

Parish Magazine

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

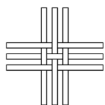


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CALM and BRIGHT

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

December 2024-January 2025

Suggested donation **£1.00**



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Welcome

The most beautiful story

A well-known atheist was being interviewed on Radio 4. When asked how he spent Christmas, he said that he went to Midnight Mass at church. “But you’re an atheist”, his interviewer protested. “Yes”, he replied, “but what they celebrate at Christmas is the most beautiful story ever told.”



That ‘beautiful story’ tells of a Creator who sent His Son to share the life of His creation, to be born as a helpless baby, to grow up as a man of extraordinary wisdom, gentleness and love, who was executed by the authorities for contradicting the traditions of the time. His followers – who today number about two billion people all over the world – believe that He rose from the dead, and that by His death and resurrection He has made possible forgiveness and eternal life for men and women everywhere.

That is certainly quite a story, perhaps the greatest story ever told, and yes, beautiful. And that is the story that will be rehearsed again this Christmas, in children’s Nativities, in hymns and carols, in Bible readings and sermons all over the country. People who stay away from church all year turn up to hear it, and who can blame them? This is a story of hope, of love and of heaven touching earth.

Probably the best-known statue in the world is ‘Christ the Redeemer’, towering over the South American city of Rio de Janeiro, His arms outstretched in blessing. Christmas celebrates the birth of that great Redeemer – a tiny baby laid in a feeding trough.

His birth changed history, His life transformed our understanding of what it means to be human, His death was at one and the same time a tragedy and a triumph. Yes, it is ‘the most beautiful story ever told’. Enjoy it again this Christmas.



Parish News

St. Leonard's Renovation

Plans have been checked with the Architect to assess remaining work to be done for Faculty submission to the Diocese in order to give approval for our plans. The District Council has agreed planning permission while all the heritage organisations have agreed in principle to the outline plans.

Some interactions were conducted with various people including the Bell Captain, the Ladies managing our hospitality, our ALM eco church, the Churchwardens, the Youth Leader and finally the PCC were briefed on the proposal. There will be 4 elements to the works:

1. to envelope the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, add storage and general renovation with access ramp
2. to fit a kitchen in the base of the Tower with a servery for hospitality
3. to add a toilet block as an extension and replacement of the current facility, with storage
4. to carry out remedial work such as media desk and media upgrade, storage and associated activities.

Our plan is to submit the Diocese Faculty submission before year end and with a likely 8 week approval process, our target to start the work after Easter 2025 remains plausible. Further details to follow in the New Year when we will have a revised estimate, a plan of work with scope and specifications ready to release for contract bidding as soon as the Faculty is approved.

St. Luke's @7

Christmas St Luke's @7 celebration is on December 15th with bring and share refreshments from 6:15pm. Hot chocolate mountains will be served with dairy free alternatives. Seaford Primary School Chamber Choir will be leading the singing.

On January 26th 2025 the meeting will start with a meal at 5.45pm, please let Kate Steer know if you would like supper. Contact details are on ChurchSuite.

Coffee, Prayer Ministry & Communion

You are welcome to join in our next Service of Prayer Ministry with Communion at St. Luke's on Tuesdays December 10th, January 14th (no communion) and January 28th at 11.00am. Coffee will be available from 10.00am to 12.00pm.

Parish Lunch

The next Parish Lunches will be on Wednesdays 4th December and 8th January. 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 Copy Date

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

Seaford Parish Women's Group

We have a packed programme for the autumn please refer to the dates below. I would like to highlight the Stopover Service on Monday 9th December when we will be handing over Christmas Gifts for Stopover. The organisation takes care of young women who may have been excluded from family life and other difficulties. They are encouraged in their development in houses in Brighton, Hove & Worthing towards independent living. Each year we collect wrapped Christmas gifts for the young women and children. If you would like to donate please leave a wrapped gift in St Leonard's marked Stopover, or join us for the service on December 9th.

9th December at 2.30pm

Stopover Service in St. Leonard's.

16th December at 7.30pm

Favourite Carols & Readings

We meet in St. Luke's, Walmer Road, on the 3rd Monday of the month, unless specified. Refreshments will be served and end with closing prayers. Members and non members are always welcome.

Mothers' Union

Friday 24th January 2.30 at St Lukes

We begin the new year by welcoming back Rev. Brigid Hadfield. This year she will be sharing her Reflections on Psalm 1. This is an open meeting and we look forward to being joined by anybody interested in what will be an informative, thought promoting afternoon. St. Leonard's and St. Luke's Mothers' Union wish you a joyous Christmas and a peaceful 2025.

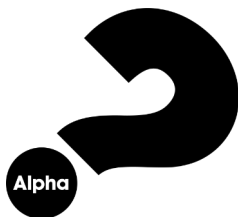
Thank You...

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank you all for your continued prayers, I recently welcomed my 9th Great grandchild, Micah, to the family. What a blessing. Throughout the year I have been able to 'join in' the services due to the hard work and commitment of the tech team, streaming the services live and on catch up. It is such a blessing as I am now increasingly unable to get to the Church. I appreciate the ministry and support of James and the team so much. Thank you all. Blessings

Love

Ethel Keenan



**January
2025**

Come In
WE'RE
OPEN

**Open
Church
Cafe**

St. Leonard's Church

10.00am to 12.30pm

Saturday 25th January

Shoebox Appeal 2024

Hazel Bramley

The Shoebox Appeal 2024 closed with 30 boxes provided by our many supporters. We collected thirteen 'Elderly' and seventeen 'Family' boxes plus lots of beautiful knitted/crocheted blankets, scarves, hats, gloves, mittens and ear warmers. These together with some lovely teddy bears provided by our volunteer crafters who work all year will provide gifts for families and elderly people in Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria and Ukraine. Our thanks go to all of you for your support. Next years supply has already begun.

Again, if anyone has any yarn they would like liberating let me know and it will be put to good use. You can contact me on 01323 892883 or 07890 726957.

David and I filled every bit of space in our car on 19th November, and delivered the items to Link to Hope in Ferring, West Sussex. There was not much space left. By the time you read this the loaded trucks will be on their way.



Please pray for the drivers and volunteers as they make this journey to their destination. Also for the Pastors and others who help to deliver our gifts of love.

Below, are some ideas for items you could start to collect ready for next year.

January	Warm items such as hats, scarves, gloves and mittens
February	Heat and light such as candles, candle holders, hot water bottles, torches
March	Craft Gifts such as homemade headbands, pencil/glasses cases, craft kits, puppets and sewing kits
April	Accessories such as hairbands, jewellery, small bags/purses, umbrellas

Watch out for further ideas in the next two issues.

Finally, I urge you to look on the Link to Hope website where you will find information about the many projects that are supported in the countries where your shoeboxes are delivered linktohope.co.uk



Christmas Services

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

A Quiet Christmas Service

St. Leonard's on Sunday 8th December at 4.00pm

St. Luke's@7 Christmas

St. Luke's on Sunday 15th December at 7.00pm

Carols in the Pub

Wellington Hotel on Saturday 21st December at 8.00pm

A Service of Lessons and Carols*

St. Leonard's on Sunday 22nd December at 6.00pm

Messy Christingle*

St. Leonard's on Monday 23rd December at 4.00pm

Crib Service*

St. Luke's on Christmas Eve at 3.00pm

Nativity*

St. Leonard's on Christmas Eve at 6.00pm

First Communion of Christmas*

St. Leonard's on Christmas Eve at 11.00pm

Christmas Holy Communion

St. Leonard's on Christmas Day at 8.00am and 9.30am*

Christmas Family Communion*

St. Luke's on Christmas Day at 9.30am

*Also livestreamed



Family friendly

www.seafordparish.org.uk

James Hollingsworth writes...



All is Calm All is Bright

It is a line from a carol. Can you think which one it is? It's also this year's CofE strapline to Christmas. Aware that Christmas can be a joyful messy chaotic loud expensive pressured stress filled season, so its important to try to find a calm Christmas, and in that moment, you will also find that it is full of hope and love and peace, you will find that it is bright.

On 8th December at 4.00pm in St. Leonard's you will find a Quiet Christmas Service. We will sing a few carols round the piano, and create a space in which you can just be. Christmas always seems to be accompanied by jolly songs, ringing tills, and the expectation that you will have a good time. But for many people that is not how it feels. Perhaps your year has been hard for whatever reason (bereavement, illness, estrangement, worry) and Christmas seems to highlight these difficulties. Perhaps this service will allow your soul a moment's break from the expectations and as you sing again Away in a Manger, you might find that indeed in Jesus, all is calm, all is bright.

2025 Year of Faith

In 325AD, 1700 years ago, the Church met in Nicaea from which came our Nicene Creed. We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. Christians have been saying this creed for last seventeen hundred years. That ought to cause you

a moment to just stop and say a simple 'wow'. Pop

into St. Leonard's or St. Luke's and pick up a commemorative bookmark. Have a slow read of it. I hope that it will get you thinking about your own faith and what it means to you.

Look out for the Alpha Course that we will be starting on 16th January.

I see the creed more as a road map to understanding God. The early Christians had tried a number of ways of understanding God and along the way they'd found some unhelpful ones and so these are marked out in the creed as dead ends. You can go down them but eventually you'll find that they don't lead to the forgiveness of sins, to reconciliation with your maker, to peace with God and peace with yourself.

It starts with We believe – a call for us not to be private Christians but to work together. In one God – Christians have always insisted on being monotheists, holding tightly to one God, whilst also holding to the idea that the Holy Spirit is God, that Jesus is God, that the Father is God. One God. Every generation of Christians has puzzled over this. For some the answer that the Trinity is a mystery is a bit of a cop-out, just take it on faith, believe it and move on. I was helped by one definition of the word mystery which sees something as not an unknowable mystery, but an endlessly knowable mystery. We know a little about God. We have the

revelation of Jesus in time and place, we have the witness of the Holy Spirit throughout history, through the Church, through saints I have known and do know, and we have our Holy Scriptures which tell us of God from our beginning. We know a little about God. But we also know that God is endlessly knowable. That there is so much more.

Try not to solve the puzzle of the Trinity, how the oneness of God is seen in the three persons of Father, Son and Holy Spirit but instead be glad that the Church allowed God to be bigger than their understanding, to allow God to be more than just our 3 dimensions.

We believe in... the Father. Jesus taught us to pray, to speak to the God the maker of all that is seen and unseen and to speak to this creator as you might to a caring parent. Neither Jesus nor the Church were trying to say something about the gender of the God who made all genders but they were trying to help us see God firstly not as the King, which He is, nor as the Almighty, the Creator, which He is, but as the God who cares for you and loves you.

We believe in... the maker... of all that is, seen and unseen. It's an important Christian belief that we believe in a creator God because it tells us that none of us are mistakes, that God is glad that each of us are here, that we have a purpose to show God's love and care in how we live. There are other very ancient creation stories that speak of the world being made out of a fight between a couple of gods. I think one of them has the moon being half a god ripped in two. That's not a pleasant way to see the world or to see each other. Genesis wants us to see that we're

made out of love and for a purpose and that at its core creation is good, indeed very good.

I especially like the word unseen here. You might think of this as angels. You might think of it as electrons and other teeny tiny things. You might think of it as an awareness that there's more out in the galaxies and beyond, its all made by God. You might think of it as something ridiculous but as yet unseen by humans. I was watching a TV programme that told the story of a mudskipper, a fish that lives on land and skips on water and climbs trees. Honestly you couldn't make it up but there's David Attenborough explaining this wonderful creature. So this little line in the creed encourages me that there's so much more to explore and discover.

In the next edition, we'll unpack some more of the Nicene Creed. Remind me to tell you about Arius at some point.

2025 Year of the Diocese

In 1075AD, 950 years ago, the Diocese of Chichester was started, so here's an excuse for a double celebration because it was also about then that the Cathedral was started. You can expect the Cathedral to be doing some wonderful things across the year. Within our own deanery, on Tuesday 11th February at 7.00pm at Trinity's Southover Church, Lewes, Bishop Ruth will lead the Lewes and Seaford Deanery Celebration of the Year of Faith. Pop it in your diary and come along to it. Bishop Ruth will also be leading some overnight youth pilgrimages. There will be a daytime one around the Alfriston Berwick etc churches. I will let you know the details when I know more.



Closing Thoughts on My Sabbatical

Derreck Lee-Philpot

My recent three months away on sabbatical was a wonderful time. Here is a quick storm through of some of the things we did, learned, saw and experienced. Many of these things will probably 'leak' out in conversations, prayers, sermons and other various ways over the coming weeks and months.

Firstly, sabbatical is not a holiday (sorry I've said that before) and neither does it end by just returning home. There was so much it will take weeks, even months, to process and build much of what we learned into daily life. Over the time we travelled over 2500 miles across the UK and then another 1500 nautical miles on a cruise, which although more holiday-like was spent discussing the previous time, reading and much reflection.

Anyway, we started at New Wine. Our own +Ruth preached the morning series entitled "Come away with Me". My chosen seminar was "Identity and Calling" with Andy Byers. Two perfect series to open a sabbatical with. If you can find a way of hearing +Ruth's series do so, she was brilliant being able to preach released from the constraints of bishopric and preaching freely. Next was West Watch a retreat centre

near Forest Row where I took a self-guided retreat. It was a difficult few days as NW was so good it was hard to just stop and 'be still and know that I am God'. The transition from spiritual busyness to silence and tranquillity was an uncomfortable one. During these few days walking and praying in the woods much of what God had spoken about in the previous weeks was confirmed. Most notably that we sell our house in Berkshire severing the ties to there, rather than renting it out and retaining the link.

So, after West Watch I travelled direct to Newbury to put our lovely former home onto the sales market. It was odd to walk around our old home containing so many wonderful memories knowing that now we weren't going back – God has something new for us.

I came home to a houseful, with eldest son Mark and our two youngest grandchildren staying a while. That was a lively few days!! When they had returned home we thought we should look at a couple of properties in Seaford as we were becoming more convinced this is where we would stay after I retire in 2026. We walked into the first property and my heart just leapt – "this is it" I thought my heart pounding. It just felt right in every way. But, I kept my thoughts in check as

surely the first property seen cannot be 'the one' can it? I couldn't really tell what Corrinne was thinking either, so kept quiet. We looked at a second property, in a nicer off road location on a newer built estate. It was nice – but wasn't the other one! Whenever I thought of the first house I got excited. But whatever I thought, we still had to sell, and besides we were now going to our first guided retreat at Nether Springs in Northumbria, near Lindisfarne.

Off we went, nine driving hours later we arrived – exhausted! I thought sabbatical was about resting, refreshing and renewal!

Nether Springs was a delight, hearing of the Celtic saints with such a grounded but vibrant spirituality. I found it hilarious that Cuthbert would now be pigeon-holed as a charismatic evangelical as at the age of 30 he would travel around the roads of Northumberland preaching to whoever he met, praying for their healing, converting them, then prophesying over them. He even moved in the world of knowledge telling the Queen in Carlisle Castle that her husband the King had just been killed in battle with the Picts in Scotland many miles away. Walking the sands across to Lindisfarne was a moving experience, it took two hours to walk the three miles. Because there is only one safe crossing route we were really walking where the saints had trod. On Sunday we worshipped and had communion in a tiny church in the middle of the woods, it would hold barely twenty – and that would be squashed! At the entrance was a worn wooden plaque set into the wall which said,

“those who lean on Jesus’ breast, hear the heartbeat of God.”

It's a phrase that somehow means far more than the sum of the words.

The daily worship held in the common room had a beautiful sense of intimacy as each person contributed with readings or song.

So, from Nether Springs to the opposite coast and Iona. The ferry bookings were messed up and after a fretful two hour wait we got onto a ferry from Oban to Mull just making the last ferry from Mull to Iona.

Here I found many challenges to my faith in the way I express it. The Iona community are very forthright in their pursuit of justice, equality, and peace. All worthy aims but I found it quite jarring when our worship songs didn't once mention Jesus, and 'Father' had been eradicated from liturgy, and the Lord's Prayer had been re-written into several different versions that were almost unrecognisable as the prayer that Jesus taught us. Having said that, to worship in the abbey was an experience in itself. I also found many of the views expressed a little unbalanced. These of course are personal perspectives, and there will be many that find a home with that expression of spirituality. Particularly disappointing was the lack of knowledge about their beginnings. Not the rebuild by Rev George MacLeod in 1938 and the founding of the modern Iona Community, but the arrival of Columba and twelve friends in 563 with the vision to build a church and bring to faith the wild Picts and Scots, little was known and nothing displayed.

From there to Northumbria, near Hexham and Hadrian's Wall for a fortnight to just try and soak up and process all we had heard and experienced. It was here that the phone started to ring again, with our estate agents in Newbury telling us of the viewings of our home. Fourteen viewings the first week, eight the next. No hiding place!! On Sunday we worshipped at Hexham Abbey, built by the same Wilfrid that was exiled to Sussex after quarrelling with the king (Ecgfrith) and proceeded to convert the pagan Sussex population to Christianity.

Then home, with a weekend stop at my curacy church. A bittersweet visit, for as well as meeting good friends there were several that had gone to glory and one living in the shadow of a terminal diagnoses of just months.

Arriving home, and it was so good to be home for a couple of weeks, the phone started to ring. This time it was a series of offers for our house. Three people had made offers and price kept rising until the asking price was met, just WOW!

It was now we had a buyer that I confided in Corrinne my feelings about the house we had looked at, and to my surprise and delight she had felt the same. So, we went and had another look, and then to be sure a third viewing with some trusted tradespeople to offer advice on some issues. An offer was made and accepted. From putting our

house on the market, to accepting an offer then finding a Seaford home took under six weeks – wow, when it is God's timing things move fast. Now we are grinding through the contractual formalities – please pray that all goes smoothly to completion.

The last leg was a cruise, meant as a proper holiday after dragging Corrinne all over the UK on a sabbatical that I had designed with primarily me in mind.

It was lovely, with time to think and pray about the house's sale and purchase, also to try and process more of the retreats we had been on. It was a delightful fortnight rounding off what had been an eventful three months. One sadness was that the recent floodings in Valencia happened right where we were standing just a few weeks before.

Now back home in Seaford. With much learned, much discerned, and some decisions made about our post-retirement life heralding another new adventure.

As wonderful as it is to go off wandering it is a delight to come home and begin to live in the benefit of what we received during that time, and much is still to be worked into our hearts and then worked out into our lives.

We cannot imagine a nicer place to do it.

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Twelfth Night by Laurie Lee

No night could be darker than this night,
no cold so cold,
as the blood snaps like a wire,
and the heart's sap stills,
and the year seems defeated.

O never again, it seems, can green things run;
or sky birds fly,
or the grass exhale its humming breath
powered with pimpernels
from this dark lung of winter.

Yet here are lessons for the final mile
of pilgrim kings;
the mile still left when all have reached
their tether's end: that mile
where the Child lies hid

For see, beneath the hand, the earth already
warms and glows;
for men with shepherd's eyes there are
signs in the dark, the flaming stars,
the lamb's returning time.

Out of this utter death he's born again,
the birth of our saviour;
from terror's equinox he climbs and grows,
drawing his finger's light across our blood -
the sun of heaven, and the son of God

Welcome

By Daphne Kitching

Welcome, Jesus baby
To a world that is waiting,
Welcome, Jesus baby
To a world needing joy,
Thank you for the presents
That you bring us on your birth day,
Peace, love and hope
Wrapped in one baby boy.

Faith, Hope and Love

Carole Darling

I thought that I would give you a little update on what I have been learning recently as your curate. One of the most striking things is the variety of events and circumstances that occur in the parish. The highs and lows, the old and the new, the one offs and the routine. What I hadn't expected, but on reflection, it should be no surprise, is that the variety can come within one day. Holiday Club in the morning and a funeral in the afternoon. Whilst my manner adapts to the change of event, my aim is to be full of faith, hope and love by proclaiming the good news of Jesus in all circumstances.

As I look back at November, it has been a month of variety. That variety is clearly seen in the 'occasional offices.' You may be wondering what I mean by that phrase. It is Church of England speak for three particular services: baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Seaford Parish has held all three this month, and I would like to share a little reflection on all that I have been involved in. I am reminded of the words of Paul to the Corinthians about: "faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." At the baptism, the wedding and the funerals, I saw faith, hope and love in abundance.

On 17th November I conducted my first baptism. It was a joyous occasion with a baby boy who was a model candidate! He was awake and happy during the baptism, and he didn't cry throughout the whole service. He fell asleep during

the sermon! My favourite moment was carrying him into the congregation as part of his welcome. He was carried and surrounded by followers of Jesus, all looking on with love, praying for his faith to grow and full of hope for his life and the life that we all share in Christ Jesus. Faith, hope and love in abundance.

On Saturday 9th November, Rev James officiated at a wedding at St Leonard's. I was involved throughout the process to learn from his experience and knowledge. As you know, Rev James is very experienced and knowledgeable, which is great for me as a curate!

An hour before the wedding, St Leonard's was full of activity. Smartly dressed people busy with last-minute preparations for the happy occasion. A jazz pianist allowed his fingers to skip joyfully over the keys, and melodies flowed over the chattering excitement of the guests. The sweet scent of hope was in the air as everyone eagerly awaited the arrival of the bride.

The time came, and the bride arrived. Love bubbled forth in ripples of laughter and joy as the couple, in their unique way, made their commitments to each other. I say unique because this was the first occasion that I have seen a bride pause proceedings to walk away from the bridegroom, down the aisle, to fetch a banana! She returned to give the banana to her little boy. Once provided with food and water, he sat

quietly as his parents made their vows and exchanged rings.

The good news of Jesus was proclaimed, and it was a privilege to be a part of the wedding service and to pray for the couple. Faith, hope and love in abundance.

In the middle of Holiday Club, at the very end of October, I officiated at a funeral. Mid November I gave the address at a thanksgiving for a faithful member of the church and this week, I attended a funeral in London. A fellow curate who died suddenly at the age of twenty-nine.

I had a different role at each funeral. Leading, preaching and being a friend. Stories of incredible faith, the devastating pain of love and the hope that we cling onto in Christ. Amid the sorrow, there is faith, hope and love in abundance.

Whether at the start of our faith journey or in the prime of life or at life's end, we can love each other, comfort those in pain and rejoice with those who are experiencing life's joys. The Apostle Paul describes love like this:

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”

May we be a people of faith, hope and love and remember that when Christ returns, we won't need hope because hope will be fulfilled, we won't need faith because we will be with God forever.

Love will remain, because God is love and love never fails.

Iconic Bethlehem Carol Sheet celebrates 70 years in print

It was back in 1954 when the charity, BibleLands Mission Aid Society, first tentatively decided to print a colourful compilation of popular Christmas carols, alongside images of some of the people BibleLands served. From the start, the scheme was an immense success. The carol sheets were so popular that even that first year, 100,000 copies were insufficient to meet the demand of schools, churches, British army bases at home and abroad and Royal Navy ships across the world. The donations appeal towards the BibleLands projects in the carol sheet also raised hundreds of pounds. When 500,000 copies were quickly sold in 1955, BibleLands knew it had a winner on its hands.

Since then, many millions of carol sheets have been sold, until this year the charity, now renamed Embrace the Middle East, has produced a new-look Edition with 27 popular carols, including three new additions for this year: *O Holy Night*, *See Him Lying on a Bed of Straw (Calypso Carol)* and *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*.

<https://shop.embraceme.org/collections/bethlehem-carols>

Children, Youth & Families

Stefan Bracher

What an amazing few months it has been! Our groups have been going so well. Whilst most of the non-group time had gone into the set up around holiday club, it has also been a time where we have been working on a top secret (not so secret) project. See more details below!



We had great fun during our Starship Discovery Holiday Club. It was amazing to be around all the brilliant children and seeing them working together, encouraging each other and just having fun!

We had on average 65 children attending each day, with 5 main crafts - Cooking, Junk Modelling, DIY photo

frame, Rocket Cup Launcher and Moon Buggies. Over 70 packed lunches were made and enjoyed each day as well as fruit snacks and squash for everyone. We had over 40 volunteers supporting holiday club from our Church, who are all amazing, it's not always an easy job, but it is amazing and a lots of fun! Thank you so much to those leaders who came and supported the work.

The children also enjoyed another year of the classic Watt Family sketches and the return of Lucy and Bert, our resident puppets. The children also got involved in the Bible stories we were looking at each day, as we learnt who



Simon Peter was and saw that Jesus is the light of the world. Say Simon or Peter and see if they respond with the other... (a holiday club challenge).

We had a huge amount of points given out throughout the week with not one, but two double points days and each year group having a winner! Points were given out for amazing singing, dancing (following actions), being kind, helping others, tidying their craft areas, answering questions correctly, getting involved and much more. The winners were so closely matched this year in some cases with only one point in it!



This year it cost approximately £33 per child to attend the week of holiday club. We are very grateful to be supported by the Wellington Hotel this year, who have raised a huge amount of money for us to be able to help keep the sessions running free to all! So please do pop in and whisper a big thank you to them for their ongoing support. Those funds paid for the majority of holiday club.

We were also fortunate enough to be awarded a grant towards holiday club from the Chalk Cliff Trust that has helped support families in need.

We are keen to keep the holiday club running for free and will try to do this as

much as we can. Thank you to you also for the fantastic donations you have made towards the cost holiday club, it is truly appreciated. Here's to next year's holiday club which will run from Monday 27th to Friday 31st October 2025. Please do pop the date in your diary as we will need another fantastic effort from volunteers again.

Assistant Children, Youth & Family Worker

As you know, the children, youth and family work has been expanding and has been at the limit of what we can offer for a long time now. We have been praying and seeking God's guidance on what to do next. We have concluded that we need an assistant children, youth and family worker. This would be a full time position of 38 hours a week, working a variety of days/evenings and where needed at weekends. We aim to open new groups as we help and encourage children, young people and their families to explore the Christian faith.

We have been awarded two grants, one of £30,000 from the Benefact Trust and a further grant of £27,500 from the Diocesan Mission Development Fund. With this in mind, at our last PCC meeting in November, I requested that the PCC pledge £70,000 of legacy funds towards the total costs of this project. We continue also with further applications for grants to help support the ongoing work. This will allow an assistant children, youth and family worker to be employed for 3 years and then to have the option to have some interns, young people who wish to build up their faith and prepare for leadership in children, youth and family work in their future.

Our total to still raise to support all of the groups continued running is projected to be £86,000, which will largely come from other smaller grants over the next few years.

Please do continue to pray for this project as we continue to reach further into the community to help others explore God and his love for them.

Group Updates

Tots' Treats, our baby & toddler groups have been running really well, especially in St. Leonard's. A member of the group has been christened recently, which is really encouraging. We have really got some good friendship groups forming through Tots' Treats. With lots of discussions about faith happening. We also had some Tots families coming along to our family worship at St. Luke's.



Sparks, our children's group, is still running really well. We haven't had an increase this year after holiday club, which we usually do, but we are still having some amazing fun. We had some issues with behaviour in the past few months, so we decided to re-look at our rules and remake them with the children's help, giving them some ownership over the rules they had come up with – turns out they were almost the same as they had before. These are being reinforced each week, as well as continuing to make use of our Sparks points cards for rewards for good behaviour.

We are seeking some new volunteers for this group. We have a steady team

of volunteers, however it doesn't offer them any real wiggle room if they need to take an evening off for whatever reason. So if you can spare 2hrs 30mins every few weeks on a Friday evening that will be amazing. You can let me know by emailing cyfw@seafordparish.org.uk where we can chat some more about what it might look like to volunteer.



Ignite, our youth group, has continued to have new members looking to join. We have recently introduced two newer tables, the craft table with directed craft and a board games table. The craft table is really popular and an area where the young people like to sit and chat with each other as they make. The board game table tends to go down well with largely Uno getting played, but again a really good time for young people to sit and chat with others. We have continued to have a leader in the shop to help reduce the thefts of goods from the shop, which has not happened since the implementation of this (thank you leaders who do this amazing job of just being there – it is working).

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-11.00am, although not in December as we'll be bringing it forward for Christmas Magic but come along to the Messy Christingle which is for everyone! This is a Church Service, so it is open to everyone! Messy Church has been a bit hit and miss since coming back from

the Summer and have only had one meeting in October due to the holiday club finishing the day before the scheduled November Messy Church. In January we will be back on track!

Glow, our Sunday group in St. Luke's, which meets every 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday of the month, 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. One of our last sessions we looked at was the prodigal son, and for us to recognise that no matter what we do God will love us and be there for us. We are really looking for some extra people who might like to come along and to a session every 2-3 months helping the children with breakfast, craft, singing and dancing. Please let me know if you can by emailing cyfw@seafordparish.org.uk.



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Stories of Resilience and Hope in South Sudan



Paul Bloxham

In South Sudan, a country torn apart by years of conflict, extreme weather and humanitarian crises, the daily battle for survival is a grim reality for millions. With 90% of the population relying on traditional farming, challenges like droughts and flooding that make it increasingly difficult to sustain livelihoods.

Yet, through the determination of people like Medelina and Olaa, and with the support of Christian Aid's local partners, they're building stronger, more resilient futures.

Medelina's journey to economic independence

For Medelina Abalo, a 48-year-old widow, life had been an uphill battle. After losing her husband, she found it difficult to make her voice heard in her community, and her family struggled with basic needs. 'I prayed for help, but I didn't know where it would come from,' she said.

In a country where only 10% of the population has access to sanitation and clean water, many are vulnerable to extreme poverty, especially women. When Christian Aid's local partner, the Agency for Agricultural Development Organisation (AADO), introduced a project in her village, Medelina was selected to receive training and goats as part of a livestock management programme.



'This group has shown me love regardless of my status in society,' Medelina shared. She now rears goats and provides for her children, restoring her sense of dignity and belonging. The knowledge and skills she has gained have opened new possibilities for her and her family, enabling her to stand on her own and look forward to a more secure future.

Olaa's path to a fresh start

Olaa Moses, a 35-year-old father of two, returned to South Sudan after years of living in a Ugandan refugee camp. His family, like many others, relied on food rations from humanitarian agencies. 'What I ate was determined by what the UNHCR provided,' he explained.

As he returned, he faced the challenge of rebuilding his life in a country still grappling with conflict and climate-related disasters. But through Christian

The world provides enough for every man's need but not for every man's greed. *Gandhi*

Aid's partner AADO, Olaa received vegetable seeds and training in agricultural production, a lifeline for someone striving to regain independence in an economy largely driven by farming.

'This was a turning point for me,' Olaa said. His group cultivated land and grew vegetables, producing enough not only to feed their families but also to sell at local markets. 'We earned 280,000 South Sudanese Pounds (equivalent to around £245),' he shared. With that income, he can now provide for his children's medical care, education, and basic needs.



Christian Aid in South Sudan

South Sudan remains one of the most vulnerable countries in the world. However, Christian Aid, in partnership with local organisations, is helping communities reclaim their future. Through sustainable projects that focus on livelihoods, economic empowerment and community cohesion, families across the country are forging resilient paths out of poverty.

Sourced from the Christian Aid website.

Your generous support for Christian Aid for the valuable work they do in so many parts of the World is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Local News and Events

Following the recent DEC Humanitarian Appeal for the Middle East, a cheque for £2250 has been sent to Christian Aid for that appeal from the churches in Seaford. This appeal is still on-going and further money could be passed on to charity. Those who enjoy quizzes will be pleased to hear that the annual Christian Aid Quiz, with a light supper beforehand, will be on the 24th January 2025 at the Crossway Church. This is a team event of up to six persons per team. Full details to follow soon through the church notices.

A big thank you to everyone who came to the last lunchtime concert of the year on November 16th. The collection for Christian Aid raised £590. This will go towards the DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal.

John Baker

Food, Glorious Food

David Farey

Imagine being invited somewhere for Christmas dinner and you sit at the table and the host puts a plate in front of you with a lettuce leaf and a bread stick. You would probably be surprised and not a little disappointed! Eating proper meals is all part of the fun of life and keeping our bodies healthy to cope with the rigours of all that life throws at us.

We do have to ensure that we eat the proper food that supplies our bodies with all the sustenance and minerals we need. We know that eating the wrong foods has consequences for our physical health. But what of our spiritual health? Do we give our spiritual needs the same consideration? Just as our physical bodies need nourishment so do our spiritual bodies.

Our spiritual bodies get fed by all the things we do in life and can take for granted; the books we read, the TV programmes we watch, the people we meet and the hobbies we pursue. Just as our physical bodies would deteriorate if we only fed them junk food, so our spiritual bodies are weakened by poor quality pursuits; a trashy book here, a not very good film there, mixing with the wrong company and wasting time on pointless pursuits.

If we care about our faith and want to serve the Lord to the best of our ability by using our talents and gifts in his service in the best way possible then we need to nurture our spirits. It begins with trusting the Lord Jesus for all he has done for us in dying on the cross for

us and rising again. It then continues by building that relationship with him and being led by him in all that he wants us to do.

We build that relationship by firstly belonging to a church. To say you can be a Christian and not belong to a church is missing the point, bigtime! He calls us into fellowship with him – and with one another. We should pray to him and seek to hear his voice. Jesus said, “When you pray...”, not “If you pray...”. And we should wish to read and study his word, the Bible.

The Bible is a big book! There’s a lot in it and only by knowing your Bible can you hope to know God. St Jerome said, “If you don’t know the scriptures, you don’t know Jesus!” A ten minute sermon is good to inspire, but it’s not a sufficient diet. It’s like living off a lettuce leaf a day – good for us but insufficient in itself to live healthily. So, we should be reading our Bible every day and seeking to understand it. There are notes and aids that can help and James, Derreck or Carole would be able to help, but we also have our home groups where we can read, study – and more importantly, discuss with others what we are reading and seek to understand it better. So, this Christmas, as we are tucking into our Christmas dinners, let’s give some thought to the New Year, perhaps starting that new health regime and diet to get our bodies in shape, but also give thought to how we plan to care for our spiritual bodies, decide what we will do, and then - act on it!



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)

During December please pray for our Mission Partner:

CHURCH ARMY

- The newly appointed CEO, Matt Barlow. He comes with 30 years of experience of leadership of national charities and local churches. Please pray for him in his new role with C.A. which he started in November.
- The Centre of Mission in Dundee commemorating 10 years with a special Celebration of gratitude and rejoicing. Please continue to pray for Dundee Centre of Mission as it seeks to help people suffering poverty, unemployment and mental health issues. For those people the officers meet on a daily basis who seek help and of course all the 30 Centres of Mission across the 4 Nations.
- Please continue to pray for the Marylebone Project helping women who are in need through being homeless for many reasons and issues.

During January please pray for our Mission Partners:

HOMELINK

- All those threatened with being homeless and those looking for accommodation in this area.
- The health of the staff.
- The financial health of the organisation.
- The Christmas Carol Concert on Sunday 8 December to raise much needed funds.

LAMA MINISTRIES

- The need for the monthly income to double, so they can visit boys released from detention and continue the Youth work at LAMA House.
- Also pray for the youngest boy at RRCY only 14, being bullied.
- For everyone's health in this monsoon season. Michael's children as they recover from bronchitis.
- Protection in the strong typhoons, (There were 5 in the first two weeks of November).

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.
- For those who sit near you in services.
- The Prayer Ministry Teams at St Leonard's and St Luke's and those in the parish who pray regularly for those in need.
- For those suffering for their Christian faith, and living in fear of their lives and are now destitute.
- For those living and working in Church Lane, Church Street, South Street, Broad Street, Place Lane, Clinton Place, Clinton Lane.

MONDAY

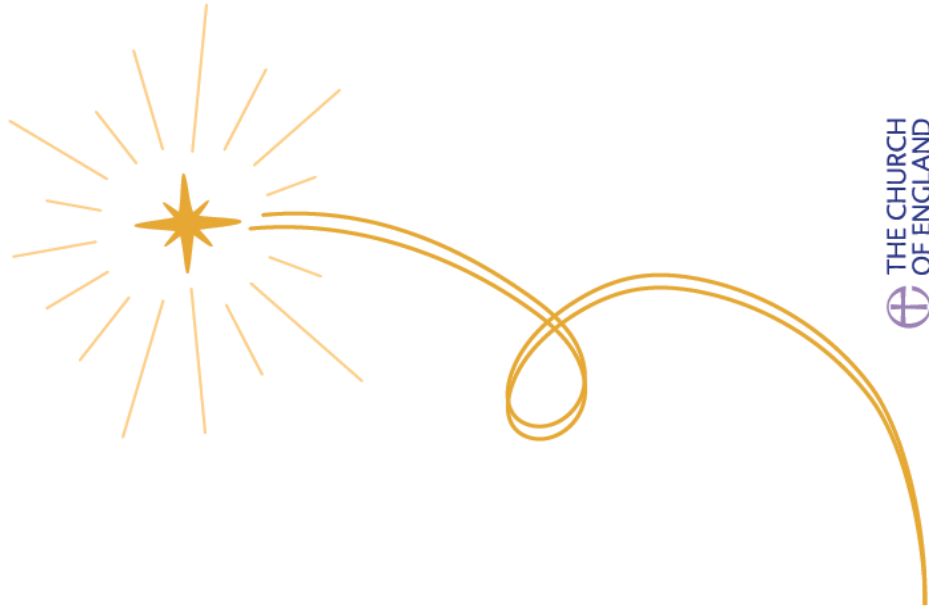
- That there will be end to the war between Russia and Ukraine and resolution to the conflict between Israel and the Hamas led Palestinian militant groups.
- All those suffering, dispossessed and having to flee their homeland due to conflict.
- That there will be wisdom and clear thinking within the political scene in America following the election of Donald Trump as president.
- For those living and working in Blatchington Road, Richmond Terrace, Blatchington Hill, Sutton Park Road, Avondale Road, Warwick Road.

TUESDAY

- The King and Queen and members of the Royal Family.
- For the Prime Minister, cabinet and all members of Parliament: that they will act with integrity and justice. Grant wisdom as they debate the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill in the coming weeks as well as give further consideration to the law surrounding abortion.
- The Welsh and Scottish Parliaments in their regional responsibilities.
- Those prisoners released last month from Lewes Prison who struggle because they have no support as they attempt to reintegrate into the community.
- 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 High Street, Crouch Lane, Crooked Lane, East Street, Saxon Lane.

WEDNESDAY

- Our MP James MacCleary: that he will serve the Lewes constituency with diligence and honesty.
- For Seaford Town Council.
- 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.



Follow The Star
CALM and BRIGHT

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Wishing everyone peace
at Christmas and
blessings in the New Year.
Love from Jenny Rolfe

To all our friends at St Leonard's
& St Luke's, to wish you all a
very happy Christmas & a New
Year full of blessings from
Mike & Wendy with our love

Happy Christmas and
New Year to everyone
from Bob Carrington

We pray you experience real
hope, complete peace, deep
joy and true love this
Christmas,
Aileen and Pat

Have a peaceful and
blessed Christmas!
From Mark and Ali

To all at St. Leonard's and St. Luke's,
have a joyful Christmas and a
wondrous New Year.
Love Derreck & Corrinne

Christmas Greetings to you all and many thanks
for you love and care through this difficult year.
May the joy, peace, love and happiness of this
special Christmas festival enfold you and remain
through the New Year. Every blessing, Jane.

Merry Christmas, enjoy the real
Christmas gift & go easy on the
sprouts! Love Stefan, Alice &
Jesse (& Buddy)

John and Stephanie Baker wish
everyone a Joyous Christmas and
a Happy New Year.

To all our friends at St Luke's
and St Leonards. May you have
a truly blessed Christmas and
New Year. Happy Christmas,
Sue and Darrel

Wishing the whole Church Family a very
merry Christmas and healthy happy and
faithful new year. Thank you to everyone
who makes our journey in faith so
rewarding and fulfilling.
Love and God Bless
Sally and Lloyd Thompson

Have a lovely Christmas and
a blessed New Year.
Love from Lucy & James

Happy Christmas
from Bridget and Malcolm

We would like to wish everyone a Merry
Christmas and thank you for all your
prayers for us during Chris's illness.
Best wishes for 2025
Chris and Janet Chester

Christmas greetings from
Martin and Lucy Miller,
Josh and Matt.

Happy Christmas and Happy
New Year, Love from Nicola H

Thank you for your
fellowship, support and
prayers - "Glory to God
in the highest,
And on earth peace,
good will toward all
people!"

Wishing all our Church
Family a very Blessed
Christmas and a Healthy
New Year.
From Jo and Paul

Wishing all our friends who walk with us in the journey of
faith as well as the leaders and members of our home
groups a very happy Christmas,
David and Pat Farey

I wish you all a Happy Christmas
and a blessed New Year. With
love from Linda Parsons.

Christmas
Blessings - Heather
and Terry

Alan and Margaret Miller wish all
our friends at St Leonard's, a very
happy Christmas and New Year.

A very happy Christmas to
everyone at St Leonard's.
Linda and Mike

Peace to you all for Christmas
and the New Year, with my very
best wishes, Liz M-J

A Happy Christmas to all my church
family and blessings for the New Year
God Bless Janet Fairchild.

To our dear friends at St Leonard's & St Luke's
May you be blessed with God's love and peace
this Christmas and New Year
Love from Ethel & Esther

Every blessing to all at St
Leonard's and St. Luke's for a
joyous, peaceful Christmas and a
Happy New Year. Diana Woodcock

Thank you to all of you who have made me
feel so welcome & may the spirit of Christmas
fill your homes and hearts through this
special time & into the New Year,
Love & Best wishes, Amy

May you experience peace and joy from
the Lord this Christmas!
Love from the Darlings! (Carole, Brian,
Kate, John, Alasdair and Richard)



A Christmas Star

Beneath the starry, silent night,
A Child was born, a beacon bright.
In Bethlehem, in humble stall,
The Saviour came to love us all.

No royal crown, no throne of gold,
But a manger where He'd rest, behold
The King of kings, so pure, so mild,
Wrapped in swaddling clothes, a child.

The angels sang, the heavens rang,
With joyful news they sweetly sang,
"Glory to God, the highest, praise!
Peace on earth, through endless days."

The shepherds came, with hearts aglow,
To see the Lamb, the one foretold,
And wise men from afar did bring
Their gifts to honour Christ the King.

Oh, Christmas star, so bright, so true,
You shine with love, with mercy new,
You guide us still, through night and day,
To Christ, the Truth, the Life, the Way.

So let our hearts, with joy, declare
The Saviour born, our burdens share.
This Christmas, let His love inspire
Our lives to kindle holy fire.

For Christ has come, our hearts to fill,
With hope, with peace, with love's great will—
Let every soul this truth proclaim:
"Immanuel, God with us, our Saviour's name."

- 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 West Street, Green Lane, Dane Road, Dane Close, West View, Pelham Road, Chatham Place, Richmond Road.

THURSDAY

- Rev James, Rev Lucy, Rev Derreck and Rev Carole as they minister to the parish during Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and the New Year.
- 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 Barcombe Close, Barcombe Avenue, Steyning Road, Steyning Close.

FRIDAY

- Stefan, our Children, Youth & Families Worker, as he co-ordinates the volunteers as together they plan and organise our youth groups for Sparks 5.45-7.15pm and Ignite 7.45-9.30pm meeting weekly on Fridays at St Luke's
- The Tots Treats meeting every Wednesday in St Luke's and Thursday in St Leonard's.
- For safe keeping and a growth in faith at the special services and parties for the young people this Christmas.
- Those living and working in Findon Close, Lindfield Avenue, Ladycross Close, Rodmell Road.

SATURDAY

- Those planning and preparing the extra services for Advent and Christmas.
- That all will find a welcome at this time at both our churches.
- The children who attend their school and nursery Carol Services held in St Leonard's, that they will have the opportunity to understand the true meaning of Christmas.
- That God's truths can be proclaimed at the Carol Services being held for the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service and the Mayor of Seaford.
- Those living and working in Chittenden Avenue, Trenchard Close, Mabey Drive, Berry Lane, Montgomery Way.

Father, thank you that Jesus came into the world as Your Light; that He shines today as brightly and powerfully as He did then, and will do forever.

Help us to open our hearts and minds to allow His light to fill us with the assurance that, no matter what is going on, we are safe in Him.





Servicing

MOT's

Tyres

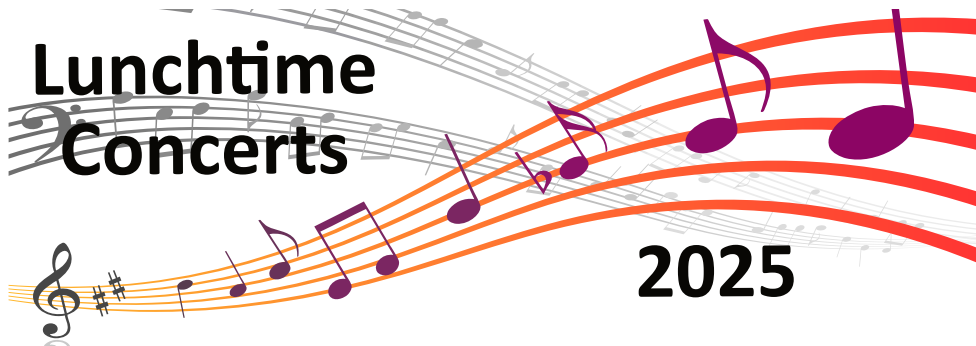
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Lunchtime Concerts

2025

February 15th

Simone Tavoni (piano)

March 15th

Joshua Ryan (organ)

May 17th

Neil Crossland (piano)

June 21st

Clare Beesley (flute) & Pete Churchill (piano accordion)

July 19th

Maggie Grimsdell & Pam Cragg (piano)

August 16th

D'Arcy Trinkwon (organ)

September 20th

Christine Buras (soprano) & Joshua Ryan (piano)

October 18th

Phil Hopkins (harmonica) & Rachel Fryer (piano)

November 15th

Sussex Flutes

All the concerts are in St. Leonard's Church and last for about an hour, admission is free with a retiring collection. Pick up the full concert programme in church or download one from

www.seafordparish.org.uk/saturday-lunchtime-concerts/

The Bubbles Always Go Up

Derreck Lee-Philpot

This mantra ‘The bubbles always go up’ is driven into divers as they train for their hobby or profession. If you get into trouble, if you feel dizzy, nauseous, disoriented, confused... FOLLOW THE BUBBLES. The bubbles will always take you up, to the surface, to the boat, to safety.

It’s just how it is, bubbles always go up.

Regardless of the ocean conditions, the expertise of the diver, the equipment used, the circumstances of the dive, one thing is constant..... the bubbles always go up!

This consistent mantra is necessary because of something that divers can experience called ‘nitrogen narcosis.’ When you go underwater (here comes the science bit) the increased pressure on your body causes the gases in the diver’s air cylinder to do strange things. Divers compressed air is made up of 21% oxygen and 79% nitrogen. Normally (on the surface) we don’t notice the nitrogen, but, underwater, under pressure it has a strange effect upon the human body. A diver will become disoriented, confused, a little like being drunk - but on nitrogen. Divers call this state ‘getting narked’. They start to lose their judgement, not knowing which way is up. Divers rescued in such circumstances report believing the bubbles were going down – and knowing their need to get to the surface but believing that the bubbles

were somehow wrong began to swim deeper into danger.

But ‘The bubbles always go up’ even if the diver is confused enough to believe the opposite.

It’s the same with the Bible. The Bible always points towards God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit. It always points up, heavenward. Regardless of circumstances, context, personal beliefs, ethics, or morals... the Bible always points in the right direction.

The bubbles always go up.

The Bible always points towards God. It’s just how it is.

Trouble is, sometimes when we are in difficulty, spiritually (or literally), confused, disoriented, losing our clear judgement, we fall back on what we think we know. In our desperate (narked) state we interpret what we see in the light of our own circumstances, using *our* judgement, morals, ethics, even when we know and understand that the bubbles always go up we choose to walk/swim even deeper into our difficulties.

The Bible always points towards God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit. It always points up, heavenward.

Sometimes it seems that we would rather stay narked and remain in difficulties than admit that the bubbles always go up, that the Bible is the revealed word of God and that it always points heavenward. Points in the right direction up towards the surface, towards heaven, towards God where safety may be truly found.

Let's train ourselves to follow the bubbles in the good times, to follow the scripture and in doing so fall into step with Jesus in the direction we go. That way, when the going gets tough and confusion and disorientation reigns we will know and believe that..

The bubbles always go up!

(Inspired by the sermon by Mark Tanner, from 'Wrestling with the Word')



"Does anyone have a light, please?"



Lewes, Seaford and District Branch



Please contact: Jean: 01323 892930

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DO YOU HAVE ROOM FOR A FURRY FRIEND?

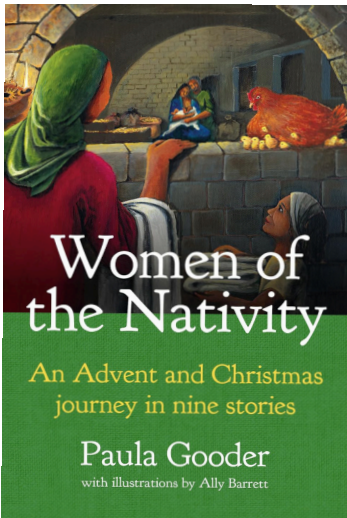
-PHONE FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION IF YOU CAN HELP

Book Reviews

Women of the Nativity: An Advent and Christmas journey in nine stories

Paula Gooder

Church House Publishing, 2024



The story is told from the perspective of nine women in all including Mary, Elizabeth, Rachel, and others whom scripture records or tradition has imagined, such as the innkeeper's wife.

If you like a blend of beautiful story telling alongside deep bible scholarship then this is the perfect Advent pilgrimage for you. Paula Gooder takes nine biblical events and retells them through the eyes of the women who experienced them. These are not children's stories, they tell of the precarious nature of being a women in a world where they had little power and the courage needed to have hope. From Sarah laughing at a stranger's promise, the midwife at the birth of Jesus, to the evil of Herod and the deep longing of Anna.

The stories weave imagination and biblical truth and give a new depth and perspective to the stories we think we know so well. Add to this the creativity of Ally Barrett's beautiful and thoughtful pictures throughout the book. For those who want to go deeper, there are suggested bible passages, reflection questions and resources provided too.

I would highly recommend this as an Advent and Christmas companion on your own or in a small group.

Lucy Hollingsworth

Book Reviews from Sabbatical

During my sabbatical I did a lot of reading, still not as much as I hoped. There were two books that stand out and I recommend them in the form of reviews. I do hope you enjoy...

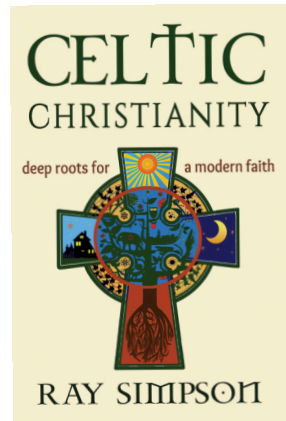
Celtic Christianity - deep roots for a modern faith

Ray Simpson

Anamchara Books, 2017

For those who have wondered what 'Celtic Christianity' is, this is the book that will answer your questions and introduce you to saints like Aiden, Cuthbert, Hilda as well as the better-known Columba, Patrick, Brigid, and Brendan. They brought a spirituality from Ireland that was grounded in the realities of creation yet knew and experienced the wonders of heaven in their day-to-day following of Jesus. It's from these saints we get the phrase 'thin places' where they sensed the supernatural, heavenly, unseen world. Yet theirs was a church that lived naturally and comfortably within the surrounding communities.

These Celtic saints evangelised and converted much of Northumbria and northern England and the borders. Sailing from Ireland in tiny coracles (hardly seagoing vessels) they came with love, a message, and a passion for their God. They founded communities, the best-known being Iona and Lindisfarne and from these bases reached out to heal, bless, and yes to convert all they came across with a sense of strength, power and humility



not previously seen. These simple folk with a mighty faith influenced and guided rulers and kingdoms.

We should be grateful to them, after all one of their number, Wilfrid was exiled to what is now Sussex and seeing his exile as an opportunity brought Christianity to the area for the first time.

The twenty-five easy to read chapters reveal the facets of this gentle expression of faith peeling back the layers to reveal a spirituality that runs deep.

This is a spirituality that we need in our generation today, one that connects with the heart of God, one that respects creation, one that holds to a joyous life of faith and in the words of the sub-title gives us '...deep roots for a modern faith.'

The second book is very different.... Wrestling With The Word – Preaching the tricky texts by Kate Bruce and Jamie Harrison will be reviewed in the next magazine.

Derreck Lee-Philpot

Eco Church & Care for Creation

Nicola Ferguson

A Rocha UK's Eco Church programme equips churches in England and Wales to care for creation. St. Leonard's and St. Luke's are registered with A Rocha on the Eco Church programme. Eco Church is a learning community of churches of all shapes and sizes open to all denominations. It provides a framework to support our church and its leadership to take practical action on caring for God's earth, through the Eco Church survey.

The survey covers five key areas of church life. It guides us and helps us progress towards a Bronze, Silver or Gold Eco Church award. Worship and teaching, Buildings, Land, Community and Global engagement and Lifestyle are the categories that we as a Church Body work on. So far we have achieved a Bronze Award across all five areas. So we need now to work towards silver.

Worship and Teaching: We want to increase the celebration of special Sundays like Creationtide, Environment Sunday, Rogation Sunday etc. relating to caring for God's earth. 'Churches Together' support a blessing of pets during Creationtide in October and I am very keen that St. Leonard's might be able to host this next year, as St. Andrew's, Bishopstone did this year.

We have an opportunity to host guest speakers at both churches from, A Rocha UK and other Christian environmental organisation like Green Christian, Tearfund and others to talk about environmental issues. We are all aware of these issues as a

church family, but we will be more proactively involved and inspired if we move forward together and get to know and hear about all these organisations and the steps we can take, both together and individually. Stefan already features 'Caring for God's earth' as a teaching theme in our Church's children's work and is looking at how to do the same with the youth work.

I would like to form small group study in our churches to focus on Caring for God's earth and A Rocha's resources will assist with enabling this. We will work on increasing our church's communications on environmental issues via newsletters and in our magazine and website, including updates and items specifically relating to the time of Caring for God's earth and our Eco Church journey.

Buildings: We are looking at ways we can facilitate rainwater collection moving to ensure that cleaning products used around our churches will be environmentally friendly, to gradually phase out the use of paper cups and for building refurbishment projects at St. Leonard's, that they adhere to, a standard to ensure best practice in sustainable building design, construction and operation. We have LED lights all about and step by step, one switch at a time, we will move towards our carbon reduction goal in both our churches.

Land: The results in the land section of the Eco awards are our strongest of all five sections. We just love being outside, preferably with our hands in the soil! Surveys of our churchyard at St. Leonard's

have been scrutinised to ensure sufficient land is set aside for the encouragement of native wildlife while keeping it tidy and manageable. Meetings have taken place with iverde - whose team carry out the work in the churchyard and council representatives with regard to a timetable for the mowing, strimming of the churchyard and we are confident that the management of our churchyard is going to be great.

We are going to see more native plant species, herbs and plants grown that will brighten and cheer. We will introduce, where able, bird boxes, feeding stations, insect 'hotels' and hedgehog runs. Did you know that Derreck rescued a hedgehog by the childrens' area in St Leonards? A big shout out to Rose and David for being part of the recent churchyard meeting with Mark. Rose is all eyes and ears when it comes to spotting wildlife in the churchyard.

'..Red Admiral basking on stone today near the path to Church Lane...at least seven big anthills on the slope here...'

Children will love getting down with nose close to the earth to see these wonders and we'll show them how.

We live on God's Glorious Greenscape and we are all stewards of it. We will look to participate in schemes other than Eco Church, such as 'Living Churchyards' to broaden our knowledge and involvement.

Community and Global Engagement: This category highlighted that we, as a Church body can and need to link together more with the local community. We can do this by:

- Organising events providing an opportunity for local people to get out and enjoy God's earth in our local area. Stefan and Charlie C frequently organise sponsored walks for fund-raising. I can engage with our local MP, AM and local

council on environmental matters.

- Arranging for local environmentalists to speak at our services.
- Organise environmental awareness-raising events, Fairtrade events and others too.

Where possible we will endeavour to use Organic ingredients when preparing and serving meals, such as Parish lunch. David B has donated some of his apples in the past and crumble was served on that occasion, but Julia and those hosting Parish Lunch will always welcome donations of home-grown or locally sourced British produce for the parish lunches, given some notice.

Lifestyle

Has anyone ever undertaken a personal carbon footprint audit? I didn't know there were resources for such a thing until I started ALM training for Care for Creation and Eco Church. As an Eco Church, we'd like to encourage everyone to have a look at this. It's about focussing on our personal decisions at home, by using the Creation Care Website at www.creationcare.org.uk

Categories of questions are Worship and Prayer, Home, Garden, Community and Global engagement, Travel, Food and Possessions. You can score bronze, silver or gold. There were many things to consider from this that made me ponder. Here are three:

1. Who knew that you can get insect pet food? It's more environmentally friendly than farm produced meat.
2. When washing synthetic fabrics, did I use a bag or filter to stop microfibres entering the rivers and oceans?
3. I'd not considered that travelling aboard a ship is second only to flying when it comes to travel carbon emissions.

It may make uncomfortable reading if you complete it, but it's encouraging.

St. Luke's Garden

A number of small work parties have been working at St Luke's garden, weeding, clearing and transforming the courtyard into a garden. The design was shared with PCC and the go ahead given in September with a target to finish before Christmas, which remains feasible.

As much as possible, we have used materials already in the courtyard such as sleepers, pebbles, planters, etc in light of trying to recycle things. All materials are delivered for the wheelchair access ramp to a patio area, raised beds are almost ready and the path from the side has been cleared and re-laid as walking access. Once complete, the plan is to have some of the youth plant some flowers and veg while it can be used as a meeting or contemplative area also.

Thank you to anyone who has contributed to the project.

Mark Gill

Christmas Appeal from Serving Africa Mission

David and Pat Farey

We have written about this mission before and spoken at both St Luke's and to the Mothers' Union. People have generously donated to the projects on our base in Ghana and coming up to Christmas we are making a special appeal. Christmas is always a special time to be generous with gifts, especially to those who would otherwise struggle in providing those important resources for themselves.

The children are very special and are learning with a solid Christian ethos. In greeting each child and asking how they are their response is always, "I am blessed and highly favoured."

On our base, where we have our school with 250 children there's a second site for the big school for children to graduate to. It is nearing completion, and we are making our appeal across our supporters in England to raise the necessary funds. The school is two storey and has three operational classrooms. Work is progressing on providing four more on the second floor. We need £1000 to complete the roof sheets; £10,000 for fitting out the classrooms, £4500 to have the electricity supply installed, and £8500 to build a wall around to make the site safe and secure for the children. Any contributions are appreciated to complete the work.

To make a donation email servingafricamission@gmail.com or speak to us. The mission's website is www.servingafrica-mission.org.

An Update on Samara's Aid

Summer Camps for the Children

During the summer our team put on a series of overnight camps for our orphans and vulnerable children from our city outreach centre. They have never had anything resembling a holiday before, and many have barely even left the city before. The team hosted them at our rural outreach centre, putting on games, activities, and most of all teaching them about the farming process, showing them our solar and wind power, our irrigations systems, the sheep, horses, donkeys and cows. The children got to see where much of the food we feed them is grown.

The team described how when the children arrived they looked nervous and depressed, but as the day went on they thrived in the fresh air, running around and spending time with the animals in nature. The evenings were filled with singing, music, dancing and warm snacks. At night, the classrooms in the building were turned into bedrooms with sleeping mats - three rooms upstairs for the girls and three downstairs for the boys. They were like different children going home the next evening.

Harvests: Grapes and More

It's grape picking season and we have had a good harvest with four tonnes of grapes so far from the vineyard. The team have been distributing big bags of grapes to the poor, bringing smiles to the faces of so many. This year the team have also been growing and harvesting aubergines, peppers, beans, okra, tomatoes, cucumbers, peanuts, molokai, sunflower seeds and cabbages. We are hoping to start harvesting the peanuts soon,

although the primary reason for growing them is their nitrogen-fixing properties as a "green fertiliser" to improve the soil-quality of the land. The peanuts will be the added bonus.

From the sheep we have had milk, yoghurt and cheese in huge quantities, and a little meat as well as wool, and from the chickens a little meat and more eggs. We have planted so many productive trees which we hope will bear much fruit that we can distribute to the poor over the coming years.

New Outreach Centre

Work is well underway on the new Outreach Centre in the mountains. It will be one larger room with two small rooms, a small kitchen and two WCs, and will function as a small distribution centre and a small outreach centre. We have learnt over the years that each area has its own unique personality and that each service we provide needs a different flavour to serve that specific community in the right way.

Refugees from Lebanon

We currently have 3 permanent, functioning distribution centres in different areas – all within reach of the Lebanese borders. Thousands of Lebanese have been fleeing into Syria to escape the war and they are arriving in the very areas where our teams and projects are. We had hoped to offer support by providing food, but there are just too many people for us to do that. Instead, we will be offering medical support as we have just opened our 2nd Medical Centre in a very poor city area.



Terry Howell

Good News

Our 25th Anniversary Concert was fully booked and raised over £4,000 after expenses! It raised our profile and we received three new volunteers. In the interval of the Concert, a five minute professional video, donated to us, was shown. It shows Hannah being interviewed about her experience of the need for help. I was amazed to hear that she was very nervous before being filmed because she sounds very confident. I think it will be possible to show this film in our local churches.

Uncertainty

Last month I wrote about the new Renters Rights Bill. The effects of this admirable bill on the market are not yet clear. Meanwhile, there are considerable doubts about whether the Government's housing targets can be met. A new well planned town like Stevenage (where we lived in 1960) seems an excellent way to expand housing. The effect of both these measures on rental accommodation remains very uncertain. However, there is no doubt that the end of the sales of council housing to sitting tenants is very welcome because it should improve the supply of local authority housing to rent.

Finance

Our current projection for next year is of a loss of £10,000 but we do have some grant applications in the pipeline so we are hopeful that we will be able to break even. Our County Council will

no longer be supporting us with £25,000 p.a. but Lewes District Council has promised to continue to support us with at least £12,000p.a. for the next three years.

Right Now

The number of Loans looks to be marginally higher than last year. The repayment level is 76% but a number of these are at a very low level. The number of Grants for basic household white goods, furniture and white goods continues to be very high. Gill, a Trustee, continues to do excellent work in contacting people to find their needs. It is often necessary to prioritise them because our maximum grant of £350 is not enough to cover all that is needed. It is distressing to hear from social workers and others of so many who are suffering from physical and mental problems as well as homelessness. A sizeable proportion of these are due to domestic abuse. Our Budget of £25,000 has been exceeded but we have had help from a small charity only helping those living in Lewes.

PRAYERS

- That we may help many people in need of housing or rehousing.
- That we may be efficient and compassionate in our work.
- That we may find more Trustees to meet our needs.

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Life And More Abundant Ministries

Lesley Gomez

Dear Friends, Greetings from the Philippines. It is Typhoon season!

This November we have braced for 3 super typhoons coming in one after the other, presently waiting for number 4 heading our way. Thankfully, La Union has not been badly hit so far, but further North has taken a beating. LAMA House is a designated Evacuation Centre in times like this, so we prepare for families needing to shelter and are getting food in for them. There is also a Centre nearer to the beach where families evacuate, run by a Korean missionary. It is difficult to accommodate so many people as LAMA House is not only a Centre it is also our home and things get broken or stolen - but we are saving lives, many have been saved in the past, we even had a young mother give birth here one year during a typhoon! The Philippines experiences around twenty typhoons every year, recently the flooding and destruction has been worse, particularly in Cagayan, North of us. We need funds for supplies (noodles, rice, chicken, soup, hot drinks etc) You can donate to our General Fund to help with this. The cost of living has increased but the LORD remains ever faithful and the great provider!

Chaplaincy: The photo above shows our Answer to prayer. We have purchased a vehicle for transporting the sound system and worship team, having sold the bus and old Land Cruiser to pay for it.



The boys at the Regional Rehabilitation Centre for Youth (RRCY) pray every day that they can leave detention.

After Chapel Service many come forward for prayer and we pray for justice for each of them in due time. It is very frustrating as court hearings are postponed time and again, the months and years go by.

One of the young men ran to tell us after one session that he expected to be released very soon - we were so thankful for the answer to his prayers after 9 long years. But the following week he told us the decision had gone the other way; he was preparing to be transferred to adult prison in Manila. He had given his life to Jesus- he said, voice shaking, "whether outside or inside Jesus is with me and perhaps He wants to use me like Joseph in the Bible." He has been set free spiritually! Pray for him and others like him. Last week around 100 boys listened carefully as Michael asked: "who can tell me, what is your name and who are you" ... there was an awkward silence and boys avoided looking at him! Then the boy

who had recently tried to escape, sitting at the front volunteered. "My name is M - I am a good person!" Some giggled; "yeah! Right!" Another awkward pause then one of the boys walked forward from the back.

"I am G... I see myself very low right now because I am here." He shuffled, looking at his feet then sat down. Another plucked up courage and took the mic, "I am N ... I am a bad person." A very heavy silence fell on them, they were all looking down. Michael thanked them for their honesty and continued: "Let's read a story that Jesus told, about a Pharisee who kept all the religious laws and a corrupt tax collector, both praying in the temple, Luke 18:9-14. Who was accepted by God? The atmosphere lifted - You are seen, you are accepted! Who would like to give their life to Jesus this morning? No hesitation, almost all hands shot up!

Good news! Peter and I are matched as Mattheo's adoptive parents. Michael and family, Simon and Ana, our church congregation, and friends here in Pugo are thrilled that we all get to watch him grow up! A little miracle and bundle of joy! One friend responded, "Mattheo has always been home!"

It was at the end of October 2022 when Ana applied at the DSWD office and was handed an application form and a list of requirements to register as a foster carer. We were still doing that when she received a call, November 7 - a newborn had been found -could she have him? He went to hospital for checks for a few days then was handed to Ana. With no foster parents available for newborns, Ana was listed as the only 'Emergency Care.' They said it was 'Divine Intervention.' We believe so! We

offered to accommodate and help the mother if she came forward, but she never did. We had expected it would be around 6 months for the DSWD to find suitable adoptive parents, but the weeks and months went by. When he was finally ready for the adoption process almost 2 years had gone by. He is part of a much wider family. We even took him with us high up in the mountains when we visited Mama Adella! She got to meet him too!

Thank you for praying! Now begins the process of home visits for up to 6 months, then final adoption. They say the process has recently been streamlined - we will see! As a family we had the joyous occasion at the beginning of November of celebrating Baby M's 2nd birthday.

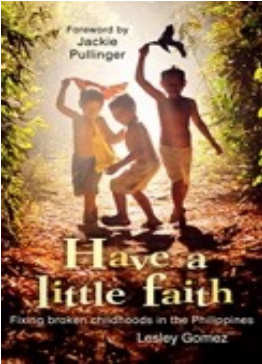


Ana has been notified of five other babies since Mattheo came to us. Pray that the Philippine culture around fostering and adoption would change to be more like Kingdom Culture, adoption has always been part of God's Kingdom. May there be more foster/adoptive parents soon.

We appreciate your prayers - know that you too are NOT insignificant as we work together for God's Kingdom.

Happy Christmas and blessings for the New Year.

Have a Little Faith



Lesley Gomez's book *Have a Little Faith* is available on amazon.com. The publisher (SPCK) have said that sales have dwindled so there will not be another reprint. It is a

great little gift for Christmas or Birthdays if you would like to buy for friends. Lesley's other little book *Through Jesus Christ my Lord, Prayers for my Family*, is also available on Amazon.com. Another great little gift idea!

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HE'S BEHIND YOU!

Graham Tubb

Oh, yes he is! Panto, it's very near again. I've been involved in pantos since I was 6 years old.

First in Babes in the Wood (now called Robin Hood) and I appeared in numerous versions of Cinderella, Mother Goose, Robinson Crusoe, Dick Whittington, Jack & Jill and Sleeping Beauty. Oddly, I've never been in Alladin!

The now gone Grand Theatre in Brighton was 'the' place to see them, followed by the Brighton Hippodrome, a

beautiful Frank Matcham designed theatre. Hopefully we will see it re-open in 2026.

We all knew the old famous lines too... 'I can't get my foot in the crystal slipper', with the repost 'You couldn't get your foot in the Crystal Palace'. All very dated now, but long may they continue. In their hey-day several panto stars were earning fortunes! People like Dorothy Ward and her husband Sean Glenville who played principle boy and dame in many pantos. Dorothy also had her famous legs insured. Other well known stars includd Evelyn Laye, Adele Dixon and Pat Kirkwood (to name but a few).

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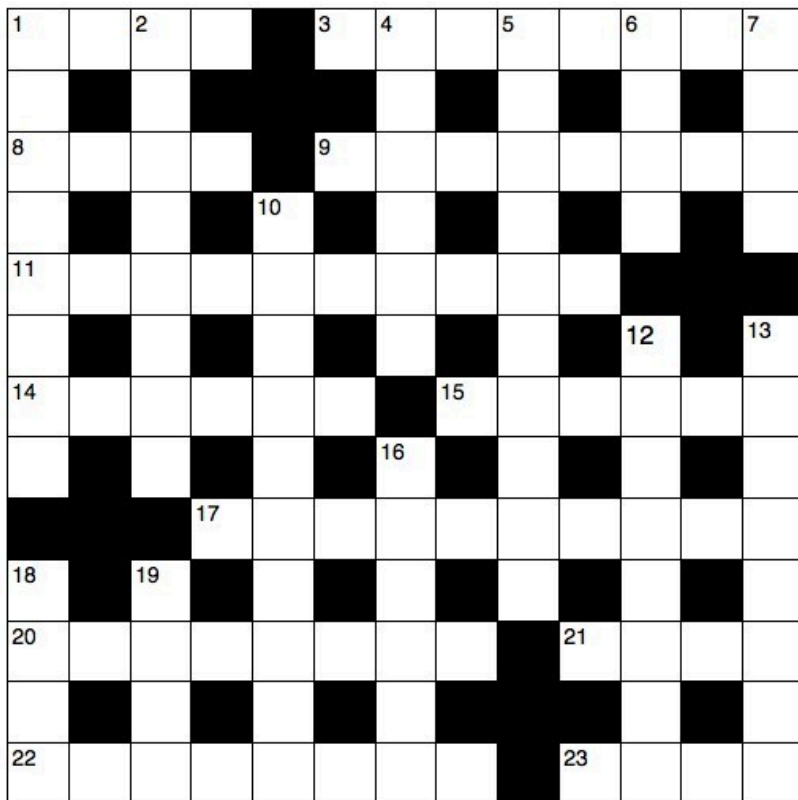
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Crossword



Across

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)
- 8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)
- 9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)
- 11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)
- 14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)
- 15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)
- 17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)
- 20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)
- 21 Rite (anag.) (4)
- 22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)
- 23 'The eye cannot say to the — , "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

December-January Lectionary

Sunday 1st December: Advent 1

Deuteronomy 6:1-9
John 6:9, 35-40, 47, 66-69

Sunday 8th December: Advent 2

Genesis 1:1-19
Matthew 6:6-13

Sunday 15th December: Advent 3

Colossians 1:15-20
John 1:1-14

Sunday 22nd December: Advent 4

Isaiah 7:11-16
Luke 1:39-55

Christmas Eve

Hebrews 1:1-12
John 1:1-14

Christmas Day

Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:8-20

Sunday 29th December: 1st Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31:15-17,
Matthew 2:13-18

Sunday 5th January 2025: Epiphany

Psalms 72:10-15
Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday 12th January: Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 43:1-7
Luke 3:15-17,21,22

Sunday 19th January Week of Christian Unity

1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

Sunday 26th January: 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

Down

1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — — , and don't stop anywhere in the plain!'
(Genesis 19:17) (4,4)

2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)

4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner!"'
(Luke 18:13) (6)

5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)

6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)

7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)

10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)

12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)

13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)

16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and —' (Acts 7:22) (6)

18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)

19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)

December 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
Sunday 8th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Family Worship	St. Luke's
	4.00pm	A Quiet Christmas Service	St. Leonard's
	7.00pm	Prayer@7	Chyngton Methodist
Monday 9th	2.30pm	Stopover Christmas Service	St. Leonard's
Tuesday 10th	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
Wednesday 11th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	6.30pm	Mayor's Carol Service	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
	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7 Carols	St. Luke's
Monday 16th	7.30pm	Women's Group	St. Luke's
Wednesday 18th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Saturday 21st	8.00pm	Carols in the Pub	Wellington Hotel
Sunday 22nd	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Family Worship	St. Luke's
	6.00pm	Carol Service	St. Leonard's
Monday 23rd	4.00pm	Messy Christingle	St. Leonard's
Tuesday 24th	3.00pm	Crib Service	St. Luke's
	6.00pm	Nativity Service	St. Leonard's
	11.00pm	First Communion of Christmas	St. Leonard's
Wednesday 25th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Family Communion	St. Luke's
Sunday 29th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches

ACROSS: 1, Lame; 3, Obtained; 8, Omit; 9, Merchant; 11, Burdensome; 14, Crafty; 15, Please; 17, Blacksmith; 20, Splendid; 21, Tier; 22, Singing; 23, Hand.
DOWN: 1, Look back; 2, Main road; 4, Breast; 5, Accomplish; 6, Near; 7, Date; 10, Pestilence; 12, Basilica; 13, Tethered; 16, Action; 18, Asa's; 19, Clan.

January Calendar

Wednesday 1st	11.00am	Matins	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Sunday 5th	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.15am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
Wednesday 8th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	12.30pm	Parish Lunch	St. Luke's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Sunday 12th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Family Worship	St. Luke's
	7.00pm	Prayer@7	St. Luke's
Tuesday 14^h	11.00am	Prayer Ministry	St. Luke's
		Magazine Copy Date	
Wednesday 15th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Sunday 19th	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.15am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
Monday 20^h	7.30pm	Women's Group	St. Luke's
Wednesday 22nd	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Friday 24th	2.30pm	Mothers' Union	St. Luke's
Saturday 25th	10.00am	Open Church Cafe	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Sunday 26th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Family Worship	St. Luke's
	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7	St. Luke's
Tuesday 28th	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
Wednesday 29th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's

Holy Habits

The new year brings the challenge to re commit to improving ourselves and learning new things. Holy Habits is a ministry of the Bible Reading Fellowship in providing books and briefings on different aspects of Christian life, for individuals and groups such as our home Fellowships. You can check out what BRF has to offer at: <https://www.brfoonline.org.uk>. There are daily Bible reading notes for daily meditation or further deeper study, there is even a helpful guide to help you choose the right notes for you. So, start or continue your Holy habit for 2025 and sign up for some Bible reading notes.

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
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Prayer Pastor

Safeguarding Officer

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Magazine

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