

Parish Magazine

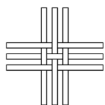
St. Leonard's and St. Luke's Churches

April-May 2024

Suggested donation £1.00



**You abundantly water the ploughed fields,
You settle
its furrows and soften the earth
with showers. You bless its growth. Ps 65:10**



Contents

03	Welcome	29	Blues Brothers
04	Parish News	30	Book Review
07	Cathedral News	32	Christian Aid
08	James Hollingsworth writes...	34	Link to Hope Diary
10	Children, Youth & Families	36	Homelink
16	Healing, Why is it so Tough	38	LAMA
16	Stopover	38	Why did the Chicken....
18	Not Good Enough for Grace	40	Crossword
19	Songs for Churches	42	How we Approach Ethical...
20	Lunchtime Concerts	43	Lectionary
22	Home Groups	44	Calendar
23	Prayer Diary	46	Regular Services & Events
28	Methodist Modern Art	47	Parish Directory

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Welcome

Called to be Fools!

April Fool's Day is the traditional way to begin this month. In medieval times the fool (or jester) was not just there for amusement. He had an influential role in the court, because he could speak the truth in ways others couldn't. As Christians we are also called to be fools; Paul described himself as a 'fool for Christ' (1 Corinthians 4:10). In what ways is this an appropriate description of a Christian? In his letter Paul expands on this theme.

A foolish message:

'For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.' (1 Cor 1:18). The heart of the Gospel does not focus on clever ideas, but on the Cross of Jesus Christ. This message of foolishness and weakness is both God's wisdom and power for our lives.

A foolish community:

'But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.' (1:27). The church in Corinth consisted of slaves, rather than the rich and successful. God calls the weak and vulnerable to follow Him, in order to shame those who think they don't need God.

A foolish ministry:

'My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.' (2:4,5). Paul's ministry didn't rest on human wisdom, but on the power of the Holy Spirit. For us, this power is often displayed when we are at our weakest.

'A fool thinks himself to be wise, but a wise man knows himself to be a fool.'
(William Shakespeare).

The Parish of Sutton with Seaford *St. Leonard's & St. Luke's Churches*

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 28th April at 11.00am

St. Leonard's Church

Agenda and Reports will be available prior to the meeting

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 4th Sunday of the month, the next two are on Sunday 28th April and Sunday 26th May. 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 9th and 23rd April then 14th and 28th May 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.

April 15th: Citizens Advice Bureau, a talk by Lindsey Pritchard

May: Annual dinner, venue and date to be confirmed.

June 17th: My Spiritual Journey and Godly Play, a talk by Corrine Lee-Philpott

July 15th: Fitzgerald Family and Seaford, a talk by Charlie Grimble.

Mothers' Union

"Y. M.C.A". We can't promise you the Village People but we can offer an afternoons light hearted Quiz to raise money for Brian Millar's work with the young people staying at the YMCA Eastbourne.

Friday 26th April 2.30 at St Lukes.

£2 entrance . Refreshments provided

All welcome.

So you thought you knew all about Derreck! Come along on Friday 24th May 2.30 at St Lukes' for Desert Island Discs starring our very own Rev. Derreck Lee-Philpot. Refreshments provided.

St Leonards and St Lukes Mothers Union. Christian care for families.

Parish Lunch

The next Parish Lunches will be on Wednesdays 3rd April and 1st May. 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.

John Lawson

Those that attend the Men's Meal will remember John Lawson who was with us last October. John was an enforcer for London gangs and also plied his trade abroad working for 'the mob'. He shared of God's greatness and love, and also of his ongoing 3 year fight with cancer. We have just had news that John went to be with the Lord on Palm Sunday morning. I suspect that he had His own 'triumphal entry' into the presence of his beloved Saviour Our prayers are with his wife.

Parish Magazine

The copy date for the June-July edition of the Parish Magazine is Tuesday 14th May. Items of news and articles should be sent to 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.

New Curate

Carole Darling, is due to be ordained as Deacon in a special service on Saturday 22nd June in Chichester Cathedral. She will be preaching her first sermon the following day, Sunday 23rd June, at 9.30 in St. Leonard's.

For anyone wishing to attend the ordination service at the cathedral on the Saturday a small number of tickets for Seaford parishioners are still available (approximately two car loads). Please contact Rachel Waller on 07736921197 or 01323 872088

Parish News



BIBLE
BY THE BEACH

A WEEKEND BIBLE-TEACHING CONFERENCE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

God has spoken



*WITH... RICHARD PRATT JONTY RHODES TIM WARD
HELEN THORNE STEVE MIDGELEY NAOMI DAWSON*

*THE WORD OF GOD
FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD
3-6 MAY 2024 EASTBOURNE*

*TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
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www.biblebythebeach.org



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



**Free
refreshments,
crafts &
conversation**

Saturdays in 2024

April 27th
May 25th
June 22nd

Open Church Cafe
St. Leonard's Church

10.00am to 12.30pm

The Spring Cathedral Newsletter was due for publication towards the end of March.

Hopefully we will have received two copies which should now be available to view. One on the table at the back of St Leonard's and one on St Luke's table.

To find out more about the services, events, concerts and exhibitions held at the cathedral you can go to the cathedral's website at www.chichestercathedral.org.uk or email info@chichestercathedral.org.uk or telephone 01243 782595.

You are all invited to attend services held at the cathedral. If unable to do so the services are streamed online immediately after they have ended and are available for 48 hours after that.

One of the main events at the Cathedral this year will be the Festival of Flowers in June. It is to be a four day spectacular taking place from Wednesday 5th to Saturday 8th June with sixty floral arrangements from across the country to admire and enjoy.

Admission is to be by ticket, booked and paid for in advance. This can be done through the cathedral's website or by phone on 0333 6663366. Tickets are priced at £18.00 with a carer admitted for free should one be required.



There are timed sessions each day and a special Accessible Evening on the Friday from 4.30pm to 6.30pm for those with mobility issues, learning disabilities or perhaps if you are autistic or neurodivergent then this session could be for you.

The Festival of Flowers is a biennial event organised by the Cathedral Trust and it has raised over £1million towards the cost of restoration work over the last 22 years.

You will find the cathedral website very comprehensive, informative and easy to navigate.

Rachel Waller (01323 872088 or 07736921197)

James Hollingsworth writes...



Keep Praying

Alas back on 24th February we held another prayer vigil for Ukraine. Here's a good prayer to keep praying:

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine this day. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment, and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen



Why an Easter Egg?

Stefan and I had the privilege of being asked into Chyngton (year 2) and into Cradle Hill (year 3) to help with the RE Curriculum and why is it called *Good Friday*. The children were great, full of bounce and curiosity. I asked 'Why do we eat chocolate in the shape of an egg at Easter? How does the egg make us think of Easter?' I was expecting something about chicks hatching, new life that sort of thing. One child said

that he thought a broken easter egg looks a bit like a tomb, and its empty. So I thought, well that

will be my Easter Day sermon thank you for that! Keep praying for Schools. The teachers and support staff do a fantastic job.

APCM

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be on 28th April at 11am in St. Leonard's. By the time you're reading this I hope that our reports will be on the website and there will be some copies at the back of Church. It is really quite astonishing to see just how much we get up to as the Church family. It's a meeting that reflects back on what we did in the year 2023. So, in many respects it already feels out of date and it also tries to look a little ahead to how our Church is growing.

This is a good prayer to be praying:

God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your Church, send your Holy Spirit to give Vision to our planning, Wisdom to our actions and Power to our witness. Help your church to grow in numbers, In spiritual commitment to you, And in service to our local community, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Missing the Mark

Stefan and I have been invited again to teach archery. Firstly, at Dalesdown Retreat Centre with a charity we

support called *Family Support Work* (FSW). And again, at the end of May, to teach archery to teenagers camped up at Plumpton. This is called 'May Camp' and is a gathering of local teenagers for a long weekend of worship, football, bible teaching, axe throwing, prayer, difficult questions, and archery. A group of us will be up there to give these teenagers a chance to do some archery. I was once told that in times of Olde when an arrow missed its mark that it was called out as a 'sin'. Usually when something is called a sin that means you should not do it, stay away from it, avoid it. But in this case what the call meant was: Try again. Keep practicing. Yes, we all sin, but maybe sometimes the conclusion should be that we should try again, and think more carefully about our aim. It reminded me of the primary school child who told me he was giving up giving up for Lent. It took me a full five minutes to understand what he had said.

Vocation

Two of our church family have recently completed a diocesan course. One on Pastoral Care, the other on Eco Church. Bob Rice and Nicola Ferguson will be licensed as Authorised Lay Ministers (ALMs) in Chichester Cathedral on 27th April at 2pm. Do pray for them! If you would like to learn more about the ALM courses do ask me or have a look on the Diocesan website.

Also please Start praying for Carole Darling. On 22nd June she will be ordained a Reverend, a Deacon, and will be our Curate. Rev Carole will be working here three days a week while living in Lewes. In the next magazine she will write a little about herself and her journey of faith. Do pray for her over these coming months.

Thy Kingdom Come

The Lord's Prayer gives us a wonderfully shaped approach to prayer. We begin with acknowledging that we see God in the caring approachable parental role of Father, before moving on to praying for our daily bread, our need to forgive others as we seek God's forgiveness, and God's protection upon us in the face of evil and temptation.



THY KINGDOM COME

The Archbishop of Canterbury in 2016 started up a special focus of the eleven days of prayer from Ascension through to Pentecost. I would like to encourage you to make a point in your diary of praying through this season. This is a movement of prayer that unites over a million Christians in prayer, in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions. The key prayer that I've prayed over the years is to pray for five people, praying that God's Spirit might work in their lives, that they might respond to God's call with a faith filled Yes. I've taken a small bit of string and tied five knots in it and put it in my pocket. It's a helpful way to me to remember them throughout the day.

Some people have found that this is a time when they would like to come back to Church having not been part for a while.

Children, Youth & Families

Stefan Bracher

And just like that we have zoomed away with another few months of activities!

Groups have been bouncing back after Christmas and we are now looking ahead to an amazing summer!

Tots' Treats, our toddler group, now has a dedicated area at both St. Luke's (on Wednesdays) and St. Leonard's (on Thursdays), which is just for children who are less than 18 months old. This is to help ensure the babies can still come along and relax and avoid larger toys from falling on them. It also means that we can have dedicated toys, which are key for their development, such as black and white toys, followed by red and blue. These are the first colours which babies are able to see and focus on.



Sparks, our children's group, have been going really well and our numbers have returned to the 35 mark, after a drop with older members moving to the youth group. Each week we have been looking at an event from the Bible, accompanied with singing, dancing,

prayer and sport games. Since January this year we have had 4 assistant volunteers come along from our Ignite youth group who have been helping to run the sessions. This has been a really good outcome for us and for them. Although they are unable to have the same responsibility as an adult leader it does help with the management of the groups.

Ignite, our youth group, has kept exploding with numbers. We have an increased limit of 50 to the group, most weeks we reach that and some weeks we have to turn others away as the building cannot currently cope with the size. We have a chance of redeveloping the youth room in St. Luke's (which is located under the stage). If this is possible we would be able to accept another 10-15 young people to the group, but with the requirement of an additional 1-2 leaders for the sessions. Whilst this group does not have any dedicated "Christian God Slot" we do have meaningful and sometimes deep conversation with the young people about elements of faith. The main thing we are doing here is showing what Christian love is to the community and getting to know those lovely young people who come along to the sessions. We do still need an additional group for the young people, but this is not possible at the moment, reason below.

Messy Church, a time of worship and craft for families, it has been going really well, with one of our more recent Messy Church sessions being attended by 32 children and then their parents/carers. It is fantastic to see the children enjoy themselves with their parents/carers and make the crafts we have on offer. The children are really listening too. They come back to Sparks and Glow (Sunday group) and talk about what they have been hearing about in Messy Church, then they are actually trying to live in the way we have been discussing!

kitchen at St Luke's on Family Worship Sundays as they make a ton of bacon sandwiches every week, so thank you!!



Glow, our Sunday group in St Luke's, have now been meeting for just over a year! We meet at the same time as the Holy Communion service in St Luke's. We have a steady flow of around 5 children attending this each morning. We've been looking at various different Bible stories and munching on plenty of toast and croissants too! We have time of singing, dancing, Bible stories, crafts and prayers, which then also leads into the main service in St Luke's. Where the number of adults attending has also greatly increased! If you are looking for a good way to mention the Glow groups to others, tell them it's a bit like Messy Church, just smaller.



Family Worship, our family services on every 2nd and 4th Sundays in St Luke's, have been going well too! On Mothering Sunday we had some fantastic support from Sue Topp, Sally & Lloyd Thompson and Lizzie Jackson who were busy cooking and prepping away for a Mothering Sunday Breakfast which was fantastic! We had over 85 people attending that service, which is amazing! I should also say a huge thank you to Sue Topp and Jayne Bass for their continuous hard work in the



Three Camps This Year

This year we are very fortunate to be able to offer not 1, not 2, but 3 Church camps for people to attend. The first one up was May Camp, this is aimed at just young people from Ignite. However, we have been unable to recruit any young people for this camp, we'll try again next year!! It does mean however that the leaders will get sometime for their own faith revitalisation from Big Church Festival.

The second is the Sparks Summer camp held at the end of July for children attending Sparks. We currently have 9 children who are looking to attend this camp, which is held in Chiddingly with a Christian Camp called Generations Christian Camps. They are all very excited!!

Finally we have our very own Seaford Parish Church Camp in August Bank Holiday, from Saturday 24th – Monday 26th August 2024, in Chiddingly (around 20-30 minutes away). You can camp for the weekend or just come for the day. This is for everyone in the whole Church. It doesn't matter where you are in your faith journey, what group you attend, which service you attend, it just matters that you come along and join in and be with others. Through chatting with many people in the Church it seems there is a need for everyone to come together more. This is that time where the whole Church can come together and in fact that's the reason why our camps theme is called Together. The importance to see each part of the Church in one place cannot be overstated. We get to see and chat to people we might not otherwise get to speak to.

the weekend. Come along and join in for the whole weekend by camping, or for the whole weekend by a series of day visits or by coming just for one of the day visits. Food and activities are included in the cost of the camp. Book Here (or see the poster): <https://tinyurl.com/spcc2024>

We are also looking for some people who might be up for leading an 1-1.5 hour workshop during our Parish Camp, such as crafts, prayer reflection, flower arrangement, musical instrument or any other skill that you feel you might have that we could run as a workshop. Please let me know what skill you might be up for leading a small workshop for at camp.


Alpha

Alpha has been amazing. It's been a great time to get together and chat about faith with those who have little understanding or have come for a reminder of their faith. We have had at least 1 family who have committed to being baptised, 1 parent and 2 children with the other parent having a renewal of baptismal vows. This is a huge step for this family, and I am sure you will show your support for them on the Family Worship service on Sunday 28th April 2024 in St Luke's Church, 9.30am-10.30am.

It has been a time of enjoyment and coming together to learn from one another and to grow with one another. Thank you to everyone who prayed during Alpha and for those who came and cooked some very lovely meals for us all!

So, it would be lovely if you join us for

Continued on page14



SEAFORD PARISH CHURCH CAMP

Together

**SATURDAY 24TH - MONDAY 26TH
AUGUST 2024
(BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND)**

COLDHARBOUR MEADOWS,
WHITESMITH LANE, CHIDDINGLY, BN8 6HB

Open to anyone no matter of age and ability. Kick back and relax with onsite activities, food, worship, games, crafts, workshops, campfires and more!

Come for the day(s) or come and camp.

A time for the whole Church Family to come together.

SCAN BELOW OR USE THE BOOKING LINK TO FIND OUT MORE & FOR FULL WEEKEND CAMP & FOR DAY TICKETS



<https://tinyurl.com/spcc2024>



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

Children, Youth & Families

Additional Children, Youth & Family Worker Urgently Required

As I mentioned in the last magazine we are actively looking at ways to raise funds to employ another children, youth and family worker. We have had amazing success over the past few years with new children and families coming to the Church, however there is lots more to do, just not very many hours in which to do it.

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 meeting more of 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.

We have currently found some grants which would be suitable for us to apply to. However we need to ensure we keep focused on this as the next big step in the development of what we do for children, young people and families in Seaford and for or Church.

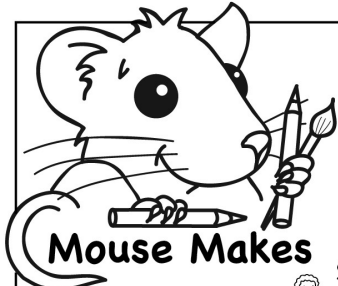
So I ask that you pray about this. Pray that we will be able to find the right amount of funding which is needed for this role. Pray that when that does happen, we will know how many new groups to open and pray for the knowledge on how to make the new person and groups thrive, whenever it comes into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

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>

cyfw@seafordparish.org.uk
07506143476

The probability of life originating by accident is comparable to the probability of the complete Oxford dictionary resulting from an explosion in a printing factory. *Edwin Conklin*

To create requires infinite power. All the world cannot make a fly.
Thomas Watson



Some time after Jesus had risen a few of His disciples met together to go fishing. They fished all night but caught nothing. As the sun rose a man on the shore asked; "Have you caught anything?" "Not a thing" they answered.



He said to them "Throw your net out onto the right side of the boat and you will catch some." So they did and they and they caught so many fish they could not pull in the net.

Then John recognised the man, "It is the Lord!"



How many times had the risen Jesus revealed himself to the disciples before this?

Read John 21:14



How many disciples were there? Who were they? Read John 21: 11

How many fish did they catch? Read John 21: 11

READ the story in John 21

Word search grid:

B	S	N	F	F	I	R	E	R	F				
W	A	T	E	R	I	F	D	A	Y	C	W		
R	I	G	H	T	A	N	I	B	O	A	T	Y	
J	O	H	N	D	S	S	O	C	S	I	N		
M	S	H	C	B	N	T	B	A					
T	S	E	A	H	I	I	R	O	J	E	T		
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F	O	J	K	M	E	H	E	D	I	U	A	N	D
B	R	E	A	K	F	A	S	T	N	S	S	A	
D	F	I	S	H	U	N	I	G	H	T	E		
C	A	U	G	H	T	L	D	O	F	U	L	L	

DISCIPLES • TIBERIAS • SEA • SIMON PETER • THOMAS • NATHANAEL • JOHN • DAY FISHING • BOAT • NIGHT • CAUGHT • NOTHING • WATER • SHORE • FISH • CAST • NET RIGHT • FIND • HAUL • LORD • FULL • LAND • FIRE • BREAD • BREAKFAST • JESUS

Colour in all the fish

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Healing... Why is it so tough?

Derreck Lee-Philpot

Why doesn't it always work? Why is it so complicated? Is healing not meant for today?

The whole subject of healing is complicated, despite it seeming so simple in scripture. That is part of the frustration, and indeed my frustration that sometimes healing comes in an instant, at other times for other people it is heartbreakingly absent. The differing views on the subject range from the extreme of *'everybody will be healed'* with the implicit suggestion that if some are not healed then it is somehow their fault! Not true. The other extreme is that people do not even pray for healing as it belongs to *'a time in the past,'* the Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, and so healing died with the Apostles. The trouble is, that is a self-fulfilling prophecy, if you don't pray for healing you will never see healing. John Wimber made the throw-away comment that... *"we never used to pray for people, and none were healed, now we pray for many and some are healed."* I know which version I prefer!

I would like to offer an example of healing in all its complexity, the story is told with the permission of those involved.

The visit to the dentist was precautionary as an injury occurred following an accident, coming off a bike. Unusually, following the dental

ordeal the dentist came into the waiting room and said, "the x-ray showed something a little odd, I would like you to see a friend in Kings College Dental Dept and let her have a look." So, the family trooped off to Denmark Hill to the dental annexe to see an oral specialist. She too found something strange in the re-taken x-rays - two of the front teeth seem to be empty, hollow. "I'd like to refer you onto a Consultant I know" she said.

The first pangs of concern came when the referral dropped on the mat, it was to the Royal Marsden Hospital, Sutton, near Croydon, they specialised in cancer and its treatment. Once again at the appointed date the trip was made. A nice consultant took more x-rays and a biopsy of the gum. Moments later he returned with the new set of x-rays and said, "I am so sorry, but I must confirm with you that there is an aggressive cancer in the jaw. We will have to operate and will send you another appointment for a familiarisation visit and preparation."

The family left the appointment in a state of shock, how could this be? What was happening? The emotions were scrambled, cancer? How could this be? News filtered out, the church began to pray, individually and corporately. Prayers offered by the family were a mixture of frustration, desperation, and confusion. Faith was present but seemed to be swallowed up in the

swirling emotions and the unknown that was ahead. First the initial operation, then the ongoing surgery to rebuild the jaw over time.

Again, the brown envelope plopped through the letterbox. Again, it was a trip to the Royal Marsden. Again, the journey across South London, this time taken in a stoic silence. On arrival, a tour around the hospital's cancer facilities was given, including the 'suites' (they didn't call them wards!), the social areas and even the operating areas and recovery rooms.

Strangely more x-rays and yet another biopsy was required to measure the extent of the cancer, it started to feel there wasn't much gum left to give! We were assured that we would receive a date for admission within a couple of weeks.

The day arrived, but here was just another round of x-rays and yet another biopsy! They were sent home with the promise that 'we will be in touch.' No explanation about the cancelled admission, confusion was now added to the anxiety felt.

Prayers continued, but for the family it was more out of habit than through faith. The church and friends were openly supportive and prayerful.

The envelope arrived, and to everyone's surprise it was for the Royal Marsden at Chelsea. The journey was awful (and expensive) using trains and taxis. But, once arrived they were met by the consultant from Sutton who introduced another doctor before making his excuses and leaving. This new doctor was to be the operating surgeon, and he began to explain the

events of the past four months from dentist's concern to surgery.

To the family's growing amazement, he explained how the cancer was clear and well defined in the initial sets of x-rays taken by the two dentists and Royal Marsden Sutton. Their results confirmed by the initial biopsy, the family was shown the x-rays and biopsy slide-photos. The surgeon then showed the x-rays and biopsy photos from the second visit, they were somehow different. The dark shadow along the jaw wasn't so clearly defined, the biopsy photos also looked (to the untrained eye) to be different. The third x-ray from Sutton showed nothing. The third set of biopsy slides were completely different.

There was nothing there, the aggressive cancer that had grown along the jaw was gone!

The surgeon looked and noticed the cross that one of the family was wearing and asked, "Do you go to church?" 'Yes' was the answer. "Then I suppose people have been praying?" Again 'Yes.' The surgeon sighed and said, "I do not have a faith, and I cannot explain how these things happen, but I have seen this sort of thing too often to deny it is true."

He then simply said that there would be no operation, as there was no cancer to operate on.

To say the family went home rejoicing was an understatement.

These events took place in the spring and early summer of 1990, the family was the Lee-Philpot family, the patient who fell off his bike was Mark Lee-

Philpot whom many of you have met, he was nine at the time of these events.

This healing was complex, difficult, emotional, not a one-off 'be healed' kind of healing, but was a well-defined and medically accredited healing nevertheless. We were asked later whether Mark's case could be used as a 'case-study,' we gave permission, but we don't know if it was ever used.

We learned a lot during that time, it was hard-learned and painful at times, with the learning and the joy also came

more questions, so please don't be fooled into thinking we now have all the answers.

Instead rejoice, like the surgeon, we may not always believe, we may not always understand, but it happens too often to deny its truth.

May I remind you of John Wimber's thought, '*...we never used to pray for people and none were healed, now we pray for many and some are healed.*'

Keep praying.

Many of you will know Mark, some of you might know the ongoing struggles he has with his health. This poem reflects some of those struggles as he strives to balance his faith with his health.

Not good enough for Grace

I'm not good enough for Grace...
I simply don't deserve it
I take so much, give so little....
I don't see how I'm worth it
If only I could be strong enough
to earn my thorough keep...
but all I seem to do is to eat, drink, rest and sleep
I'm not good enough for Grace...

It's a gift that I'm just not able to receive.
All I see is madness and folly...
and you tell me "only believe."
What must I do to be saved?....
I've looked after my family...
I've been well behaved!!

This is how I cried out on that faithful day...
and God told me what I needed to say

I'm not good enough for Grace....
I simply don't deserve it"...and so... humbled by His mercy....
I started to pray

Mark Lee-Philpot Jan 2024



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Tickets - £10 (free to BBTB delegates)
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Lunchtime Concerts



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 are in St. Leonard's Church and last for about an hour, 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/

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so that we may contact you.



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

Home Groups

Spring, the season for growth

David Farey

Spring! The season when we start to see plants long dormant begin to sprout into new life. It can also be the time when we see new opportunities to serve the Lord and walk more closely with the Lord. Our home groups are running well, and we have seen a couple of new groups start this year.

Take a look at the website or get in touch. We are more often at St Luke's but do get down to St Leonard's. You can also use the email below. We can then explore how we can find a group that would suit you.

We are always on the look out how to grow. An ideal is when everyone in a congregation is involved some way or another in a smaller group to look at the Bible together, discuss matters of faith, pray and worship or simply to support and encourage one another. We are blessed that there are folks around who could take on the role of leading a group and who just need a little encouraging.

So Pat and I are inviting anyone who may possibly - or perhaps - or just may be - interested in leading a home group to join us for some sessions exploring how to lead a home group. There is no obligation, and we do hope that it may lead to someone feeling called to take such a role on at some point. It would

also be open to any of our existing leaders to come along to be encouraged and to give the benefit of their experiences.

At this stage we are simply wanting to see if there is an interest in such a short course. So do please get in touch and we can see if its viable. Either use the email below or have a word with James or Derreck who know how to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you!

We also mentioned last time that if we get enough interest we can look into running another Freedom in Christ course. I have one name waiting in the wings and there is still time for others who are interested to get in touch.

To explore how you could be involved in a group email David or Pat on homegroups@seafordparish.org.uk.





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)

This prayer diary offers a focus for our personal and corporate prayers. Each month, sections are featured on our Mission partners (1st & 4th pages). There is a theme for every day of the week with suggested current topics for prayer. Feel free to use as many as you wish.

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 APRIL

WAVES

- Pray for the centre co-ordinator and key workers as they continue to support families in Seaford, emotionally and practically, and to develop the outreach activities WAVES offers outside of the centre.
- Pray for the families attending the centre.
- Pray for continuing financial provision to enable WAVES to continue and expand its support beyond the provision of the drop-in centre.

CAMBODIA ACTION - Sarah & Pola Chhin serving with Cambodia Action

- For Sarah as she continues studying Mandarin and moves from learning to read the characters to writing them.
- That there will be new donors to which M'lup Russey can apply as some long standing supporters are withdrawing or reducing their funding.
- For the new men (who are Christians) joining Pola's team of builders. That there will be good relations between them and the existing members who are not Christians and that they will work well together.
- For strength and protection for all the Christians working in the Royal Government of Cambodia.

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.
- As the Church worldwide prepares to celebrate Thy Kingdom Come that we might witness to our family and friends of the love and faithfulness of God.

MONDAY – The UK

- Pray for King Charles, Queen Camilla, Princess of Wales recovering from illness. The wider royal family as they seek to serve the UK and Commonwealth. For strength, wisdom, good health and unity.
- For the government and all politicians as they begin to prepare for a general election. For honesty and integrity.
- 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 the 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 PCC for wisdom and discernment as they review the vision of the parish in action and in budget setting.
- For those attending all the homegroups and small groups that we might grow together as the body of Christ. For those who attended Alpha that they will find their place in small groups.
- Those who are sick or living with chronic illness, that they may know God's peace, healing and wholeness.
- That we will all find our place to serve in the church

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.

- For those youngsters considering attending May Camp and later in the year Sparks Camp and Parish camp that they will be times of fun, safety, and learning together.

THURSDAY – For those living in

- 4th April:** Chyngton Way, South Way, Mark Close, Newick Close, Hamsey Lane,
- 11th April:** Fairways Road, Poynings Close, Fairways Close, Lullington Close
- 18th April:** Field Close, Green Walk St Wilfrid’s Close, Kingston Green,
- 25th April:** Kingston Close, Kingston Way, May Avenue, Buckthorn Close, Rowan Close,
- 2nd May:** Badgers Copse, Eastbourne Road,
- 9th May:** Ash Drive, Sycamore Close, Elm Close, Willow Drive, Juniper Close,
- 16th May:** Bainbridge Close, Sutton Avenue, Links Close, Darwall Drive,
- 23rd May:** Hazeldene, Headland Avenue, Downsview Road, Hartfield Road,
- 30th May:** Wenthill Park, Wellington Park, Aquila Park, Downs Road

FRIDAY – Seaford

- Pray for provision of health services locally, GP surgeries and their staff.
- For mental health of children, especially those struggling and their families.
- For students preparing for GCSE, A level and B Tec exams and teachers.
- For Care homes balancing management of Covid restrictions with welfare and safety of residents.
- For Council elections, candidates and agents – for honesty and integrity.
- Churches of Seaford - for leaders and people, for God’s blessing on their witness and renewed vision.

SATURDAY – World

- Pray for those living in areas of war & civil unrest, that they might know lasting peace and reconciliation.
- For migrants arriving in Europe, seeking refuge & asylum. For government collaboration to seek fair & just solutions to immigration; asylum seekers accommodation, unaccompanied children & 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 & sanitation, famine or shortages of staple foods – a compassionate sharing of resources & action from those nations who live in plenty.
- For an end to the war between Russia & Ukraine. For all trying to come to terms with the consequences of the conflict and rebuild shattered lives

Pray for Missions Partners during MAY

CHRISTIAN AID

- We Pray this Christian Aid week that people pushed to the brink by poverty, find the strength and opportunity to push back harder and fulfil their hopes and ambitions. Amen.
- Explore live in action this Christian Aid Week. We pray for change this year. We pray for Burundi, that its community-based training will grow in strength and abundance, so that families can come together to set up small businesses and support one another financially. We pray that families will build reliable and diverse incomes which will bring them food security, better health and increased resilience and coping mechanisms. 'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me' (Philippians 4:13).
- We pray that our Global Neighbours know that our love is with them, as they face great challenges and changes. 'Jesus, you showed us what love is, by laying down your life for us. Help us this Christian Aid Week, to reflect that same sacrificial life through generous giving and courageous action for those in need.' Amen.

DIOCESAN FAMILY SUPPORT - FSW

- The two newly appointed Assistant Practitioners for the Midhurst and Petworth Deaneries, that they will fit in and settle well.
- The different fund raising activities planned for the summer including serving teas at two open gardens in Seaford.
- The Trustees as they draw up and implement a new five year plan.

The God who answers prayer

There is a God who answers prayer
Who intercedes before the throne,
The Son of God who ever cares,
Do not believe you walk alone.

When life seems hard, no answers
come
He knows the path that you now tread
Believe on Him though all seems lost
He knows about the tears you shed.

Hold on to Him who is your strength,
Although it seems there's no way
through,
Though pain and heartache both are
near,
Who holds the world holds also you.

There is a day when all is clear
A day when we all understand
That all our lives but marked a way
That led us to the Promised Land.

By Megan Carter



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The Methodist Modern Art Collection is coming to Eastbourne this Summer, in an exhibition entitled 'New Vision'. The exhibition has been prepared to coincide with the opening of Emmanuel Church, the scheme in Eastbourne which has seen four churches amalgamate and embark on a new venture together in a new space.

The exhibition contains some remarkable works by artists such as Graham Sutherland, Elisabeth Frink, William Roberts, Patrick Heron among others. The works vary wonderfully in style, composition and approach. Some reflect on biblical and theological themes quite strongly; others comment on both the nature of humanity and divinity. The quality of the artworks themselves is exceptional, and the exhibition a fabulous opportunity for us to enjoy these pieces. All are welcome to what will be a very memorable event.

'New Vision' will be at Emmanuel Church, 48A Upperton Road, Eastbourne, BN21 1LQ between 19 May



EXHIBITION 'New Vision'

Emmanuel Church

Upperton Road, Eastbourne BN21 1LQ

Sunday 19th May 2024 to Thursday 13th June 2024

Open Tuesday to Sunday: 11.00am to 4.00pm

Admission Free

The Collection

The Methodist Modern Art Collection is one of Britain's most important collections of modern religious art, comprising more than fifty paintings, prints, drawings, relief and mosaics. The artists include famous names from the British art world of the last 100 years.

The Exhibition

Following the recent opening of its new church building in Upperton Road, Emmanuel Church, Eastbourne is proud to be hosting an exhibition 'New Vision' featuring 35 pieces from this amazing collection of paintings.

The exhibition is curated by local artist, Pat Latham and includes a programme of workshops, talks, and reflections. Admission is also free to these events too and further details will be available soon.

For more information about the exhibition see the Emmanuel Church website

<https://emmanueleastbourne.org.uk/exhibition/>

Methodist Modern
Art Collection

and 13 June 2024 Eastbourne between **19th May and 13th June 2024** – the opening times and details are on the Emmanuel Church website <https://emmanueleastbourne.org.uk/exhibition/> and social media.

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Book Review

Derreck Lee-Philpot

Paradoxology

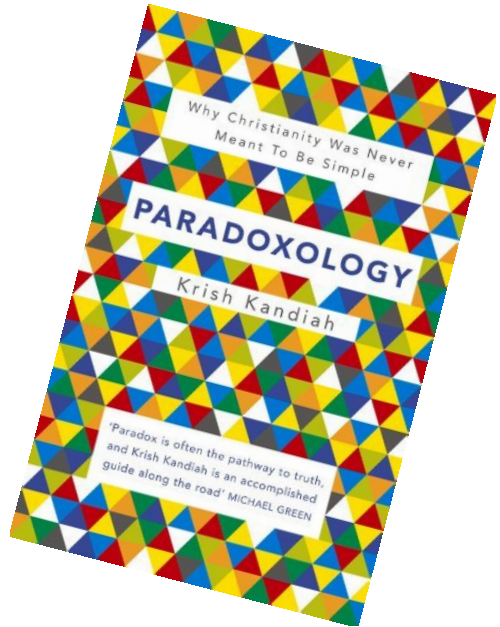
Author: Krish Kandiah (© 2014).
Publisher: Hodder & Stoughton.
ISBN # 978 1 444 74535 1

Some while ago I read a book entitled *'The difficult words of Jesus.'* I didn't finish it as I was so disappointed that it really didn't deal with the 'difficult words' of Jesus. They were really sayings and teachings that required a little scriptural knowledge and a bit of thought to work through and understand, they weren't really difficult or knotty, they just could not be received with a superficial reading.

Krish Kandiah however has grabbed the bull by the horns! The sub-title gives a clue, *'Why Christianity was never meant to be simple.'* But don't be disheartened already, Krish reveals something that I think we already knew – that the Bible isn't easy because it is full of paradox. Things, sayings, teachings, stories that all seem to be contradictory and often just plain difficult.

He asks three questions,

- What if Christianity has survived so long not in spite of but precisely



because of its apparent contradictions?

- What if the tension between opposing doctrines is exactly where faith comes alive?
- What if it is in the difficult parts of the Bible that God is most clearly revealed?

He approaches these questions in a lively accessible way by looking at paradoxes (for the most part) within people of the Bible.

By example here are some chapter titles;

- The Abraham Paradox: The God who needs nothing but asks for everything.
- The Moses Paradox: The God who is far away, so close.
- The Joshua Paradox: The God who is terribly compassionate.
- The Job Paradox: The God who is inactively active.

Through these (and the other nine) chapters Krish explores some of the most troubling stories and narratives in the scriptures. He really doesn't shy away from or skirt around the truly challenging moral, doctrinal and ethical questions raised, rather he charges straight for them, head on!

It's not theological treatise, but a book for those that want to both ask and

explore the difficult questions that are at the centre of the Christian faith. We are not 'spoon-fed' the answers, neither are we left with more questions than when we started!

If you are fed up of overlooking and pushing away questions that appear too difficult and challenge our faith, then this book will help you understand and confront the challenges.

If you take God seriously and want to wrestle with the big questions of life through the lives of some the Bible's heroes of faith then Krish might just show a way to a deeper more resilient faith, and with it a richer relationship with the God of Heaven.

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Christian Aid



Colin Pritchard

A quote from a recent email from Christian Aid *"As we grapple with the ongoing crises in Turkey, Syria, Ukraine, and the Middle East, our hearts are heavy with concern. The suffering faced by families in these regions is profound, from the streets of Aleppo to the farmlands of eastern Ukraine. United with church leaders and fellow Christian organisations nationwide, we pray and raise our voices in a resounding call for a lasting ceasefire in Gaza."* Yes, because we have helped with money in the past, Christian Aid is there in the trouble-spots helping in any way possible As well as longer-term projects in other countries to support the very poorest in the world.

Christian Aid Week 12th-18th May 2024.

As usual we shall start the week with an evening service, under the auspices of Churches Together in Seaford. At the time of writing we think it will be at 6.00pm at St. Peter's Church Belgrave Road but we await confirmation from the Rector.

During the week we have our usual roads to cover, 11 roads for St. Luke's and 36 for St. Leonard's. The best thing would be if all roads were covered by delivering the envelopes in each road and going back later to collect them. We get much more money that way, but to be realistic, there are some who are willing to deliver only without collecting; in those envelopes we

enclose a slip of paper inviting people to return the envelopes with their contribution to certain places. Please see Paul Bloxham for St. Luke's and Colin Pritchard for St. Leonard's if you could take on a road if you have never done so before. For those who have been collectors or deliverers, we shall be round inviting you to do so again.

We had a Coffee Morning in March but, though we started early planting seeds for selling, with the weather we had, most seedlings had not developed enough for a good sale. We shall probably be looking for another opportunity for a Christian Aid Plant sale.

For those not in the know, one of the collecting points for un-collected envelopes will be at St. Leonard's porch on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of Christian Aid Week, 16, 17th and 18th May, where we shall have our genuine half-sized old-fashioned milk churn to receive the envelopes. As usual we shall be asking St. Leonard's people to sign up on a list, 2 people at a time to sit in or outside the porch (depending on the weather) to cover Friday 17th May from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

On Saturday 25th May St. Luke's and St. Leonard's will be organising a Christian Aid Lunch at St Lukes from 12noon to 2.00pm. Tickets will cost £8 and will be available during May from our Christian Aid representatives, Paul Bloxham for St. Luke's and Nicola Ferguson for St.

Leonard's; if you think you might come please buy a ticket as this helps greatly with the catering, but we have never been known to turn anyone away without a ticket! We usually have a raffle to boost the funds and there may still be plants for sale. If you can help in any way please let Liz Morgan-Jones know or one of us.

An on-going project if you are stuck with what on earth to give someone for their birthday or some other occasion,

why not give them a pair of chickens or 10 cocoa saplings - well, not give to them direct but on their behalf get Christian Aid to provide such things to help some family out of poverty.

On the internet see <https://charity-gifts.christianaid.org.uk>. You pay Christian Aid for the gift of your choice, they get it to the family and your friend or family receive a card saying what they have given.

**7 days, so many ways
to make a difference**



Christian Aid Week 12-18 May

Link to Hope: Shoebox Delivery Diary- Day 3

Shoe Box Delivery Team

Our first stop was with Peter and Maria who are the caretakers for 20 years of the storage units that Hope Without Limits use. They are allowed to live there in return for looking after the place but they are getting older so they do not know what will happen when they are too old to do the role. They kindly gave us poppy cake as a thank you for their shoeboxes!

Next we visited Irena who sat on the



bed with Steve and was absolutely delighted that she had so many visitors in her home. Widowed for 22 years, she had become more and more disabled and now struggles to walk with two sticks.



We visited an elderly lady called Kate who had been the lady who welcomed Otto when he first came to Sacele – she

is a prayer warrior! She also has a bed and a mattress supplied to her so that she is able to get herself out of bed using the hoist.

The next house belonged to Ezolda who has missing fingers, no electricity and no sanitation. When she was first discovered the stove was faulty and the house had filled up with smoke.

Ezolda was wearing her smartest clothes for our visit however when we entered her house we saw a different story. It was pitched black and she lives in one



room to keep warm. She has an abusive son who is an alcoholic and can become violent. She used to live in the back room but when we went in it was freezing and damp. Steve decided to be useful and chopped up some wood for her. Otto tried to fix her roof which leaked and Peter put a new handle on the stove for her to make sure it didn't fill the house with smoke again.

We visited a grandfather who lives in one room with his wife, his daughter, his son in law and his grandchild. The room measured 4 m x 4m and there was a tiny bathroom to one side. Compounding their misery, was that they were even



being evicted from that one room in March 2024 because the landlord wants it back. The do not know where they will go.

As promised we returned to visit the family living in the tool shed in the field. We came with a stove and some wood. Steve helped put the stove together while Gill entertained the incredibly happy and talkative ten year old boy of the family. Lots of actions as they didn't understand a word the other was saying. Otto and his team chopped up the firewood and built the chimney to go inside the shed to let the smoke out of. Although part of us was thinking wouldn't it better to move them out rather than put a stove in, the sheer difficulty of finding other accommodation meant that this was the only option which at least would keep them warm in the short term.

We gave each of the children a shoebox – we felt they deserved it – and watched as they opened the boxes and gasped and smiled at every gift. The older boy who was 14 found a calculator in his box and had to try to keep it out of his younger brothers clutches. Presents for mum and dad in the form of a beautiful scarf and a tape measure which was immediately used to measure up for a replacement door. Both children attend school and that is one of the reasons they have to stay in the area as they don't want them to lose their places. We were very humbled.

We then went onto a place where the shed family used to live near and some of the other families had moved onto. Lovely smiley children and grateful parents who couldn't have dreamed that they would be given such a present at Christmas time. Unfortunately their time is also limited as their accommodation is being demolished to make way for a hypermarket very soon. We then drove to a more built up area nearer the town and visited families in flats and one rooms. We found a father going through the rubbish trying to find something to eat. Imagine his surprise when Otto arrived and gave him a shoebox for his children. We then met Nelu a lovely man who has never recovered from losing his wife and lives alone.

As the light was dimming Otto spotted a lady on the street, weighed down by a heavy bag and it was the lady he had been looking for. Her name was Monica and she was more intent on seeing that we had a large vehicle and insisting we give her a lift up the hill. So we squeezed her in and drove her to where she lived. We were greeted by lots of dogs and some cats. These are her only company and family and the heavy bag contained food for her animals. Generally she begs for food and asks for out of date meat for the dogs. The house looked derelict and the dog flap was half the door cut away. However she appreciated the shoebox and hopefully there was something in there for herself.



Homelink: Helping people into Housing

Terry Howell

Housing Shortage

The lack of social housing means that it is very difficult to find a place to rent. The result is that the number of people who are needing support from LD Council has increased and people have to be placed in temporary accommodation. This should be for a maximum of eight weeks but it often extends to far longer even over six months. The temporary accommodation is often some distance from the person's home and work. If children are involved they are faced with a travel problem or a need to change schools!

Because private letting is so difficult to access, the only alternative is either Council accommodation or a Housing Association (HA). We do provide our interest-free loan for the first month's rent to those moving into HA property as well as private property. The advantage is that a damage deposit is not required - often halving the loan. We always advise clients to accept council or HA property because it is available for life rather than private rentals which are normally only six months.

Grants

The need for grants for basic furniture and floor covering continues to be high. We have a budget of £25000 for this so we are intending to spend a maximum of £2000 per month on grants leaving £1000 leeway. So far we are within budget.

Testimonials

We continue to receive positive comments about our Client Managers who often work voluntary overtime. I will give a few short extracts from these testimonials (not attributable for privacy reasons):

1.I cannot be more grateful to the HOMELINK team. They were extremely easy to chat to, empathetic, and I felt they went above and beyond to support me at a difficult time.the nature of this Charity and the knowledge that my repayments will in turn help others is amazing.

2.Getting help from Gary and Shaun with a deposit was so straightforward and they have been so kind and helpful. They are both very genuine people trying to help those in difficult situations.

3.I would like to thank you both for all your help and support in granting me a loan. You have both been so supportive

Please Pray for:

- More and younger Trustees
- A new IT system to be introduced in our office
- Those to whom we have offered a loan looking for housing





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.

Spring

Gerard Manley Hopkins

Nothing is as beautiful as
Spring -

When weeds in wheels,
shoot long and lovely and
lush;

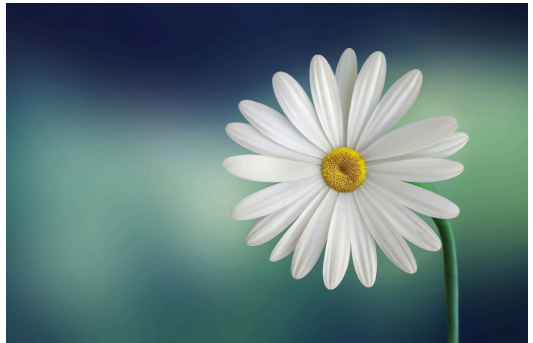
Thrush's eggs look like little
low heavens, and thrush
Through the echoing timber
does so rinse and wring

The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;

The glossy pear tree leaves and blooms, they brush

The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush

With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.



What is all this juice and all this joy?

A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning

In Eden garden. - Have , get, before it cloy,

Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,

Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,

Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.



Life And More Abundant Ministries

LAMA

Lesley Gomez



Dear Friends,
Michael and Lesley will be in the UK until July; our team will continue the work here in the Philippines.

Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth:

Please continue to pray for the young man who requested prayers a while back, who has been detained for 9 years at the Detention centre where we minister every Tuesday. He has spent most of his childhood there. Today he ran up to us as Chapel began to tell us he may well be going home soon! His court hearing is drawing to a close at last after many postponements - he is not sure if the case will be dismissed or if he will be placed on probation. He asks for prayer again, so thankful to God for answering his prayer. Tears in our eyes again at the chapel service today.

We met with the Head and some staff at the detention centre to discuss plans while Michael and Lesley are in the UK. It was so encouraging; they don't want us to leave as the impact on the boys is so great. All is Ok as they have agreed Peter will continue the services with Simon and the team. They were worried the youth would lose the 'spiritual enrichment program'. Michael will try to do some Video vlogs of our trip to

show the boys England and church here as the Head of the Centre requested we do that so the boys don't feel sad. The RRCY staff are so appreciative. Michael has received a National Award for his excellent volunteer services from Department Social Welfare & Development. They have renewed our contract for another 3 years.



Joining in a Bible quiz.

LAMA House OF Worship continue to minister on the beach at the My Girl café.





We wanted to share this photo with you. It is Richbert and his bride Hannah.

As is our custom for former LAMA boys, we gave them a gift of £150 for their

wedding. Richbert works in a Call Center, they both intend to find work near us. They love Jesus and attend Victory Church.

Another LAMA boys' update: Vamos is now a Grandpa! Such blessings!

Lesley and Michael look forward to sharing fellowship at St Leonard's and St Luke's over the next few weeks.

Thank you for all your support, blessings from Peter and Lesley, Michael and Jeli, Ana and Simon.

Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road? (Theological Version)

Billy Graham: The chicken was surrendering all.

Rick Warren: The chicken was purpose driven.

John Wesley: The chicken's heart was strangely warmed.

John Piper: God decreed the event to maximize his glory., or . . . it was an act of Christian hedonism. The chicken realized that his greatest joy would only be found on the other side.

C.S. Lewis: If a chicken finds itself with a desire that nothing on this side can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that it was created for the other side.

N.T. Wright: This act of the chicken, which would be unthinkable in British barnyards, reeks of that American individualism that is destructive to community.

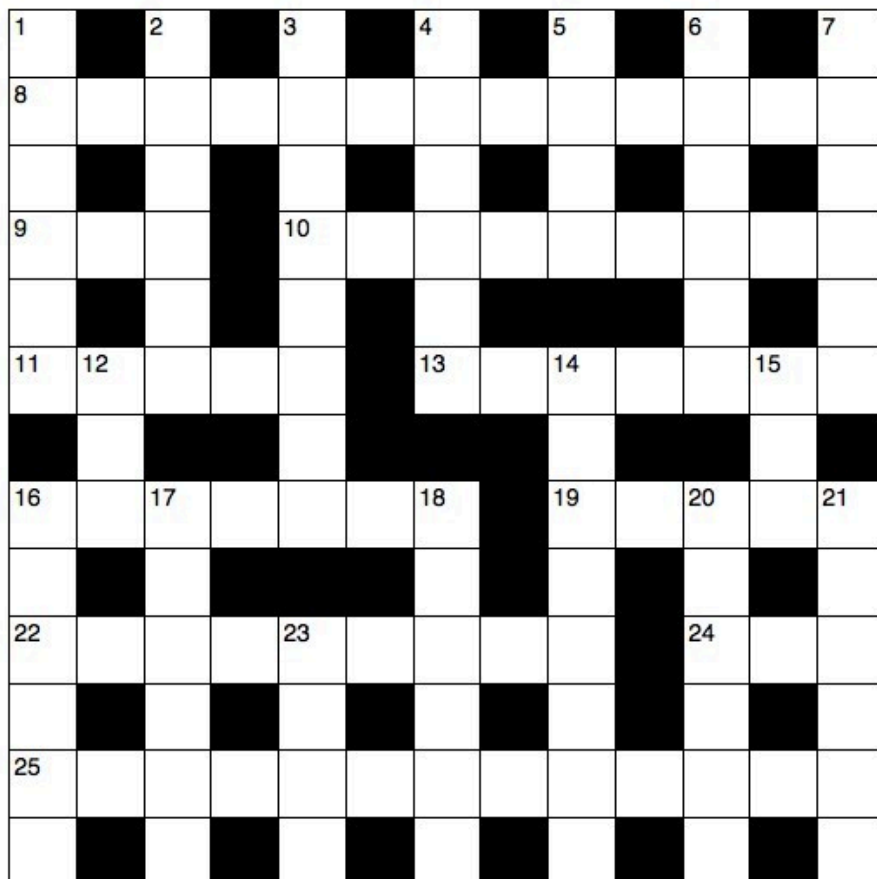
Pluralist: The chicken took one of many equally valid roads.

Universalist: All chickens cross the road.

Tim LaHaye: The chicken didn't want to be left behind.

Emergent: For this chicken, it's not the destination that's important. It's the journey itself.

Crossword



ACROSS

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the — ' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)
 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)
 10 Comes between Galatians and Philipians (9)
 11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
 13 Muslim holy month (7)
 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)
 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
 24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

DOWN

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
- 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
- 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
- 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
- 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
- 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
- 7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
- 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
- 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
- 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
- 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
- 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
- 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
- 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
- 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
- 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

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How We Approach Ethical Issues

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz

Science tells us how the world works, and technology offers applications of that knowledge, but neither can tell us what we ought to do. All scientific discoveries or new technologies can be used to either help or harm others. For example, a smartphone can be used to stay in touch but also enables bullying.

It is important to get past our initial reactions: the 'yuk!' or 'wow!' These feelings may well change once we learn more about the science and other factors behind a new development.

Ethical thinking can be divided into three main categories. The **consequentialist** approach is demonstrated in Proverbs, when Wisdom calls young men to consider the outcome of their actions. Utilitarianism is a form of consequentialist ethic that tries to maximise the greatest good for the largest number of people affected, but unchecked it leaves minorities out in the cold.

Duty or law-based ethics start with intrinsic values, asking what is the correct course of action, or our duty? These values might be God-given, such as the Ten Commandments, or worked out by human reason. It is possible, however, to do harm while obeying the law, especially if someone asks 'What can I get away with?' Also, what happens when rules collide? For example, who should be treated first when resources are limited?

Virtue ethics are about building character, growing in wisdom and the fruit of the Spirit. There are plenty of biblical principles to guide virtuous living, such as the idea that we are 'made in the image of God' which supports the value of every human life (e.g., Genesis 1:26–27, Genesis 9:6, James 3:9–10), but the right decision can vary depending on circumstances.

So how can we make ethical decisions about new technologies? **The five Cs** bring together a number of different types of ethical thinking into a helpful framework for decision-making.

Clarify the facts and key questions.

Consider our choices: what could we achieve?

Constraints: External - what must we do? ; Internal - how should we behave?

Compare the pros and cons of each approach.

Choose what is best, with all parties in mind.

Finally, we have to recognise that the information available to us will change over time, our knowledge of God and His Word will keep growing, and we cannot avoid making mistakes - so our ethical decisions will need to be revisited and revised from time to time.

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

April-May Lectionary

Sunday 7th April
2nd Sunday of Easter
1 John 1.1-2.2
John 20.19-31

Sunday 14th April
3rd Sunday of Easter
1 John 3.1-7
Luke 24.36b-48

Sunday 21st April
4th Sunday of Easter
1 John 3.16-24
John 10.11-18

Sunday 28th April
5th Sunday of Easter
1 John 4.7-21
John 15.1-8

Sunday 5th May
6th Sunday of Easter
1 John 5.1-6
John 15.9-17

Thursday 9th May
Ascension
Acts 1. 1-11
Luke 24. 44-53

Sunday 12th May
7th Sunday of Easter
1 John 5.9-13
John 17.6-19

Sunday 19th May
Pentecost
Acts 2.1-21
John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15

Sunday 26th May
Trinity Sunday
Isaiah 6. 1-8
John 3. 1.17

Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 8, Transgressors. 9, Out. 10, Ephesians. 11, Throb. 13, Ramadan. 16, Nearest. 19, Neath. 22, Childless. 24, Ant. 25, Excommunicate.

DOWN: 1, Utmost. 2, Easter. 3, Assemble. 4, Archer. 5, Isis. 6, To hand. 7, As a son. 12, Hoe. 14, Monastic. 15, Apt. 16, Nuclei. 17, A piece. 18, Tied up. 20, Ararat. 21, Hatred. 23, Dome.

The Bible version used in our crosswords is the NIV.

Crosswords reproduced by kind permission of BRF and John Capon, originally published in Three Down, Nine Across, by John Capon (£6.99 BRF).

April Calendar

Wednesday 3rd	11.00am	Matins	St. Leonard's
	12.30pm	Parish Lunch	St. Luke's
Saturday 6th	9.30am	Messy Church	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Sunday 7th	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.15am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
Tuesday 9th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Wednesday 10th	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
Monday 15th	7.30pm	Parish Women's Group	St. Luke's
Wednesday 17th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Saturday 20th	1.00pm	Lunchtime Concert	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
Sunday 21st	11.15am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
Tuesday 23rd	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Wednesday 24th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Friday 26th	2.30pm	Mothers' Union	St. Luke's
Saturday 27th	10.00am	Open Church Cafe	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Family Worship	
Sunday 28th	11.00am	Annual Parochial Meeting	St. Leonard's
	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7	St. Luke's

For Children, Youth and Families...

Sunday	Glow (children's group)	9.30am	St. Luke's	1 st and 3 rd Sundays
Wednesday	Tots	9.30am	St. Luke's	Weekly*
Thursday	Tots	9.30am	St. Leonard's	Weekly*
	Sparks	5.45pm	St. Luke's	Weekly*
	Ignite	7.45pm	St. Luke's	Weekly*

**Term time*

May Calendar

Wednesday 1st	11.00am	Matins	St. Leonard's
Friday 3rd	Bible by the Beach weekend		Eastbourne
Saturday 4th	9.30am	Messy Church	St. Leonard's
Sunday 5th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.15am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
Wednesday 8th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Sunday 12th	Christian Aid Week begins		
	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
Tuesday 14th	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
Wednesday 15th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Saturday 18th	1.00pm	Lunchtime Concert	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Sunday 19th	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.15am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
Monday 20th	7.30pm	Women's Group	St. Luke's
Wednesday 22nd	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Friday 24th	2.30pm	Mothers' Union	St. Luke's
Saturday 25th	10.00am	Open Church Cafe	St. Leonard'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
Tuesday 28th	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
Wednesday 29th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Saturday 30th	7.00pm	Easter Vigil	St. Leonard's

Parish Magazine Copy Date

Items for the June-July edition of the Magazine are most welcome and should be sent to magazine@seafordparish.org.uk by Tuesday 14th May

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 (1st & 3rd Sundays)



Wednesdays

- 11.00am Matins: a quiet said service (1st 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 (1st and 3rd Sundays)
 9.30am Family Worship: informal worship (2nd and 4th Sunday) with bacon rolls from 9.00am
 7.00pm Prayer@7: a short time of worship followed by prayer (2nd Sunday)
 7.00pm St. Luke's@7: Contemporary worship (4th Sunday)

Tuesdays

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

Sunday	Glow (children's group)	9.30am	St. Luke's	1 st and 3 rd Sundays
Monday	Women's Group	7.30pm	St. Luke's	3 rd Monday
Tuesday	Bell Ringers	7.30pm	St. Leonard's	Weekly
Wednesday	Tots	9.30am	St. Luke's	Weekly*
	Parish Lunch	12.30pm	St. Luke's	1 st Wednesday
Thursday	Tots	9.30am	St. Leonard's	Weekly*
	Choir	7.00pm	St. Leonard's	Weekly
Friday	Mother's Union	2.30pm	St. Luke's	4 th Friday
	Sparks	5.45pm	St. Luke's	Weekly*
	Ignite	7.45pm	St. Luke's	Weekly*
Saturday	Messy Church	9.30am	St. Leonard's	1 st Saturday
	Open Church	10.00am	St. Leonard's	See calendar

*Term time

Parish Directory

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Revd. Derreck Lee-Philpot	01323 893391	dlp@seafordparish.org.uk

Children, Youth & Family Missioner

Stefan Bracher		cyfw@seafordparish.org.uk
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