

# Parish Magazine

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

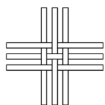
February-March 2024

Suggested donation **£1.00**

Now these three continue . . .



Of these, the greatest is . . . 1 Cor 13:13



# SEAFORD PARISH CHURCH

ST LEONARD'S AND ST LUKE'S

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## Contents

<b>03</b>	Welcome	<b>30</b>	Book Review
<b>04</b>	Parish News	<b>32</b>	Christian Aid
<b>06</b>	Watch and Pray	<b>33</b>	The Gardener and the Vine
<b>08</b>	January is the Worst Month...	<b>34</b>	Link to Hope Diary
<b>10</b>	Quotes	<b>36</b>	Homelink
<b>12</b>	Children, Youth & Families	<b>37</b>	The Donkey
<b>16</b>	Stopover	<b>38</b>	LAMA
<b>17</b>	I Opened My Eyes	<b>40</b>	Crossword
<b>18</b>	The Undiscovered Country	<b>42</b>	Homegroups
<b>20</b>	Lunchtime Concerts	<b>43</b>	Lectionary
<b>22</b>	World Day of Prayer	<b>44</b>	Calendar
<b>23</b>	Prayer Diary	<b>46</b>	Regular Services & Events
<b>28</b>	Vindication Swim	<b>47</b>	Parish Directory

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# Welcome

## Celebrating the now and future Creation

I find that watching buds swelling on trees and plants during the winter months gives me a tremendous sense of hope. After creation's winter shutdown, the sight of tiny flowers poking out of brown earth may be more important than ever.

Getting outdoors during daylight hours, enjoying green spaces and getting some fresh air and exercise are great ways to keep ourselves healthy at any time of year. A psychologist colleague wrote, "Attending to the details of nature can also inspire awe, which has been linked to positive mood and increased life satisfaction." I expect it is this sense of awe that makes it easier for many of us to connect with God outdoors.

Helping ourselves and others to thrive is a good start to 2024, but it is also vital to have hope for the future. In the face of climate change, we urgently need to care for all of Creation, both human and everything else, with God's help.

Our ultimate hope is in God's promise that He will bring about a new heaven and a new earth. We can look forward to the day when Creation will be fully redeemed and liberated from evil. The Greek word used to describe the new creation is the same as that used to describe someone who becomes a Christian, whose humanity is restored and renewed. There will be continuity between the old and new earth as it is cleansed and purified, surpassing and perfecting what has gone before. There will also be some discontinuity, as there will be no more suffering or death.

So, one source of hope for 2024 is that we can enjoy both caring for and meeting God in Creation. But the parts of Creation that we find most beautiful, giving us a sense of awe and helping us to worship, are also a reminder that there is something much better to come.

*By Ruth Banciewicz, Church Engagement Director, The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge*

# Parish News

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## **The Meeting Place**

The new-look Meeting Place continues on the 1st and 3rd Sundays each month at 11.15am. 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.

## **St. Luke's @7**

St.Luke's@7 meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, the next two are on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March. Some 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.

## **Coffee, Prayer Ministry & Communion**

You are welcome to join in our next Service of Prayer Ministry with Communion at St. Luke's on Tuesdays 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February then 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March at 11.00am. Coffee will be available from 10.00am to 12.00pm.

## **Seaford Parish Women's Group**

Our meetings are usually in St Luke's Church Walmer Road on the third Monday of the month starting at 7.30pm. We enjoy fellowship, listening to interesting topics, refreshments and closing our meetings with evening

prayers. New members are always welcome. The next two meetings are on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February and Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March.

## **Parish Lunch**

The next Parish Lunches will be on Wednesdays 7<sup>th</sup> February and 6<sup>th</sup> March. 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.

## **Parish Magazine**

The copy date for the April-May edition of the Parish Magazine is Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March. Items of news and articles 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).

## **From the Registers: Funerals**

Denis Donovan  
Mavis Chittenden  
Robin Wickens  
Ann Sweetman  
Ruth Johnson  
Ann Smith  
Thomas Winfield  
Leslie Turner  
Kenneth Lloyd

## Film Nights

Crossway Church, opposite Tesco's host a film night once a month organised by Sally and Lloyd Thompson. They meet at 6:45pm for a 7:00 start, have ice creams half way through and just ask for donations, which go to Church funds, and other projects. Coming up...

### Friday 16th February:

The Great Escaper

For further information please contact Sally via email [Tigerfeet9@gmail.com](mailto:Tigerfeet9@gmail.com)



The vicar got a little carried away with the church's new state-of-the-art PA system



...the good news is - I've found a way of heating the church on unwanted chip-fat!...



**SEAFORD PARISH CHURCH**  
ST. LEONARD'S AND ST. LUKE'S

# Open Church Cafe St. Leonard's Church



Free  
refreshments,  
crafts &  
conversation

Saturdays in 2024

February 24<sup>th</sup>  
March 23<sup>rd</sup>  
April 27<sup>th</sup>  
May 25<sup>th</sup>  
June 22<sup>nd</sup>

10.00am to 12.30pm

# Parish News

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**“Watch and Pray challenges us to seek God in both familiar and unfamiliar places: in darkness and in quiet; in movement and migration; in the healing and transforming work of the Spirit; in the weeping of Holy Week and in the joy of Easter morning.”**

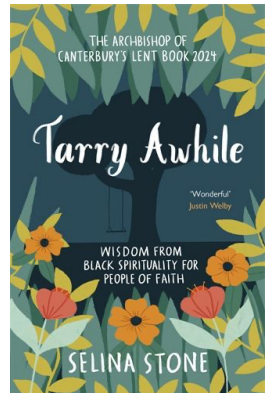
*Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell*

This Lent we are encouraged to wait expectantly for God to meet us and sustain us through the storms and trials we all face. The Church of England’s Lent theme for 2024 is Watch and Pray: Wisdom and hope for Lent and life.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus kneels in darkness in the Garden of Gethsemane. Though he pleads with his disciples, “Stay here with me ... Watch and pray,” they all fall asleep, leaving him alone in his hour of deepest suffering.

This Lent all of us are encouraged to draw on the wisdom of Black Spirituality, particularly the practice of “tarrying” (waiting) as a community to draw closer to Jesus and to each other. Combining exuberant singing, fervent prayer and quiet lament, such services typically take place at night and last somewhat longer than the “one hour” Jesus asked of those first followers.

This year’s resources have been inspired and informed by the 2024 Archbishop of Canterbury’s Lent book, *Tarry Awhile: Wisdom from Black Spirituality for people of faith* by Selina Stone. A daily reflections booklet for adults exploring the same themes has been written by Carlton Turner, and there is also a daily challenge booklet for children and families.



**Watch and Pray** invites us to seek God in both familiar and unfamiliar places this Lent: in darkness and in quiet; in movement and migration; in the healing and transforming work of the Spirit; in the weeping of Holy Week and in the joy of Easter morning.

**For further details visit the Church of England website at [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)**

The Church  
of England's  
Lent theme  
for 2024



## Wisdom and hope for Lent and life

40 daily reflections, Bible readings and actions to help us use Lent as a time to wait together for God.

Available as booklets for adults and children, an app for Android and iOS, by email or smart speaker.

**Find out more at [cofe.io/WatchAndPray](https://cofe.io/WatchAndPray)**



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



CHURCH HOUSE  
PUBLISHING

# January is the worst month of the year

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## James Hollingsworth

January is the worst month of the year. I'm so glad that's over. It's the worst because you made all those New Year's Resolutions, failed to keep them and then double guilt-tripped yourself on your failure to keep them. It's also the worst because the Credit card bill covering Christmas comes in.

So, hurrah for February! Here's a chance for a new start. Indeed, it is. Ash Wednesday (14<sup>th</sup> February) is an invitation to think over any sort of new resolutions. It is a good time to reflect on life and how you are living it. But remember also that 14<sup>th</sup> February is also St Valentine's Day.

This means firstly that you might have an ashen mark of a cross on your forehead as we hear again the challenging words: Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return, turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. Hear this call to come closer to God in prayer, in generosity, and fasting.

And secondly, you might also give/get a mystery card, some chocolates, saying 'I love you'!

It is good to get this reminder of love at the beginning of Lent. Let that love shape how you see your Lent, as filled



with God's love, even if not filled with chocolates.

All relationships involve some laying aside of your agenda for the sake of the other. So, in your Lenten observance perhaps you might see that whatever you fast from that it is driven by your love for God.

If you abstain from wine as an attempt to show God how amazingly self-controlled you are then know that you've already failed with the temptation of pride! If the test you set yourself was that easy, does it really prove anything?

But if you are finding that refusing biscuits is proving quite a challenge, if you have noted your shortness of temper, and that your eyes have been lingering over the hobnobs in the Co-Op, and the strain is proving too much for you and even your friends are growing tired of your biscuitlessness, then you might blink and discover a digestive has already passed your lips! Now how will you process that? Will you guilt-trip yourself for being so weak willed? Will you laugh it off and say 'It is not as if it really matters'? Or will you take this as a moment to pray 'Oh good Lord, if I can't do even a biscuit-fast

then, I really do need you to be my Saviour.

Don't fear the failure of your Lenten fast but take it as an invitation to pray and to see how much we need the love of God, the sacrifice of Jesus, the daily help of the Holy Spirit to be in our lives.

Or it might be that instead of abstaining for Lent, you might take up for Lent some act of service, perhaps helping on a Friday night with the youth group, perhaps Church-watching on a morning, perhaps joining a Sunday rota for coffee or tea or intercessions. Ask a vicar about it.

Lent is an emotionally challenging time for us. Add to it Mothering Sunday (10<sup>th</sup> March) which for some is an excuse to be pampered, quite rightly, whilst for others it is painful when long-prayed prayers for the gift of children have not been answered. For some, it is painful where our children have had shorter lives than ourselves. And still for others Mothering Sunday is a moment to lament, either the parenting style we received or the parenting style we gave.

As our children were growing up, I frequently had to review my parenting style especially when it came to calculating bedtimes and pocket money. Now our youngest is 21 and yet still I must change with him. I note that I've not got the hang of parenting grown-ups. I still try to use the old techniques suggesting to them an early bed, raising my eyebrows at another tattoo, sigh. But I note the value of apologising to them. It still shocks

them, is cathartic to me, and it helps us connect differently as adult to adult.

I find it helpful to remember that actually it is not Mother's Day. It's not about you or your parents. It is Mothering Sunday. So, this could give you good excuse to give thanks to God for all those who have been involved in mothering you.

I did cry a little when I read the Peanuts Cartoon where the girl Peppermint Patty tries but fails to buy a Mother's Day card for her dad. Mothering Sunday is for him too.

I think that Mothering Sunday is about the Church family as our Mother. Here in this little community of all sorts we are held and cared and prayed for as we love and pray and hold on to each other. Your faith is not an individualistic eternal insurance document but an invitation to be part of something bigger. 'To all who received Him, He gave the right to become children ... born of God'. That Christmas invitation doesn't go away. It is the gift that is readily available to all throughout the year.

We enter deeper into Lent. And this is why I would like you to have a read of Mark's Gospel over Lent. We will often be hearing from Mark on Sunday's this year. It's the shortest gospel, written in the shoddiest Greek, and often written in the present tense. This means that Mark 9, in the Greek would read more along the lines of 'there's this Jesus and he takes three disciples with him up a mountain and there he transfigures in front of them'. The glorious moment of

the transfiguration written up for us but in what my English teacher would have described as 'poor'.

But this koinonia Greek, the common Greek, in using the 'historic present tense' succeeds in making us feel as if we are there too. We are up this mountain, with this Jesus, who stands before us in blinding array, shining like the sun, and he's having a conversation with Moses and Elijah, which given that Moses died perhaps 1300bc and Elijah in 900bc, just adds to the awe of the moment. Now you remember Jesus explaining how God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God is the God of .... Not God was the God of. God is the God of the living. So that means that to Jesus, Moses and Elijah are as alive as you and I are. And that feeds into our faith and hope when we remember Saints we have known who have died.

As we get to Palm Sunday, what I would especially encourage you to do is to read Mark 14 and 15. It is too easy for us to slip from "Hosanna Heysanna sanna sanna ho" (a line from the musical Jesus Christ Superstar) to the joy of the resurrection without seeing

the cross. Pause at the cross and sing again that verse from Christmas: Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume, breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

We have always understood this gift of the Magi to be a foreshadowing of the cross. We have read in awe Isaiah 53: "he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him and by his wounds we are healed."

No one, on the day, called it Good Friday but within three days, in the light of the resurrection, Christians came to see that Jesus had brought us healing through his death on the cross. I find it helpful that Jesus retained his scars.

Note that Easter Day this year will fall on the same day as the clocks change. This seems somehow fitting for one on whom time and history hinges. May you find in this resurrection that healing has come to you, that you are reconciled to your Maker, Redeemer, and Friend, and in receiving this gift of reconnection you too are born again.

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## Quotes

Still water and still religion freeze the quickest. - *Anon*

If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it. - *Anon*

Happy moments, praise God. Difficult moments, seek God. Quiet moments, worship God. Painful moments, trust God. Every moment, thank God. - *Anon*

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# Children, Youth & Families

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## Stefan Bracher

2023 was a fantastic year for outreach, ending with a large number of people we met over Christmas!

We had a whole day of Christmas craft at Messy Church at the start of December which was a brilliant way to start our Christmas preparations. That was then followed up by some exciting Christmas parties across all our groups. Tots' Treats got to meet Santa Claus whilst getting stuck into some pass the parcel (without any arguments). Sparks had a fantastic time dancing away, with an indoor snowball fight, musical chairs, and food and of course the Ignite group had a good laugh at their Christmas party, complete with their very own pass the parcel (where we did have some friendly debates).

After all of the Christmas parties were out the way it was time for the Children, Youth and Family Team of volunteers to get together and have their own Christmas meal, a time to stop and chill (well for the evening anyway). The team (including those who couldn't attend the meal), have been doing so much over 2023. They jumped into Messy Church, they set up for Tots early, they give more of their sparks to the Sparks group, they throw themselves into Ignite, they make the kids beam at Glow and most of all they put up with me! It is truly amazing how much they do and how much energy they put in. Without our volunteers, we

simply would not be able to run any of our groups. It is because they have the heart and mind to pass the knowledge of Jesus on to the next generation. Thank you team, you are amazing! Here's to another brilliant year ahead!

Don't worry we are never full for volunteers, we are always looking for extra helpers, and it is never too late for you to join the team... just call, text or email.

Straight after our meal we stayed in the Wellington Hotel for our Beer and Carols event. The pub was packed! It was so busy there wasn't really anywhere to stand. But it was a fantastic evening of fun and cheer, whilst singing some brilliant songs to get people at least talking/singing about Jesus and the joy and good things that brings. Not to be missed this year, that's for sure!



The Christingle service was just lovely. It's probably one of my favourite services. It is noisy, crafty, and then peaceful all in the same service. Just



how I'd imagine the very first Christmas would have been. There is something uplifting (and slightly palm sweating) about having 70 children and their parents all holding a lit Christingle and singing some carols. But it's a key time where we can explain to everyone what the purpose of Christmas is actually all about. It's not just for kids, so this year why not try it?

The Crib Service at St. Luke's was just brilliant. Aimed at slightly younger children, puppets took us through the story of the first Christmas. This year, Bert and Lucy, our two holiday club puppets, led the way. With everyone trying to point to their own handmade crowns and remembering that Jesus is King of all Kings.

Finally, one of the bigger Christmas services was the Nativity. This year I had to hang up my angel wings (slightly

disappointed), to become Joseph along with Alice being Mary and of course our wee Jesse being baby Jesus, and he didn't cry woohoo! This year it gave a really good first-hand up-front experience of being able to see, almost the whole thing. It was lovely to see so many children who had come dressed up to take part in it. But it was also lovely to see how many adults love coming to see the Nativity as part of their Christmas traditions.

So the year ended with some amazing events, which was simply fantastic to be part of!

One of the areas we really did highlight last year, is the need for a second youth worker. This has become more apparent especially as I stick to my "normal" working hours to make sure I spend time some good time with Jesse and Alice, and not just running around everywhere.

It is really apparent that although we are running a lot of groups, there is still a lot more work to be getting on with. We have at least 5/6 new groups which we would like to open eventually. But that takes time, resources, and funds. It means that we actually do need another paid Children, Youth and Family Worker to work alongside myself to ensure we are able to fulfil these groups and keep everything moving forward. We have the core groups established (Tots' Treats, Sparks, Ignite, Messy Church, Glow and Family Worship). Now it's time to start branching out slightly more and really meeting the needs in the community. These might include after school clubs, games club, Youth Alpha, a gardening club, a lads night out (for dads), a girls



night out (for mums). There are so many more ways we could be working with the local community, but we need someone else to come on board to help with this.

So I ask that you pray about this. Pray that we will be able to find the right amount of funding which is needed for this role. Pray that when that does happen, we will know how many new groups to open and pray for the knowledge on how to make the new person and groups thrive, when ever it comes into effect.

It is worth saying a huge thank you to everyone in the Church family. Without you we would not be able to financially and prayerfully run the groups we run. Your support is key to ensuring the future of the activities and groups continue.

Whilst also saying a huge thank you to The Wellington Hotel for their continued sponsorship of the children and youth groups. They also help by giving their venue at times for us to use for meetings and have been so kind to the children, youth and family team!

Simon and Nina, Adele and the whole staff team in there are just brilliant!

We have also been constantly topped up with cans of fizzy, crisps and chocolate from Morrisons Community Champions in Seaford. This has reduced the cost of Ignite and most recently we have had around 200 cans of fizz donated to us!

So, to all three elements of support here, thank you so so much! It is truly appreciated not just by the team, but also by the children, young people and parents too!

### **Church FAMILY Camp**

Just a quick reminder (you'll have one now in every magazine until the event). We had left over funds from the brilliant donations for the Sparks summer camp this year, 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 diary. You'll be able to camp in tents and there is limited spaces for caravans or

you can come as a day visitor. The campsite is Coldharbour Meadows, which is a Christian campsite in Chiddingly. Wouldn't it be amazing to have us all there to worship and take part in a whole Church family event?

Please do look at booking into this when the bookings open. We are currently planning this and may of course ask very nicely if you might be up for doing something (i.e. being on the cooking team, activities team, leading a craft session for the kids and/or adults, etc.) This is where we need to come together and appreciate each other's skills and loves. If you have something you think would be good to add to the Church Family Camp, please

let me know by contacting me using the details below.

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. Volunteer form: <https://seafordparishchurch.churchsuite.com/forms/bxz0n0b8>

God bless,

Stefan Bracher

Email: [cyfw@seafordparish.org.uk](mailto:cyfw@seafordparish.org.uk)

Telephone: 07506143476

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## Name that Christmas Carol or Song

*Answers to the quiz in the last issue*

1. AFTROG      Angels from the Realms of Glory
2. AIAM        Away in a Manger
3. DDMOH     Ding Dong Merrily on High
4. WC          White Christmas
5. GRYMG     God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
6. ISTS        I Saw Three Ships
7. OCAYF     O Come All Ye Faithful
8. OIRDC     Once in Royal David's City
9. TTDOC     The Twelve Days of Christmas
10. THAT      The Holly and the Ivy
11. TFN        The First Nowell
12. SN         Silent Night
13. HTHAS    Hark the Herald Angels Sing
14. OLTOB    O Little Town of Bethlehem
15. JTTW      Joy to the World
16. GKW       Good King Wenceslas
17. ICUTMC   It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
18. SATWS    See Amid the Winter Snow
19. WSWTFBN While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night
20. ITBMW     In the Bleak Mid Winter

# Stopover

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## Julia Lawson

Stopover is a supported housing scheme for young women, in the Brighton, Hove and now Worthing area. They have an excellent working relationship and reputation working with young women who other services or their own homes feel unable to accommodate, due to circumstances or behaviour. The highly skilled staff build positive and trusting relationships, which last throughout their time at Stopover, led by Stevie Graves Head of Supportive Housing and Safeguarding. Stevie has 30 years' experience in managing supported housing, ensuring the young women feel safe and individual needs are met. The team give on-going support, helping the young women in small groups with budgeting, healthy eating, managing substance abuse and mental health issues. Also accessing education and employment through the transition from 24 hours support to independent living. Many keep in touch with Stopover as they have been the only people who have consistently cared and acted on their welfare.

*Quote from a Stopover service user "I don't know where I'd be if I hadn't gone to Stopover, but it wouldn't have been a good place. I'm part of a home here, which means so much more than just a room to live in."*

Women's Group have supported this project for many years by providing

wrapped Christmas Presents for the young women. We are very grateful to Connie Hughes the Seaford representative who tirelessly collects the gifts for distribution. For the past three years we have held a service in St. Leonard's Church combined with the Mothers Union to hand over our gifts and reflect on how fortunate we are and the pleasure in helping others in challenging times.

### **A Thank You from Stevie Graves**

I wanted to extend my heartfelt thanks for all your support in making Christmas something to look forward to for the young women at the projects. For those of you who were at the joint Women's Group & Mothers Union Service prior to Christmas you will be aware that Christmas can be a very difficult time for our residents. It underlines for the majority of them the lack of family support, care and attention. They are often seen as out of sight and therefore out of mind, so it makes a real difference to them to know that there is a group of people that take time and make effort to make their Christmas as enjoyable as possible. They were all very excited to wake up to gifts and for a large number these were the only gifts that they received. We had staff on duty over Christmas and the residents also enjoyed a big Christmas meal with lots of biscuits and chocolates to follow, once again thanks to you. We would not be able to provide the Christmas that we do without your kindness. Each

of you is so greatly appreciated.

Matthew 24:37-40 (The Message)

Then those 'sheep' are going to say 'Master what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say 'I'm telling you the solemn truth: whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me – you did it to me.'



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## I opened my eyes

Bob Rice

I didn't know where to start,  
Just grateful from the heart,  
As tears washed my eyes,  
I stepped from the disguise,

The past has left its mark,  
It's been no walk in the park,  
Still from God I never could hide,  
My future in his hands.. I cried,

I must be grateful every single day,  
In every prayer I care to pray,  
I must be thankful for all he does for me,  
And all the things he does I do not see,

I know my worth in love to him,  
Such love is not given on a whim,  
I will worship, love and serve him still,  
Prayerful hands, I hope to do his will !



# The Undiscovered Country

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## Derreck Lee-Philpot

We are now well into the New Year, in both Church and secular calendar. It's a time when we look into the future including the fast-approaching Lent, which James deals with elsewhere. So, what does the future hold? Of course, we don't really know, that's why it is sometimes called 'The Undiscovered Country' because we have to find the future.

Its name comes from Hamlet Act3 Scene1 ('to be or not to be' speech);

*"To grunt and sweat under a weary life, but that the dread of something after death, the undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveller returns, puzzles the will, and makes us rather bear those ills we have, than fly to others that we know not of?"*

Hamlet is describing not just the future, but the far future beyond death. For us as believers it works well for both contexts.

But what does the 'undiscovered country' hold for us. As we look around the Ukraine war has not gone away, there is no sign of either victory or ceasefire leading to peace. The Israeli presence in Gaza continues but the hostages have still not been found or returned. Hamas is attacking shipping in the Suez Canal approaches. The Myanmar civil war continues seemingly forgotten by the world, forgotten too is

the civil war in Sudan. Global climate change seems to continue with earthquakes, droughts, famines, massive wild-fires too numerous to mention – the latest being the volcanic eruption in Iceland. There is a global recession, AI technology offers both promise and peril. Are you depressed yet? It would be hard not to be!

And yet we shouldn't be surprised, Jesus told us that these things would happen. In Matthew 24v7, He tells of wars, famines, and earthquakes, and then says this is "merely the beginning"! I am not sure I wanted to know that!

We could easily cry in frustration, and a little anxiety, 'where is God in all this?' Well, He is where He always is, right in the centre of all the trouble spots. We often forget that these things hurt Him also, He cries over the things we cry over. Individual bereavement: He cried over Lazarus (John 11:35), and those that loved him. While on earth He continually cries (Hebrews 5:7) over the things He saw, experienced, and suffered, just as we do for ourselves. He wept over the city of Jerusalem (Luke 19:41) as He saw all the things that were happening there, and their rejection of Him which enabled them to do those things.

In all that is happening, even knowing that Jesus is in the midst of all these

troubles it is still hard to understand. Then we have to fall back upon our faith, our relationship with Him. Knowing that He loves us beyond all else, loved us so much He died for us. Not just us but for the whole of creation. The undiscovered country of the future may be unknown to us, but God is not unknown to us. It is our God who is waiting for us in that hidden future, if He is there who and what can we fear? In addition, from His great love He has given us a peace that is beyond understanding.

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27)*

The reassurance does not stop there,

*"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 14:33)*

We have peace, even when we have the world's trouble we still have peace for He has overcome. He, our Jesus is in control.

Even when we reach the point of Hamlet's undiscovered country of death, He is there with us too. As God says,

*"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)*

Whatever comes, we can walk confidently, with full assurance that He walks with us into, through, and beyond that Undiscovered Country.



## Lewes, Seaford and District Branch



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Please contact: Jean: 01 323 892930

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



## 2024 will be the seventeenth series of Lunchtime Concerts at St. Leonard's Church



### **Saturday 17th February at 1.00pm Fiona Hosford (harp)**

Fiona's repertoire ranges from Classical music, the Beatles, through to Light Jazz and popular Modern Classics. Whether it's Pachelbel, Puccini or Elton John, Andrew Lloyd-Webber, The A-Team or Star Trek, Fiona will delight you with her magnetic personality and harp playing. Fiona has also studied the piano, violin and singing but when she began the Harp at age 6 it soon became apparent that the other instruments were secondary to her interest in the Harp. She has gained extensive experience performing throughout the UK and abroad.

### **Saturday 16th March Simone Tavoni (piano)**

The Italian pianist Simone Alessandro Tavoni has given recitals internationally, including in the United States, United Kingdom, Denmark, Hungary, France, Spain, Malta, Estonia, Greece and across Italy. He was awarded a place on the BBC Pathway scheme during the 2015/2016 academic year and through this, he has had the opportunity to rehearse and perform as an orchestral pianist with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and some of these performances have been played by BBC Radio 3. In 2019 Simone was selected as a Parklane Group Artist, a Keyboard Charitable Trust Artist and received the Luciano and Giancarla Berti full-ride scholarship to attend the Aspen Music Festival and School studying with renowned Professor Fabio Bidini.





## Saturday 20th April Joshua Ryan (organ)

Australian organist, accompanist, and conductor Joshua Ryan a prizewinning graduate of the Royal Academy of Music (where he studied as a Bicentenary Scholar), accomplished accompanist, and one of his generation's most exciting interpreters of Olivier Messiaen's organ works. Joshua is currently Organist and Assistant Director of Music of Hampstead Parish Church, Organist of St.Sepulchre-without-Newgate the National Musicians' Church, and accompanist of

Dulwich Choral Society. Joshua's musical interests are diverse and wide ranging. He has worked across Europe and Australia as a soloist, accompanist, and continuo player with a vast array of conductors, singers, choirs and ensembles including the Academy of Ancient Music, London Mozart Players, Sydney Chamber Choir, Allegri Ensemble.

## Saturday 18th May Paul Gregory (guitar)

Paul Gregory started playing guitar at the age of 10. Later he also studied cello and composition in London and is an ARCM. He had further guitar studies with Baltazar Benitez in Holland and Carlos Bonell and gave his Wigmore Hall debut when 19 to high critical acclaim. Paul has also given concerts at Fairfield's Hall Croydon and the Purcell Room. He won the Andres Segovia International Competition in Spain at the age of twenty-two. Over the years there have been many BBC Radio 3 programmes (most recently on Sunday Morning Breakfast) and including live broadcasts from the NTL Studio in Belfast, the Wigmore Hall as well as from Broadcasting House.



**All the concerts last for about an hour and admission is free. They are self supporting with donations being welcomed at the end of each concert. You can pick up the full concert programme in church or download one from our website [www.seafordparish.org.uk/saturday-lunchtime-concerts/](http://www.seafordparish.org.uk/saturday-lunchtime-concerts/)**

# World Day of Prayer

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## Liz Morgan-Jones

**Everyone is called to join in this day of prayer with the theme:**

**‘I beg you, bear with one another in love’**

The Christian Women of Palestine are calling us to connect with the land from where Jesus came; where he was born, ministered and died – and from where our faith began and is rooted. Despite living in an area of the world where there is ongoing conflict and the future is uncertain, the women of Palestine are sharing with love a reminder that they are there, and they want to give hope to everyone. The theme of the service 2024 ‘bear with one another in love’ seems very appropriate for these women who will not give up witnessing the love of Jesus Christ.

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation led by women which enables us to hear the thoughts of those women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns, and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally, on Friday 1 March 2024 people will gather to celebrate

the service prepared by the women of Palestine. *Our local service will be at 2.00 pm. Chyngton Methodist Church, Millberg Road, Seaford, BN25 3ST followed by light refreshments.*

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 146 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world - through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

In order to cover costs and so that the offering taken at the service can be sent in its entirety to support the Christian organisations that are given grants from the WDP Funds there is to be a

**Coffee Morning**  
with  
**Cake & Bric-a-Brac**  
**stalls**  
on  
**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**  
**10.00am to 12noon**  
at  
**Crossway Church**  
Clinton Place, Seaford

***Do join us!***



# Prayer Diary

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 February

### Beachy Head Chaplaincy

- Pray for the renewal of the minds and emotions of the Chaplains after every intervention.
- For the funding to replace the petrol vehicle with an electric one and for provision of finances to continue the operation at Beachy Head, a small proportion of which may be available through grants.
- Pray for continued excellent relationships with the agencies they work alongside i.e. Sussex Police, HM Coastguard, Mental Health Triage Nurses' Team, the Coroner for East Sussex and his officers, National Trust, South Downs Park, Public Health East Sussex, Eastbourne County Council.
- Pray for government support in the strategic development of suicide prevention at Beachy Head and for a meeting on February 5<sup>th</sup> between government departments and agencies operating at Beachy Head in suicide Intervention as part of a wider National Suicide Prevention Plan. Pray that agencies at Beachy Head will be placed officially as part of the National Suicide Prevention strategy. This would allow access to funding for all agencies to specifically provide extra patrols (Sussex Police/ HM Coastguard) and extra target hardening strategies to reduce suicides at Beachy Head.

### Samara's Aid

- Pray for the health of Dr. A, the administrator of Samara's Aid in Syria.
- Pray that more doctors can be found to help Dr. A in his work at the medical centre.
- Pray that God will surround with his love all those working in Syria with Samara's Aid and keep them safe from harm.

## **Sunday - The Church Worldwide**

- The renewal of the Church to be more like Jesus intended it.
- Christian leadership – for integrity, fervour and zeal.
- That the power of the Word of God may be evident in lives and communities.
- Pray for Archbishops Justin and Steven, as they lead the worldwide Anglican Communion through challenging times.
- For the “persecuted church”. Christians living in fear of their lives, oppressed by governments or other religions, for believing in Jesus.

## **Monday – The UK**

- Pray for King Charles, Queen Camilla and the royal family as they seek to serve the UK and Commonwealth. For strength, wisdom, good health and unity.
- For the settlement of strikes between union members, employers and the government leading to disruption in the NHS, travel and education.
- For ongoing legislation regarding social media, its contents and the need for protection, especially for young people and the vulnerable.
- Crises in overcrowded prisons with experienced senior staff leaving service resulting in staff shortages. Very low morale among both staff and prisoners. Pray for prison chaplains in their support of prisoners and staff.
- Radical interventions to solve problem of homelessness especially for those facing home repossession due to economic situation.

## **Tuesday - Parish**

- James and Lucy, Derreck and Corrinne, Church Wardens and the PCC as they review the vision of the parish in action and in budget setting.
- For those attending the Alpha Course.
- Pray for each other that we might go forward together following in Christ’s footsteps.
- Those who are sick or living with chronic illness, that they may know God’s peace, healing and wholeness.

## **Wednesday – Children and Young people**

- Give thanks for the amazing leaders, helpers and children who attend our groups each week, for teamwork, safety, fun and learning about Jesus.
- 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 their lives and families.
- Give thanks for the growing relationships with local schools.

## **Thursday – For those living in**

- 1<sup>st</sup> February:** Esplanade, West View, Steyne Road, St John’s Road, Causeway  
**8<sup>th</sup> February:** Mallett Close, College Road, Ringmer Road, The Boundary  
**15<sup>th</sup> February:** Martello Road, Marine Crescent, Cricketfield Road, The Covers  
**22<sup>nd</sup> February:** Cliffe Road, Cliffe Gardens, Cliffe Close, Corsica Road

- 1<sup>st</sup> March:** Fitzgerald Avenue, Lions Place, Fitzgerald Park, The Close, Gerald Road, Maurice Road  
**8<sup>th</sup> March:** Heathfield Road, Dean Road, Ashurst Road, Steyne Close  
**15<sup>th</sup> March:** Bramber Close, Crooked Lane, Bramber Lane Bramber Road  
**22<sup>nd</sup> March:** Rother Road, Southdown Road, Chyngton Road, Chyngton Place,  
**29<sup>th</sup> March:** Cuckmere Road, Arundel Road, Bracken Road, Links Road

## **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 & be helped to make wise choices.
- Churches of Seaford - for leaders and people, for God’s blessing as they live out their faith corporately in 2024.
- Care Homes – the staff and residents as they welcome the visiting teams alone or without those they love. For staff as they face the ongoing challenges and demands of caring.
- Give thanks for all local businesses and tradespeople who continue to provide individual quality services in spite of financial uncertainty and pressure.

## **Saturday – World**

- Pray for those living in areas of war and civil unrest, that they might know lasting peace and reconciliation.
- Perhaps each week, focus on a different area of the world living in the midst of war.
- For migrants arriving in Europe, seeking refuge & asylum. For government collaboration to seek fair and just solutions to immigration; asylum seekers accommodation, unaccompanied children and people trafficking. For a united international effort to solve the problem of people trafficking and those fleeing their homelands as refugees
- 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.
- Pray for those whose homes, families and employment decimated by natural

disaster and 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

### **Pray for Missions Partners during March**

**Schools in Seaford-** Annecy School; Bowden House; Chyngton School; Cradle Hill School; Cuckmere House; Seaford Head School; Seaford Primary School

- Pray for the presence of Jesus Christ to be felt within our schools, that He will be known; that the power of The Holy Spirit will protect everyone, staff and students and guide them into a bright and prosperous future.
- The impact of the current cost of living crisis. Families struggling financially possibly lead to emotional and behavioural difficulties. Can impact the mental health of the students within our schools. Mental health concerns remain high since Covid. Pray for the mental health and behaviour of students, particularly those who are struggling to settle into the school environment including school refusers.
- Pray for the teachers and staff who are helping and supporting them.
- Insufficient resources to help as much as would like; please pray for sufficient financial resources for our schools. Please pray for the gaps in staffing that they will be filled with excellent candidates.
- Please pray for the families in our community, that they will partner with our schools to support all the youngsters
- Please pray for students who are preparing for examination - SATS, GCSE and A level, that they work steadily and calmly without stress and panic.
- Please pray for the staff, for energy, enthusiasm skill and generous hearts needed for this demanding, all consuming role.
- Give thanks for the wonderful schools which serve our community, we are truly blessed.

### **Diocesan Family Support**

- Good health and stamina for the Family practitioners as they face very full case loads.
- Wisdom for those helping families that have been affected by the increased waiting lists (up to 3 years) for specialist support including CAMHS referrals for children's mental health issues.
- For churches & individuals continue to support the programme of fund raising events during the coming year & maintain donations to the food bank.



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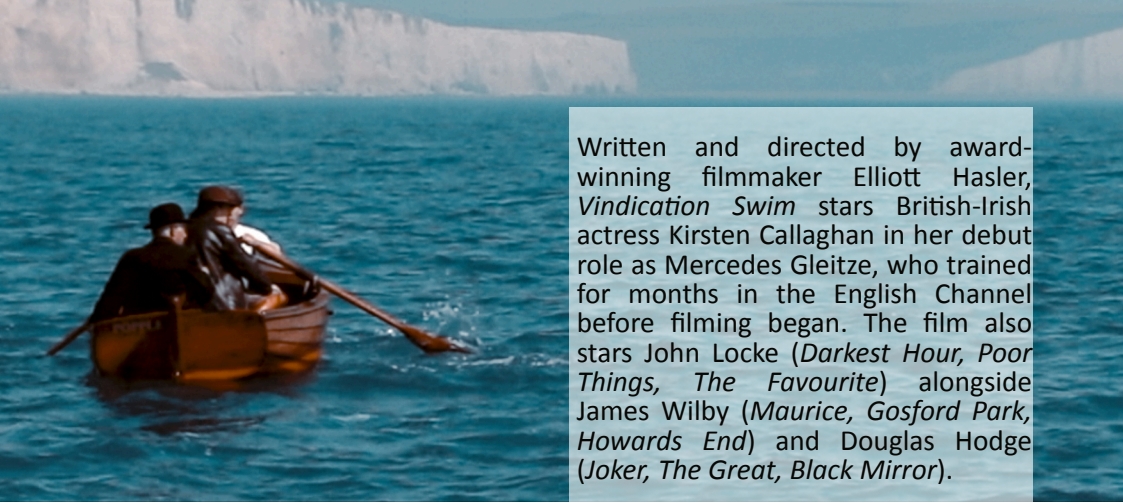
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# Vindication Swim

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## Diving into the Legacy of Mercedes Gleitze, the Trailblazing British Swimmer, on International Women's Day



Written and directed by award-winning filmmaker Elliott Hasler, *Vindication Swim* stars British-Irish actress Kirsten Callaghan in her debut role as Mercedes Gleitze, who trained for months in the English Channel before filming began. The film also stars John Locke (*Darkest Hour*, *Poor Things*, *The Favourite*) alongside James Wilby (*Maurice*, *Gosford Park*, *Howards End*) and Douglas Hodge (*Joker*, *The Great*, *Black Mirror*).

In celebration of International Women's Day, the much-anticipated biopic *Vindication Swim* is hitting cinemas across the UK on the 8th of March, which dives into the extraordinary life of Mercedes Gleitze, who in 1927 became the first British woman to swim the English Channel. The film depicts Mercedes' upstream struggle in overcoming both the cold waters of the English Channel and the oppressive society of 1920s England. However, after a rival comes forward claiming to have accomplished the same feat, Mercedes is forced into battle to retain her record and her legacy.

Mercedes Gleitze, a name that has been largely lost to history, also became the first person to complete many of other incredible swims around the world, including the Straits of Gibraltar, the Dardanelles and distance between Robben Island and Cape Town. It is hoped that the new film about her life will reinvigorate her remarkable legacy and as part of the release there will be Q&A screenings across the UK. The Channel swim sequences within the film were all shot off Seaford Beach, which audiences can enjoy up on the big screen.



As we celebrate International Women's Day, *Vindication Swim* serves as a poignant reminder of the indomitable spirit of a woman who dared to dream beyond the confines of her era. The film's release on the 8th of March invites Seaford residents to join the nationwide audience in commemorating International Women's Day while paying homage to a local connection that shaped Gleitze's remarkable legacy. Whether you're a history enthusiast, a sports fan, or simply someone seeking inspiration, *Vindication Swim* promises a cinematic experience that celebrates not only the achievements of Mercedes Gleitze, but also the collective strength and determination of women who have left an indelible mark on our world.

Details for screenings can be found at [www.vindicationswimfilm.com](http://www.vindicationswimfilm.com) or @vindicationswimfilm on social media.



# Book Review

## James Hollingsworth

### **Books I was given for Christmas**

I wouldn't want you to think that I only read profound stuff. I was given a puzzle book called *Bible Sudoku*. I'm guessing it's a niche market and I'm enjoying them, along with the Giles Annual, the Private Eye Annual which are both just a little bit naughty.

### **Chasing Francis by Ian Morgan Cron.**

Thank you to the Church couple who lent me this book. Very readable and relaxing whilst also cunningly giving quite a lot of information about St Francis and at the same time taking you auto-biographically through a pastor's crisis of faith and the beginning of its rejuvenation. Particularly good is its reflection on the relationship between beauty and the heart's search for God. Excellent.

### **Post-Traumatic Jesus by David Peters**

This is brilliant but written in a stilted stochastic way. You will have to work at it as you read it. The author explores certain parts of the gospels through the lens of trauma. Peters was himself a Marine Chaplain deployed to Iraq in 2005 so he knows what he's talking about. Consider for example the woman caught in adultery and the moment where Jesus wrote in the

sand. Peters notices the heat, the righteous anger, that is rising in this lynch mob, and the impossibility of saying anything that anyone will hear. He notices the trap laid out for Jesus which makes this moment doubly insidious (will Jesus approve of the Law of Moses or will he side with Caesar who has ruled against mob violence?). What is needed in this moment more than anything else is a little space, a little time, a little breathing, an opportunity for some in the crowd to listen to Jesus and to walk away from this moment. So Jesus crouches and writes in the sand. I'd always presumed it was him buying time to work out what to say, but perhaps he was buying time to allow the crowd to cool off. Much of the Gospels have a deep trauma in its context and so many of us carry with us a variety of traumatic wounds. I think we would do well to learn from Peters to read our Bibles with an eye to trauma.

### **Paths in the Snow by Jem Bloomfield**

This is a fabulous book, beautifully written, well crafted and thought through. You do need to know your *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. It is a literary journey through some of the

themes of that book. Bloomfield looks at the writings that CS Lewis might have grown up with, that other children were reading as they were reading his book, and at what else was going on in the country at the time.

Consider how in most stories it would be the alien, the monster, the faun Mr Tumnus, who would be the stranger but Mr Tumnus is quite an ordinary fellow. However, he is shocked by this daughter of Eve. It is Lucy who is the dangerous one.

In one chapter, to give you a flavour of the book, Bloomfield explores where the idea of Turkish Delight might have come from. He looks to a murder mystery, *Strong Poison*, written 1930 by Dorothy Sayers, in which the murderer

is revealed through his use of Turkish Delight. He also looks at Rationing. I wonder if you remember rationing? There was a short moment in 1949 when sweets were not rationed. The moment was short because on the day it was unrationed all the sweets got bought up as fast as possible! So perhaps CS Lewis was able to help the children reading his book to see in the Witch's promise of whole rooms full of sweets to see that that was wrong and the only way to have so many sweets was by depriving others of their share. It's a wonderful book not especially designed to deepen your faith, but certainly it will deepen your appreciation of Narnia and so perhaps indirectly your faith will be glad for it.

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31

# Christian Aid

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## Nicola Ferguson



## The year in numbers

- 3.3 million people benefitted from our interventions
- 275 projects were implemented globally
- £90.6 million was raised throughout this year

Christian Aid's response is:

- Based with local partners in countries affected by disasters to be there before, during and after the emergency to enable them to talk directly to the people affected and provide the most useful response.
- The response is fast, community-led, long-term, inclusive, responsible and builds skills.
- Christian Aid are members of these coalitions:
  - ACT Alliance: Extending the network of local organisations we work with to cover 150 countries.
  - DEC Disaster Emergency Committee: The DEC brings 14 leading aid charities together in times of crisis, so that funds can reach the people who need them most.
  - CHS Alliance: The CHS Alliance was formed to improve

humanitarian response. As a founding member, we commit to meeting these industry standards.

Christian Aid has been responding to humanitarian emergencies and disasters since 1945.

Thank you for continuing to support Christian Aid and we look forward to seeing you at:

**Christian Aid Lunch**  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February  
at St Peter's Church,  
Blatchington.

There will be one sitting between  
12 noon - 2pm. Tickets £8

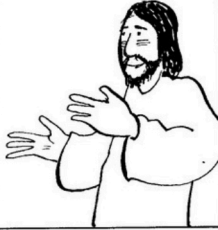
**Christian Aid Coffee Morning  
with Stalls**

St. Leonard's Church  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March  
10.00am to 12.30pm

# The gardener and the Vine

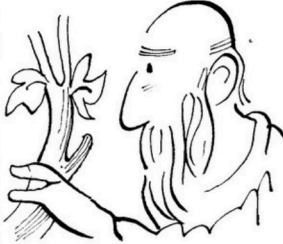


JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS ALL ABOUT A GARDENER.

THE GARDENER'S JOB WAS TO CARE FOR THE VINES



HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH BRANCH CAREFULLY..

... AND IF IT WAS PRODUCING GOOD FRUIT, HE WOULD CARE FOR IT AND NOURISH IT.



IF IT WAS PRODUCING BAD FRUIT...

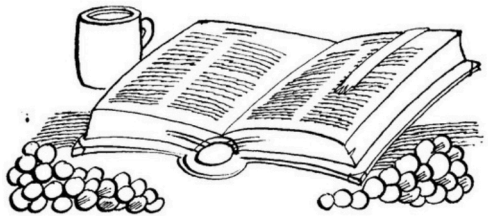


...OR NO FRUIT AT ALL...



... THEN THE GARDENER WOULD CHOP IT OFF, AND BURN IT IN THE FIRE!!

JESUS WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS - THAT'S LIKE THE VINE BEARING GOOD FRUIT.



YOU CAN READ THIS SPECIAL PARABLE IN JOHN'S GOSPEL, CHAPTER 15.

# Link to Hope: Shoebox Delivery Diary

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## Shoe Box Delivery Team

### Day 1

After a very early start at Luton Airport and a slight delay at the passport control in Brasov Airport, we were met by our project leader Otto Kardy Kis who we last physically saw 6 years ago. He drove us through the city pointing out places of interest and up the hill towards the forest and the bears to our home for the next few days. A fresh bear footprint was found in the snow the next day so we didn't venture out far.

Vadim Talica, one of our project leaders from Dancu in Moldova, had driven five and a half hours that morning to be with us in Brasov. An amazing photographer we were delighted that he had time to come and help us record the Shoebox Delivery Trip. The extra plus was that Moldova and Romania speak the same language so Vadim could engage with the people he was taking photos with in their own language. After a cup of tea and a chat we ventured out into the cold where we met the other members of the team – Josef and Josh who work alongside Otto.

During the first afternoon we visited the Hope Without Limits store room where they showed us a recent delivery of medical equipment from the UK. There are so many disabled people in the community who have no support and unlike the UK they don't have a National Health Service supplying them with equipment to be able to improve their



lives. Otto and his team want to be able to hire our equipment to those that are able to pay and give equipment to those that can't. The team are love in action. We met Romica who had lost a leg. Otto has recently rescued him from a bus station after he lost his leg and his job and ended up with nothing. He was sleeping day and night on a bench with no-one to help him. He now helps out at the centre and goes to the Hope group for adults with disabilities on a weekly basis.

We then paid a quick visit to a family who had been evicted from their derelict building along with five other families. The only offer they had, was to go and live in a corrugated shed in the middle of a field. The mother was ill and lying on a mattress, there were two boys – 10 and 14 and a father. A farmer had let them use his old tool shed. It was extremely cold. We promised to return with shoeboxes and some practical help.



Otto's church have been working with particular families and the first we visited were the three sisters who had been living in squalid conditions. The church helped move them to a one roomed house, simple but warm. Two were disabled and the one sister who isn't goes and gets the food. However there is only one set of shoes between the three of them! Fortunately Otto has a shoes project and he is going to help them with more sets of shoes.

We then went to a house with eight older children whose parents had left years before when they were all very young. There were only two people in the house when we visited however they took the shoeboxes with delight. They had been given very little over the years and were very surprised to see us.

Then we climbed a steep hill to visit a mother with 8 children and their neighbours who had a new born baby. Unfortunately on the way down I slipped and grabbed a jagged metal fence which cut my finger deeply enough to have to be hauled off the hospital for stitches and tetanus jab. All is well now. I was particularly moved by the amount of people that tried to help and offer me rags to bind my finger. Fortunately Steve grabbed the first aid kit.

## Day 2

We were picked and taken to Garcin the largest Roma village in Eastern Europe.

We visited Dorina the elderly lady who we chatted to through the window. She had looked after her daughter for 30 years who had now died. The daughter had been bedridden and they had not been able to change the sheets for three years. Dorina was now on her own and struggling and Otto and his team stepped in to replace the mattress and bedding etc so that Dorina could use the bed again. We visited many other families all with problems and health conditions and also some very kind gestures. Sasha who has three disabled children he is looking after— one his own and two others who he has adopted. He also has two daughters. An elderly lady makes wreathes to sell to raise funds but insisted on giving one to Gill to thank her for the shoebox.



# Helping people into Housing

## Terry Howell



### **We have not built enough houses**

This message has sounded loud and clear on the media recently but the focus has been on the problems of first time buyers. Like many young people my grandson is living at home. However there has been less comment on the problems of renting. The housing market is hard for those with money wanting to obtain a mortgage or live in a mortgaged property as mortgage rates have risen. The media comments on this dire state but it is difficult for those on a low income wanting to rent accommodation.

### **Private Renting Problems**

Renting gets even harder as rises in mortgage rates affect landlords. This results in landlords selling up or raising rents. There is a great shortage of affordable flats to rent. Imagine you have rented for years and receive notice of a Section 21 no fault eviction order. This gives you only eight weeks before eviction. (Those accused of faults are better placed because courts take six months to resolve these cases!) Eight weeks is short when there are many people competing for the few places available. You are faced with a number of problems. What size flat? How much will the rent be? What can I afford? How much is the deposit in advance? When will I get back the damage deposit for where I live now?

### **Answers**

One answer is to apply to the Lewes District Council who may find a flat or a Housing Association place. This is the best option because the accommodation will be for life whereas private lettings are normally for only six months at a time. However there are two problems here: Firstly, the council takes time to decide whether you are eligible and secondly whether they can support you in private accommodation. This understandable time lag is a serious difficulty if others competing for a suitable property get there first. This is where HOMELINK can help by moving quickly. If necessary loan finance for a rent deposit can be found and delivered in a day! (This is often due to our dedicated Client Managers doing voluntary overtime). Our clients are often impressed by the speed of our help as well as the compassion shown to those in need. The current rate of loans I explained results in 58 tenancies compared to 100 in 2019. We have over 20 clients who have been offered loans after an interview but cannot find a place to rent.

### **Thanks**

We owe grateful thanks to the Churches in Seaford for supporting HOMELINK as a home mission and to all of you who support HOMELINK individually. Our Ashdown singers Christmas Concert raised £1000 which was very encouraging.

## Prayers

- Gary and Shaun our Client Managers that they may be able to give hope to people.
- Those who are homeless or potentially homeless
- Those with the offer of a loan who are looking for a place to rent.



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.

## The Donkey

G. K. Chesterton, chosen by Jim Holmes

When fishes flew and forests walked  
And figs grew upon thorn,  
Some moment when the moon was blood  
Then surely I was born.

With monstrous head and sickening cry  
And ears like errant wings,  
The devil's walking parody  
On all four footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,  
Of ancient crooked will,  
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,  
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour,  
One far fierce hour and sweet:  
There was a shout about my ears,  
And palms before my feet.





Life And More Abundant Ministries

# LAMA

Lesley Gomez

## It's good to celebrate

We recently celebrated Nikka's 12th birthday. We went for pizza with her and Nicole now 15 and their Mum, Shirley. All are doing well. Shirley has a food stall in the night market, Nicole has high grades in High School and is a Sunday School teacher at the Baptist church. She also leads children's outreaches and sings in the choir. Nikka is in Elementary school. They rent a room in a very basic house so the girls occasionally stay at the Baptist Bible school. They are well looked after. Shirley's brother is driver there, now married to the girl who used to live opposite our house in San Fernando, a lovely family. We have kept an eye on the girls after the Girls Home closed as we were not sure Shirley would cope. She has done so well. Their Dad is on a life sentence in Manila Prison. This is the little family who I found on the street in 2013 and later met the Dad in prison. He asked me to help them. At that time Nikka was 2. Do you remember?

## This is their story...

Back in September 2013 I noticed a woman rummaging in the garbage cans at the Plaza, looking for recyclables to sell. What caught my attention was that she was carrying a baby in a baby-carrier, something not often seen here. A little girl was clinging to her leg. She

was not familiar to me and not a badjao woman (sea gypsy) who often beg in the city with their children. I wanted to talk to her but she moved on before I could cross the busy road. This happened twice, so I began praying for a chance to help her. Then, a couple of weeks later, Joker drove me to the jail for a chapel service, his first time to go inside the prison. The first man he met was an old friend. He held on to Joker and sat next to him in the service. Joker stood up to give his testimony, knowing he could easily have been sitting where the inmates sat. He told them how Jesus had restored his family life and completely delivered him from alcoholism and the resulting trouble and violence. Afterwards his old friend confided in him about his wife and children. He was worried for their safety. He told Joker that since his arrest she was roaming the street searching bins for garbage to sell. Their baby was about a year old, their little girl four. I told him I would try to help and he gave us directions to find the makeshift home where she was staying at the back of the red-light district. It wasn't until the youth group service that night that the Holy Spirit reminded me of the woman I had seen in the Plaza. I knew it was the same woman. We found the place where she stayed, a small unfinished house with no roof. The baby was sick. We referred her to the

Social Services, who told me she was a 'perennial client' who they had tried to help often to no avail. We had the baby checked up and got medicines and she was healthy again. But despite the dangers on the street Shirley didn't want to put her children into care. Understandably she wanted them with her. I know it is not a coincidence that our paths crossed. Later in 2014 we had to place her two little girls in a Children's Home in Baguio for safety. Alone, she continued to live on the street for months, with no way to find work, but she did her best to work hard in the garbage bins. Eventually, we let her stay at LAMA House, got her cleared medically and back to good health. A lady in church asked her to work for her, helping clean house and do the washing. Strangely, after getting to know each other, they are pretty sure that they are close relatives! Then, the little house on our campus, used previously for a staff house, became vacant. So, Shirley lived there until things got sorted out, and her 2 little girls could come to live with her again. If you had seen Shirley when we first met her, going through the garbage to find food or something to sell, you would not recognize her now! Thank you for your prayers over the years.

### **Prayer Requests**

Prima is the mother of Mark, he was mine and Pete's first foster baby 27 years ago. Prima was a teenager in High School when she had Mark so a teacher took the baby. The Department of Social Welfare and Development were called in to intervene because the teacher demanded money when Prima said she wanted him back. We fostered him until it went through the courts and then he went back to Prima. She has a

heart condition, I think a broken heart. Mark has a partner who is older and won't let him visit his Mum, so she has sort of 'adopted' Tony from LAMA House. Pray the relationship will be restored with Mark. Prima looks after Tony when he goes to San Fernando, he is also 27. Tony lives at LAMA but if Prima needs help he goes there for a few days.

Ana's foster baby, Mattheo will be matched soon to adoptive parents. The social worker visited in January. There are three prospective couples who are seeking to adopt. We value your prayers for this and especially for Ana, Simon and also Charis as the adoption goes through and they prepare to say goodbye to Mattheo.

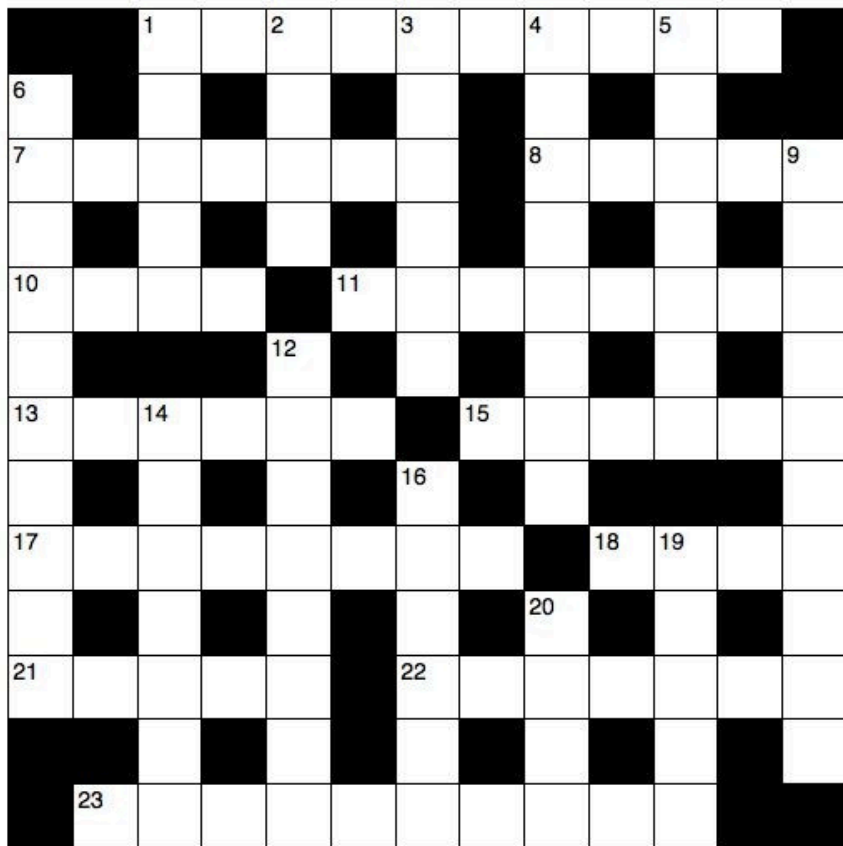
### **Regional Rehabilitation Centre for Youth**

The lyrics of 'Mighty to Save' by Hillsong really hit home for the boys at the recent RRCY Chapel service.

*"Everyone needs compassion, a love that's never failing, let mercy fall on me  
Everyone needs forgiveness, the kindness of a Saviour..."*

A holy calm settled over them and during worship and as they listen to the sermon, they lean forward in their seats, God's Word is real to them. As we pray some look to heaven, some put a hand on their heart, one boy always cries even before the singing has begun. I prayed God's mercy would fall on them. One boy standing at the front trembled as Michael prayed. The Holy Spirit touching him. At the close 28 boys came forward and huddled together for prayer.

# Crossword



## Across

- 1 Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)
- 7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)
- 8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5)
- 10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)
- 11 Much in evidence after weddings (8)
- 13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6)
- 15 Breakwater (6)
- 17 Give a tan (anag.) (8)
- 18 More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4)
- 21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that 'he walked with God' (Genesis 5:23–24) (5)
- 22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)
- 23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)

## Down

- 1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)
- 2 Roman poet from first century BC (4)
- 3 So rapt (anag.) (6)
- 4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)
- 5 Paul's 'fellow worker', to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)
- 6 God's foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)
- 9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)
- 12 'The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever' (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)
- 14 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my — ' (Luke 1:46–47) (7)
- 16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)
- 19 'On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it' (Matthew 16:18) (5)
- 20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)

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# Home Groups

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## David Farey

The new year has begun with a bang! January has seen two new groups in the network. The first is at the home of Alan and Chris Thomas. They have had a good start with good numbers attending. The focus of this group is worship, and prayer for more of the Holy Spirit to be seen in our church and in our lives, and to practice the gifts of the Spirit within the group.

In the Christian walk it is important that we encourage each other in our daily lives and witness and to be more aware of and led by the Holy Spirit. If you own the name “Christian” is this something that you see at work in your life? If not, why not? And what will you do about it?

Perhaps this group is for you. Alan and Chris would love to welcome you, if they can – space is limited - and can be contacted on 01323 898242, or 07870981772.

The second group is somewhat different to a normal ongoing house group. It is a ten week course called Freedom in Christ. It aims to set people free to enter more fully into all that Christ wants to give them, to transform them by the renewal of their minds and the demolishing of strongholds.

It has already started so we aren't taking newcomers, but if you contact

me on [homegroups@seafordparish.org.uk](mailto:homegroups@seafordparish.org.uk) I can give you more information. If there are enough people who are interested we may be able to look into running a further course later.

But the news just keeps coming! One of the existing home groups has grown to such a size that it is now meeting as two separate groups, albeit linked and following the same material. This lays down an important benchmark for all our home groups. As they grow they should reach a point at which they split into two groups. They should then grow until they split, and so on. In that way more and more people are fed and nurtured until the whole church is maturing in faith as they meet in the smaller groups.

If anyone in the Christian walk feels that they have “arrived” and that there's no more to learn or have completed their growth – then they have got it badly wrong! There is always more to learn with God and in being a follower of Jesus!

With Lent just around the corner why not consider joining a house group. More information is on the parish website at [www.seafordparish.org.uk/home-groups/](http://www.seafordparish.org.uk/home-groups/), or by emailing me on [homegroups@seafordparish.org.uk](mailto:homegroups@seafordparish.org.uk).

# February-March Lectionary

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## Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February

### Candlemas

Psalm 24:1-10

Luke 2:22-40

## Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday before Lent

Isaiah 40:1-11

Mark 1:1-8

## Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February

### Ash Wednesday

Isaiah 58:1-12

John 8:1-11

## Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February

### Lent 1

Genesis 9:8-17

Mark 1:9-15

## Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February

### Lent 2

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Mark 8:31-38

## Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

### Lent 3

Exodus 20:1-17

John 2:13-22

## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March

### Mothering Sunday

Number 21:4-9

John 3:14-21

## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March

### Lent 5

Jeremiah 31:31-34

John 12:20-33

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March

### Palm Sunday

Mark 14

Mark 15:1-39

## Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March

Isaiah 42:1-9

John 12:1-11

## Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

### Maundy Thursday

1Corinthians 11:23-36

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

## Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March

### Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43

Mark 16:1-8

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## Crossword answers

**ACROSS:** 1, Prosperity. 7, Raisins. 8, Admit. 10, View. 11, Confetti. 13, Distil. 15, Groyne. 17, Navigate. 18, Whit. 21, Enoch. 22, Trodden. 23, Prophetess.

**DOWN:** 1, Pride. 2, Ovid. 3, Pastor. 4, Reaffirm. 5, Timothy. 6, Providence. 9, Tridentine. 12, Kingship. 14, Saviour. 16, Statue. 19, Hades. 20, Rome.

# February Calendar

<b>Saturday 3rd</b>	9.30am	Messy Church	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Sunday 4th</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.15am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am	Matins	St. Leonard's
	12.30pm	Parish Lunch	St. Luke's
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</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	Prayer@7	St. Luke's
<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
	4.00pm	Pancake Party	St. Luke's
<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	7.00pm	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Saturday 17th</b>	1.00pm	Lunchtime Concert	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.15am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
	7.30pm	Parish Women's Group	St. Luke's
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	7.30pm	Parish Women's Group	St. Luke's
<b>Wednesday 21st</b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Friday 23rd</b>	2.30pm	Mothers' Union	St. Luke's
	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>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's



**Pancake Party**  
**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February**  
**4.00pm to 5.30pm**  
**St. Luke's Church**



# March Calendar

<b>Saturday 2nd</b>	9.30am	Messy Church	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Sunday 3rd</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.15am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am	Matins	St. Leonard's
	12.30pm	Parish Lunch	St. Luke's
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</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	Prayer@7	St. Luke's
<b>Tuesday 12th</b>	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Saturday 16th</b>	1.00pm	Lunchtime Concert	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	11.15am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
	7.30pm	Women's Group	St. Luke's
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	2.30pm	Mothers' Union	St. Luke's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Family Worship	St. Luke's
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7	St. Luke's
	7.00pm	Compline	St. Leonard's
<b>Tuesday 26th</b>	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	7.00pm	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Messy Good Friday	St. Luke's
	10.00am	Walk of Witness	St. Leonard's
<b>Friday 29th</b>	12.00pm	Good Friday Meditation	St. Leonard's
	7.00pm	Easter Vigil	St. Leonard's
<b>Saturday 30th</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Family Communion	St. Luke's

# 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  
 11.15am The Meeting Place: a service of praise and prayer for healing (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)



### 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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Liz Morgan-Jones 01323 890644 liz@seafordparish.org.uk

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Paul Waller (St. Leonard's) 01323 872088

Joanne Lalla (St. Luke's) joanne.lalla@btinternet.com

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## Prayer Pastor

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Fortnightly News news@seafordparish.org.uk

## Magazine

Distribution 01323 892883 David and Hazel Bramley

Editor: Malcolm Anderson 01323 891252 magazine@seafordparish.org.uk

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