you) in which my eye was caught by a reversed version of Psalm 46 Be still and know that I am God. The author was inviting us to meditate on this scripture through taking to note that you do already know who God is, and you know something of God, though there's much still to learn. You also know something of faith, though there is plenty of room for growth. But there are times when we need to be still. I am not good at that. The book put it like this, and I commend it to you to reflect more on: You know that I am God, now be still.



### Black History Month

October is Black History Month. Schools will be looking at key black people in history. We would do well to remember that we have the Gospel because it went first into Africa and then missionaries brought the good news to Europe. We are here because of black saints such as Origen, Tertullian, Athanasius, and martyrs like Perpetua and Felicitas, and of course St Augustine and do not forget his persistently prayerful mother St. Monica.

The reason why we are Christians here in Seaford is because of the gospel going down into Africa and through these saints, their councils, creeds and prayers it has come up to us. Who would be a good black role model that you might think of? The previous Archbishop of York, John Sentamu, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Martin Luther King Jr.

I only recently heard of Harriet Tubman. Previously a slave on a plantation, she ran away from her 'owners' to freedom but then secretly returned again and again to lead others to liberty. She was nicknamed 'Moses' because the Underground Train that she set up was an exodus for so many. Her faith gave her the courage to run for her own freedom, God guided her to a safe family, but she didn't then relax and take the easy path of life but returned again and again. She would be a good role model of faith for us all.

### **Order of St Richard**

Bishop Martin started up this award in 2019 as a way of celebrating those who have made exceptional contributions to their parish and the local community. There are only 40 awarded across the whole diocese, so that means 10 for each Archdeaconry, so that love is spread between four deaneries, and each deanery has about 15 parishes in it (ours is bigger with about 25). So, they are quite rare.

They are also intended to do more than make someone feel a little extra love as they go to the cathedral for a special day and service with Bishop Martin. The intention is to show that we as the family of God are glad and grateful for all who go the extra mile whether it be in youthwork, foodbanks, pastoral care, music and worship, technology and connecting people to worship, and all the different multitudinous ways that we all help. Sometimes when we give people a thank you it is because they are stopping doing whatever they were doing and so we are thanking them for what they have done. The Order of St Richard is not supposed to be like that. It is suppose to encourage those who receive it, and those who see others receiving it.

So it is rather exciting that this year this parish has been awarded an Order of St Richard.

Sylvia Coombe who worships at St. Luke's has been helping to lead services in some of the towns care homes. She must have been doing it about 20 years. She does what she does because of the grace of God in her life and for the glory of God and I hope she catches glimpses of gratitude from those we go to bless. If you would like to be part of a team that goes into care homes once a month for a short service do get in touch with James or Derreck.

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## **Thoughts on our Christian pilgrimage...**

Exercise daily, walk with the Lord.  
God's biggest problem with labourers in His vineyard is absenteeism.

# Book Review

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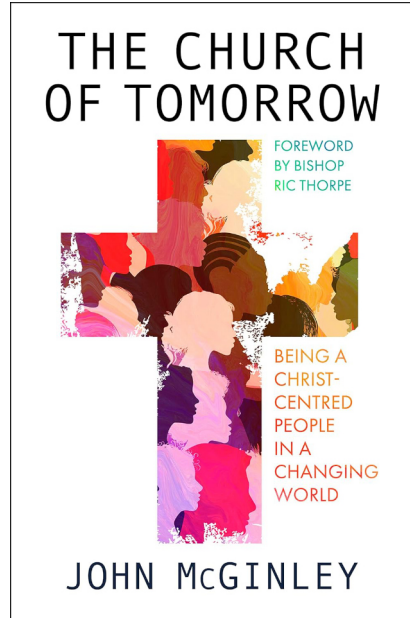
Derreck Lee-Philpot considers the  
The Church of Tomorrow by John McGinley.

‘Wait a minute’ I hear you cry, ‘didn’t James do a review of this book last magazine?’. Yes he did, well remembered. One of the opportunities of having two clergy in the parish from very different backgrounds is that we will see the same material from different viewpoints and together we can offer a ‘well rounded’ perspective.

I found this book a surprisingly personal read. Sometimes I read stuff that is heavily theological, doctrinally dense, and with no outlet or use for it except in a rare sermon or deep, very niche, question from someone. So, often I can read in a detached way, knowing that when I am finished and I put the book down, there is little to take with me but more head-knowledge.

The Church of Tomorrow is different. Reading it I did not get the opportunity to detach and think that ‘this is just theory’, but I was repeatedly brought back to what I believed and whether it was still valid from when I first received it.

For me the Chapters 4 and 5 entitled, ‘A disciple-making community’, and, ‘Churches that plant churches’ were particularly insightful and unsettling in almost equal measure. John McGinley recounts a meeting of Bishop’s Council discussing discipleship when a senior clergyman in the diocese said, “Where



has all this talk of discipleship come from? It used to be that all I had to do was to take the service every Sunday, God was on His throne, His people were in church and then we could all go home. Now I am expected to disciple people and it just makes everyone feel guilty.” We could even switch it around and say from a different ‘pew’ view, “What’s all this about discipleship, I thought I just had to turn up at church, sing a song, ‘Amen’ someone else’s prayer, surely that’s ok, God is worshipped, we can go home now. Why should I be disciplined, why do I need to

be a learner a student of the gospel, why should I have to change?

In a sense it is tragic that clergy should make such an observation, or that church members should ask such (imaginary) questions, and yet we do.

The simple answer is that discipleship comes from Jesus, and the call has always been the same, 'Follow me'. This book shows how this discipleship works its way into our lives, then out into other's lives, then into the church, and then forms the moulds for the 'Church of Tomorrow' of the title.

John gives insights into why the church (especially the Anglican church of which he and we are a part) is in decline. You may not be surprised to find that the answers he gently offers begin not with money from central funds, or clever programmes or diocesan initiatives, nor church reorganisations, boundary changes or new missional posts and roles. No.

The reversal of church decline begins with you and me. It begins with (in the words of the book's sub-title), 'Being a Christ-centred people in a changing world'. It's about being confident in the gospel, being dependant upon the Holy

Spirit, in being a holy people prioritising prayer in every area of our lives.

Heard it all before? I am sure we have, but maybe this time we should sit up and take notice, let's not kid ourselves that the church can decline forever, it cannot. It can however become a hollow imitation of the glorious, beautiful, majestic church that reflects the glory of Jesus, that God calls us to be.

I suggest this may be a voice crying in the wilderness that we should hear.

There is a quote often mistakenly attributed but was actually said by the philosopher John Stuart Mill which says, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

We could play with that and suggest, 'All it takes for the church to continue in decline is to continue what we are doing now and change nothing.'

This is not a book of head-knowledge, but one that calls for heart-response.

In essence the fate of the Church of Tomorrow is in our hands, according to how we 'Follow Him'.

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## ***Peace Doves* by Peter Walker**

Chichester Cathedral are hosting artist Peter Walker's immersive installation, Peace Doves from 30th September to 14th October and 21st October to 12th November with a number of special evening viewings and events. This artwork is made up of fifteen thousand individually handmade paper doves which are suspended above the Cathedral's historic nave. Each dove contains a message of peace, love and hope, written by local community groups, schools and members of the public. To find out more go to <https://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/events/peace-doves>

# Children, Youth & Families

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## Stefan Bracher

Wow, what a summer we have had! From camp, to a cake and craft day, from a games and BBQ day, to The Chosen film nights and of course our Children, Youth and Family Volunteers meeting and thank you BBQ! Not to mention some amazing Beach Church and volunteers getting more active with the setup of our Watt-A-Lott Castle Holiday Club for 2023! We have packed a lot in where we were meant to be taking more of a break, but hey-ho, it's been great fun!

### Sparks Camp

The Sparks summer camp was just amazing! Just under a week of the kids coming together and talking and singing about God and the amazing things he has done and continue to do for us! The children really got stuck into all of the crafts, activities and outings we had, and everyone ate vegetables! The most memorable thing from camp this year is how all of the children burst into singing, undirected by the leaders, during the clearing up from breakfast, lunch and dinner (yes they are also all able to wash, dry and stack plates too!). Camp was simply amazing!

### Church Family Camp

Thank you again to all the amazing support to help make sure all 12 of the children, who wanted to attend the Sparks summer camp, were actually able to attend. We had left over funds from the brilliant donations so we have

decided that we will use those funds to book the same campsite for a whole Church Family Camp, not just the families in the Church, the whole Church Family, everyone. This will be in the late bank holiday in August 2024. Make sure you mark it in your diaries. You'll be able to camp in tents and there are limited spaces for caravans or you can come as a day visitor. The campsite is Coldharbour Meadows, which is a Christian campsite in Chiddingly. It would be amazing to have us all there to worship and take part in a whole Church family event. If you have something you think would be good to add to the Church Family Camp, please let me know.

### Beach Church

We have had an amazing August at Beach Church, down on the seafront and thanks to God we avoided all sorts of weather! A wee bit windy, but mostly sunshine! We had a good number of people come along and be part of Beach Church, including a beach christening. It is one of the best opportunities to be able to get out and talk to others about our Church and what we believe in. You will be surprised by how many people stop and listen as they walk by and how many ask questions. I am sure we will be back next year with more Beach Church. I am tempted to have Christmas morning session followed by a cold dive... but probably not!

## **Sparks**

Sparks had a brilliant end to the summer term with various different activities throughout the week leading up to summer. We finished with a huge BBQ and water fight, as well as our goodie bag for some amazing behaviour and development over the past few months. Please do pray for the the young people in Sparks and the development of their faith.

## **Ignite**

Ignite has been going from strength to strength. We started off in January with just 6 and it exploded to an average of 35. Currently we are not having a session where we are talking about God, but we do have discussions on a 1-2-1 basis with individuals. This group at the moment is about building relationships with the young people, before we invite them to find out more about Jesus.

However, we do need to have another group open, possibly on a Sunday evening, for this age range. This is so they have a space where they can come together and talk about God, raise questions and issues in a safe and secure way. We need to allow them to explore faith without the pressure of 'you must believe in Jesus'. This group will be looking at using such resources as Christianity Explored, Youth Alpha or The Chosen. However, as with all of the groups I cannot run it myself and therefore I would ask you to really think about the time you might be able to commit to help me run this session. Let me know if you would be up for it! Despite what you might have heard the youth group are actually a really lovely group of young people who like to chat to anyone!

## **Tots' Treats**

Tots' Treats had an unexpected increase in numbers towards the end of this academic year. This was due partly to some nursery providers closing early for summer and partly to rethinking some of the set up of Tots Treats in our churches. We continue to look at where we can develop, but maybe there has been something you have seen in another Church that you think might work for us in Tots' Treats, if so, do feel free to let us know!

## **Glow**

Our Glow Sunday School at St. Luke's is now in full flow as we alternate between Family Worship and Glow. In Glow we tend to start with toast and then go in for the start of the service and leave after the first hymn. But then we get up to a craft related to the story and then settle down for a story in the annex. This is followed by a question and answer time and then some good old dancing, where the kids can try to win some prizes too! Following that we head back through to join the others for a blessing and a show and tell!

## **Messy Church**

Messy Church continues to meet on the first Saturday of each month with a fantastic group of families coming along and joining in. Whilst we did not meet in August we did have two touch base sessions over the summer, very Messy Church styled. A Cake and Craft session, where we had over 60 people attend and then a BBQ and Games session with over 50 people attending! It was great fun just to chat with other parents and meet parents and children who we had never seen before! Here's looking forward to seeing them again soon!

## Holiday Club Quiz Night

Firstly a huge thank you to you if you were able to support the quiz night in any way shape or form. We will let you know how much you all raised in the fortnightly news.

## Holiday Club Help!



It is coming up to that time of the year again where we really start to think about Holiday Club which is running from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October. This year we visit Watt-A-Lot Castle. I am looking for as many volunteers as we can possibly get for the sessions. Generally, we need around 15-20 every day across all roles, with roles either directly or in-directly working with the children. If you are able to help, please let me know by either speaking to me, emailing me or follow the link below to book and confirm what you can do. If you do not know what you are doing just yet, I pray that you see this as the first thing that's just been booked in. Volunteer here: <https://seafordparishchurch.churchsuite.com/forms/stfodswc>

## St. Luke's Garden Project

At the moment we have had to put the garden project on the back burner. So if you look out the back of St. Luke's you will see that not much has changed since we initially started work on it. This is largely because other sessions have

taken priority. But our own deadline of getting the garden up and ready for next year is still in sight. We will be looking for some folk to come and assist when we get to a point early 2024. So keep your eyes peeled!

## Volunteers Needed

It goes without saying, but we do still really need some extra support with St. Luke's Tots on a Wednesday morning and Sparks on a Friday evening. We tend to have enough volunteers to just about cover the sessions, but these are the particular areas where we need extra volunteers. Please do think about volunteering if you can. I can promise you that you won't regret it!

If you would like to volunteer with any of the groups, please do let me know by either completing the form using the link below, or by phoning/emailing me. <https://seafordparishchurch.churchsuite.com/forms/bxz0n0b8>

## Paternity Leave

I want to say a huge thank you to Kim Cuthbert. You might not have known Kim before, but she has been covering my paternity leave during September, running the children, youth and family groups... as well as starting a new job! I ask that you thank God for Kim's support and the support of all the volunteers in the Children, Youth and Family Team, whilst I have been taking paternity leave, they have and always continue to be amazing!

E-mail: [cyfw@seafordparish.org.uk](mailto:cyfw@seafordparish.org.uk)  
Telephone: 07506143476

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# If you were put on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

## Ruth Saunders

We are sometimes asked to consider the following: If you were put on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you? I am most fortunate, never to have been put to the test.

I like to think of myself as a pacifist – it is quickly and easily said, and if I am challenged, it is only with words and interested discussion. I have not been put to the test.

In 1941, my father was 20 and challenged by his country for his pacifist beliefs, and put to the test.

I have the paperwork that was submitted to the Local Tribunal for Conscientious Objectors, which sat in Leeds on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1941, and it records that my father went to Sorby Research Institute in January of that year, through the Peace Pledge Union, which he had joined 3 years previously. It reports that he had been a vegetarian for 6 years, and objected to the use of force and the taking of any life. It also records that he regularly attended a Congregational Church and that his objection was based on Christian grounds. The paperwork dated the following day, confirms that he had been conditionally registered in the Register of Conscientious Objectors until the end of the 'present

emergency', the condition being that he continued to work as a subject at the Sorby Research Institute.

The Sorby Research Institute, had been set up by the government, to look at issues confronting people during a war, and it had recruited Conscientious Objectors, as they were a group of people available at that time, to be 'guinea pigs'. My father joined the group in January 1941, and took part in several experiments, including being given scabies so that transmission and cure could be looked at, being deprived of water and vitamin D to see how the body would react and what deprivations it could withstand. My father was willing to continue this work as it was for the benefit of everyone in the country, but he and other COs, were keen that their right to refuse to fight should be accepted unconditionally. He appealed, and in September his appeal was allowed, and he was registered unconditionally. My father remained part of the project until the end of 1943, when he and my mother, who had married in the August of that year, moved to work in a home for refugee families run by the Quakers. Being a Conscientious Objector during a war where everyone lives in constant fear, is a position that many people, including friends and family, find extraordinarily difficult to accept.

Accusations of cowardice are rife, and verbal abuse frequent. The White Feather movement, created to encourage women to call out men who had not joined up, was active throughout both wars. The Professor leading the project, cites the media as portraying the COs as 'opiniated, pig-headedly obstinate and incurably ignorant', but reports that 'they seemed both normal and intelligent...apart from their views on war'. Many COs went to jail, including friends of my father, and I am not sure why he did not. Maybe his Christian faith saved him from a prison sentence. The lives of the men and women who joined up were dreadful and often short, and required great bravery - the life my father chose was also hard and at times dangerous to health and well-being, and required great bravery. In an account of the project written in 2006, the epidemiologist writes that these experiments would not now be allowed

under the Declaration of Helsinki on medical research involving human subjects and we still wonder whether they contributed to his early death from cancer.

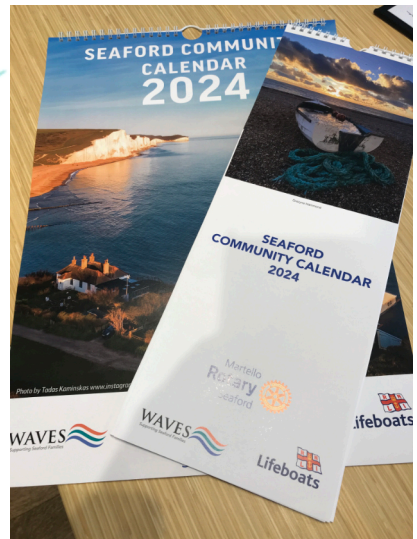
My father continued to work for peace for the rest of his life, taking part in the Aldermaston marches, supporting CND and setting up the first Amnesty International group in Brighton. After his death, we took money given in my father's memory to the Greenham Common women, whose camp he saw as a beacon of hope for the future.

The world is still full of aggression and violence between countries and peoples, and we still seem to think that war is the answer. The millions of people who have died and are still dying in unspeakable circumstances and the suffering visited on millions of other people, suggest that this cannot be so. I have no answers, but I love my father for trying to find a different one.



If you are looking to get a 2024 calendar (large or slim) please consider purchasing the 2024 Rotary calendar as they are supporting WAVES (one of our mission partners) through the sale of their calendar. Sue Topp can pick one up for you if it helps. The calendars cost £7 for the slim version and £9 for the large version (card envelopes are 50p).

Please contact Sue on 07902933988.





## Not Out

*Colin Pritchard*

September 29th (Michaelmas Day) this year marks 60 years since I was made deacon in Southwark cathedral by Bishop Mervyn Stockwood.

I must admit that my path to ordained ministry was far less rigorous than anyone applying today. I come from a church-going family, not easy in the war years we evacuated ourselves as a family to the Berkshire countryside with my father away in the army and with severe petrol rationing I remember being taken to church on the back of my mother's bicycle; it was a very steep hill down to the church and up again after.

Post-war we moved back to our house in Purley, Surrey. My brother was already at boarding school near Hastings and I joined him in the Christmas term 1946. Occasionally our parents were allowed to visit us and take us out for the day but on the Sunday they would join us in the school chapel. The vicar of a local village used to come and take the Sunday service. I remember that on more than one occasion he would say in his sermon that "God is calling boys and young men to the ordained ministry of the church." Those were the seeds in my mind.

About this time my father trained as a Reader and was licensed in May 1947. My mother also trained as a Marriage Guidance Counsellor (now Relate).

This meant that my family was well known in the diocese; The Bishop of Woolwich was chair of the Marriage Guidance Council. My parents made a point always of making friends with the vicar at the time. Before the Parish Communion movement, Holy Communion was at 8.00am on a Sunday with Matins at 11.00am and Evensong at 6.30pm. I was enrolled, along with the vicar's son, as a server for the 8.00am service. Slowly in my mind the call to the ministry was growing. I was even sent one holiday to Jesus College, Oxford, on a schoolboys' introductory conference for the ministry.

From Prep school to Public school where there were two chaplains and a daily start to the day in the school chapel. I was prepared for confirmation by chaplain Rutherford and confirmed in the school chapel by a retired missionary bishop, Bishop Hubback in 1954. On leaving school I was expected to follow my father and brother to Balliol College, Oxford, but to read Chemistry rather than Law before going to theological College. I failed the entrance, probably on the interview. I then obtained a place at King's College, London.

Meanwhile our saintly vicar continued the process of selection and the next event was an interview with a bishop – and which bishop was that? Only my mother's friend, the Bishop of Woolwich. The next step was the selection conference, then called the Church's Advisory Council for Training for

the Ministry. Leaving school I was called up to National Service; I chose to be a gunner in the Royal Regiment of Artillery and was sent in January 1958 to Oswestry for basic training. During my time there I was sent on the selection course for officer training and subsequently moved to MONS officer training. Having obtained my commission I was sent to Munster in Germany.

I was allowed home leave from Germany to attend my CACTM conference. The selectors were a bishop, a parish priest and a layman with an official from the central council to serve as secretary. Would you believe it, that when I got there and we were introduced, the parish priest was a friend of the family who already knew me. I passed the selection conference.

I was allowed to leave the army a couple of months early to start the course at King's College in October 1959. There were two parallel courses; the BD course that was open to men and women and the AKC diploma that was restricted to male Anglican ordinands. I did the AKC course. I passed the exams at the end of the first and second years BUT...

On the way into college by bicycle on one of the last days of lectures before the final exams, 22nd May 1962, a taxi driver opened his door as I was passing. The door caught my left hand and sent me head over heels into the busy Victoria Street. The first thing I remember was waking up in St. George's Hospital, Hyde Park Corner with the college chaplain talking to me. I never took my final exams as I

was not fit enough and therefore have no academic qualifications.

In June 1963 all my contemporaries who were going forward for ordination (50 of them) went down to St. Boniface College, Warminster, for the first of a 4-term year of further training. There were 3 teaching staff, a Warden, a sub-warden and a chaplain. There were no exams, just pastoral teaching. I joined them half way through that first term but was required to stay on for a further term after they left and a new cohort came in. It was a wonderful year in the Wiltshire countryside. We were attached two at a time to the local village churches for Sunday duty. There was variety during the week, sometimes we would spend a whole week in the company of trades union members or primary school and secondary school teachers. Members of other denominations, psychologists and so on. We had to prepare sermons to preach to the rest of the college; we were taught how safely to hold a baby for baptism. All this with the daily round of Communion, Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Compline together with a week's silent retreat every term.

Michaelmas Day 1963 saw me made deacon in Southwark Cathedral to serve my title with Christopher Studdert-Kennedy at St. Margaret's Putney. My main task was to be responsible for all the youth and children's work, 6 uniformed organisations, 3 youth clubs and 2 Sunday schools. The Vicar left and another came so I was there for a vacancy. On to St. Matthew's Brixton as a senior curate, again with 2 vicars, then on to Portsmouth as Priest in Charge of St. Patrick's, Southsea, yet again under 2 vicars. Lindsey and I were married whilst I was in Portsmouth and our first 2

children were born there. 12 years as a curate in 3 parishes under 6 vicars!

Finally I was invited back to Southwark diocese by Bishop Mervyn as Vicar of St. Mark's, Mitcham and the task of restructuring the church building. Our third child was born when we were in Mitcham. Then I was invited to be rector of St. Mary's, Long Ditton and ended up as Vicar of St. Andrew's, Earlsfield and Rural Dean of Wandsworth. All this time I was running or helping to run youth work. I served as a school governor for 28 years, often of 2 schools, I was chaplain at various times to the Air Training Corps, the Sea Cadets, the Army Cadets and the Royal British Legion. From the time I returned to Southwark Diocese I served on the Diocesan Youth and Children's Committee, even being acting Diocesan Youth Officer for a time, especially in the planning and running of the Archbishop's initiative for youth and the millennium, The Time of our Lives.

Finally, after exactly 40 years (Michaelmas Day 1963 to Michaelmas Day 2003) I retired and we moved down here to Seaford.

I am still in touch by Zoom with a dozen of my "Warminster" friends; I have organised this ever since the Covid-19 lockdown and it is my task to keep them all in order. We meet at 10.00am on the first Thursday of the month to say Common Worship Morning Prayer in the way we used to say it on our annual retreats at Warminster, and then we talk, particularly supporting those whose wives are with dementia. A few of us are still active in the ministry of conducting services.

James has agreed to allow me to preside at the 9.30am Eucharist in St. Leonard's on Sunday, 1st October. The Archdeacon, Martin Lloyd Williams has been invited to preach on what will be our harvest festival.

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## The Turkish Trench Dog by Geoffrey Dearmer

Night held me as I crawled and scrambled  
near  
The Turkish lines. Above the mocking stars  
Silvered the curving parapet, and clear  
Cloud-latticed beams o'erflecked the land  
with bars;  
I, crouching, lay between  
Tense-listening armies peering through the  
night,  
Twin giants bound by tentacles unseen  
Here in the dim-shadowed light  
I saw him, as a sudden movement turned  
His eyes towards me, glowing eyes that  
burned  
A moment ere his snuffling muzzle found  
My trail, and then as serpents mesmerise  
He chained me with those unrelenting eyes,

That muscle-sliding rhythm knit and bound  
In spare-limbed symmetry, those perfect  
jaws  
And soft-approaching pitter-patter paws  
Nearer and nearer like a wolf he crept -  
That moment had my swift revolver leapt -  
But terror seized me, terror born of shame  
Brought flooding revelation. For he came  
As one who offers comradeship deserved,  
An open ally of the human race,  
And sniffing at my prostrate form unnerved  
He licked my face!

*Geoffrey Dearmer, (1893 - 1996) British poet, son of anglican liturgist and hymnologist Percy Dearmer (words editor Songs of Praise) and artist and writer Mabel Dearmer.*

**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 October**

## **WAVES – Supporting Seaford Families**

- For families with new babies attending Bump2Babes and the drop in centre, that they may find support and friendship from other families as well as from the workers and volunteers within WAVES to enable them to move forward with hope and positivity.
- That our outreach and listeners touch the lives of those they meet in meaningful ways.
- For the health and wellbeing of all involved with the running of WAVES – workers, volunteers and trustees.
- For on-going positive outcomes from funding applications and individual giving, to enable WAVES to continue to offer the valuable support our outreach workers deliver to families in need of direction, emotional and practical support.

## **SUNDAY - The Church Worldwide**

- Pray for the renewal of the Church in vision, service and the power of the Holy Spirit and that we will reflect the fruits as well as the gifts of the Spirit, revealing the love and saving power of Jesus.
- All Christian leaders - for wisdom as they minister to those around them and for their families who support them.
- A renewed desire for the Word of God to change lives and make us to be more like Christ.
- As God's people come to worship today, pray that we might know his presence, hear his voice and receive his blessing and then go out into the community this week to share his love.
- Those people and their families living with the threat of persecution, imprisonment, or death for following Jesus.
- Safeguarding – that the church will be a place of safety for all. For those who have suffered at the hands of others that they will find healing and wholeness.

## **MONDAY – The UK**

- Pray for the police and the prison service. For conditions in prisons, low morale and overcrowding.
- For the justice system with huge backlogs in court cases months behind and for the probation service.
- For the NHS maternity services in the light of the Lucy Letby case. For inquiries into the care of babies and mothers at the Kent and Medway NHS maternity unit and elsewhere.
- For the lack of a solution for the immigration situation, legal or otherwise. For the problems created amongst communities and for Kent Social Services overwhelmed with unaccompanied children. For the migrants themselves and the need for compassion and integrity.
- Pray for people on low incomes, small businesses affected by the ULEZ and for the difficulties in addressing the need for clean air.

## **TUESDAY - Parish**

- For James and Lucy as they settle back into parish life.
- For Stefan and Alice as they combine their responsibilities for the youth work as well as being new parents
- The Watt-a-Lot Castle Holiday Club being held at half-term (23rd -27th October). That there will be plenty of helpers in all areas and that they will be granted good health and stamina. That the children will learn more about God's love for them in a safe and fun environment.
- That there will be a good take up for the face to face safeguarding trainings being held on 14th/15th October.
- All those responsible for making arrangements for the many extra services during Advent.
- That we will be able to host a good Christmas Magic Day programme in St. Leonard's reaching out to the community on Saturday 2nd December.
- Those in the Care Home Pastoral Support Team as they visit parishioners and to take services and those undertaking Home Communion visits to ensure that those no longer able to get to church continue to be involved in the Church family.

## **WEDNESDAY – Children & Young people**

- Pray for the children, their families and the young people as they continue to meet week by week.
- Pray for Stefan and the team as they faithfully minister to the children and families, week by week. Pray for more helpers to get involved.
- For those attending "Glow" (St. Luke's) and Messy Church (St. Leonard's) that they will learn more about Jesus and His love for them.
- For the group who meet week by week to watch and discuss "The Chosen",
- For the leaders and helpers at the half-term holiday club – "Watt-a-Lott Castle". Pray for the children attending. For fun and safety
- For families coming to worship together in the parish that they will discover all that God has for them.

## **THURSDAY – Those living in:**

<b>October 5th:</b>	Jubilee Gardens, Argent Close, Queensway, Maple Fields
<b>October 12th:</b>	Balmoral Close, Monarch Gardens, Sandringham Close, Belvedere Gardens
<b>October 19th:</b>	Normansal Park Avenue, Chalvington Close, Normansal Close, Seagrove Way, Sovereign Close
<b>October 26th:</b>	Sutton Drove, The Byways, Parkside, Byedown
<b>November 2nd:</b>	Hindover Road, Hindover Crescent, Haven Brow, Rough Brow, Short Brow
<b>November 9th:</b>	Milldown Road, Sutton Road, Mill Drive, Parkside Road
<b>November 16th:</b>	Gildredge Road, Grove Road, East Albany Road, Stafford Road
<b>November 23rd:</b>	Meads Road, Cornfield Road, Middle Furlong, Highlands Road
<b>November 30th:</b>	Cornfield Close, Mercread Road, Guardswell Place, Vicarage Close

## **FRIDAY – Seaford**

- For local people and families juggling limited incomes and the rising cost of living. For those needing to make tough choices to make ends meet.
- Local schools, for staff and pupils dealing with the demands of the autumn term.
- Churches of Seaford, for leaders and people, for God's guidance and blessing.
- Care Homes, for protection from infection amongst staff and residents as they adjust to the challenges and demands of providing care.
- For healthcare staff seeking to prioritise and meet the health needs of the town. Pray for safety and good personal health.
- For members of the emergency services, police, ambulance, fire and rescue, coastguards and lifeboat volunteers

## **SATURDAY – World**

- Pray for those who have had their homes, families and employment decimated by natural disaster this year such as wildfires in Europe, earthquakes in Morocco and flooding in Libya. Pray for the response of other nations to offer support and help.
- For an end to the war between Russia and Ukraine. For all trying to come to terms with the consequences of the conflict and rebuild shattered lives.
- For a united international effort to solve the problem of people trafficking and those fleeing their homelands as refugees.
- That world leaders and governments will find workable remedies to cope with climate change and the ensuing environmental issues. That richer nations will offer help to the poorer nations so that there will be better use of the earth's finite resources.

## Pray for Missions Partners during November

### DIOCESAN FAMILY SUPPORT WORK - FSW

- The Practitioner Team Administrator, Miranda Sinyard, working throughout the Diocese to help the twenty Family Practitioners with their full case loads.
- Phillipa Fleming as she supports families in Newhaven, Peacehaven, Lewes & Seaford.
- The new Community Engagement & Volunteer Co-ordinators: Jane Lyons working in West Sussex and Alison Dewdney working in East Sussex in particular they will work with the Deanery Committees.
- The newly appointed Chaplain, Rev. Paul Seaman and former trustee filling a vacancy created in 2020.

### SARAH & POLA CHHIN WORKING WITH CAMBODIA ACTION

- For elder daughter, Laurie, as she begins her studies at Cardiff University and a new unfamiliar way of life as a student in the UK.
- For younger daughter, Alice as she sets out on her IGCSE studies in Cambodia.
- Health, stamina and safety for Pola and all his team members and their families especially as there are several building projects entailing long road trips between Phnom Penh and Siem Reap a single journey of 318 km taking 5 hours one way.
- The stability of Cambodia following the election of a new Prime Minister, Hun Manet who follows in the footsteps of his father (by a vote of 123/125) who was in post for 38 years.

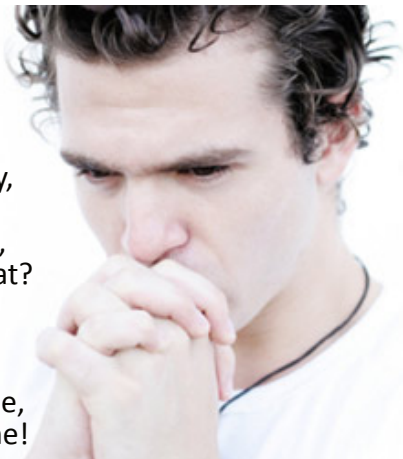
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## When the crunch comes *by Bob Rice*

What'll I do when the sky is black?  
Is it faith or prayer time I lack?  
Why does this happen to me?  
Surely God sees what I see!

But I know Christ is beside me every day,  
My Heavenly Father hears what I say!  
The Holy Spirit moves this way and that,  
So why do I feel like a head without a hat?

I can still kneel and pray some more,  
I can read scripture like never before ,  
I can ask others to pray so I am not alone,  
I light candles till God picks up the phone!





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# Seagulls Over Ghana!

## David Farey

Football is a part of our way of life. It is hard wired into the British character and we are blessed with nearby Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club, the Seagulls. Back in the summer BHA footballer, Tariq Lamptey was in his own home country of Ghana promoting his foundation's work of encouraging football among the needier parts of the country.

One of those attending the event was the Head of Mission for the Serving Africa Mission, the Rev. Jim Smith of Heathfield, who was in the middle of his and his wife Mary's three-month mission from their base in the Medie Valley north of Accra. Jim is a season ticket holder with Brighton and Hove Albion and so was something of an honoured guest!

Football is also part of Ghana's life and the children can often be seen kicking a ball or a pile of rags on any piece of rough ground. Jim and the team from the base which includes a school with around 200 children often see local children playing on one of the base's areas of ground.

Tariq Lamptey provided a God given inspiration as from his event an idea was born, to build an astro turf stadium on the mission base land. Tariq's connections led to a visit from the team that build these stadiums around Ghana and they were very excited by



the base and its opportunities. The area around the base is relatively poor and facilities are sparse, so to build a stadium of this kind, and to create an academy and organise league games would be a tremendous asset to the community and help children with few prospects to have aspirations.

The Serving Africa Mission is a relatively small Christian mission which punches above its weight. As a trustee I spoke at St. Luke's in August and showed photos of the amazing base and its buildings which have grown from nothing over thirty years. Under Jim and Mary's leadership an active church, a school of around 200 children, a medical centre and plans for boarding facilities, a vocation hub and a two storey teachers' centre have grown. With around thirty staff it is an important employer in the community and provides a Christian basis for generations of children who would otherwise have few prospects.

The football stadium would help to give children around, a purpose and help them to have pride in what they can achieve. The only problem was that the land where the stadium would be was already owned by a neighbour!

The neighbour was approached and asked if he might be willing to sell, and he was. The price was set by an

independent assessor, and was considerably more than the trust had available! The danger was that another faith organisation was active in the valley buying land where it could. If we lost the land the project would be dead and there was the real likelihood of a faith of a different persuasion building a worship centre right in the middle of our mission base's complex. The prayers went up and by God's grace the money has been raised.

The next task is to raise the money to actually build the stadium. Thankfully, through Tariq's foundation the organisation that builds the pitches can do it for a cheaper price, but it still amounts to several thousand pounds.

Once more the prayers go up! And from nothing, in the middle of undeveloped land, with no resources to start with and with prayer and faith the Serving Africa Mission has built an amazing complex and organisation over its thirty years. With prayers and faith – and people's sacrificial giving that stadium will be built! As they say in Ghana, God is good all the time, all the time God is good!

If anyone wishes to contribute to the project we have a Just Giving page which can be found on the Just Giving website and search for "Faith Football Stadium" or follow this link: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/beloved-football-stadium>

 **Lewes, Seaford and District Branch** 

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Please contact: Jean: 01323 892930

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**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**

# Unfolding Crisis on the border of Sudan

Clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces have displaced millions of people.

Almost 2 million of those remain displaced inside Sudan, with over half a million people fleeing to neighbouring countries.

There are fears of a return to all-out war in a country with a history of armed conflict endangering the fragile peace process in South Sudan. People are facing a crisis on crisis because of hunger and Christian Aid Ireland's CEO, Rosamond Bennett, visited Renk just a few weeks ago, near the border between Sudan and South Sudan, to see firsthand the unfolding humanitarian emergency. Since 15 April 130,000 people, including South Sudanese nationals as well as refugees and third country nationals, have registered to have fled from Sudan to South Sudan. The vast majority of these people are arriving at the Joda border crossing in Upper Nile State. Speaking of her recent visit to the transit centre in Renk, south of the Joda border crossing, Rosamond said: 'When people arrive at the border they are tired but hopeful. Those hopes are quickly dashed when they realise there is no support for them.'

The transit centre, which is meant to hold 1-2,000 people for a few days before they move on, is severely overcrowded. Our local partner Africa Development Aid is already on the ground responding.



## Nicola Ferguson

They are working to provide people with communal shelters as well identifying children who have become separated from their families when they fled Sudan and referring them onwards to other agencies working to reunite families.

With Christian Aid funding, our partner Lutheran World Federation will be responding both inside and outside the transit centre in Renk. This includes giving the equivalent of \$100 (approx. £82) in cash for 240 female-headed families so that they can buy food and other essentials, as well as three months' worth of 'dignity' kits containing soap and sanitary towels to 800 women and girls. But more support is urgently needed to prevent the situation from deteriorating even further.

### Voices from the border

'It is my wish that I could be the first and the last person to live the life that I am living in now.'



# Christian Aid

## Future Dates for your diaries:

Christian Aid Lunch, at Cross Ways will be held on Friday 27th October (half-term week)

Like last year, there will be two sittings: 11.45 - 12.45 and 1.15 - 2.15

Tickets available from Nicola Ferguson and Colin Pritchard. Colin may be contacted on 01323 894899, if you would like to order tickets directly from him.

The Christian Aid, Christmas Coffee Morning with stalls, refreshments and mince pies will be in Chyngton

Methodist church. We hope that more people will be able to attend this year. As Chyngton Methodist Church is tucked away a bit, out of the town centre, there are not many passers-by on the day, so please bring along your family and friends, as there are always great stalls, with home-made goods, bric-a-brac, cakes, books and raffle. Date to be confirmed.

Our next Quiz Evening will be held at Cross Way on Friday 26th January 2024 starting at 7pm with a light supper. We would be very grateful to receive raffle prize donations nearer the time.

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# Book Review

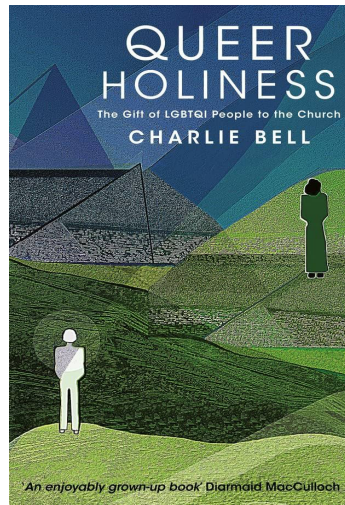
## James Hollingsworth reflects on

### Queer Holiness

Queer Holiness the gift of LGBTQI people to the Church by Charlie Bell. It's a brilliant title for a book.

I like Charlie. He was one of my students and I have marked a couple of his church history essays. He has a passionate energetic style so that within a few pages you will feel that your vocabulary has inexorably grown. It might even be that you yourself start speaking with an amplified verbosity.

Charlie is a gay man, a priest, and his book is about the importance of stopping the fruitless discrimination that he sees in the CoE. He decries the lack of engagement with science (as we failed with Darwin) and with the experiences of disciples (as we did with Divorce). He appeals to Richard Hooker (a key person during Elizabeth 1 reign) who really created the CoE more than Henry 8th by whittling an ecclesial stool made of Scripture, Reason and Tradition. But Bell would like to add a 4th leg to this: a Wesleyan emphasis on the inner witness of the Spirit by which



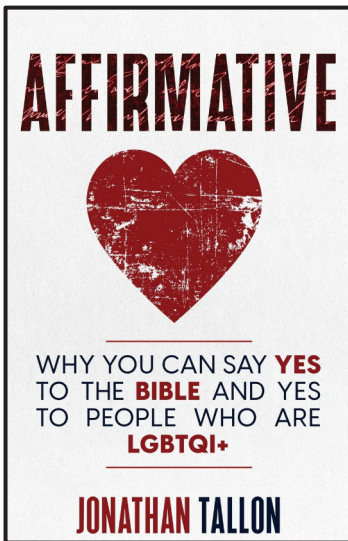
he means the worship-filled experience and fruit of gay Christians. He is angry at the damage that has been done to LGBTQI Christians. The CoE still has not woken up to the world that now presumes we are homophobic until proved otherwise. Meanwhile LGBTQI Christians are keen to make commitments to each other before God and to live lives serving their church.

He does not unpack particular scriptures, though he does unpick the metaphor of marriage as betwixt Christ (male) and the Church (female) as being a necessary argument for disallowing same sex marriages. He has a good chapter debunking the presumption that if something is cultural it must be ungodly.

He approves the Church of Wales who have moved ahead with blessings of gay couples without changing their doctrine on marriage. It will be interesting to see how that develops. What we can't do is say 'I'm alright Jack'- that is not the way of the Kingdom.

**Affirmative Why you can say yes to the bible and yes to people who are LGBTQI+.** Jonathan Tallon

This is a brilliant book, clear succinct, and does what it says on the tin. Tallon is a heterosexual married vicar.



Before unpacking the well-known scriptures that Shaw (above) presumes you know, Tallon gives two chapters that set the tone. The first explores the culture of abusive sex in ancient Roman times. Not a pleasant read. The second chapter explores Usury. Prior to the Reformation (1517), the idea of taking out a loan to buy a house, invest in a business, would have been greeted with horrific gasps. It was a mortal sin. You could not be buried on consecrated grounds. But Calvin (1545) put forward a case for lending with interest where both borrower and lender might be mutually blessed. We have not looked back since, though perhaps a case could be made for not burying loan sharks in hallowed grounds.

You may be surprised to discover that the sin of Sodom was not sodomy.

Tallon looks beyond LG to the BTQI+ and with the help of some science and bible explains how he sees these as people in need of love and inclusion. The issue of slavery comes up quite a lot both in terms of abuse and sex in ancient times, and also regarding the Transatlantic Slave Trade. The Church, including good bible reading evangelicals started initially defending the status quo, not least because a plain reading of scripture supported it, whilst many early abolitionists were atheists even communists. He uses this as a gentle call to the reader to be open to allowing yourself to become affirming as his book title suggests.

If you only read one of these books, I would commend this one.



## Terry Howell

### ‘Helping people into Housing’ Heart-warming

We have received many testimonials to our work which are moving responses and reassure us of the value of the hundreds of hours spent by volunteers that goes into all the aspects of our work. Administration; appointment of staff; raising funds; and not least writing and updating over 25 policies! Policies include:- Health and Safety; Safeguarding;. Data Privacy, Whistleblowing; Retention of Documents; Conflict of Interest; Complaints Procedure and Reserves Policy. We are also looking for a suitable IT system which is not easy.

A few of the testimonials to our staff (edited slightly),

The first is from a client fleeing domestic violence...

*Dear Shaun, ( Client Manager)  
I can't thank you enough for all your help and support, you've restored my trust in humanity. I could not move on with my life without the help that I received, you are doing a great job, keep it up please for the many unfortunate ones.*

*Warm regards from a client who was served notice to quit*

*Hi Gary, ( Client Manager)  
I am deeply grateful for your help and support . Homelink were easy to deal with, they helped me with a deposit for a rental property which had a very quick turnover. Gary at Homelink was very supportive and understanding with my situation, and helped with my needs very quickly. If not for the loan provided I would have been made homeless! This enabled me to move out of the property the landlord wanted back and ensured I had the opportunity to move. Gary made the whole process easy and simple, very proactive and contacted me when needed when right away!*

*From a client who was served a 21 (a no fault notice to quit)*

*Hi Gill (volunteer i/c grants)  
Yes I understand I need to put this application in again at the end of August I retire then – I must thank you and all your colleagues for the great service you provide for our tenants – it really does help to be able to refer for some assistance and to have applications dealt with so promptly and effectively*

*From a client referred to us by LDC who was threatened with homelessness because the landlord was selling the property.*

Dear Shaun and Gary

*It was absolutely great experience to deal with you! From the first minute I went to your office, I felt important to you and you really wanted to help me with my situation. The communication was really good by emails and phone. I can't express enough how grateful I am for your support and help with a loan with my specific situation. The procedures and requirements was clear and your advices and conditions helped me to deal with my debts(sic) issues and because of your help and clearly support I was able to resolved them. I would definitely recommend Homelink to other people in a similar housing situation. Your attitude and willingness to help people is priceless.*

*From a Senior Case Worker for LDC*

*I am beyond grateful to Homelink and in particular to Shaun for all his help and support the past few weeks. I am a single parent with a young child and never imagined that I would be facing the prospect of becoming homeless. I was totally overwhelmed with stress and anxiety when I first contacted Homelink and it was so comforting to speak to somebody who genuinely cared, wanted to help and actually offered practical solutions to the difficulties I was facing. Thanks to Homelink I was able to secure a loan in order to cover my rental costs on a property for my daughter and I to move into. Shaun really went above and beyond to help me with this and I will be forever grateful for all his support and kindness. My little girl and I move into our new home next week and without a doubt this would not*

*have been possible without the loan and additional support Homelink provided. The whole process has been easy and straightforward, and the staff are truly wonderful people that are a pleasure to deal with. I cannot speak highly enough of this incredible organisation.*

We could not ask for any better responses than these!

**Please pray for:**

- All who are looking for housing in our District,
- All who find it difficult to pay back loans or rent,
- Ros our Chair, Trustees and Staff.



HOMELINK is a registered charity led by a Board of Trustees (including one 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.



Life And More Abundant Ministries

# LAMA

Lesley Gomez

September 2023 is the 40th anniversary of my arrival in the Philippines as nurse to Miracle Bible College! This is an extract from 'Have a Little Faith'.

"Shortly after my twenty-second birthday, in 1983, I left England to work as a volunteer nurse for six months in the Philippine Islands, at Miracle Bible College and Children's Home. Everything was going as planned. It was summer 1983 and I had recently resigned from my job as staff nurse on the eye ward at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital. It had been fascinating work. Now I was preparing to go to the Philippines for six months to work as a campus nurse for Miracle Bible College and Children's Home. After that, I would return to Gloucester and train for eighteen months as a registered mental health nurse. Having tied up all the loose ends I travelled to Cornwall to spend some time with my parents. At the end of August, I celebrated my twenty-second birthday; two weeks later I was waving goodbye to my family at the airport. I was accompanied on the flight by a girl my age – Chrissy. I had met Chrissy at Hollybush Christian Camp earlier that summer. She was going to work as a missionary in Olongapo, near Manila. At that time neither of us knew that we would be dedicating our lives to missionary work

in the Philippine Islands. There was a lot then that we didn't know! Later, I founded Life And More Abundant Ministries (LAMA) and made the Philippines my home. I married Peter Gomez and we devoted our lives to helping the poor."

Not only are we celebrating 40 years of ministry...Pete's mum celebrated her 100th birthday at the beginning of September too.

Lesley's health: I had been having problems again with eating, so consulted an Achalasia Specialist in Dasmariñas. She did tests to confirm I have Type 1 Achalasia which needed another balloon dilation endoscopy. I had that done last month, the procedure was successful. Thank you for prayer and for helping with the bill. I am so thankful that I found this Specialist, although it was quite a long journey to and fro.

Ministry: We continue to have a very blessed Chapel Service at the government-run Detention Centre for boys nearby. Michael goes there 4 times a week, the boys respond very well to times of Bible Study and prayer with him. On Tuesdays, I join the team-Michael, Simon and Leah, for Chapel Service. We take our musical

instruments and sound system as they love to have a good sing! We still need a better vehicle to transport the equipment to various places, taking worship and introducing people who are not in a church to Jesus. Other churches have seen the worship sessions on-line and Worship Nights and they also want to do what our team does, it seems to be becoming a movement - to bring worship outside the church building! Recently, during prayer time after Chapel Service, one of the boys asked for prayer - Michael had spoken about Not Giving Up - he said it was exactly what he needed to hear that morning. He has been detained for 8 years, the longest there. Often his court hearing is postponed for one reason or another - it is the same for most to the boys, it seems to be the legal system here. They always hope that the next hearing will be the last, but it drags on for years. His family rarely visit as they live far away.

During his message, Michael showed them a video clip of athletes nearing the Finish Line, one of them collapsed exhausted, his legs had given up, so instead he rolled his body along the remaining track then crawled until another runner stopped to help him. Several of the boys wiped tears from their faces. They agreed to help each other remain hopeful.

This week news reached Michael that several have gone home (some made 'plea bargains' so they would be released). The young man who I requested prayer for is still there, he doesn't want to plead guilty to something he did not do. The pressure is great as he sees others go home, but he is so thankful that you are all praying

and the sense of hopelessness has been replaced with a joy that he can't quite understand! I believe this group of more than 60 boys is special and God has a purpose for them as Michael mentors them. Pray for Justice!

Michael was conducting interviews last month as part of his course - he asked one of the house-parents about her views on justice, she began to cry, she said many of the boys seem to be detained unfairly due to cases brought against them by people with a lot of money. Pray for Justice!

Baby Matheo: Baby M is so loved; he is the centre of attention. He is now 10 months old and has teeth, can crawl and stand and is eating solids. He doesn't sleep through the night, so Ana is tired. Pray he will. He is a happy baby - Ana, Simon, and Charis do a great job taking care of him. It will be difficult to hand him over for adoption - we are still waiting for proceedings to go ahead. Please pray.

Miggy: We attended Miggy's wedding last week, our team did the music at the reception. You may remember LAMA Ministries helped Miggy with medical treatment years ago, when she was badly burned. The scars are barely visible now. It was a beautiful wedding, she looked so lovely. Her father cried, thanking me for all the help we gave during that very traumatic time for them. I pass that thank-you on to you!

Thank you for all you do for God's Kingdom here in the Philippines, your prayers truly avail much!

*Lesley and Peter Gomez, Michael and Jeli, Ana and Simon.*

# Get Mobilised!

---

## David Farey

CS Lewis described our world as being “occupied territory”. He spoke from the experience of a Europe that had been ravaged by the Nazi onslaught and nations oppressed under the jackboot heel. But he was talking in a spiritual sense.

From the beginning of creation as recorded in Genesis a war broke out and the Devil has been seeking to challenge God’s authority and reign. As a result he besieges God’s creation and more particularly His creatures in it, and even more particularly – us!

The cross sealed the Devil’s fate with Christ’s sacrifice destroying the enemy’s grip on us and giving everyone a chance to restore Adam and Eve’s mistake by faith in Christ’s redemption.

So what is the Church? The Church is an open door to all who have a desire to follow Jesus. We gather for our meetings and as we make our way there we should have the expectation in our hearts that we are on our way to meet with Him. We do it in the company of fellow pilgrims who share in that expectation. So we worship Him and offer our thanks and praise for sustaining our lives and answering our prayers. We offer more prayers together so that collectively we can share in offering the burdens of our world to our God. We read His word and receive teaching so that we may be better equipped to serve Him.

That’s the ideal. In fact people attend services with a whole raft of reasons. As well as the expectation of being in the Lord’s presence it can be from habit, or an appreciation of the liturgy, or because of the warmth and sense of belonging to a nice group of people.

It is an interesting observation that since lockdown many churches have seen gaps where regular attendees have not returned. In conversation a phrase often heard is that they have, “got out of the habit”, in the same way they might have “got out of the habit” of attending the bowls club, or going to the gym, or going to plays or the cinema. The difference is that in those places there is not the main purpose of communing with the Lord of all creation, master of heaven and earth and custodian of eternity – the place we go to when we die.

In the main a lot of people have forgotten that we are in the middle of a war, a spiritual war where the Devil is battling for supremacy and using every trick in the book to a) deny his existence (How can you fight an enemy if you don’t even realise he’s there?); b) put obstacles and distractions in the way to deter people from following Jesus – and that means putting lethargy or diversions in the way of usual church attendees.

The Devil cannot win. He has already lost. That was decided at Calvary. But only when Jesus returns and blows the full-time whistle will the whole of creation be brought to a close and God’s reign and kingdom is fully established. Until then we prepare for the return of Jesus by daily taking up our cross and following, and fulfil His

command in Matthew chapter 28 to, “make disciples of all nations”. As we do that we ourselves are also maturing disciples so that we are equipped to fight the battles and wage the spiritual war. We are part of a mobilised army! Being a church member and attendee is part of that.

In addition there are special training camps where after basic training (going to church) further lessons on how to wage the war are taught. These ‘crack troops’ can then go on to train others so that we become a force for the Devil to reckon with. Too many of our number are taken out by him and we need to guard against it! Those special training camps are our Home Groups, or should they be “Growth Groups”? Here in small formations members can be fed and equipped ready for anything the enemy can throw at us. These are

special areas of interest to the enemy and he will take them out at any cost where they are being effective.

The question we must each ask ourselves is, what stage are we at? Have we committed ourselves and enrolled in the cause of defending the realm, God’s realm, against the forces of evil which stalk us? Have we become casualties in the war and seeking cover safe behind the battle lines? Can we identify the areas of our town where the spiritual battle lines have been drawn? The only hands the Lord has on earth are ours. It is down to us.

Enrolment is every Sunday at your local church. Details of the Crack Troops Training arrangements are on the website (Home Groups!). Don’t delay – join today!

---

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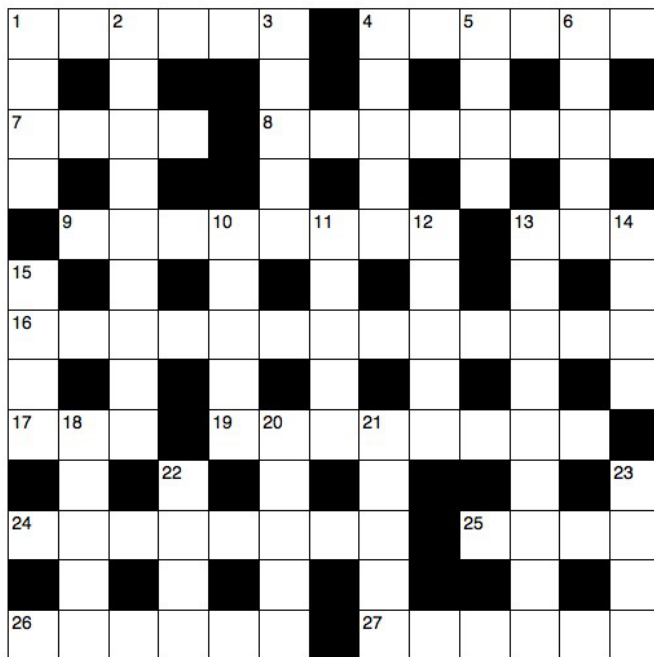


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# Crossword



## Across

- 1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
- 4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
- 7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Ps 107:27) (4)
- 8 See 19 Across
- 9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest(Luke 9:46) (8)
- 13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
- 16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)
- 17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
- 19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
- 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
- 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
- 26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
- 27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

## Down

- 1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)
- 2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)
- 3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)

# October-November Lectionary

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**1st October (Harvest)**  
**17th Sunday after Trinity**  
Psalm 8  
Matthew 21.23–32

**8th October**  
**18th Sunday After Trinity**  
Ezekiel 36.22-27  
Matthew 21.33–46

**15<sup>th</sup> October**  
**19th Sunday After Trinity**  
Ezekiel 37.1-14  
Matthew 22.1–14

**22<sup>nd</sup> October**  
**20th Sunday After**  
Amos 5.14-24  
Matthew 22.15–22

**29<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Last Sunday after Trinity**  
Psalm 1  
Matthew 22.34–46

**5th November**  
**4th Sunday before Advent**  
Psalm 27  
Matthew 24.1–14

**12<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Remembrance**  
Psalm 46,  
Matthew 25.1–13

**19th November**  
**2nd Sunday before Advent**  
Psalm 119.73-88  
Matthew 25.14–30

**26th November**  
**Christ the King**  
Ezekiel 34.11–16,20–24  
Matthew 25.31–46

- 
- 4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — '(John 3:3) (5)  
5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)  
6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)  
10 Ruses (anag.) (5)  
11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)  
12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)  
13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)  
14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)  
15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)  
18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)  
20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)  
21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)  
22 Bats (anag.) (4)  
23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)
-

# October Calendar

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<b>Sunday 1st</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
<b>Harvest</b>	12.00noon	Picnic Lunch	St. Leonard's
	11.00am	Matins	St. Leonard's
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	12.30pm	Parish Lunch	St. Luke's
	9.30am	Messy Church	St. Leonard's
<b>Saturday 7th</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Family Worship	St. Luke's
<b>Sunday 8th</b>	7.00pm	Prayer@7	St. Luke's
	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	2.30pm	Mothers' Union	St. Luke's
<b>Friday 13th</b>	10.00am	Safeguarding Training	St. Leonard's
<b>Saturday 14th</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.00am	Safeguarding Training	St. Luke's
<b>Sunday 15th</b>	7.30pm	Parish Women's Group	St. Luke's
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Monday 16th</b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	1.00pm	Lunchtime Concert	St. Leonard's
<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Family Worship	St. Luke's
	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7	St. Luke's
<b>Sunday 22nd</b>	Holiday Club runs Monday to Friday		St. Luke's
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Monday 23rd</b>	10.00am	Open Church Cafe	St. Leonard's
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Luke's
<b>Saturday 28th</b>			
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Sunday 29th</b>			
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Luke's



The **Watt-A-Lott Castle Holiday Club** runs from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October at St. Luke's. This is for children in Reception to Year 6. For further details visit <https://seafordparish.org.uk/holiday-club/> or contact Stefan.

# November Calendar

<b>Wednesday 1st</b>	11.00am	Matins	St. Leonard's
<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30am	Messy Church	St. Leonard's
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.15am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	12.30pm	Parish Lunch	St. Luke's
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	2.30pm	Mothers' Union	St. Luke's
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Remembrance Sunday</b>	9.30am	Family Worship	St. Luke's
	7.00pm	Prayer@7	St. Luke's
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
	<b>Magazine copy date</b>		
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	1.00pm	Lunchtime Concert	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	11.15am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
	7.30pm	Women's Group	St. Luke's
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	9.30am	Family Worship	St. Luke's
	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7	St. Luke's
	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
<b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's

## Crossword answers

**ACROSS:** 1, Deacon. 4, Appear. 7, Wits. 8, Heavenly. 9, Argument. 13, Mob. 16, Broken-hearted. 17, Ran. 19, Suddenly. 24, Obstacle. 25, John. 26, Enable. 27, Market.

**DOWN:** 1, Dawn. 2, Afternoon. 3, Nehum. 4, Again. 5, Prey. 6, All to. 10, Users. 11, Ephod. 12, Trace. 13, Metalwork. 14, Body. 15, Eber. 18, Alban. 20, Uncle. 21, Dream. 22, Stab. 23, Gnat.

# Regular Services & Group

## 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 (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)  
 Starting November 5<sup>th</sup>- see page 4 for details



### Wednesdays

- 11.00am Matins: a quiet said service (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday)  
 11.00am Holy Communion: a said service (other Wednesdays)



## Services in St. Luke's Church

### Sundays

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

### Tuesdays

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

<b>Sunday</b>	Glow (children's group)	9.30am	St. Luke's	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays
<b>Monday</b>	Women's Group	7.30pm	St. Luke's	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday
<b>Tuesday</b>	Bell Ringers	7.30pm	St. Leonard's	Weekly
<b>Wednesday</b>	Tots	9.30am	St. Luke's	Weekly*
	Parish Lunch	12.30pm	St. Luke's	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday
<b>Thursday</b>	Tots	9.30am	St. Leonard's	Weekly*
	Choir	7.00pm	St. Leonard's	Weekly
<b>Friday</b>	Mother's Union	2.30pm	St. Luke's	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday
	Sparks	5.45pm	St. Luke's	Weekly*
	Ignite	7.45pm	St. Luke's	Weekly*
<b>Saturday</b>	Messy Church	9.30am	St. Leonard's	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday
	Open Church	10.00am	St. Leonard's	See calendar

\*Term time

# Parish Directory

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## 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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## Prayer Pastor

Sue Griffiths		prayerpastor@seafordparish.org.uk
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## Safeguarding Officer

Ruth Saunders		safeguarding@seafordparish.org.uk
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## Home Groups

David Farey		homegroups@seafordparish.org.uk
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Hall Bookings	07425 936674	bookings@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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