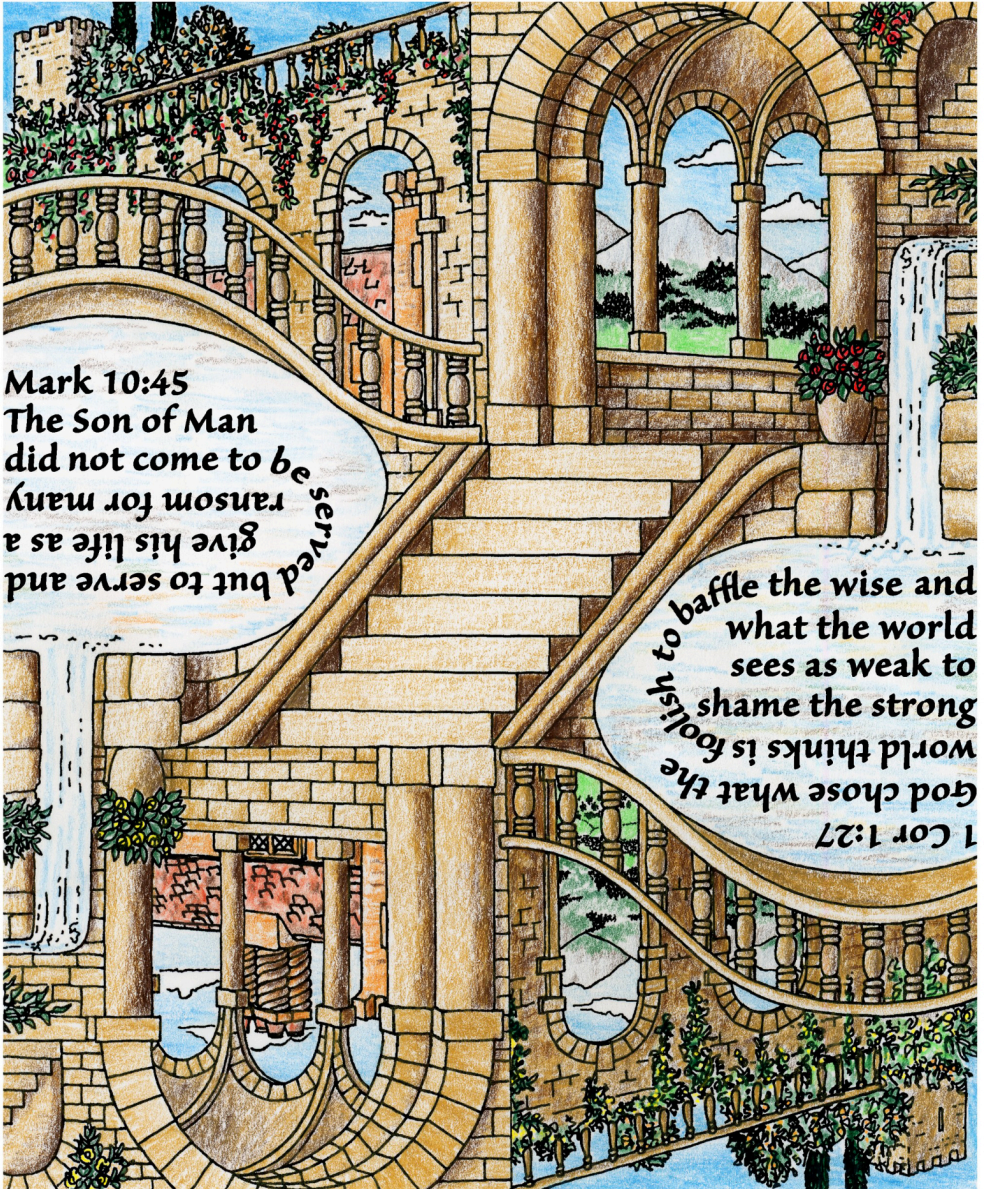


Parish Magazine

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

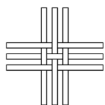
June-July 2024

Suggested donation £1.00



Mark 10:45
The Son of Man
did not come to be served
but to serve and
give his life as a
ransom for many

1 Cor 1:27
God chose what the
world thinks is foolish
to shame the strong
and what the world
sees as weak to
baffle the wise



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Welcome

The Euros 24

A former Liverpool Manager Bill Shankly famously said, *'Some people believe football is a matter of life and death, I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that!'*



This month sees the start of the UEFA Euro 24 football tournament, which will be watched by millions across Europe and the world. Yet it also illustrates some key points about the Christian life. As Paul writes: *'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.'* (Philippians 3:13b,14).

A prize to be won: The dream of every player in the competition is to be able to hold up the Cup themselves. For us the prize is the eternal life, God's gift of relationship with Him for now and eternity through Jesus. But there's an important difference between football and the Christian faith. To win the Euros you have to be good enough, while Christ's love for us is undeserved and is not dependent on how well we've done.

Training to be undertaken: If a team is going to win Euro 24, they need to have trained hard beforehand. Our training, as Christians, starts the moment we accept the gift of God's life. On a daily basis, we must train ourselves to say *no* to the wrong things in our lives.

As we build up our *godly muscles*, we are better able to choose to do what is right in God's eyes. To enable us to do all this we need to engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, studying the Bible and being part of a church and small group. How is your training going?

Parish News

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 is on Sunday 23rd June. 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. There will be no St. Luke's@7 in July.

Coffee, Prayer Ministry & Communion

You are welcome to join in our next Service of Prayer Ministry with Communion at St. Luke's on Tuesdays 11th and 25th June then 9th and 23rd July 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.

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.

Parish Lunch

The next Parish Lunches will be on Wednesdays 5th June and 3rd July. 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.

Parish Magazine

The copy date for the August-September edition of the Parish Magazine is Tuesday 16th July. Items of news and articles should be sent to magazine@seafordparish.org.uk

Fortnightly News

The regular news sheet 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.

Beach Church

Some Sundays in August we hope to be running a late morning service on the beach. Look out for more details in the next magazine.

Cathedral Flower Festival

Chichester Cathedral's Flower Festival takes place from Wednesday 5th to Saturday 8th June. Admission tickets must be purchased in advance through the Cathedral's website or by ringing 03336663366. Tickets for all days and most time slots are still available.



History Calling

Much has been documented over the years about St. Leonard's Church, but what of St. Luke's?

We have records about the selection of site, design and building, and a few 'prominent' events, but much is lacking. Do you have any verifiable information, or could you collate the history of this impressive Church?

Since its opening in 1959, a lot has happened. The grounds were divided and a building erected for the curates to use, an annexe was built to increase space and usage, the upstairs has recently been turned over to the Church administration office. Not to mention all of the almost unseen events, just as important, such as the planting of trees by the Sunday School, to remember the Aberfan disaster (verification being sought at time of writing), and the Sunday School Ship Halfpennies fund. Gifts of Books, candlesticks, kneelers, silverware and lectern to name but a few.

Stories like the first Funeral, where it was discovered that the door was too narrow to take the coffin through, to

the wedding where a marquee was erected in the grounds, are all just as important to record.

The various Church groups will have many events to be recorded, along with a full list of clergy. All of the above and more is equally important to record for future generations, and as always cannot be done soon enough. All too often, cries of "I wish we had asked them before they left us" ring out, so let's act now.

For the time being, until a willing collator or Historian volunteers, please send any relevant information, photos or documents, to office2@seafordparish.org.uk where it will be gathered together for consolidation.

Thank you in anticipation.

As a footnote, photographic records of the St. Leonard's Church interior prior to the reordering in 2006 would also be good to archive, we have some but a few views are missing. Most photographic evidence is of the outside (from two main standpoints).

Parish News

Reimagining of our churches to better serve our community: update

As mentioned at the APCM the PCC have received planning approval for the site of the old parish hall on Church Lane so that it can be sold with permission granted for development. As a result, the hall is now on offer to developers, for-sale boards are up, and we expect bids by mid-June. So, we feel it would be useful to remind you of our situation in the Parish and why we have decided to do this.

The planning application for the old hall proposes that the part that was originally a Victorian house is returned to its original use as two town houses and that the flat roofed area alongside is replaced with another town house, these are all very much in keeping with the other buildings on Church Lane. The PCC are duty bound as trustees to realise the maximum value on sale and selling with permission granted is the best way to do this. The monies from this sale will then go most of the way in covering the proposed work in St Leonards Church.

When the parish hall was closed at the start of Covid it was already in need of significant maintenance, and it deteriorated rapidly. Even in the height of its use it was losing a substantial sum every year as hiring it out never came close to covering the cost of running it. The overall parish finances are in a difficult position. Our Church income comes mainly from the 300 or so people on our church electoral roll. This



is then used to maintain our two Church buildings, and to fund our two vicars, our outreach in the parish with a youth worker, as well as pastoral care. We simply rely on the generosity of the members of our congregation, fund raising and a few kind legacies from time to time. With less people on the electoral roll and increasing expenses, the parish is losing money every year and the PCC as trustees are duty bound to do something about it.

So, the PCC decided to reimagine the use of our buildings and consolidate what we have by selling the old parish hall and focus our activity in our two churches, St. Luke's on Walmer Road and St. Leonard's in the centre of town. St. Luke's is a relatively modern building, well insulated and easily heated so ideally suited to hiring out as well as being an intimate space for worship. St. Lukes has already become our administrative centre with the successful move of the parish office there from the old hall and it is also now the focus of all our hiring out.

St. Leonard's is the oldest building in

Parish News

Seaford. It is a beautiful ancient space for worship. It is a grade 1 listed building so the cost of maintenance is huge. As part of reimagining its use we want it not only to be a centre of faith but also be at the heart of our town serving the community by upgrading its facilities. This is where the sale of the hall comes in to raise funds to do just that, we want to create proper safe accessible toilet facilities, a kitchen area and a smaller

meeting space in the side chapel that can easily be heated & hired out. The plans remain on display in St. Leonard's church for anyone to see and we already have local planning approval for the new toilets.

We hope in time with this consolidation and refurbishment to serve the community more effectively and to become sustainable financially.



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

**Free refreshments,
crafts & conversation**



Saturdays
June 22nd
July 27th
August 24th
September 26th
10.00am to 12.30pm

Open Church Cafe
St. Leonard's Church

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James Hollingsworth writes...

Family Support Work

FSW is one of the Charities that we support. Again this year a handful of us went to Dalesdown Centre near Horsham, to give a dozen families a taste of archery. Again, no one got hurt! It's a little humbling when a dad walks in and shoots and you realise that he's a better archer than you! But the best bits are when a child doesn't think they can shoot but with each arrow they find more confidence to pull the string back further and then finally at last they hit the target and there is much rejoicing! They're learning to put their faith in their body, in the kit, in the instructor. There's a lesson to learn here about sin. An old English word for missing the target was 'sin'. When you apply it to archery, the implication is not to give up but to try again.

In May, we hope to do the same with May Camp. There are usually about 300 teenagers camped up at Plumpton Racecourse and so as above we take our kit and team and take some of them through their paces in shooting some arrows.

There, the tricky part is finding the arrows that seem to needle themselves invisibly below the grass. Fervent prayer, a metal detector, and patience and we have never lost an arrow yet. Actually it's the parents that we worry about more as they seem to think its okay to stand in front of their child to take a photo just as she's pulling back the string. I only shouted once last year. I think the others were impressed I could shout so loud. There's probably a lesson here about the parable of the lost coin if only I could find it.



Save Seaford Swifts

That's the name of a group. Sheila is part of it. She got in touch with me and asked if the Church might like a swift box (we're working on one for St. Leonard's) and if the vicarage might want one too. So Now we have a swift box and behind it a bat box. I've been sent a musical lure to play in the





evenings in the hope of encouraging some swifts to come and nest in them. My daughter presumed this meant loudly playing some of Taylor Swifts hit records but alas no. The lure sounds like swifts having fun, circling about in their playful dance.

In a rapidly changing world, with diminishing numbers of small birds, I suppose this is a story of 'every little helps'.

Year of the New Testament

Do you remember how last year we did a lot of preaching on the Old Testament? Bishop Martin asked if we might focus this year on the New Testament (and next year will be on the Creed because in the year 325 AD the Church wrote the Nicene Creed).

Over this year we have been making a little extra effort to look at the New Testament. Over the next three magazines I will split this into the Gospels, the Letters of St Paul, the rest.

This is why Derreck has written a good review of Bailey's Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes. Its very readable, excellent for any preacher or Home Group leader, and worth an unhurried read. The best book on the Gospels that I would recommend would be: Throckmorton's Gospel Parallels. I've bought seven of these over the years as presents to preachers, Readers, and Curates.

If you had four children in your class, shall we call them Matthew, Mark, Luke, and

John, and you set them the homework of writing about Jesus then you might want to have a word with them after class.

It's generally accepted that Mark wrote his Gospel first. There is a fun argument for the primacy of Matthew particularly because some of his turns of phrases suggest that they might have been written in Aramaic first and because there's a second-generation Christian called Papias and he was pretty sure that Matthew was the first. He also said how Peter had helped Mark write his gospel but not to worry too much about the order that Mark had written them in! But all the scholars like Mark first.

So if you start with this idea, then you look closely at Matthew and Luke and begin to wonder if they were to some extent copying off Mark. But then you note that some stories are in Matthew and Luke but not in Mark and that makes you wonder if they had another source that they were sharing. Those of you who did RE O Level may remember that the German word for source is 'Quelle' so you might remember the Q hypothesis.

I think that the feeding of Five Thousand is the only miracle you will find in all four Gospels.

Anyway this book, Gospel Parallels, using the NRSV translation, lays out the gospels in three columns. This way you can read how and where they are similar or different and it is really fascinating. The Greek version of this is even more fun but I won't be recommending that to you. I haven't used it for thirty years.

It might be that you've got a book you'd recommend for someone wanting to get into the Gospels – so why don't you write a book review for next time. In the next mag I will write something about St Paul's Epistles, so I've got some homework to be getting on with.

Children, Youth & Families

Stefan Bracher

What a fantastic few months we've had! The groups have been hugely busy over that time.

Easter, I don't think I have reported back since Easter, but it has been extremely jammed packed this year. We had a huge number of children and parents come to join us for Good Friday Messy Church, in St Luke's. We had over 120 to our Good Friday Messy Church where we had children, parents & carers get stuck into some brilliant crafts as they all heard the message of Good Friday and why it is bad... but also good! We also had over 130 to our Easter Day Family Communion service up at St Luke's. It was 9.20am on Easter Sunday morning and there were very few people in the church, I had thought... "Oh no, no one is going to come along to the service". God knew however that in those last 10 minutes and the rest of the service, people would continue to pour in. There quite literally was only standing room left! Everyone heard the message of how God rose from the dead and defeated death.

Tots' Treats, our toddler group, have been finding the dedicated baby area has been working so well. In St Luke's and St Leonard's we now have a steady number of babies attending our groups, as well as the older toddlers. We have had some really good feedback from parents too, explaining that they are really happy that there are two areas,

one where their older child can play and one where the baby can develop all the skills they need. They also said "It's really handy that you have both areas and I can bring both children to the groups". The only thing we have to find next is some more sand (the toddlers love playing with that!).



Sparks, our children's group, have been going really well, we have come back around to look at creation, taking each day of creation one week at a time. The questions coming from that group have been focusing on, was Jesus there? What time was it when God created the world? What about the dinosaurs? It has been great to unpack their questions more and more and have really been able to fine tune the message we are giving them, so they can go away and think about it.

One of the really big things, which we do need to look at investing in, are some Bibles for them to take home. We came upon the subject one week when we were reading from the Bible. A few were talking about their Bibles at home and a larger number said, "I don't have a Bible". I think this is something which we could really look at supporting and buying each child a Bible (for those who do not have one) at a certain time each

year. Let me know if you would like to get involved with this by means of donating funds towards the cost of the Bibles. A fantastic children's Bible is currently priced at around £20 each.



Ignite, our youth group, has kept exploding with numbers. We have on average 2-3 new people wanting to join every week.

Whilst this is fantastic it does mean that we have to limit the group to 50, largely because if we have more people in the Church running after dodgeballs, someone will get really hurt! We did increase to 60 one night in the past month as we had a Nerf Night (with Nerf Blasters and Darts). This was only possible because we had a heavy rule bound game and we were able to get additional leaders to help cover the evening (Thank you leaders!!). We still need our group with a dedicated meeting time to discuss the works of God, but as the previous report, that will have to wait until when we get an additional children, youth & family worker.

Messy Church, a time of worship and craft for families, come and see what it is like for yourself! This meets the first Saturday of every month in St Leonard's Church, 9.30am-11am. This is a Church Service, so it is open to everyone! We've been looking at a various different messages, including Star Wars, as we explained the Peace of God with a slight Star Wars theme (it was May the 4th – Star Wars Day), feel free to ask me later how we went from Star Wars to the Peace of God. Messy Churchers love the science

experiments, especially if it is really messy! But the best thing is they remember the message because of the science experiment. Most people see it as just some fun, which it is, but Messy Church is also so very much Church! Come and see for yourself next time it's on (and grab a cupcake too!).

Glow, our Sunday group in St Luke's, has been ticking away very nicely. The maximum amount of children we have had to this group is currently 9, but it is a lovely group where children can share their thoughts and questions about faith and the particular story we are looking at. We are currently looking for some new Bible based story books to have as part of our teaching, if you find some which you think might sound good, please do let me know (looking for books to suit ages 5-10).

Family Worship, our family services on every 2nd and 4th Sundays in St Luke's, have been going well too! One of our families who have attended quite a few groups, including Alpha, have also been baptised and a renewal of baptism. Family Worship is one of those special services where all age ranges can come together and feel supported by each other. It really is a lovely atmosphere as everyone starts to interact with each other. The bacon (thank you Sue T and Jayne B), is also so so so good!!

Two Camps

This year we are planning on attending our Sparks Camp held at the end of July, for children attending Sparks. We currently now have 12 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!! We are now, however, looking to support at

least 2 placements for this camp. If you would like to support towards a placement for this children's camp, which cost £133 per person for the week, please do let me know.

Don't forget 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 or just come for the day. This is for everyone in the whole Church. It doesn't matter how old you are, 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 too.

So, it would be lovely if you join us for 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 helping on a team, such as kitchen team, worship team, cleaning team, publicity team, activities team. These roles are really needed to ensure we can make the camp run smoothly. If you'd to help on a team, we

also have a nifty wee discount for you, so ask me for the link to book on as a volunteer!

Additional Children, Youth & Family Worker Urgently Required

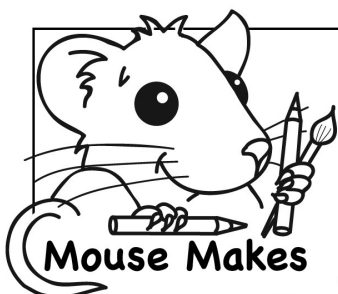
As I mentioned in the last report we are actively looking at ways to raise funds to employ another children, youth and family worker. We have had amazing success over the past few years with new children and families coming to the Church, however there is load more to do, just not very many man hours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

As it stands for the project to run for an additional children, youth and family worker and the set up of groups we need to raise £214,000 for use across 3 years. It is something which seems a huge amount to raise, but with some support to find the right grants and to read through some of the applications we are writing, we are confident we will get there!

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>

You can contact Stefan by e-mail cyfw@seafordparish.org.uk or telephone 07506143476.





Mouse Makes

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter before it in the alphabet.

TFF XIBU LJOE PG
 MPWF UIF GBUIFS
 IBT HJWFO UP VT
 UIBU XF TIPVME
 CF DBMMFE
 DIJMESFO PG HPE
 POF KPFO UISFF: POF

Solomon's father defeated a giant and became a King. Who was he?

 1 Samuel 48-50

Whose daughter was healed by Jesus?

 Mark 5:21

A G A D A U G H T E R E G
 V A S E Z E C H A R I A H
 J M O S E S A J A C O B O
 A Z L I B O F A T H E R P
 I J O S E P H J A N O A H
 R O M A D A V I D G E H N
 U B O A E I D A S O N A O
 S V N C E E Z E A D A M A

WHO IS MY FATHER?

Who was created by God and became the first father?

 Genesis 2:20

Who had a son when he was very old?

 Genesis 21:5

Shem Ham and Japheth's father built a huge boat, who was he?

 Genesis 6:10-14

Who gave his son Joseph a robe of many colours?

 Genesis 37:2-3



This Roman puzzle square reads the same from the top, bottom and sides and translates:

"Arepo the sower guides the wheel with skill."

R	O	T	A	S
O	P	E	R	A
T	E	N	E	T
A	R	E	P	O
S	A	T	O	R

If you rearrange the letters it can spell **PATER NOSTER** which means "Our Father".

A	P	A	T	E	R	N	O	S	T	E	R	O
P	A	T	E	R	N	O	S	T	E	R	O	

Look up the Bible verses to find the fathers then look for them and the words below in the word search.

- FATHER • GOD
- SON • DAUGHTER
- JOSEPH • ISAAC
- MOSES • JOB
- SOLOMON
- ZECHARIAH
- ZEBEDEE



Authorised Lay Ministry

Julie Carroll

On Saturday the 27th April three of us from Seaford Church went to the Cathedral to be recognised as Authorised Lay Ministers. My particular vocation was Hospital Chaplaincy. I have lived in Seaford since 2016 and it was the warm welcome I received that led me to St. Leonards. I have been a Christian since 1985 when at Spring Harvest.

I have been helping at Brighton Hospital since 2016 as a Chaplain. I had been interested in Chaplaincy for a very long time and thought the skills involved in counselling and Spiritual Direction would also be useful in Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care. However, Ordination seemed to be the only obvious route, and that didn't feel right for me at that time. I heard that St Mary's Twickenham, London were doing

degrees in Healthcare Chaplaincy. This was a great opportunity for me to re-train, combining Psychology, Bioethics, Theology, Spirituality and Philosophy. The course was designed to equip Chaplains for Chaplaincy in the 21st Century NHS. However Ordination was still the only viable option for some NHS Trust's

But I didn't give up, and in 2016 I met up with Jayne Prestwood at Chichester Diocese who encouraged me and explained how important Lay Ministry was. ALMS offer a vital ministry in building up the church in hospitals, schools, prisons and the community. Jayne was a keen advocate in supporting people in their vocations in Lay Ministry (often later in life) recognising that with the right encouragement, skills and training we can do more than we thought possible.

During this time, I was taken on as volunteer Chaplain at the Royal Sussex, with some excellent supervision by Cannon Ann Waizeneker and Cannon Peter Wells. In 2017, I became Chaplain to the Royal Sussex and Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital, and Counsellor to the Trevor Mann Baby Unit. It has been amazing how God has Blessed me with this calling, and it is a tremendous privilege to serve the patients, staff and families during this time.(Especially during Covid 19).

It can be a challenge to respond to the ways Spirituality and Religion is experienced and expressed during illness, suffering, death, and

loss. Sometimes prompting spiritual and existential issues needing time and empathy to respond. It was for this reason that I left my job as Primary Care counsellor, as I no longer felt I could give the compassionate Spiritual care needed, with the introduction of IAPT and computer based behavioural therapy. I felt clients were seen as a problem to be solved, and not as human beings suffering the effects of life.

So if anyone is reading this and feels God calling them to a particular ministry, please talk to someone.

Bob Rice

The journey of my particular Authorised Lay Ministry began two years ago when I successfully completed the first core module 'Living Faith Course' consisting of eight sessions building a foundation of knowledge gained from on-line learning ,three essays submitted each week and an interactive facility to chat with other candidates each week. The second year was mainly based in Scaynes Hill for evening sessions and two Saturday learning days, one in Church House ,one at Scaynes Hill with our tutor and about a dozen other candidates also specialising in my chosen field of Pastoral Care.

Over the nine weeks we looked at aspects of Pastoral Care such as listening attentively, praying with and for others,Grief and loss and taking Holy Communion out to people in Care Homes and their own homes. Each week we had to submit essays to the tutor so that our understanding and abilities could be assessed (of course each week there were group role play exercises as well).

This all led up to my commissioning for a period of three years by the Bishop of Horsham in Chichester Cathedral in an overwhelming but proud moment. I will Thank Father, Son and Holy Spirit for the rest of my life.

The Authorised Lay Ministry training programme provides flexible skills-based training for lay people. Authorised Lay Ministers share in the public ministry of the local church, as they serve their local parishes. ALM ministry takes many different forms depending upon the parish base, but in general ALMs lead, establish or work within a team of people working in an area of ministry and they also work to encourage and develop the gifts of others. Find out more at <https://www.chichester.anglican.org/authorised-lay-ministry/>

Nicola Ferguson

At an emotional, wholly meaningful and wonderful authorisation service at Chichester Cathedral on 27th April, three of us from our diocese were commissioned as Lay ministers, by Bishop Ruth. The rain held and so many of our Church family came to support us.

Three years ago when I had sat in the Vicarage discussing lay ministry with James, I didn't know which ministry elective God was calling me to. My initial thought had been Chaplaincy, I said. I could be with the team at Beachy Head, or go into the hospitals, but God was to guide Julie there. It must be Pastoral care then, but Bob was to be guided along that pathway.

I continued dreaming about hedgehogs, Parish therapy dogs and eco toilet cleaners, so deferred for a year, because I felt God was calling me elsewhere and I needed to listen harder. I then lost my job and an encouraging nudge from James - '...what about the ministry you spoke of...' followed. I chose Care for Creation and Eco Church.

It was a wonderful training, taking us to churches that are striving hard to reach carbon zero, whilst making every effort to walk gently on God's acre; to think of how we can care God's entire creation and be responsible and thoughtful



caretakers of his land and living creatures.

Our last training day was at St Leonard's Church in Hove. I hadn't been through the doors for over fifty years, since taking part in my first Nativity.

I sat in their 'secret garden' during our lunch break and imagined all that could be done at our churches. My dreams of butterflies have turned to nightmares of eco baddie florists' foam but I have been assured that we are '..working towards..'

Techie Troubles

The vicar in one church experienced some technical problems with the sound system one Sunday. Instead of starting the service as usual with 'The Lord be with you', he said: "There's something wrong with the microphone." Not hearing this, the congregation responded: "And also with you."



SEAFORD PARISH CHURCH CAMP

Together

**SATURDAY 24TH - MONDAY 26TH
AUGUST 2024
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SEAFORD PARISH CHURCH
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The Year of the New Testament

Derreck Lee-Philpot

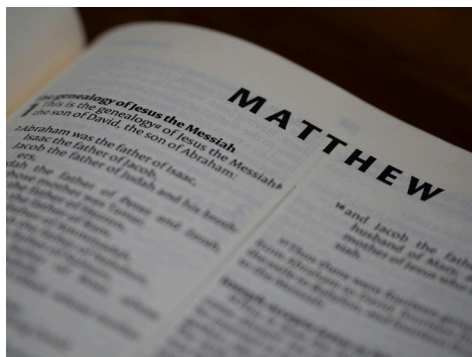
This year is the Diocesan Year of the New Testament. What! You didn't know?

Maybe it wasn't announced with the same fanfare that the Year of the Old Testament was last year. Last year was more obvious as we looked at OT stories rather than the gospel stories we might be more familiar with.

But this year it is the NT, but again not just the gospels. You may have noticed that through April we have looked at the 1st Letter of John rather than the more familiar gospel passages. Where the lectionary allows us the flexibility to do so we will continue to delve into the wider NT books and letters. As Paul writes to Timothy,

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2Tim 3:16,17)

If you desire to be 'trained in righteous' then you will find a treasure trove of wisdom in the gospels and the letters and books written by those who knew Jesus - Paul being the notable exception. These people who after years of thought and reflection wrote down their understanding for our benefit, taking Jesus words and expressing them in ways that we could then follow in His footsteps - just as they did.



The NT ranges from the down-to-earth, practical James (half-brother of Jesus) whose five chapters give simple to understand guidance on how to live the Christian life based around the theme that we are to live out our faith and not be mere hearers, but doers of the word.

John's (the one who Jesus loved) three letters are wave upon wave of God's love shown to us, and the first chapter of his gospel is both one of the most enigmatic and theological chapters in the Bible.

The Acts of the Apostles is the Gospel of Luke Pt2 (same author) narrating the growth struggles of the early church, Pentecost, and the spread of 'the Word' across the known world, and then Revelation showing how it all comes to fruition with Jesus' return.

The theology is often supplied by Paul, the one early follower of Jesus who was uniquely equipped for the role. Highly

educated, trained under Gamaliel, passionate about his God leading to his persecution of the ‘Jesus heretics’ – Christians. We should be thankful to Paul as without his understanding that the Gospel was for all (not just the Jews) we wouldn’t be filling our churches each Sunday!

As we go through this year looking at some of the less familiar NT books and passages it is hoped that you will find treasures anew, that you might be challenged, enlightened, fascinated, by the depth and breadth of the NT. That as you enjoy those familiar verses, and wrestle with unfamiliar ones your minds and hearts will be expanded, encouraged, drawn closer to His perfect will, plan, and purpose for our lives, as Rom 12:2 inspires,

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Linked with last year’s focus upon the OT you might even see with greater clarity the observation by Saint Augustine who said,

‘The New is in the Old concealed, The Old is in the New revealed’.

It could be said that the key to

understanding the NT is in the seeing of those things hinted at in the OT coming to fulfilment in the NT in Jesus. These hints are not really concealed, unless we are so superficial in our reading of the OT scriptures we pass over them. The Old and New Testaments are inextricably entwined and cannot be read one without the other. The NT scholar and historian of religion Martin Hengel remarks with simple but great insight,

“If all you know is the NT, you do not know the NT.”

As a help to us in looking at the New Testament this year there is a book review elsewhere in this magazine, “Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes”, it gives us an ‘insiders view’ of Jesus’ story, and how His words (and He Himself) were received and understood particularly during His three-year ministry. Read the review for more about this book.

This year let us drink deeply from the well of the word, with its narrative, storytelling, theology, guidance, revelation, mystery, and wonder.

As we do, let’s know that as we receive the written word in our minds, it’s the first step to receive the Living Word in our hearts, and in doing so become more like Him, ‘Living Epistles’ (2Corinthians 3:2).

God has given us two hands – one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing.

Billy Graham

The Power of Prayer and Faith in our loving Lord God

Lucita Henderson

In your daily life experience, have you ever felt how much our loving Lord God loves you? I did! I just want to share my near-death incident to everyone who believes in His immeasurable love for each of us (Ephesians 3:16-21).

On Tuesday the 9th April 2024, I was on holiday with my family in Cyprus. We had a lovely lunch in a fish restaurant in Paphos and afterwards I wanted to use the ladies' facilities and I told my son I needed to go. He warned me to be extremely careful because the stairs were narrow, winding and particularly dark. As I was on my way down, I kept remembering my son's warning. I was then startled by a young woman behind me and without thinking I gave way by trying to move to one side. Before I knew it, I was flying down the stairs, trying desperately to grab onto non-existent railings and found myself at the bottom of the stairs in utter shock; battered, bruised and in complete agony.

The waitress who served us came to my rescue along with others concerned for my well-being. Trembling but conscious, I managed to ask for a glass of water but a gentleman advised me not to drink it. An ambulance was called and my son and family (who were already waiting outside) were informed

and they couldn't believe what had happened. I kept thinking of the Lord as I waited for the emergency services to arrive and was eventually taken to hospital. I had several x-rays and they assessed my numerous injuries including a deep cut to my chin (which needed stitches).

After an agonising wait, the doctor on duty studied my x-rays and finally said that I was very lucky not to have broken anything. I was then discharged and prescribed painkillers. He advised me to return in two days' time to have the dressings on my chin changed. I couldn't make that particular appointment due to the severity of the pain and difficulty I had when moving. (I subsequently had the stitches removed at the Seaford Surgery when we returned safely from holiday).

The night after coming back from hospital, I felt fairly normal. Although shaken from the day's event, we went straight to the restaurant for dinner. As we were eating and discussing the incident, I said that "*Jesus saved my life*". Throughout the night I kept thanking the Lord for saving me from that fall. I also asked my granddaughter to pray for my speedy recovery. I texted all my church friends and relations to pray for me and continued to thank our

loving Lord God for saving me, giving me His immeasurable love and for granting me a new life!

Thinking back now on that day when I got up, I said all my prayers as usual – asking the Lord for His blessing and protection to keep me and my family safe from all dangers. And I am sure our loving Lord God heard my prayers and

that I was saved from that fall. Every single day, I keep thanking Him for saving me from that accident and I always remember never to underestimate the immense power of prayer. One small prayer can save your life. I believe that miracles can happen through prayer and faith in our loving Lord God.

George

George is a teddy he sits in my room,
He has a big smile to dispel all the gloom,
His eyes they sparkle, but they do not see,
For he is man-made and happy to be,

But I am God-made and my smile sometimes slips,
For the path I walk causes me stumbles and trips,
My eyes sparkle with heartfelt tears,
And my stomach knots up daily with fears,

Some days I'd change places with the bear,
To be up on a shelf without any reason to care,
But God loves me and that should leave me chuffed,
Instead of little George every day just stuffed.



Bob Rice



...well you cannot fault the efficacy of the new 'Planned Giving' scheme...



When it was Mrs Wilson's turn to do the flower arrangements, she always kept the vicar's hay fever in mind



Shirley caught the flower ladies red-handed, dealing trugs

Meet Carole Darling

Hello! I have been studying part-time for three years and now there are only a few more weeks of college to complete before ordination at Chichester Cathedral on Saturday 22nd June. I am very much looking forward to joining you in Seaford. It will be lovely to meet you and get involved in the parish at last!

May I give you a little introduction? I live in Lewes and actually Seaford is my favourite place to come to for a swim and a dog walk by the sea. Yes! I have a cocker spaniel called Charlie and he doesn't like swimming in the sea, but loves a walk.

As for my family, Brian and I have been married for 25 years and we have four young adults: Katie (23), John (21), and the twins Alasdair (19) and Richard (19). I write from an empty nest, although I am realising that it doesn't stay empty for long! As for adjusting, all is going well, except I often forget to reduce quantities when I am cooking.

When you meet me, you will no doubt discern an accent because I am originally from Northern Ireland. I was born in Belfast in the sixties and my education occurred with the backdrop of the troubles. My secondary school was situated in a relatively safe part of Belfast, nevertheless it was close enough to hear the bombs exploding in the city centre. Bomb threats and hoax calls were a nuisance for the staff but rather social for the students. There were occasions when the entire school



was evacuated onto the school tennis courts while the Police searched the building. It was when I moved to England as a student, that I realised that security was very different in other parts of the UK. I was amazed to discover that there were no routine searches to enter shops and police patrols were not usually armed.

Northern Ireland was a great place to grow up in faith. The majority of people in those days went to church and there

was a vibrant children, families and youth ministry. As a child, I loved the children's group on Sunday mornings because there were all sorts of stories, colouring, craft and singing, as well as the juice and biscuits. I distinctly remember asking Jesus to be Lord in my life as a direct response to the teaching on a Sunday morning when I was only five years old. Hooray for those wonderful people who teach the little ones about our Saviour!

As a student in Nottingham, I grew in knowledge and faith alongside lots of friends in the Christian Union. I also experienced different traditions and denominations. Growing up in the Baptist Church in Northern Ireland, I attended a 'free evangelical' church as a student, before attending a Pentecostal church in my early working life. It was only when Brian and I moved with our children to Lewes in 2012 that we joined the Church of England.

Whilst St Mellitus College has strong links with Holy Trinity Brompton, the College encourages 'generous orthodoxy' and we regularly worship in different traditions. There is a huge variety of traditions represented by the students and it has been such a great experience for me to discover and enjoy so many styles of worship. During my college training, I have been intentional in experiencing traditions of worship that are unfamiliar to me. I enjoyed a silent retreat at the House of the Resurrection in Mirfield and took part in

a Cathedral placement. I am looking forward to worshipping God together with you in Seaford and discovering your styles of worship.

I love living on the south coast and whilst it has been unusually rainy recently, normally we enjoy so much more sunshine than Northern Ireland. It is a joy to return for a weekend to Northern Ireland and I am always glad to visit, but I feel very rooted and happy living in the south of England. The white cliffs, the rolling grassy downs, the changing seas and sunsets. What a beautiful place to live.

My favourite things to do on a day off involve social times with friends, either walking the dog or enjoying a coffee or a meal together or occasionally going to the cinema. I aspire to getting better at gardening one day as well as using my sewing machine! I like to try to keep fit and attend an outdoor 'bootcamp' every week and have done this for 10 years! I enjoy outdoor swimming and a little bit of gentle sailing in the summer too.

Very much looking forward to getting to know you, listening to your stories, and finding out about all the variety of interests and activities that you are involved in.

See you in June!

Love from Carole

Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it. Mark Twain

Take Your Pick

David Farey

A big question for any follower of Jesus is, how do you grow in your faith and understanding of God? In a person's journey through life we can pick up on the fundamentals of faith in a variety of ways.... From childhood, possibly our parents, assuming they possess the basics, can lay a foundation – bedtime prayers and Bible stories.

In school children are taught a smorgasbord of faiths where Christianity is just one among many. If in the practice of churchgoing then Confirmation and the preparation to it may help some understanding of salvation and what Jesus has done for us. Thereafter there is an ocean of church services with festivals and sermon slots. Realistically effort is needed in the study of God's word and maintaining learning about faith so that our faith does not wither on the vine.

So back to the question – how do you grow in your faith?

Among the general populace there is quite a gap in people's knowledge about Christian things. The recent BBC programme, 'Pilgrimage' included one member of the Church of England who thought Jesus was a fictional character.

So, we have our home groups which provide excellent opportunity to learn things of faith in friendly and comfortable surroundings. We recently ran an Alpha course at St Luke's church

and we are continuing to pursue the Chosen series about the life of Jesus. There has been a Freedom in Christ course, which it would be great to repeat. All opportunities to learn and grow.

The benefits are enormous. By joining with others who are similarly engaged in exploring their faith you learn and grow together, and so make new friends and discover that the matters of faith you struggle with are often shared with others. In addition, you share the joys and challenges of other Christians and more can pray together about them.

If you struggle to attend a group, then there are plenty of online resources to plug into. A very good basic course is the '321course.com' which provokes some interesting thoughts, and is based in Eastbourne.

So – how do you grow in your faith... with so much on offer the only real problem is deciding what to choose!





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)

Please pray for our Mission Partners during June:

CHURCH ARMY

Give thanks for our Chief Peter Rouch and his leadership of Church Army and prayer for guidance as the Board seeks a replacement Chief Executive Officer. Prayer for all Officers who meet at Sheffield this Summer to refresh their understanding of their ministry to those they serve in diverse communities around Britain.

- Asking direction for the very real work that is helping homeless women at the Marylebone Project in London.
- For funding and resources as Church Army reaches out to those in need at this time of struggle, despair, hardship and uncertainty.

HOMELINK

- Ask that they may give hope to the homeless by their support
- That they may help those in need of basic furniture or white goods
- That the Trustees may make wise decisions about a new IT system

Please pray for our Mission Partners during July:

BEACHY HEAD CHAPLAINCY TEAM

- Thank God for the 20 years that the Chaplains have been at Beachy Head. For the thousands of lives saved in that time.
- For their endurance to be on the clifftops in all weathers and at night.
- Praise God that all the chaplains and volunteers have home churches who pray for them. For those who set aside a time each day to pray for Beachy Head.

SAMARA'S AID

- Pray for the invaluable work the organisation is doing in Syria to help the sick, young children and families.
- Safety and strength for 'Dr A' who administers the charity: give thanks for his hard work and commitment.
- Pray that people can be found who share the aims of Samara's Aid, to assist Dr A in his work.

A FOCUS ON PARISH LIFE

SUNDAY

- For a strengthening of our faith and spiritual growth as we gather to worship week by week.
- All those who lead our various services, the clergy, the musicians, the choir, the readers, intercessors, the stewards, the vergers and all who attend.
- The families attending St Luke's and the children enjoying their session of 'Glow' that they will have a fun time of Bible Stories, singing, dancing, crafts prayers and food.
- The Tech Teams beavering away to bring clarity, audio and visual resources to our services as well as live streaming at St Leonard's.
- For all in the parish as we prepare to welcome Carole Darling as Curate from 22nd June. For Carole's husband and family as they prepare for this new season in their lives.
- Those living and working in Walmer Road, Chyngton Avenue, The Shepway, Saltwood Road, Pevensey Close, Millberg Road.

MONDAY

- The Prayer Ministry Teams at St Leonard's and St Luke's as they seek to serve you by helping others in their needs.
- Those in the church family who are teachers or volunteer as school governors: may they bring your light into the darkness.
- The Parish Women's Group meeting on the third Monday each month
- Corrinne and Derreck as he prepares to take sabbatical leave from 22nd July.
- For those living and working in Manor Road, Manor Road North, Manor Close, Stoke Close, Stoke Manor Close, Chesterton Drive, Chesterton Avenue, Farm Close

TUESDAY

- The Home Groups and their Leaders offering fellowship and support.
- Those who hire and use our buildings
- Those who practise and ring the bells for Sunday worship at St Leonard's.
- Our Churchwardens Liz and Fred. Michael Holmes and the Fabric Committee. The Mission Support Team. Our treasurer, Paul Waller and his team.
- Those living and working in Eastbourne Road, Tudor Manor Gardens, Old Poplar Close. Chyngton Lane, Chyngton Lane North, Stirling Avenue, Perth Close, Stirling Close, Elgin Gardens

WEDNESDAY

- The Tots Treats meeting at St Luke's for carers and their children and those who volunteer under the leadership of Stefan.
- The safety and wellbeing of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts meeting each week at St Luke's. Their bake sale on Sunday 23 June after the morning service.
- The regular weekly 11.00 o'clock service at St Leonard's.
- The retired clergy who minister in the parish.

- Members of the PCC as they administer the affairs of the parish: Standing Committee 12th June and PCC meeting 10th July. Stephanie in her role as PCC Secretary. Those on Deanery Synod.
- Those living and working in Hythe Crescent, Dymock Close, Hythe View, Hythe Close, Hastings Avenue, Dover Close, Folkestone Avenue, Lansdowne Road.

THURSDAY

- The Tots Treats meeting at St Leonard's for carers and their children and those who volunteer under the leadership of Stefan.
- Those organising and gathering weekly for a meal before watching 'The Chosen', a video that brings the Bible to Life: that it will have a good impact on all who attend.
- Those who organise and attend the Men's Meals.
- Our Administrator Charlie and Tony working in the office.
- Good relationships with our neighbours, especially the shop in Walmer Road and the Old Plough in Church Street.
- Those living and working in Bodiam Close, Cinque Ports Way, Deal Avenue, Sandgate Close, Battle Close, Dymchurch Close, Hillside Avenue, Winchelsea Close.

FRIDAY

- The Mothers' Union meeting on the fourth Friday in the month.
- The parish youth groups gathering on Fridays. Sparks as their numbers grow and assistant volunteers come along from Ignite. The leaders and volunteers coping with the explosion in numbers at Ignite.
- Stefan and his team of volunteers as they plan to introduce a further group in the future which is dependent on raising funds for an assistant Children, Youth and Families Worker. That those making grant applications will be successful.
- Those who church sit and welcome all who visit St Leonard's.
- Those living and working in Chyngton Gardens, Greenwell Close, Upper Chyngton Gardens, Rye Close, Romney Close.

SATURDAY

- The monthly Messy Church Services for the whole family offering worship and craft at St Leonard's.
- The monthly lunch time concerts at St Leonard's.
- Those from Sparks attending their Summer Camp in July.
- James in his roles of serving you as Vicar and Rural Dean and Lucy serving you as Vicar and Solicitor as well as their other roles in the Diocese.
- The parish Camp at Chiddingfold over the August Bank Holiday week-end that it will be a time of fun, friendship, food and faith building.
- Those living and working in Seaford Grange, the new development on the former Newlands School site off Eastbourne Road.

Using Rest to Pray

Tony Horsfall, a retreat leader and author recommends a different type of prayer...

Most of us think of prayer as a very demanding activity, but did you know it can be extremely restful?

One of the great verses in the Bible says this: 'Be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46:10). It suggests we experience God most fully when we are still. When we cease rushing around, pausing for a moment of thought and recollection, we are becoming prayerful, and God is very near. Even a break for a morning coffee can be a moment of prayer, if we slow ourselves down and allow our thoughts to turn towards God.

An essential part of resting is to breathe slowly. Christian tradition has always made a connection between prayer and breathing. You can learn to pray to the rhythm of your breathing, using chosen prayer words to focus. As you breathe in, you might say 'Abba', and then as you breathe out, add the word 'Father'. Choose words which are meaningful to you, deliberately slowing your breathing so you become relaxed and peaceful.

Perhaps you have a favourite chair where you are able to unwind easily. For a few moments sit and do nothing. Simply become aware of the present moment, reminding yourself you are in the presence of God. As you feel yourself relax, bask in the knowledge of God's love and acceptance of you. Sense His smile of approval upon you. You don't have to do anything, just 'be' for a moment. This too is prayer.

Sometimes we are forced to rest by circumstances... illness, disability, growing older and so on slow us down and we can't rush around like we used to do. Never mind. Don't fight against your circumstances. Enter into the place of rest that God is giving you. He loves you for who you are, not for what you do. Turn your thoughts into prayer and offer them to God. You don't need to advise God as to what He should do; simply hold people before Him, leaving the outcome to Him.

Prayer should be a natural expression of our relationship with God. Sometimes we have words, sometimes silence is enough. We don't need to impress God with our fervour. We can relax and be rested, even as we pray.



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Lunchtime Concerts



Saturday 15th June John Bruzon (piano)

John Bruzon was born and educated in Gibraltar. From an early age he showed great promise and talent at the piano, but at a time when the opportunities in Gibraltar for training for a dedicated career in music were practically negligible. By his own determination he won a bursary which enabled him to study at Trinity College of Music with the pianist Irene Kohler to whom he owes much. Over the years he has enjoyed a varied and exciting career, being equally at home in both classical and lighter fields of music. He has performed in concerts and recitals throughout the UK and abroad, including engagements at the Wigmore Hall, London, and a series of classical programmes on the QE2 for part of a world cruise.

Saturday 20th July Trio Nuovo

Trio Nuovo are experienced performers and teachers based in East Sussex. Their first collaboration in 2023 evolved from an enjoyment of Latin American music and a desire to explore the different timbres and textures afforded by combining guitar with two complimentary melodic instruments. The trio performs different combinations of duets in addition to trios, and will include music by Villa Lobos, Piazzolla and Debussy.



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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Book Review

Derreck Lee-Philpot

'Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes'.

Author: Kenneth E Bailey (© 2008).

Publisher: SPCK

ISBN 978 0 281 05975 1

Warning! Warning! Warning!

This is not a cosy bedtime book to be read as you slip away into the arms of Morpheus after your nightly cocoa. This is a book that needs to be **read**, and it is very readable - accessible to the whole spectrum of Christian believers regardless of where you are on the journey. But it needs to be **READ**.

So, warning over - what's so important that we should consider taking the time and effort to build this 425 page book into our reading time?

Well, Bailey's strength is in his forty-year familiarity with Middle Eastern culture. The clue is in the sub-title; *'Cultural Studies in the Gospels'*. Bailey's experience (see bio below) enables him to lay before us how the people of the Gospels would have **experienced** Jesus' teaching, but also how they would have **heard** and understood His words in the context of their culture.

They did not hear Jesus words in the same way we do.

With a little thought it's obvious! Jesus lived in 1stC Palestine, we live in 21stC Western Europe, of course we hear and see things from a different cultural and sociological perspective.

Bailey's gift is in revealing that difference of perspective. Looking at the NT solely from our modern viewpoint we miss much of what Jesus taught, to the point of coming to erroneous conclusions about what we think He said or did.

JTMEE has six parts divided into thirty-two chapters.

Part One: The birth of Jesus.

Part Two: The Beatitudes.

Part Three: The Lord's Prayer.

Part Four: The dramatic actions of Jesus.

Part Five: Jesus and women.

Part Six: Parables of Jesus.

I guarantee that you will find joyous surprises and new challenges upon

KENNETH E. BAILEY

Jesus Through
Middle Eastern Eyes

CULTURAL STUDIES IN THE GOSPELS

every page. Bailey's forty-year understanding of 1stC culture will lead you to read the Gospels and indeed the whole NT with different eyes, getting so much more from the often familiar text. For me, I found even the Nativity story has new insights, and Bailey's treatment of the Parables is little short of astonishing. Only because, with Bailey's help, we hear them as the 1stC Jews would have.

Don't be fooled, this is not just another book on the life and ministry of Jesus – “yawn”, they are ten-a-penny! This is a scholarly, incisive, accessible, clear, enjoyable revelation of the teachings of Jesus in their cultural and social contexts. Bailey can be read in many ways and levels; at a push you could even read each chapter as an inspiration for personal devotionals and prayer.

But also, be warned, if you want a comfortable Christianity stay away from this book, for if you read it with an open mind and heart it cannot help but speak to your mind and heart and in doing so change your reading of the NT forever.

Recently I wrote in the Pastoral Letter a quote from Peter Pan (JM Barrie) where Peter asks Wendy, “*Would you like an adventure now, or would you like to have your tea first?*”, it's one of my favourite quotes. This is one of those adventure or tea first occasions!

Well? If you chose to put your spiritual feet up and have a cup of tea you might well miss the most amazing adventure in scripture you could imagine. Anyone interested in understanding the New Testament Gospels as they were written from their own distinctive

Middle Eastern cultural perspective, ought to read this book.

Living in Seaford with the sea so close we should be able to appreciate Dave Barry's (American author and Pulitzer Prize winner) saying...

“There's nothing wrong with enjoying looking at the surface of the ocean itself, except that when you finally see what goes on underwater, you realise that you've been missing the whole point of the ocean.”

This is Bailey's talent, he invites us to look below the surface of a superficial reading of the Gospels and reveals the wonder of what's happening just below, just out of sight, in all its beauty and spectacle – he helps reveal the ‘whole point’ of the Gospels.

If you want a sneak preview you can read the first 4 chapters here, https://www.google.co.uk/books/edition/Jesus_Through_Middle_Eastern_Eyes/mjQAAebtAmEC?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover

Kenneth E. Bailey is an author and lecturer in Middle Eastern New Testament studies. An ordained Presbyterian minister, he also serves as Canon Theologian of the Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh. He holds graduate degrees in Arabic language and literature, and in systematic theology; his Th.D. is in New Testament. He spent forty years living and teaching New Testament in Egypt, Lebanon, Jerusalem, and Cyprus, still holding the title of research professor (emeritus) of Middle Eastern New Testament studies at the Ecumenical Institute, Jerusalem. Bailey has written multiple books in English and in Arabic.

Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse

Ruth Saunders

On May 4th, we showed the Chichester Diocese course, on Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse, which was interesting, informative and at times, shocking.

We started with the different forms that abuse can take, and learnt about statistics, coercion and control and 'toxic masculinity', a topic that is increasingly important in supporting the growing numbers of young people attending the groups. Two women a week are killed by a partner, an ex-partner or a close family member, and thirty men a year. Abuse occurs in both hetero-sexual and gay relationships, and although children may not be directly involved, if they live in a situation where the adults are shouting/fighting etc.it is a safeguarding issue, as this can have a severe and long-lasting effect on them.

We then looked at Abuse and Misuse of power, which can come from age, gender, position, wealth or the expectations from the society we live in, and discussed how to recognise that someone may be being abused.

The course then told us about 'Honour Abuse', which includes forced marriage and Female Genital Mutilation, and in the next section we looked at survivors in church communities. Christian beliefs and culture, should never be used to justify abuse, nor the continuation of a harmful relationship.

The course ended with looking at how to talk to someone about abuse, and how to support them in finding the help they need.

Domestic abuse is very often hidden, so raising our awareness is essential for us, particularly as our mission to children and families grows. Thank you to all those who joined us, and for those who didn't, we would urge you to go onto the Chichester Diocese website, and complete it on-line. We will be putting information about the resources available to support people at the back of the church, and hope to have some posters to put up. A gentle, non-judgemental word with someone, could stop a harmful escalation of abuse.

Online access to the Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse:

<https://safeguarding.chichester.anglican.org/raising-awareness-of-domestic-abuse/>

For further information, useful websites and helpline details:

<https://www.chichester.anglican.org/pcpdome/>

I got flowers today

I got flowers today.
It wasn't my birthday or any other special day.
We had our first argument last night,
And he said a lot of cruel things that really hurt me.
I know he is really sorry and didn't mean the things he said.
Because he sent me flowers today.

I got flowers today.
It wasn't our anniversary, or any other special day.
Last night, he threw me into a wall and started to choke me.
It seemed like a nightmare.
I couldn't believe it was real.
I woke up this morning sore and bruised all over.
I know he must be sorry,
Because he sent me flowers today.

I got flowers today.
It wasn't Mother's Day or any other special day.
Last night, he beat me up again.
And it was much worse than all the other times.
If I leave him, what will I do?
How will I take care of my kids? What about money?
I'm afraid of him and scared to leave.
I know he must be sorry
Because I got flowers today.

I got flowers today.
Today was a very special day.
It was the day of my funeral.
Last night, he finally killed me.
He beat me to death.
If only I had gathered enough courage
And strength to leave him,
I would not have got flowers today.

Link to Hope: Shoebox Delivery Diary- Day 4

Shoe Box Delivery Team

First stop was to meet a wonderful family who had suffered a series of tragedies over the years. Their first born was a little girl who was severely disabled and died at 2 ½ years old. Their second child Paul now 10 years old was born even more severely disabled and survived. He was asleep when we arrived after being given medicine by his mum. The bright spot on the horizon is that they decided to adopt a little girl from the Roma community who had no family. She is called Valentina and is delight and brings much happiness to the family.

We went onto a man called Martin next. Severely crippled and on crutches, his mum had died about one year ago. The mum was called Valerica and had clearly done everything for him. To the point that now he was on his own he struggled to cook and care for himself. There was also the other matter of there being no running water in the house. As we walked around the garden we saw a well that Martin had to try to use for his water supply. It can be difficult to fill a

bucket from a well at the best of times but to do it when you have difficulty standing is quite another thing.



The residents of a care home were waiting for us. They were all lined up in the corridor as we arrived and were wearing masks which most of them ignored and kept taking off. They sang to us and Otto told them the story of Christmas and how it involved lots of strangers from the UK sending them gifts of love in the form of shoeboxes. One lady cried because she had found a pair of glittery socks in her box and she was so grateful. Another lady fell in love with the little furry black and white cat that she found in her box, so you can never tell what people will like from the gifts they are given.



We briefly visited the HOPE group which is made up of adults with disabilities and helpers. This would have been an impossible group to imagine not so long back where people with disabilities are valued rather than being hidden away and shameful. They were rehearsing their nativity play and being given shoeboxes the following week at their Christmas party so we left and went to our last stop which was a school.



This particular school was a Hungarian one and was full of children from very poor and marginalized families. They were together in an after school club and we had to put the shoeboxes in the window to get them into the classroom. Although they were wearing good clothes, as we have know from past visits, they go home to poor housing and change into their old clothes to wear the good set to school the next day. As the light was fading we came to the end of our shoebox trip for another year.



Homelink: Helping people into Housing

Terry Howell

A recent problem: we loan an initial month's rent and a damage deposit to those who cannot afford between £1000 and £2,500 required in advance to obtain a place to rent. We have successfully been able to support between 50 and 100 tenancies per year for the past 25 years and have had a good proportion repaying their interest free loans. However, rents have risen about 10%, so our clients need a larger loan to compete with others. We can give them a larger loan but that increases their debt to us and their overall debts if they have any other ones. We can ask for higher repayments, risking more defaulting on loans, or having to extend loans beyond our normal five year limit. However, recently housing benefit has risen so that it matches actual rents. This means that tenants can repay at a higher rate.

A solution? Some of our clients may have help from the housing department of Lewes District Council

(LDC) If they are moving from emergency accommodation then LDC may give them a grant to cover the damage deposit which immediately halves the loan they need (also saving LDC money because keeping people in emergency accommodation is expensive). In addition, those moving into Housing Association properties do not require a damage deposit. A recent help has been the increase in housing benefit which now matches the increased rent more nearly. However there are others having to move who will not receive help from LDC but face increased rents.

Our excellent Employees

We employ five part-time employees. They are all very satisfied with their jobs. One might ask why our Client Managers often work overtime when we are only placing half the number of clients into tenancies than in 2019. One reason for this is that they may have to help someone into housing at very



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.

short notice. Our clients compliment us on the speed and efficiency that finance is made available. Our finance officer, Gabrielle, is also essential in this. The other reason is that even when we cannot help people, they are listened to with a sympathetic ear and shown where they can get assistance from others e.g. CAB. Unfortunately, this valuable and compassionate help is not shown in statistics.

Good News

LDC is making available 72 units of social housing in Newhaven which is helping a number of our clients.

Prayers:

- For the effectiveness of our help to the homeless
- For compassion and support to those losing hope
- Give wisdom to our Trustees in their decisions and actions

**Before Pentecost the disciples found it hard to do easy things;
after Pentecost they found it easy to do hard things.**

A Gordon



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Life And More Abundant Ministries

LAMA

Lesley Gomez

It has been a privilege meeting with so many faithful supporters during our visit to UK. It was lovely to share in the service at St Leonard's church in May, grateful thanks to the Tech team for assisting in showing the video clip.

We look forward to sharing a full report in our next newsletters. Thank you for your prayers for LAMA Ministries.

We were blessed to be able to attend the Graduation Day at Waverley Abbey on May 10th where Michael received his Chaplaincy diploma. He graduated with Distinction having successfully completed his online chaplaincy course. It was so good for Michael to meet his fellow students in person, having only shared zoom meetings and tutorials online from the Philippines (with an eight-hour time difference!) It was made extra special as his grandma Ethel also attended the Commissioning Service. Such a wonderful day!



Whilst Lesley and Michael have been busy travelling around England visiting churches sharing about LAMA's story, Peter and the team have continued the regular chapel services at RRCY. Several of the boys in RRCY have been released on good behaviour. Please pray they settle back into community life. And find the church support they need as they readjust to life outside prison. Simon, Ana, and the music group have also led the Beach mission evenings at My Girl café.





Opening Times:
Wednesdays 9.30 – 12.30 All Year Round
Saturdays 10 – 12 July and August

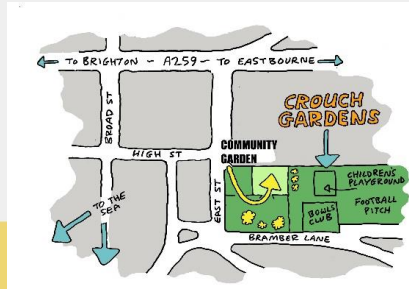
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Wonders of the Living World

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz

What are the best metaphors we could use to describe biological things? You might be used to hearing phrases like ‘your genetic blueprint’ or ‘survival of the fittest’, but are they helpful or even accurate? Some of these words fail to capture the wonder and joy of understanding something new about the nature of living organisms.

I learned that one researcher was using the phrase ‘The Snuggle for Existence’ as a way to convey the idea, familiar to biologists, that cooperation is at the heart of the living world. For example, every cell more complex than a bacterium contains minute energy factories, each one containing their own piece of DNA – which makes them a sort of miniature cell, hidden away inside the larger host cell. These ‘mitochondria’, as biologists call them, turn raw materials from the host into chemical energy. In this way, everyone benefits: the mitochondria now have a safe a place to live, and the host receives the energy it needs. There are many more examples of organisms working together to produce something that is more than the sum of its parts, where often the individual parts could not survive on their own.

‘The Map of Life’ is a way of describing the regularities we see in biological processes. Eyes, legs and wings have emerged in the living world again and again, and why not? If the properties of light and gravity remain constant, we

should expect living things to find the same solutions to seeing or getting around. When we look at these organisms’ family trees, we see they share a common ancestor that had no eyes, or no wings. These structures have developed completely independently, or you could say that the paths of the living world have converged on the same solution. That’s not to say they had a conscious goal, but that the world has certain properties, and those properties have channelled biological processes in certain directions.

None of these stories give us definite evidence for God. Science simply provides data, which can often be interpreted in several different ways. Perhaps the world just happens to be full of mathematical regularities, maybe there’s an overarching physical law we don’t yet understand, or perhaps there are multiple universes and ours happens to be the one in which life has arisen. But I believe that the observations scientists make about the living world are compatible with the existence of the God described by Christian faith.

More at wondersofthelivingworld.org.

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge.

Poetry Corner

Selected by Jim Holmes

Virtue
George Herbert

Sweet day, so cool, so calm, so bright,
The bridal of the earth and sky,
The dew shall weep thy fall tonight;
For thou must die

Sweet spring, full of sweet days
and roses,
A box where sweets compacted lie,
My music shows ye have your closes
And all must die.

Sweet rose, whose hue angry and
brave
Bids the rash gazer wipe his eye,
Thy root is ever in its grave;
And thou must die.'

Only a sweet and virtuous soul,
Like seasoned timber, never gives;
But though the whole world turns
to coal,
Then chiefly lives.

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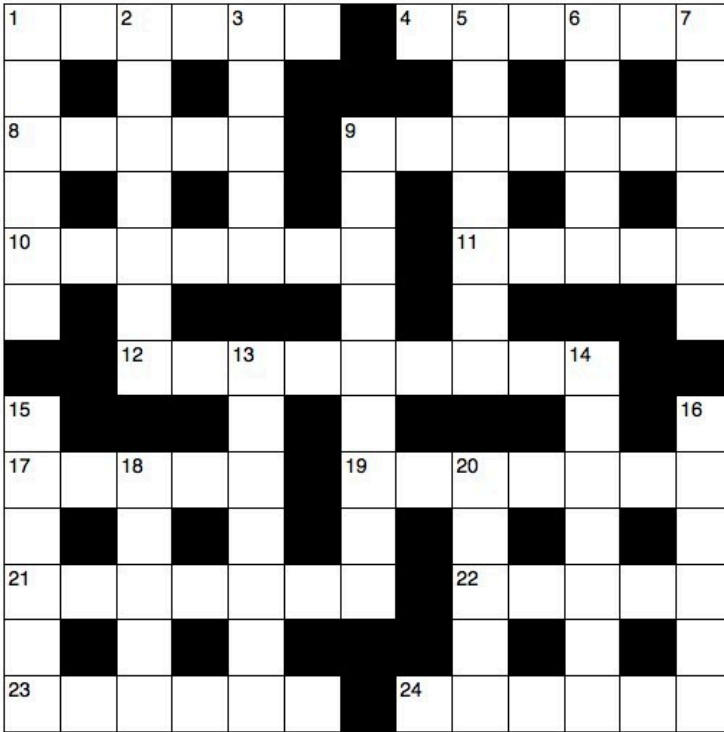


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Crossword



Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
 4 Place of learning (6)
 8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
 21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
 23 Musical beat (6)
 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

June-July Lectionary

Sunday 2nd June

1st Sunday after Trinity

2 Corinthians 4: 5-12

Mark 2:23-3:6

Sunday 9th June

2nd Sunday after Trinity

2 Corinthians 4: 13-5.1

Mark 3:20-35

Sunday 16th June

3rd Sunday after Trinity

2 Corinthians 5: 6-17

Mark 4:26-34

Sunday 23rd June

4th Sunday after Trinity

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Mark 4:35-41

Sunday 30th June

5th Sunday after Trinity

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Mark 5:21-43

Sunday 7th July

6th Sunday after Trinity

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

Sunday 14th July

7th Sunday after Trinity

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

Sunday 21st July

8th Sunday after Trinity

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6.30-34 and 53-56

Sunday 28th July

9th Sunday after Trinity

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21

Down

1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)

2 Art bite (anag.) (7)

3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)

5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)

6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)

7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)

9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)

13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)

14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)

15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)

16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)

18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)

20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)

June Calendar

Saturday 1st	9.30am	Messy Church	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Sunday 2nd	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.15am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
Wednesday 5th	11.00am	Matins	St. Leonard's
	12.30pm	Parish Lunch	St. Luke's
Sunday 9th	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 11th	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
Wednesday 12th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Saturday 15th	1.00pm	Lunchtime Concert	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Sunday 16th	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.15am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
	7.30pm	Women's Group	St. Luke's
Wednesday 19th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Saturday 22nd	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. Leonard's
Sunday 23rd	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7	St. Luke's
	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
Wednesday 26th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Friday 28th	2.30pm	Mothers' Union	St. Luke's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Sunday 30th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion and Baptism	St. Luke's

Crossword Solution

ACROSS: 1, Ambush, 4, School, 8, Tired, 9, Famines, 10, Citadel, 11, Endor, 12, Atonement, 17, Avert, 19, Oracles, 21, Married, 22, Lance, 23, Rhythm, 24, Hyssop.

DOWN: 1, Attach, 2, Biretta, 3, Sided, 5, Compete, 6, Owned, 7, Lustre, 9, Falsehood, 13, Ostrich, 14, Talents, 15, Farmer, 16, Asleep, 18, Early, 20, Alley.

July 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
Sunday 7th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.15am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
Tuesday 9th	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
Wednesday 10th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Sunday 14th	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	Women's Group	St. Luke's
Tuesday 16th	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	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	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Friday 26^h	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
Sunday 28th	9.30am	Family Worship	St. Luke's
	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
Wednesday 31st	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's

Parish Magazine Copy Date

Items for the August-September edition of the Magazine are most welcome and should be sent to magazine@seafordparish.org.uk by Tuesday 16th July.

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

Clergy

Rev. James Hollingsworth	01323 893508	vicar@seafordparish.org.uk
Rev. Derreck Lee-Philpot	01323 893391	dlp@seafordparish.org.uk
Rev. Carole Darling		revcarole@seafordparish.org.uk

Children, Youth & Family Missioner

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

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

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

Deputy Wardens

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

Parish Treasurer

Paul Waller	01323 872088	atreasurer@seafordparish.org.uk
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Prayer Pastor

Sue Griffiths		prayerpastor@seafordparish.org.uk
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Safeguarding Officer

Ruth Saunders		safeguarding@seafordparish.org.uk
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Home Groups

David Farey		homegroups@seafordparish.org.uk
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Hall Bookings	07425 936674	bookings@seafordparish.org.uk
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Fortnightly News		news@seafordparish.org.uk
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Magazine

Distribution	01323 892883	David and Hazel Bramley
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