

Parish Magazine

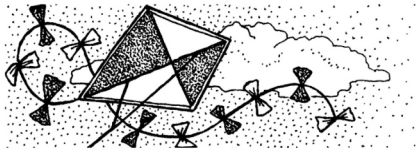
St. Leonard's and St. Luke's Churches

August-September 2024

Suggested donation £1.00

Your steadfast love, O Lord is as vast as the heavens, your faithfulness beyond the clouds.

Psalm 36:5



August-September 2024

Contents

03	Welcome	30	Book Reviews
04	Parish News	32	Springboard
06	James Hollingsworth writes...	33	It's Strange
09	The Good Shepherd	34	Christian Aid
10	Children, Youth & Families	36	Homelink
14	Stepping out in Faith	38	LAMA
16	Sabbatical...	40	Poetry Corner
18	Parish Camp	42	Crossword
21	Physicist and Priest	43	Lectionary
23	Prayer Diary	44	Calendar
26	Lunchtime Concerts	46	Regular Services & Events
28	Diocesan Environment Day	47	Parish Directory

Welcome

Summer Holidays

‘Summertime and the living is easy.’ George Gershwin’s words could be aptly applied to August, when many of us take holidays. It’s a month to focus on summertime (weather permitting!!): family and barbecues; the beach and ice cream; long days with no school! It’s a time to wind down from the hectic pace of normal routine.

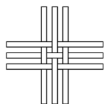
However, while summer is a season, it is also a state of mind. We all have periods in life, which are summer-like, when life goes well. How can we walk by faith in the summers or good times of our spiritual lives?

Summer Distinctives: When we go through times of sickness, financial pressure, difficult relationships and other problems, we more easily focus on God. In a spiritual summer season, we can subtly find ourselves enjoying the gifts without acknowledging the Giver! The greatest danger in the summertime season of life is to forget the One who is responsible for the good things we are enjoying.

Summer Distractions: Our normal routine revolves around clocks and calendars, but we can easily get distracted when we break these disciplined routines. In the spiritual summer seasons of life, there is a temptation to miss out on our regular times with God in Bible reading and prayer! Things that make summer seasons enjoyable can also become big distractions.

Summer Directives: How can we make the most of this summer season and keep focused on God? We need to maintain a gratitude attitude: thankful to God for all His blessings: ‘When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land He has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God.’ (Deuteronomy 8:10/11).

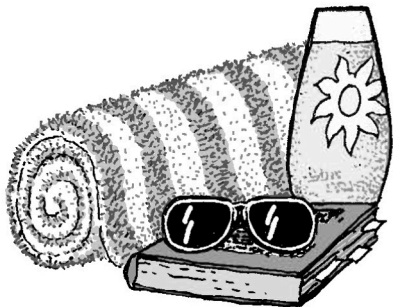
So let’s stay close and stay grateful to God in this summer season of life!



SEAFORD PARISH CHURCH

ST LEONARD'S AND ST LUKE'S

Parish News



Beach Church

On Sundays 4th, 11th and 18th August in addition to our 8.00am and 9.30am services we will be holding a service on the beach at 11.15am. Do join us for some worship, a bible story, prayers, and an ice cream. We will be somewhere near the Martello Tower.

The Meeting Place

The Meeting Place takes a break during August but will resume on September 1st and 15th. There will be a time of worship, a reflective thought and prayer for each other and ourselves. The service offers an opportunity for us to practice the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and to minister to one another.

St. Luke's @7

St.Luke's@7 meet on the 4th Sunday of the month. However there will be no St. Luke's@7 in August, the next is on Sunday 22nd September. 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 13th and 27th August then 10th and 24th September 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. There's no meeting in August so our next is on September 16th when we are holding a Games Evening and catch up.

Mothers' Union

There is no MU meeting in August. On Friday 27th September there will be a visit to Alfriston Church with an 'I-Spy' type quiz.... Followed by afternoon tea, All welcome. Look out for further details in the news sheet and news email.

Parish Lunch

The next Parish Lunches will be on Wednesday 4th September. 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.

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.

Parish News

Christian Aid

Christian Aid week 2024 in Seaford raised £4096.42 including: Spring sale £321.96, Churn £703.36, Christian Aid service £155, St. Leonard's lunch £447.50 and the Strawberry tea £336. Thank you again to all involved and to everyone who gave.

Future date for your diary: Lunch at Crossway - Friday 25th October 2024

(half-term week) tickets £8 and there will be a raffle at this event. Raffle prizes will be most welcome.

Parish Magazine

The copy date for the October-November edition of the Parish Magazine is Tuesday 17th September. Items of news and articles should be sent to magazine@seafordparish.org.uk



Open Church Cafe St. Leonard's Church

Free refreshments, crafts & conversation

Saturdays August 24th and September 26th
10.00am to 12.30pm

Visit us online at www.seafordparish.org.uk

 ChurchSuite Log in to ChurchSuite for details of all church events

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James Hollingsworth writes...



Why did God create gas planets?

Rev. Carole, Stefan and myself recently had the privilege of going into Year 5 classes at Cradle Hill School to be grilled with some amazing questions such as:

- Why did God create gas planets
- How come God helped Moses, but didn't help the World War?
- What's the best thing about being a vicar? What are the downsides?
- What's your favourite thing about God?

How would you answer those?

The great thing about this age is that they are genuinely curious to know. We can get so busy that we forget to see the wonder and awe around us so that we just get on with our to-dos and stop to ask. With the title question I said I didn't know but we used to not know why God made wasps but now that we have done more studying we have some idea about how amazing they are so maybe what we need is more science to look more closely at Saturn and Jupiter and Neptune and (there's one more). So what started as a religious question has led us into the search for better science and that's how it has been for so many scientists over so many centuries.

If you like these sorts of questions then maybe you should get hold of Will I be far in heaven? & other curious questions by J. John, see also his other book That's A Good Question.

We were then invited into Seaford Head to the Year 7s who asked questions

about miracles, proof of prayer, proof of God, and "Should Christians be greener than everybody else?" and "What is your favourite part of the Bible" and "What is your view on extraterrestrial beings" and "What's the meaning of life". Next time you're in a group having a coffee, get some of these questions out and throw them about. They lead to interesting thoughts about what you think about yourself and life, and forgiveness and hope.

One Cradle Hill pupil said her mum said that 'Life is a test, and a gift' and that you have to hold these two together. I like that. I told them that they weren't the first to ask these questions nor the last and that as far back as 1646 the Westminster Shorter Catechism concludes that the meaning of life is to Glorify God and enjoy Him forever. Perhaps on reflection I should have worded that differently. So how would you have answered them? And what are your questions?

Year of the New Testament – part two of three. The Letters of Paul

Bishop Martin has declared this year to be the Year of the New Testament. You probably saw that coming what with last year being the Year of the Old Testament. In the last magazine I wrote a little on the gospels. Next time I'll write something on the other epistles.

St. Paul's letters – starting with Romans

and ending with Philemon, are arranged in order of length. I've no idea who thought that would be a good idea. I've never checked it. But from as early as the Muratorian fragment, dated to perhaps 170ad, this is the order that they have always been written down in.

The first nine are written to different communities of faith: to the Church in Rome, Corinth, ... Thessalonica, whilst the last four are written to particular people. Philemon is the shortest and is about the extraordinarily risky business of receiving back a runaway slave. Onesimus, the runaway slave, has since running away become a Christian. Paul happens to know the 'owner', Philemon, who owes Paul a favour, indeed his very soul. Alas there is no follow up letter, so we do not have the next bit of the story. Likewise in Paul's correspondence with Corinth we know that 2nd Corinthians is at least actually 3rd. There is a missing letter!

Meanwhile Doctrine runs throughout all of Paul's letters but not in a systematic list. So it is from Roman's that we learn about grace and salvation, about the struggle and process of being holier, more the person that God has made us to be. Galatians, sometimes referred to as 'little Romans' because it is in the same way packed full of doctrine, explores the role of the Law. It doesn't ask cheeky questions such as 'Can I now eat bacon?' but an even harder question: If I want to show that I am a proper follower of Jesus Christ, should I follow the Law, should I aim for the most important sign, should I be circumcised? There will be many a gentile Christian reader who will be glad that Paul held his ground and

argued that "circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing." (1 Cor 7v18) This is a shocking form of liberty. We see it again in Gal 3.28 "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Romans, as do other letters, end with a list of people to say "hi" to.

Note the long list of women – Phoebe, Priscilla, Junia for example who were deacons, co-workers, apostles, with Paul. For a while Paul's letters suffered from the cheap opinion of poor theology so that he was dismissed as misogynistic, but slowly scholars are beginning to see that that is not the case. It was helped enormously by someone remembering that Paul was at heart and by birth, upbringing, culture, a Jew. So a new world of scholarship opened up that was cheesily called 'New Paul' and this has brought some rich fruit in exploring the Jewishness of Paul, his prolific use of the Old Testament throughout his letters and arguments.

I wanted to recommend Paul through Mediterranean Eyes by Kenneth Bailey. I can't. It's a brilliant book but unless you're a preacher with a preaching series on 1st Corinthians to prepare for then its just going to be really hard work. If you're about to write an essay for your theology degree on the Corinthian correspondence, then this is your go to book. But be warned it will be hard work from start to finish. Bailey is that rare scholar who brings insights that few would have thought of, could have access to, but bringing in the tools of receptionism from Arabic, Coptic and Syriac sources. An easier book would be The Lost Message of Paul by Steve Chalke. Chalke isn't a scholar. He's a

pastor. I think he started as youth worker but then became a pastor and in recent times has moved into the world of education and multi-academy trusts (The Oasis Trust). So his writing is for the ordinary person to find joy in Paul's writings. Here we read the powerful joy and freedom that led Paul to cope with floggings and ship-wrecking and to

persist in showing us the incredible, transforming Gospel because he really was "convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom 8.38)

Order of St Richard

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

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

It is rather exciting this year that both St Luke's and St Leonard's have been awarded an Order of St Richard.

Kim Cuthbert who worships at St Luke's has been helping Stefan with his work with Children, Youth and Families. She has been taking a lead role with this over the last three years but particularly over Stefan's paternity leave, including leading The Chosen for a period. She's played a pivotal role in Holiday Club reaching out to over 60 families and co-ordinating the team of volunteers, and in Messy Church and so on. More than that she's helped beyond the parish with teaching Archery to at the Diocesan Youth May Camp where over 300 teenagers come to learn about Jesus.

Wendy Ogilvie worships at St Leonard's. She was our Pastoral Co-Ordinator for eight years, carrying us through the interregnum and the pandemic. Last year she formally stepped down from this role which is now carried out by Brian Millar in St. Leonard's and Diana Woodcock in St. Luke's. Nonetheless you will still see her in and out of Care Homes, taking Holy Communion to the house bound, and being a quiet calming encouraging presence in our congregations.

If you would like to help with either of these two ministries do get in touch with Kim, Wendy, James or Derreck.

Psalm 23 is well loved, and its paraphrased words are often sung in the popular hymn *The Lord's My Shepherd*.

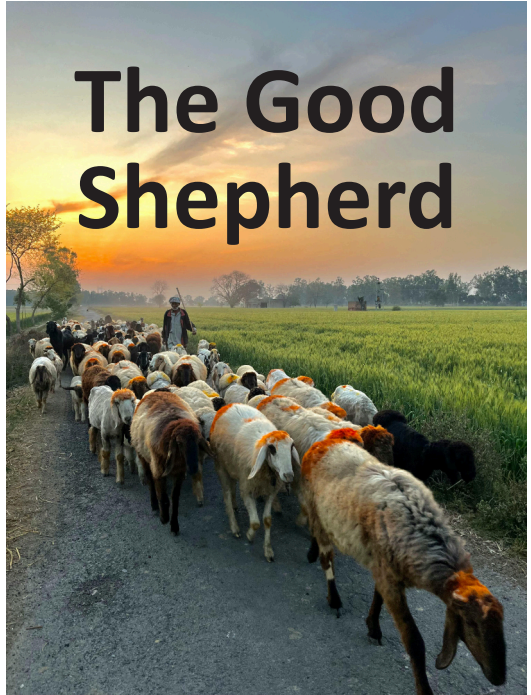
At the time of Jesus, these labourers were everywhere, as sheep were a common commodity. So when Jesus described a shepherd, He was referring to someone the people all knew about.

Our Lord's description of a shepherd helped His hearers to understand Jesus, as they were aware that sheep were valuable. A good shepherd made sure sheep were protected and fed. If they got into danger, they had to be rescued. A hireling would not be so considerate. He would abandon the sheep when faced with dangerous animals or aggressive thieves! Only a good shepherd would risk his life in caring for the flock.

In His parable (John 10:1-18) Jesus goes a step further talking about a good shepherd as He is speaking about Himself. Sheep know their owner and follow him, and Jesus wants us to know and follow Him. Sheep can get lost and end up in trouble. Jesus came to our rescue and is indeed our Saviour. A shepherd knows each sheep by name and Jesus knows *us* individually too. We can trust Him with our lives.

Jesus said that just as a shepherd is willing to die caring for his sheep, He too would die – looking ahead to His crucifixion. This would secure our salvation and provide a Home with Him. Jesus also said that there are other sheep of interest to Him! He speaks of being the shepherd of all nations, not just the Jews. His love extends to everyone.

These words of Jesus are so important. Give thanks that Jesus died for us and now awaits for us to be with Him. We belong to Him, we are His people, we are His flock.



Children, Youth & Families

Stefan Bracher

Well the last update just seemed like yesterday! We have had such an amazing time since then it might be slightly hard to bring everything together, but I'll try! But first Alice and myself, would just like to also say a huge thank you for all the lovely prayers, messages, cards, presents and of course bundles of support for our wee Jesse at his baptism. We all had the most amazing day and I don't know if it's related, but he has got louder with his voice since then. You never know maybe he is spreading the gospel already, in baby speak!

What was really lovely about that day, other than Jesse's baptism, is that many of us stayed having brought some food with us for a bring and share meal. It was such a lovely joyous and sociable time. This type of social event is something I feel as a Church family we must continue to do. We mustn't just rely on seeing everyone once a week on a Sunday, or twice a week if you're in a home group. We should look to have some events which bring us together for a time to sit, relax, chat, have a laugh and then do more relaxing, possibly with or without food! This is what can really help newbies to faith come into the fold. These reasons are why the Parish Camp is something which I and the team are so passionate about.

If you want to run your own social event come and speak to me or James,

or drop us an email (and we'll try and get back to you ASAP) and we can chat through ways you might like to do it and what things to bear in mind. It would be amazing to be able to be more sociable together.

Tots' Treats, our toddler groups which run in St. Luke's on Wednesdays and St. Leonard's on Thursdays, have been continuing to grow as approximately 20 new members have come and joined in with the sessions. Thanks to some lovely helpers who have agreed to come along during August to help. This means we will be able to run some kind of provision for Tots' Treats over the summer. There is such a need in the community when it comes to the school summer holidays, as everything tends to close down across a lot of the children, youth and family activities.

Sparks, our children's group, has been going really well with our numbers slow increasing again after we said goodbye to our previous year 6's as they moved up to Ignite. We have just finished our summer programme where we tried to do different activities in and around St. Luke's. This year we had fun with a family movie night (popcorn & hotdogs included), games night, craft night, field games night (which turned out to be in St. Luke's as it was looking wet)! We



also had a kids decide night, which I am sure you can imagine what they came up with, although I do love the thought of St. Luke's becoming an ice skating rink or a huge swimming pool! We of course then finished Sparks for this academic year with our Sparks BBQ & Water Fight – which had an amazing turn out!

As per my last article, one of the really big things, which we do need to look at investing in are Bibles for Sparks children 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. Thank you so much to those who have already donated towards the cost of the Bibles, but there is still a little way to go. So 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. We have 35 attending regularly and around 30 who come along every other week... so it's a bit of a hefty sum to start off with!

Ignite, our youth group, has kept exploding with numbers. We have on average 2-3 new people wanting to join every week. This group just continues to grow, we'll be doomed if they all turn up on the same night! Whilst this group does not really have any direct Christian teaching, it is a way



for the Church to talk to young people and show them who we are, just normal people, but who have a heart for God. We are not perfect and we don't claim to be. Just by doing this and talking about faith and showing our faith in action we are helping the young people of today to realise that we are not just a bunch of crazy, mindless followers of someone who has long since passed away, but that we believe in a living God that flows in our lives. Believe it or not most young people really respect that and find it really interesting. If you don't believe me come and volunteer with the group and they will prove it! (FYI we are still of course always looking for actual volunteers).

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 (although not in August). This is a Church Service, so it is open to everyone! We have recently had a huge growth in Messy Church and then a huge dip in Messy Church numbers, sometimes there is no rhyme or reason to it, it just seems to happen. Our most recent Messy Church looked at Healthy Body, Healthy Soul. We got cracking in to some brilliant crafts like making fidget spinners, stress balls, prayer cubes, pea seed growing and a whole load more! Our next Messy Church will be in September.

Glow, our Sunday group in St. Luke's, has continued to be ticking away very nicely. The children who attend these

sessions love the time to make some crafts and then read a Bible story or watch a Bible clip from Saddleback Kids. If you haven't seen or heard of Saddleback Kids, go and have a look on YouTube. Look for the clips which say "this is Jesus" and Jesus says "Eho" – the kids love it! The children are really able to get to grips with the stories which are delivered as part of Glow and come out remembering huge amounts of information. I wonder how many of us could remember the level of detail after a sermon?

Family Worship, our family services every 2nd and 4th Sundays in St. Luke's, have been going well too! The bacon (thank you Sue T and Jayne B), is also so so, so good!! We continue to look at how this can continue to develop and look forward to trying some new elements every now and then.

2 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 15 children who are looking to attend the camp, which is held in Chiddingly with a Christian Camp called Generations Christian Camps. They are all very excited!



Don't forget we have our very own Seaford Parish Church Camp over the August Bank Holiday weekend, from Saturday 24th to Monday 26th August 2024, in Chiddingly (around 20-30 minutes away). You can camp 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 camp's theme is Together. The importance of seeing 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 with.

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 like 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 a 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>

cyfw@seafordparish.org.uk
07506143476



Stepping Out in Faith

Carole Darling

Thank you so much for making me feel so welcome in the parish. I can't quite believe how three weeks could go so quickly! Meeting so many new people, doing a lot of things for the first time and going to new places. It has all been a bit of a whirlwind and I am loving it!

Life seems to bring new seasons. Brian and I have moved through a few seasons in the last twenty-five years. Marriage was a big season of change for us because we were in our thirties and had established single lives. Children catapulted us into a new season of parenthood although it's not really a season, more like a lifetime commitment with seasonal adjustments! Now that my youngest are nearly through their teenage years, I no longer know what they are doing at any moment of the day. In fact, I would rather not know what they are doing at any moment of the day! This week, my son Richard, who is travelling in South America, sent a photo of him by a riverbed, holding the tail of a crocodile! I am grateful that he is still alive!!

New seasons have often meant moving for us: moving to Nepal, moving back to the UK and after two years living in Leeds, moving south to East Sussex. I have come to recognise the familiar signs that a new season is approaching. There is the readiness for change which begins to stir, then the stepping out into the unknown. Having stepped out,

there is the period of excitement when so much is new, until eventually things settle and become established. In all these seasons, Brian and I have committed our way to the Lord and tried to follow closely.

Often there is a point at which stepping out in faith is required. I remember when we were waiting to go to Nepal. There had been a long process over two years of preparation, commissioning, fundraising, leaving our paid employment and finally we felt ready to go. However, there was delay because the visa for Brian to work in Nepal had not come through. Days turned into weeks and weeks into months, waiting for the visa and still no movement.

In preparation to leave the UK, we had advertised our house with a letting agent and at this point, whilst waiting for the visa, our letting agent informed us that we had a potential tenant keen to move in. We had a decision to make. What should we do? We had two-year-old Katie, and I was expecting again. Should we stay or should we go? Move out with all this uncertainty over the visa? What if the visa was delayed, with a new baby on the way, it seemed so risky to give up our home.

We prayed and took advice from Christian friends. This was a decision moment and one friend advised us that sometimes we have to take a step of

faith and that's when God meets us as we move in obedience to his call. A bit like jump starting a car, when the car moves, the engine fires up. Movement is the catalyst. After a lot of prayer, Brian and I both felt that it was right to accept the tenant and move out of our house even though the visa for Nepal had not come through. Crazy! However, we decided to take this step of faith.

On the day that we were moving out of our home, we received a phone call informing us that the Nepal visa had come through that morning and we were clear to fly to Nepal. This was incredible timing, it thrilled us that as we had taken a step of faith, God had surprised us and answered our prayer just in time, on moving day. It gave us confidence that God was watching over us and his timing is perfect.

I know that when we pray God answers, but sometimes the answer is NO, other times it is YES and many times it is WAIT. Brian and I have had plenty of times when we have waited and waited. On this occasion, the process of preparing to go to Nepal had taken years and the waiting intensified in the last three months. What was surprising was how fast things happened once we were on the move. Within weeks we were in

Kathmandu, setting up home, learning a new language and starting work.

A new season in Nepal had begun with new places to see, new things to do and new people to meet. God provided so many wonderful friends and met our needs. I smile as I write this because the flat that we moved into in Kathmandu was on the same compound as Mark and Ali Gill who are members of this parish here in Seaford! Mark and Brian are civil engineers and Brian benefitted immensely from Mark's experience of engineering in Nepal. Ali was a great support to me when my son came to be born in Patan Hospital, Kathmandu. A fluent Nepali speaker, Ali was there on the ward supporting me and supporting so many Nepali ladies who were in labour. Ali was the first friend to cuddle my baby after the delivery. I remember Ali taking baby John round the delivery ward, proudly showing all the Nepali ladies the little bideshi baby (foreign baby). Such happy memories.

In summary, seasons of change are ordered by the Lord, we are called to follow and sometimes the next step along the way feels like a giant leap of faith. Through all seasons of life, the Lord is the one we look to, he leads and we are called to follow.

Bishop Guli's tribute as composer Sir John Rutter is knighted

The Bishop of Chelmsford, Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, has paid tribute to the composer Sir John Rutter who has been knighted in the recent King's Birthday Honours List.

Bishop Guli said: "Warmest congratulations to John Rutter on being awarded a knighthood in The King's Birthday Honours. His enormous contribution to sacred choral music as a composer, arranger, editor and conductor over half a century has been a huge blessing and has enriched our worship."

Sabbatical: what's one of them then?

Derreck Lee-Philpot

Sabbatical – what's one of them then?

Good question. Short answer, it is definitely not a holiday!

Well, the concept of the sabbatical is based on the Biblical practice of shmita (sabbatical year), which is related to agriculture. According to Leviticus 25 and Exodus 23, Jews in the Land of Israel must take a year-long break from working the fields and collecting debts every seven years.

God called the people and their land to rest that year and promised a bumper harvest the year before to prepare for it. Clearly, the Sabbatical year described here was a big step of trust in the goodness of the Lord to provide for His people in a sabbath year of no work or harvest.

The 'modern' sabbatical began in the 1880s in academia. Harvard University in the USA is believed to be the first institution to offer the facility. Once the concept of sabbath year was adopted by academia it became known as a 'sabbatical year', a year of paid leave given once every six years to a university professor so that they could grow their knowledge through travel, study or undertaking a 'passion project' of their own choosing, such as assisting at an archaeological dig. Sabbatical has more recently become more widespread in institutions outside academia.

For a priest, this stepping back from everyday ministry provides a space to undertake study, go on retreat, and personally develop one's relationship with God. Dioceses differ in the way they administer them. For example, Carlisle offers sabbaticals every seven years (very scriptural!) others like Leicester, Oxford and Chichester allow them after ten years, some give a little financial support, others don't.

The expectation is that some of the time will be given over to your relationship with God. This means withdrawing from church, work, family, and responsibility to refresh your own personal spiritual life in a way which is best for you.

Or put another way to engage in the 3Rs, Renewal, Retreat, Rest.

There should be balanced elements of study, reflection, doing or experiencing something new within the life of faith. Importantly making time for one's partner is also a priority in these days as relationships can be put under stress, and time should also be invested there. And yes even taking a holiday can be a part of the sabbatical schedule.

The hope is that you return to ministry refreshed, renewed, envisioned, the coals of faith being fanned once again into flame.

Corrinne and I will be doing quite a lot of the sabbatical together. The plan is to start at New Wine where we will sit and hear a range of teaching through services and seminars, as well as spending time relaxing on our church site with many other folk from Seaford Parish. Hopefully drinking much tea and eating just as much cake! Following New Wine I have three retreats arranged. Two will be guided retreats led by others at Nether Springs (HQ of the Northumbria Community) near Lindisfarne, which will be about the 'Celtic Saints and Sites.' Then across the border onto Iona Abbey on a 'Time and Space' retreat including an accompanied pilgrimage around the island. I also have a self-defined retreat at West Watch, a more local retreat centre near Haywards Heath. Corrinne and I will also stay in a remote farmhouse in the middle of the Northumbria National Park close to what was Sycamore Gap. It is a designated 'dark sky' area so the star-capes should be spectacular, we are hoping the meteorite showers that come each August will be very visible there. There we will take time to prayerfully consider and reflect on all that we have learned, heard, and experienced in the previous five weeks or so. For much of this time we will be hard to contact as WiFi and mobile signals will be variable – oh joy!

On the long drive home we hope to stop and spend time with friends we haven't seen since coming to Seaford. On arriving home we anticipate visiting a range of other churches in the area of varying Christian expression, denomination and spirituality, high church, low church, all sorts. This is to broaden again my appreciation of worship throughout the

wider church, it's easy to get stuck in a 'God only does it one way' mentality.

Interspersed with this will be reading a stack of books on multiple topics, including a 2600-page four volume book on St Paul and his relationship with God that I have waited years to get my nose into.

It is a tightly packed time, it's certainly not a holiday as I expect to drive around two thousand miles during the sabbatical.

There is some very definite fun stuff also. Seeing family and grandchildren, they are coming to stay for several days and that certainly won't be restful but will be great fun. And did I mention holiday? Well, the last two weeks of sabbatical will be spent on a cruise holiday, again WiFi and mobile contact is difficult (and expensive) whilst at sea.

Having said that it is my intention to send back updates on what we are doing and learning, not quite a diary or journal – more a 'proof of life.' Hopefully, that will give you all a flavour of what we are experiencing both here and the far-flung places we will visit.

Corrinne and I expect great things of this sabbatical time, so do please pray for us while we are away. Not just for great and amazing revelations (those too please) but also the simple stuff like clear roads, travel connections and safe on-time ferry crossings.





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



Parish Camp

Stefan Bracher
07506 143 476

cyfw@seafordparish.org.uk

We are getting so excited to have our Seaford Parish Church Camp coming on August 24th-26th (Bank Holiday weekend).

This camp has been set up with the mind of bringing everyone together with our theme of TOGETHER, and is therefore suitable for those aged 0+. From flower arranging, to reading a book, to worshiping, praying and even watching a movie, to sitting chatting, eating together and laughing together, we have you covered for a great relaxing weekend or days out over in Chiddingly, only 25 minutes away!

The campsite we are using is a dedicated Christian Campsite called Cold Harbour Meadows, just on the outskirts of Chiddingly. It boasts of fantastic facilities, including lovely warm showers, clean fresh toilets, disabled toilets and shower, industrial kitchen, one large eating marquee, one large worship marquee, dedicated parking and power supplies throughout the site. With its lovely flat ground it's also perfect for just strolling around to take in the views of the local animals (usually the cows) and big enough to have just 10 minutes of peace and quiet to yourself.

It is not too late to get involved. We ask that you book in by Tuesday 20th August so we can arrange food, crafts, etc. But if really need be give me a call and we'll see what we can do!

You can attend for a day visit, camp for whole weekend or come every single day for camp but as a day visitor. More importantly you'll be relaxing together with others from your Church family. In this issue of the magazine you'll be able to see all of the programme for camp, as well as the activities/workshops on offer (subject to a little change of course). If you haven't seen anything you'd like, let us know and we'll see if we can add in a workshop for you.

If you would like to book a place, but would rather not pay online, please do let me know and I will get you booked on and sort payment an alternative way. Not going to be able to afford it? Speak to me in confidence and we can look at how we can support you. The cost should not be a reason why you cannot attend the camp in some way. I hope you are able to join us for this amazing time as we come TOGETHER as one big family of believers and just enjoy each other's company.

SEAFORD PARISH CHURCH PROGRAMME

Saturday 24th

- 0730 Leaders Morning Prayer
- 0900 Campers & Day Visitors Arrive
- 1230 Welcome Meeting
- 1300 Lunch
- 1430 Getting to know you
- 1530 Skills Workshop/ Free Time
- 1730 Inflatables/ Game Sets/ Free Time
- 1800 Dinner
- 1915 Evening Worship
- 2000 Campfire & Marshmallows
- 2100 Adults Only Campfire Worship
- 2300 Campsite Lockdown

Sunday 25th

- 0730 Leaders Morning Prayer
- 0800 Breakfast
- 0900 Day Visitors Arrive
- 0930 Morning Worship
- 1030 Tea, Coffee, Juice - Reflection
- 1130 Skills Workshop/ Free Time
- 1300 BBQ Lunch
- 1430 Skills Workshop/ Water Games/ Free Time
- 1600 Cake Time
- 1630 Skills Workshop/ Free Time
- 1800 Dinner
- 1915 Evening Worship
- 2000 Campfire & Sausages
- 2100 Adults Only Campfire Worship
- 2300 Campsite Lockdown

Monday 26th

- 0730 Leaders Morning Prayer
- 0800 Breakfast
- 0900 Day Visitors Arrive
- 0930 Morning Worship
- 1030 Tea, Coffee, Juice - Reflection
- 1130 Skills Workshop/ Rounders/ Free Time
- 1300 Lunch
- 1430 Worship
- 1515 Pack Down & Goodbyes
- 1630 Leaders Debrief
- 1730 Final Equipment Take Down

All times are subject to change, however we will stick to the timings as best as possible.

SEAFORD PARISH CHURCH WORKSHOPS/ACTIVITIES

Saturday 24th

- Guitar Workshop
- Camp Banner
- Film Making
- Card Making
- Inflatables
- Grill-a-Vicar
- Church History
- The Movie Tent
- The Prayer Tent

(Activities subject to change)

Sunday 25th

- Flower Arranging
- Samba
- Camp Banner
- Karaoke
- Design a Camp Bag
- Discovering Prayer
- Campfire food
- Pilates
- Kids Little Chef Baking
- Chiddingly Adventure Walk
- Water Games
- The Movie Tent
- The Prayer Tent
- Sharing the Faith

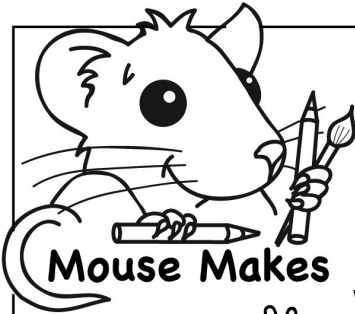
(Activities subject to change)

Monday 26th

- Samba
- Camp Banner
- Karaoke
- Rounders
- Campfire food
- Film Making
- The Movie Tent
- The Prayer Tent

(Activities subject to change)

All activities and workshops are subject to change, however we will stick to the timings as best as possible. Please keep an eye out for additional activities and workshops too!



**"AND WHEN YOU PRAY,
PRAY THEN LIKE THIS ..."**

Where does Jesus say
to go to pray?
Matthew 6:6



What does God know
before you ask Him?
Matthew 6:8



What can we ask God
to deliver us from?
Matthew 6:13

If you forgive others
what will God do?
Matthew 6:14



**"Always be full of joy.
Never stop praying.
Whatever happens,
always be thankful!"**
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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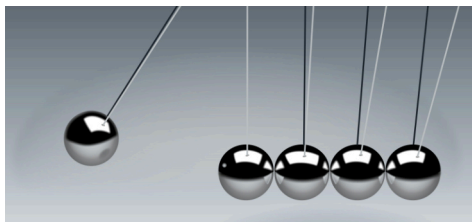
ROOM • PRAY • ASK • NEEDS • HEARD • JESUS
LORDS PRAYER • OUR • FATHER • HALLOWED • HONOURED
NAME • THY • KINGDOM • COME • YOUR • WILL • DONE
EARTH • HEAVEN • DAILY • BREAD • FORGIVE • DEBTS
SINS • TEMPTATION • DELIVER • EVIL • AMEN

Physicist and Priest: John Polkinghorne (1930-2021)

At the age of 48 the Cambridge Professor John Polkinghorne decided he'd done his bit for physics and that it was time for a different sort of adventure. Resigning his academic position, he trained for ordination in the Church of England. In an interview 40 years later he said, *"It's one thing to go to church on Sundays but to give up a professorship and train for something else – that was a bit more than a gesture...I think a lot of people realised I was a religious person but they didn't expect me to take it quite that seriously...People were saying to me, 'Oh John what are you up to?' They mostly weren't thinking so much about my becoming a clergyman but just the fact that I was a Christian."* (From *Test of Faith, Paternoster, 2009*)

John saw his work in science as a Christian vocation, and he felt a responsibility to use his talents in that area. Once ordained he found himself thoroughly engaged in the conversation about science and religion. One of his main messages was that *"I'm not a vegetarian butcher. There is a cousinly relationship between thinking about theology and thinking about science."*

When asked for a Bible passage to appear at the end of his 2009 interview John chose Colossians 1:15–20: 'He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by



Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the first-born from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.'

John's explanation for his choice speaks volumes to anyone interested in the science-faith dialogue. *"I value this passage because it speaks of the cosmic significance of Christ, the One in whom all things hold together and who redeems all things (notice, not just all people) by the blood of His cross. Here meet my deepest religious beliefs and my strongest scientific concerns."*

This series is written by 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.



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 August:

Link to Hope

- Ukraine – that Ukrainians will know love, prayer and support as they continue to face traumatic times.
- The Project Managers in Eastern Europe.
- This year's Shoe Box Appeal – the recipients that they may feel loved and for the deliverers to stay safe.

LAMA

- Health and strength for the wider Gomez Family especially during the Monsoon season.
- The ministry within the Rehab Centre and that the boys leaving will receive support in the community and find employment.
- The church fellowship that LAMA provides including the Wednesday evening outreach on the beach.

Please pray during September:

Local Schools

- For a smooth and positive start to the new school year.
- For governors, all staff and pupils and a happy stress free start, focussed on creating nurturing, learning and inspiring communities.
- For new staff, starting in post for the first time; for the new head teacher at Seaford Primary School as he prepares to start in January.
- For children starting their school for the first time, particularly those who are anxious and unhappy; for those individuals and teams who are supporting them.
- For families dealing with the financial crisis and the stresses that brings.
- For behaviour and mental health issues in students

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 Prayer Ministry Teams at St Leonard's and St Luke's.
- For Beach Church on the Sundays during August.
- For those persecuted for their Christian faith, and living in fear of their lives or have lost everything and are now destitute.
- Those living and working in Alfriston Road, Sutton Mews, Alfriston Park, Seafeld Close, Old Nursery Close, Kammond Avenue.

Monday

- That there will be end to the war between Russia and Ukraine and resolution to the conflict between Israel and the Hamas led Palestinian militant groups.
- All those suffering, dispossessed and having to flee their homeland.
- The thousands affected by rising temperatures and no electricity following Hurricane Beryl in areas of the USA.
- The severe lack of food and the continuing drought in the Horn of Africa: the millions fleeing the area.
- For those living and working in Cradle Hill Road, Sutton Road, Harrison Road, Meadow Way, Sheep Pen Lane

Tuesday

- The King and Queen and members of the Royal Family. For complete healing and recovery for the King, The Princess of Wales and the Princess Royal.
- For our Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, the Cabinet and all members of parliament in their new responsibilities: that they will act with integrity and justice.
- Those who are employed by Parliament.
- Those working within all departments of the Civil Service.
- For all those serving in our armed forces.
- For our NHS service struggling with limited staff, the backlog of case loads, an aging population and an increase in available treatments.
- Those living and working in Sandore Road, Sandore Close, Bromley Road, Blue Haze Avenue, Richington Way.

Wednesday

- Our new MP James MacCleary: that he will serve the Lewes constituency with diligence and honesty.
- Those working within the local Emergency Services: Ambulance, Coastguards, Fire and Rescue, Lifeboat volunteers and the Police.
- The local GP practices and local pharmacies currently under extreme

- pressure causing worry and distress for patients.
- Our local nursing and care homes remembering those who go from the parish to provide regular worship services.
- Those providing care for those in their own homes.
- Those living and working in Eton Close, Harrow Close, Roedean Close, Benenden Close, Rugby Close, Dulwich Close, Millfield Close.

Thursday

- Rev James and Rev Lucy as they minister to the parish and beyond.
- Rev Carole as she settles in as our new curate.
- Corrinne and Rev Derreck now on his sabbatical for August & September.
- Our Administrator Charlie and Tony working in the office.
- Our Churchwardens Liz and Fred.
- The retired clergy who live in our parish & those who worship with us.
- Those living and working in Valley Drive, Quarry Lane, Lexden Road, Lexden Court, Barn Rise, Raymond Close.

Friday

- The Holiday activities organised by Stefan, our Children, Youth & Families Worker, and the different teams of volunteers.
- The Tots Treats meeting either in St Luke's or St Leonard's during August and then as usual in both churches from 2 September.
- Those who attended the Sparks Camp: that they will understand more about Jesus.
- Those living and working in The Peverells, Lexden Drive, Pitt Drive, Barn Close, Coxwell Close.

Saturday

- That as a parish we can work towards providing a more eco-friendly environment.
- Those responsible for managing the South Downs National Park in their vision to support this bio-diverse habitat for all manner of birds, plants, reptiles, amphibians, fish, small mammals and pollinators.
- All those who will be visiting the Seaford Head Nature Reserve that they will show respect for this area.
- For the safety and well-being of all who visit the town, nearby countryside and beaches this summer.
- Those living and working in Vale Close, Vale Road, Etherton Way, West Dean Rise, East Dean Rise.

Lunchtime Concerts



Saturday 17th August D'Arcy Trinkwon (organ)

One of the distinguished musicians of his generation, D'Arcy Trinkwon is acclaimed as a unique artist who demonstrates superlative artistry and prodigious talent at international festivals and celebrity concert series in concert halls, cathedrals and churches around the world, including solo,

concerto and broadcast appearances, master classes and coaching. Alongside his concert career he is Organist to the University of Sussex.

Saturday 21st September Hammig String Quartet

The London based Hammig String Quartet was first formed in 1989. Over the years they have given concerts in many venues in England and Wales, and also in Germany. They are frequent performers at St. George's Beckenham, and were the inaugural Artists in Residence at St John's Catford for the 2017-18 season. They have recently completed a performance cycle, over several years, of all Shostakovich's String Quartets. They also perform at weddings and other functions, and coach adult amateurs on chamber music courses and workshops.



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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KITTENS TO ELDERLY CATS ALL NEED LOVING HOMES!



Neutering

We can also help towards the cost of
neutering your cats and kittens.

Please phone 01273 813111 (Option 3)
and leave a message including your phone number
so that we may contact you.



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

Diocesan Environment Day

Nicola Ferguson

This year's Diocesan Environmental Day on June 15th was held at St. Mark's Holbrook and was set up as workshops.

Ahead of time, delegates were sent the choices of workshops and asked to choose three workshops from those on offer. These included: Managing Church Buildings, Managing church Land, Getting your message across, Worship & Creation, Why Biodiversity matters and Eco Champions.

It was a very well organised event and upon arrival we were given name labels with the names of the workshops we were attending and shown a layout of the church and grounds. There was ample time to say hello to familiar faces and after refreshments, inspirational lead in talks were given by our Diocesan Environmental Officer, Buff Forbes-Stone and a representative of the environmental charity, A Rocha, Karen Parks (who is also St Mark's Eco Church Champion).

The event was attended by over eighty people from the length and breadth of the Diocese and we had an opportunity to hear their ideas for implementing and developing environmental awareness in their own churches.

It is the second time I have been to St. Mark's, the first for one of our ALM days in Eco Church and Care for Creation training days. St Mark's is one of many churches who are registered with A



Rocha and are attaining awards to recognise their journey to measure and reduce their carbon footprint, as they reach towards net zero.

St. Mark's is a modern church in modest grounds and one of the most popular workshops during the day was Worship and Creation which was based around a 'forest church', nestling in a circular clearing in a densely shrub-canopied area. Woodsmoke rose from the fire pit and we sat on tree stumps and pallet benches. Encouraged to sit quietly and listen to the sounds of nature, we then collected an item from the nearby grounds to press into clay as a craft project. Apples grown in the grounds could be eaten and marshmallows roasted at the fire. All agreed that sitting quietly watching the flames with our feet firm to the 'forest' floor grounded us into preparation for prayer and worship, when we discussed aspects of how the environment is portrayed in the Bible.

David Farey led the workshop on Getting your message across - and it came as a surprise to many of us that he had been the Diocesan Environmental Officer in 2014, at a time when the bishops and synod approved the environmental policy.

In the workshop, David was showing people how to communicate on issues around climate change.

David says, '...it was a popular workshop and a lot of common problems were expressed by participants - how to get the message across to their own congregations (even their own vicars), what to do if they were a lone voice in their church and the best means to get the message across...'

In the feedback time at the end of the day David added '...when we launched the environmental policy back in 2014, I could never have dreamed of holding an event like this. We still have a long way to go in persuading people how important these issues are, but we have come a long way. Be encouraged.'

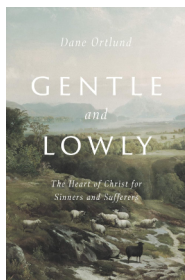
There were so many inspiring thoughts and ideas from attendees, that we all came away with lots of ideas to see what we could do in Seaford Parish. Expect to see notice boards up in both St. Luke's and St. Leonard's in August where we will display many of these ideas from St. Mark's at Holbrook, but also from A Rocha, Wild Christian, Creation Care, Climate Stewards, Net carbon zero, Land and Nature, Eco Church as well as details of our goal to attain Bronze, Silver and ultimately Gold awards from A Rocha and expect to see us in the church grounds a lot more too. The day ended with prayer.



Our Father who art in Heaven
***You are also at home in the air, soil
forests and ocean***
Hallowed be your name
By the care we take of your creation
Your Kingdom come
All that you see is good
Your will be done on earth, as it is in
Heaven
Your will to till and care
Give us this day our daily bread
***That all may have sufficient to live life
in fullness.***
Forgive us our trespasses
***Our greed, our exploitation, our lack of
concern, for other species and for
future generations***
As we forgive those who trespass
against us
***By reconciliation with justice and
peace***
Lead us not into temptation
***The temptation to equate dominion
with exploitation***
And deliver us from evil
***The evil of destroying your gift of
creation***
For yours is the kingdom
Yours, Lord, not ours
The power and the glory
In the cross and resurrection
For ever and ever
***You are the beginning and you are the
end.***
Amen.

Book Reviews

Derreck Lee-Philpot



Gentle and Lowly

Dane C. Ortland

(2020).

Publisher: Crossway,

Some of my book reviews of late have been of books that are like a freezing cold shower, awakening us

to something new or challenging. 'Gentle and Lowly' is more of a warm soak in a bubble-bath. It is the literary equivalent of a quiet night in dressed in a fluffy onesie, with a large mug of smooth, silky, hot chocolate and a plate piled high with your favourite comfort food – get the picture?

The title comes from Jesus words in Matt 11:29, "...for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." If you harbour any doubt as to how Jesus sees you this book will dispel any lingering misgiving. It's a description of the heart of Jesus as it is revealed to us as His beloved children. If you are feeling bruised and battered, or even tired, weary and hanging by your fingertips, then this is your medicine. If you are not that bad, just feeling a little lost, not sensing or certain of God's love for you, then this is your prescription.

With it's twenty-three chapters only a few pages each this is an easy, accessible read. Allow the pages to just wash over you as they remind and reinforce the love of Jesus for you. This is not a book of challenge, it is not 'meaty', but sometimes it does us good to feed on a little 'milk of the word'.

I suppose a summing up of 'Gentle and Lowly' might be in the words of H.F.Lyte, 'Fatherlike He tends and spares us, well our feeble frame He knows. In His hand He gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes

Paul: A Biography

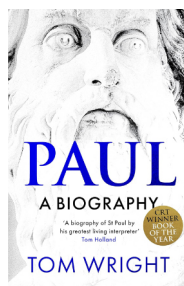
Tom Wright (2018)

Publisher: SPCK

This is not a soft, cuddly read like 'Gentle and Lowly'.

For starters it's over 400 pages long. But, don't be intimidated.

Whenever you pick up one of Wright's books, look at the name. If it is N.T. Wright you have a theological tome in your hands. However, if it's a Tom Wright you have a book of a lighter nature, still just as scholarly, as deep, and as well written but not a 'monster'.



Just before attending my BAP (three days of interviews pre-training) I read a book called, 'Paul, follower of Christ or founder of Christianity', it's still available. That book didn't really answer the question. Neither does Wright's book here, but, the curious reader who wants to learn a little more as to how Christianity became a religion unto itself and Paul's role in all of that will find much to sink their teeth into. It does take some effort as it invites the reader to "think themselves into the minds of people who did not think the same way we do" (p. 133).

One startling reminder for me was the realisation there was no such religion as Christianity in Paul's time, that Paul felt that the resurrection of Jesus and everything that fell out of that was a part of his own Jewishness as much as it was the green light to go ahead and convert the Gentiles. Obvious really, why had I not seen it before, I knew that, but not the implications that come from it. But that is Wright's genius in opening paths that are both obvious and overlooked.

As Wright describes events in the first century, you feel like you are there! Watching, listening, and at times even smelling the environment. You also see things that should be obvious but somehow aren't: the fact that being in prison was not a sentence but a place of waiting for a decision about your fate, or the probability that Paul could only demonstrate his Roman citizenship by carrying the small wooden badge, the diploma, that confirmed it; the distances he travelled, e.g. from Tarsus to Jerusalem was 355m not a journey to be taken lightly.

Wright paints Paul as a person: a real individual with ups and downs, agendas and complexities, hopes and fears, a passion for mission and a passion for prayer.

Wright's Paul isn't a theologian in an ivory tower, or an evangelist on steroids, or even the greatest letter-writer who ever lived; he's a three-dimensional, many-faceted, complicated human being, who feels crushed at times, yet remains the kind of person who "will say 'Boo' to every goose within earshot and to all the swans as well."

This book basically illustrates all of the political, not just religious, motivations for why Paul wrote what he did. Looking at Paul's work from a historical, viewpoint, really changes the meaning behind the words in a big way, and makes one appreciate how they've been twisted to various political ends ever since. As you read you will almost certainly 'see' a different Paul to the one you think you know now. You'll see a man of depth, learning, even compassion. Come and read, be drawn into this amazing man's life, and in further understanding him understand more of our faith and the New Testament writings that describe its birth.

Nicholas Thomas Wright FRSE (b. 1 December 1948), known as N.T. Wright or Tom Wright, is an English New Testament scholar, Pauline theologian and Anglican bishop. He was the bishop of Durham from 2003 to 2010. He then became research professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at St Mary's College in the University of St Andrews in Scotland until 2019, when he became a senior research fellow at Wycliffe Hall at the University of Oxford.

Springboard!

David Farey

When I was a curate Pat and I would try to go once a week to a dance class. Due to parish commitments our attendance was spasmodic at best and so we saw ourselves as perpetual beginners! That was inevitable under the circumstances, but that should not be the case in the Christian life. We should always be learning, growing and improving the practice of our faith.

There is also a joke where you can put various groups or individuals in the opening question, but here is one for us. "How many Anglicans does it take to change a lightbulb?" Answer – "Change?!" Certain churches get a reputation for resisting change in any shape or form. But there's another pithy question and answer that says, "What are the last words of a dying church?" Answer – "But we've always done it like that!"

As Christians we believe in the unchangeability of God. The God of Adam and Eve is the same God of Moses, of Elijah, of David, of Jesus – of us! But how we interact with him and with one another can change. The world has moved on such as in the world of communications. St Paul didn't have television, but if he were around today I'm sure he would be working hard to get his message across using it.

We have to change. If we are not changing, learning and growing then we are dying. This is especially so in our Christian faith. No matter how old we

are we should be learning and growing. There is a lovely story about a monk in Greece who at over a hundred years old lay dying said, "That's a pity, I think I'm just beginning to get the hang of it!" That's the attitude that should be encouraged, of thinking we haven't arrived yet and need to keep adapting and learning. If we think we've learned all we need to know about God and Jesus then we are getting it hopelessly wrong! There is always more!

Our home groups should be the nursery for new leaders. To learn and grow in the knowledge of God so that some of the members can be equipped to form their own groups, while the others are equipped to take on other responsibilities in His Church. The home groups then become the springboards to further service. Then there's no limit to what can be achieved.



Wendy checked the message on her mobile

Isn't it Strange

Isn't it strange...

How a £20 note seems like such a large amount when you donate it to church, but such a small amount when you go shopping?

Isn't it strange...

How 2 hours seem so long when you're at church, and how short they seem when you're watching a good movie?

Isn't it strange...

That you can't find a word to say when you're praying but you have no trouble thinking what to talk about with a friend?

Isn't it strange...

How difficult and boring it is to read one chapter of the Bible but how easy it is to read 100 pages of a popular novel?

Isn't it strange...

How everyone wants front-row-tickets to concerts or games but they do whatever is possible to sit at the last row in Church?

Isn't it strange...

How we need to know about an event for Church 2-3 weeks before the day so we can include it in our agenda, but we can adjust it for other events in the last minute?

Isn't it strange...

How difficult it is to learn a fact about God to share it with others; but how easy it is to learn, understand, extend and repeat gossip?

Isn't it strange...

How we believe everything that magazines and newspapers say but... we question the words in the Bible?

Isn't it strange...

How everyone wants a place in heaven but they don't want to believe, do, or say anything to get there?

Isn't it strange...

How we send jokes in e-mails and they are forwarded right away but when we are going to send messages about God, we think about it twice before we share it with others?



Nicola Ferguson



General Election Campaign: Break Bread with your newly elected MP

Christian Aid are asking us all to contact our new MP to urge them to act on Poverty. "Change is made by those who show up. We have a new UK Parliament! What an opportunity we now have for a fresh start and to build relationships with our newly elected MPs. We invite you to follow in Jesus' footsteps: to sit down and break bread with decision makers and urge them to act on poverty." *Christian Aid*

Put Peace First - The UK government has the power and influence to play a positive role in taking on this challenge, but the proportion of the UK aid budget spent on peace building and conflict prevention fell by half in the ten years to 2020. We are still one of the biggest exporters of military equipment and training. Peace is never more urgent and Christian Aid is calling on the UK government to take a **Peace First** approach: address the root causes of conflict by tackling poverty and the climate crisis, spend more of UK aid and defence budgets on peace building, voting for peace at the United Nations

and stopping arms sales to governments and groups who are violating international law or human rights.

So, whilst we may not get to sit down and break bread with Lewes MP James MacCleary to discuss these issues, we can write to him at: House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA or email james.maccleary.mp@parliament.uk

There will be an envelope at the back of the church marked 'Christian Aid letters for James MacCleary'. If you would like to hand write a letter regarding the above or print one off, pop it in the envelope by the end of August and I will send them sent off on behalf of Christian Aid from members of our Parish. Let's give him plenty to read and think about!

"You at your church can be agents for peace and forgiveness too. Tell your politicians you care about action on poverty. That means the UK putting Peace first." *Christian Aid*



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Homelink: Helping people into Housing

Terry Howell

The Summer Weather!

I write this on a wet St. Swithin's Day threatening 40 more rainy days. This summer, I have often been reminded of the song by Flanders and Swan:-

*In July the sun is hot – is it shining ? –
NO IT'S NOT.*

It was a **great** disappointment that when Ros our Chair had generously offered her splendid garden for a garden party next to Lewes Castle, we were hit with a double whammy. First the forecast predicted rain and strong winds but the garden has no shelter; and then Jane, who was planning the event, was diagnosed with covid. It was decided to cancel the Garden Party which was our major event for fundraising this year. Our last garden party raised over £2,000 but this year we have lost money spent on our lovely posters as well as refunding tickets.

Grants

In the last quarter we have had a surge in demand up from 22 in the first quarter to 36. This is due to housing being made available in Newhaven by Southern Housing Association and some new Council housing and apartments. Although very welcome, this housing is totally unfurnished with no white goods or floor covering! People and families moving in from temporary accommodation have very few belongings. We provide help but even when restricting our help to a maximum of £350 we have exceeded our budget. This is smaller than last year because then we were helped by a grant from Enjoolata for carpets and could give up to £800. . However, we have had some welcome support from another charity Cliffe Feofees to help those in Lewes town.



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.

Loans

In this half year we have made 27 loans, expecting 54 for the year - up from 47 made last year. Many people are finding it easier to find properties as the housing allowance increased by almost 20% in April which leaves a smaller gap to fill to pay the rent. Our repayment rate remains at 75% which is excellent. I must remind you that our Client Managers are supporting many clients in their sympathetic approach even where we cannot help them for sound reasons (e.g. large existing debts) but this good work does not appear in statistics..

Prayers:

- For our finances that we may support as many as possible.
- Wisdom for our Trustees and Management Committee
- For those in need of housing or feeling hopeless

I am a man of hope, not for human reasons, nor from any natural optimism, but because I believe the Holy Spirit is at work in the Church and in the world even when His name remains unheard.

Cardinal Suenens

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Life And More Abundant Ministries

LAMA

Lesley Gomez

Thank you for prayer and for everyone's generosity while we were in England. We arrived back in the Philippines July 8th and home at 5:15pm BST, having left Seaford at 11am July 7th. There is a seven hour time difference, so still jet-lagged as I write this letter and slowly becoming accustomed again to the humidity and dust.

Our UK tour began for me and Michael in April at Great Lumley, Durham. Every Sunday was booked for us to speak about the work of LAMA Ministries in the Philippines. We travelled by train with a Railcard and got some good discounted fares, and the internet helped me find places to stay within walking distance. In every church people were moved to tears as we shared what God is doing in answer to their prayers and giving. Pastors were often quite shaken and weeping as they closed the services, so encouraged and challenged. Our Scripture verse has always been John 10:10 Life And More Abundant (LAMA) - this is God's mission, we told how the Holy Spirit visited the boys during worship in evening devotions before bedtime. The pictures of boys kneeling and worshipping with faces toward heaven and hands raised moved many to tears, as they too long for the Holy Spirit to be poured out on them. Many were challenged to take worship out of the

church to the streets and cafes, as Michael and the team do at sunset on Wednesdays. At each venue I spoke from Luke 4:18 – Jesus' purpose in ministry was to heal broken hearts and set captives free. The last church for us to visit was Brunswick Baptist Church in Gloucester, where I was part of the Youth Group in the 1980's. It was my 'sending church'. They have supported me amazingly since I left England in 1983 through several changes of leadership. It was an extra special visit as many of my friends from the former Youth Group, all now in their 60's, had travelled back to Gloucester to say 'hello'. At the close of the service Pastor Stuart read again from Luke 4:18, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach the



gospel to the poor, he has sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised," (KJ21).

As he read the Scripture with tears rolling down his face, it hit me! That was exactly what we had testified to in our meetings - Michael had tearfully told the churches about miraculous answers to prayer for healing at RRCY, the young offenders prison - one boy healed of glaucoma, the doctor had said he could go blind. Another boy healed of a heart condition, the doctor has said he needed a pacemaker operation. From 160 inmates the numbers had dropped dramatically to less than 60. Michael was still receiving messages in UK from boys who had just been released.

Broken heart - sight to the blind - deliverance for captives! The Pastor was shaking as he spoke, and announced he was determined to take worship to the needy streets of Gloucester!

So, an emotional trip, but well worth it - it was so good to see people, some who have supported me in missions for over 40 years - how amazing that is! Thank you to all at St Leonard's and St Luke's, glad we were able to spend some time with you. The Summer in the Philippines was 45 degrees this year, very thankful for the cooler English weather - I might need to visit every year April to June just for UK climate comforts. Now we are in monsoon season, a little cooler but 90% humidity. Peter, Simon, Ana and our team are all well and send their love.

Refugees find hope through music charity supported by MAF

MAF is partnering with an unusual programme which reaches out to traumatised refugees in Bidibidi, in northern Uganda, the world's second largest refugee settlement.

'Brass for Africa' is a music programme that visits the settlement twice a week, bringing joy to hundreds of stranded people who have barely survived the horrors of war.

The Bidibidi Settlement is 'home' to at least 272,000 most South Sudanese refugees who have fled South Sudan's six-year civil war. They are haunted by graphic memories of the murders they have witnessed, and many are in the grip of depression.

According to Brass for Africa, the refugees have responded well to the music programme, and the suicide rate among them has significantly dropped. What has especially helped them has been the chance to learn to play brass instruments themselves. This helps them relax, and also to learn a new skill which may one day help them earn a living.

Brass for Africa supports many other vulnerable people across Uganda, Rwanda and Liberia.

Poetry Corner

Diary of a Church Mouse

John Betjeman

Selected by Jim Holmes



Here among long-discarded cassocks,
Damp stools, and half split-open
hassocks,
Here where the vicar never looks
I nibble thorough old service books.
Lean and alone I spend my days
Behind this Church of England baize.
I share my dark forgotten room
with two oil lamps and half a broom.
The cleaner never bothers me,
And so I eat my frugal tea.
My bread is sawdust mixed with straw;
My jam is polish for the floor.
Christmas and Easter may be feasts
For congregations and for priests,
And so may Whitsun. All the same,
They do not fill my meagre frame.
For me the only feast at all
is Autumn's Harvest Festival,
When I can satisfy my want
With ears of corn around the font.
I climb the eagle's brazen head
To burrow through a loaf of bread.
I scramble up the pulpit stair
And gnaw the marrows hanging there.
It is enjoyable to taste
These items ere they go to waste,
But how annoying when one finds
That other mice with pagan minds
Come into church my food to share
Who have no proper business there.
Two field mice who have no desire
To be baptised invade the choir.
A large and most unfriendly rat
Comes in to see what we are at.

He says he thinks there is no God
And yet he comes . . . it's rather odd.
This year he stole a sheaf of wheat
(It screened our special preacher's
seat),
And prosperous mice from fields away
Come in to hear the organ play,
And under cover of its notes
Ate through the altar's sheaf of oats.
A low church mouse, who thinks that I
Am too papistic, and High,
Yet somehow doesn't think it wrong
To munch through Harvest Evensong,
While I, who starve the whole year
through,
Must share my food with rodents who
Except at this time of the year
Not once inside the church appear.
Within the human world I know
Such goings-on would not be so,
For human beings only do
What their religion tells them to,
They read the bible every day
And always night and morning pray,
And just like me, the good church
mouse
Worship each week in God's own
house.
But all the same it's strange to me
How very full the church can be
With people I don't see at all
Except at Harvest Festival.

A Church Sitter's Prayer

Linda Parsons

No matter how your day may be -
Happy, sad, rejoicing, glad,
Lone and weary,
Dull and dreary.
If there be sun or rain,
You're feeling fine or in much pain.
As you pass by this way,
Why not come inside.
There will always be
Someone to say, 'Welcome',
With a smile.
Take time, maybe. to rest a while.
Should you need to talk, sit or pray,
Or simply come in and say 'Hallo',

You are welcome, have no fear.
Just feel at ease when you enter here.
Within these walls there is such love,
Peace that comes from above.

Whether you come in or walk on by -
From within comes it's people's cry -
'Whatever you do, or wherever you go
this day -
We pray 'May the Lord bless you on
your
way".

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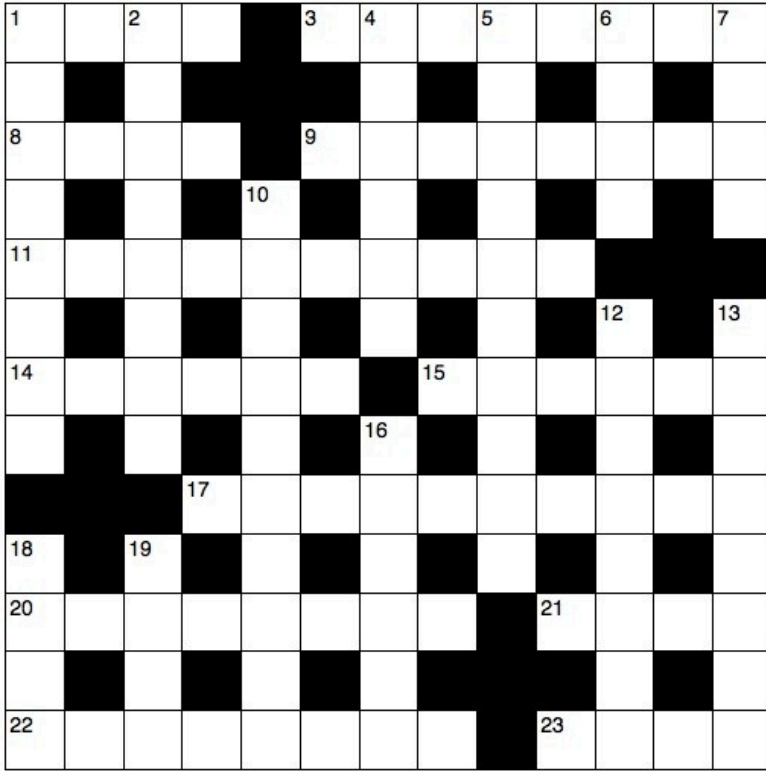


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Crossword



Across

- 1 and 3. Two of the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28) (4,3,5)
 3. See 1 Across
 8. 'Let us draw — to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith' (Hebrews 10:22) (4)
 9. O Simon is (anag.) (8)
 11. Form of government under the direct rule of God or his agents (10)
 14. How Jesus found his disciples when he returned to them after praying in Gethsemane (Luke 22:45) (6)
 15. In The Pilgrim's Progress, the name of the meadow into which Christian strayed, which led to Doubting Castle (2-4)
 17. Glad sin rat (anag.) (10)
 20. Spinal column (Leviticus 3:9) (8)
 21. Valley of the Balsam Tree with a reputation of being a waterless place (Psalm 84:6) (4)
 22. 'The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one — — sees clearly' (Numbers 24:3) (5,3)
 23. Adam and Eve's third son (Genesis 4:25) (4)

August-September Lectionary

Sunday 4th August
10th After Trinity
Ephesians 4. 1-16
John 6.24–35

Sunday 11th August
11th After Trinity
Ephesians 4. 25-5.2
John 6.35,41–51

Sunday 18th August
12th After Trinity
Ephesians 5. 15-20
John 6.51–58

Sunday 25th August
13th After Trinity
Ephesians 6. 10-20
John 6.56–69

Sunday 1st September
14th After Trinity
James 1. 17-27
Mark 7.1–8,14,15,21–23

Sunday 8th September
15th After Trinity
James 2. 1-17
Mark 7.24–37

Sunday 15th September
16th After Trinity
James 3. 1-12
Mark 8.27–38

Sunday 22nd September
17th After Trinity
James 3. 13-4.3, 7-8a
Mark 9.30–37

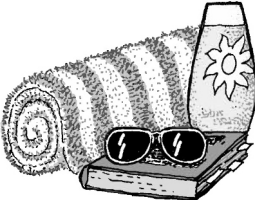
Sunday 29th September
Michaelmas
Revelation 12.7-12
John 1.47-51

Down

1. David's great friend (1 Samuel 20:17) (8)
2. 'The Lord... will bring me safely to his — kingdom' (2 Timothy 4:18) (8)
4. 'I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; — — or wine touched my lips' (Daniel 10:3) (2,4)
5. Seeking to vindicate (Job 32:2) (10)
6. Female servant (Isaiah 24:2) (4)
7. 'For Christ died for — once for all' (1 Peter 3:18) (4)
10. 'Offering spiritual sacrifices — to God through Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 2:5) (10)
12. Jesus said that some people had renounced this 'because of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 19:12) (8)
13. One of the three men thrown into the furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image (Daniel 3:20) (8)
16. 'You have — of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry' (Luke 12:19) (6)
18. 'There before me was a white horse! Its rider held — — , and he was given a crown' (Revelation 6:2) (1,3)
19. Equipment to Charity Hospitals Overseas (1,1,1,1)

August Calendar

Sunday 4th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.15am	Beach Church	Nr. Martello Tower
Wednesday 7th	11.00am	Matins	St. Leonard's
Sunday 11th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Morning Worship	St. Luke's
	11.15am	Beach Church	Nr. Martello Tower
	7.00pm	Prayer@7	St. Luke's
Tuesday 13th	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
Wednesday 14th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Saturday 17th	1.00pm	Lunchtime Concert	St. Leonard's
Sunday 18th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.15am	Beach Church	Nr. Martello Tower
Wednesday 21st	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Saturday 24th	10.00am	Open Church Cafe	St. Leonard's
Sunday 25th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Morning Worship	St. Luke's
Tuesday 27th	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
Wednesday 28th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's



Beach Church

Sundays 4th, 11th and 18th August at 11.15am

Join us on the beach near to Martello Tower!

Crossword Solution

DOWN: 1, Jonathan. 2, Heavenly. 4, No meat. 5, Justifying. 6, Maid. 7, Sins. 10, 15, By-path. 17, Stalingrad. 20, Backbone. 21, Baca. 22, Whose eye. 23, Seth.

ACROSS: 1, John. 3, And James. 8, Near. 9, Omission. 11, Theocratic. 14, Asleep.

September Calendar

Sunday 1st	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.15am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
Wednesday 4th	11.00am	Matins	St. Leonard's
	12.30pm	Parish Lunch	St. Luke's
Saturday 7th	9.30am	Messy Church	St. Leonard's
Sunday 8th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Family Worship	St. Luke's
	7.00pm	Prayer@7	St. Luke's
Tuesday 10th	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
Wednesday 11th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Sunday 15th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.15am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
Monday 16th	7.30pm	Women's Group	St. Luke's
Tuesday 17th	Magazine Copy Date		
Wednesday 18th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Saturday 21st	1.00pm	Lunchtime Concert	St. Leonard's
Sunday 22nd	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 24th	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
Wednesday 25th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Friday 27th	2.30pm	Mothers' Union	Alfriston Church
Saturday 28th	10.00am	Open Church Cafe	St. Leonard's
Sunday 29th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches

Parish Magazine Copy Date

Items for the August-September edition of the Magazine are most welcome and should be sent by Tuesday 17th September to:
magazine@seafordparish.org.uk

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

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

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

Deputy Wardens

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

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

prayerpastor@seafordparish.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer

Ruth Saunders		safeguarding@seafordparish.org.uk
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Home Groups

David Farey		homegroups@seafordparish.org.uk
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Fortnightly News		news@seafordparish.org.uk
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