

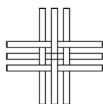
Parish Magazine

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



December 2025-January 2026

Suggested donation **£1.00**



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Welcome

Christmas Unwrapped

All of us have received unwanted gifts at Christmas. For Joseph the gift of a child, as recorded in Matthew chapter 1, was not something he really wanted. Although he was engaged to Mary, her pregnancy would be grounds for divorce. Not surprisingly, with the associated social disgrace, Joseph wanted to divorce Mary quietly (Matthew 1:19). However, God intervened in a dream: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means, God with us.' (1:23). In a scary and uncertain world, what does the message of Immanuel say to us today?

God is present with us

God assured Joseph that He was working in all that Joseph was going through. The eternal and creator God entered time and space as a baby. This baby is both uniquely divine but also fully human. This means that we can know God personally, not just know about Him. The Holy Spirit is committed to making Jesus' life and character real in us, and bringing meaning to our circumstances, just as He worked in Mary's life.

God is on our side

Christmas touches some raw nerves in our lives, including stress, family rows, loneliness and financial pressures. However, God does not remain aloof from our experiences. In Jesus He enters our world of hopes and fears, joys and disappointments. He understands what we are going through, as He is alongside us. By the cross and resurrection, He gave His life that we might know His love, joy, peace and forgiveness.

For Joseph, as well as us, the Christmas message is one of hope in an uncertain world. It is a time to re-consider the claims of Immanuel ('God with us') as we entrust ourselves to Him for the coming year.

Parish News

Happy New Kitchen!

Over this last year, our architect has been drawing up the detailed specs for the internal reordering that St Leonard's will be going through in 2026.

The Diocesan Advisory Committee gave their blessing in November, so with our Faculty we should be able to start the work in January. This will result in the Holy Spirit side chapel being glassed in as a warmer place for meetings, prayer, perhaps even a Sunday school. There will be a ramp that leads up to this. Under the tower, we will have a kitchen and servery. Our tech desk will get tidied up and improved with some screens and cameras. There will be a small extension out the north side of the Church where the toilet is and so we will end up with an accessible toilet and two other toilets.

No doubt there will be mess and dust and disruption during the weeks, but we do not think that this will affect our Sunday worship. Please do pray for this to finally happen, for the finances to be there, and for the Lord to bless this venture.

Parish Lunch

Turkey and all the Trimmings! We will be serving our Christmas Parish Lunch on Wednesday 3rd December at 12.30 in St Luke's. The usual lunch resumes on Wednesday 7th January. Please let us know early. If you haven't been before it is a meal of fellowship and friendship and we have available places. The cost is £6.00 for a two course meal including tea or coffee. For tickets and more information call Sue on 01323 490415 or Julia 01323 895073. We look forward to seeing you.

Life After Loss

The next Life After Loss sessions will be held on Wednesdays 3rd December and January 7th at 63 Chyngton Gardens from 10am-12.00noon. Anyone who has been bereaved whether recently or longer and would like to join, will be welcome. For more detail please call Diana Woodcock: 01323 891749 or Chris Doherty: 01323 658309.

St. Luke's @7

Join us for a time of worship and prayer on Sunday 14th December for St. Luke's@7 Christmas with Seaford Primary School Chamber Choir. There's no supper on this day but bring and share refreshments from 6.30pm. The service starts at 7.00pm. It's back to usual on Sunday January 25th with a shared supper at 5.45pm.

Prayer@7

There will no Prayer@7 in December as that will be the night of St. Luke's@7 Christmas service. Thank you for your faithful prayers through the years, and do keep praying for all the opportunities of this Advent and Christmas season!

Alpha

Join a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. Each session covers a different topic of faith, and there's plenty of space to share your thoughts. You can say anything you like, or nothing at all. You're invited, no matter your background or beliefs. For more information contact Carole Darling or email revcarole@seafordparish.org

Christmas 2025

A Quiet Christmas Service

St. Leonard's on Sunday 14th December at 4.00pm

St. Luke's@7 Christmas

St. Luke's on Sunday 14th December at 7.00pm

Beer and Carols

The Wellington on Saturday 20th December at 8.00pm

A Service of Lessons and Carols*

St. Leonard's on Sunday 21st December at 6.00pm

Messy Christingle

St. Leonard's on Monday 22nd 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

JOY



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

www.seafordparish.org.uk

JOY

Coffee, Prayer Ministry & Communion

You are welcome to join in our next Service of Prayer Ministry with Communion at St. Luke's on Tuesdays 16th and 30th December then 13th and 27th January at 11.00am. Coffee will be available from 10.00am to 12.00pm.

Seaford Parish Women's Group

We have two meeting dates in December on Monday 8th we will be holding our Stopover Service in St Leonard's at 2.30pm. We will be providing wrapped Christmas gifts for Stopover young women in West Sussex. Stopover are currently providing accommodation for 56 young women and now licensed to provide accommodation for girls aged 16 to 17.

All gifts must be new and wrapped in Christmas paper. Tins of biscuits are well received and need not be wrapped. Please give generously to these young women who are less fortunate than ourselves. The service is combined with The Mothers Union, it will take approximately an hour with an update from Stevie Graves, Head of Supported Housing. We will serve refreshments after the service.

On Monday 15th December Women's Group will meet at 7.30pm in St Luke's for favourite Carols, Readings & prayers,

followed by mince pies and refreshments. We will hold our AGM on Monday 19th January in St Luke's at 7.30pm voting in a new committee. We will serve refreshments have updates from members and enjoy a Women's Group traditional light hearted upside down raffle.

We break for refreshments during the evening and close with prayers. Lifts can be arranged and we welcome new members.

Mothers' Union

The MU meet on Monday 8th December along with SPWG for the annual Stopover service. On January 23rd at 2.30pm there will be the branch AGM.

The Meeting Place

The next Meeting Place will be on Sunday 7th December at 11.15am in St. Leonard's. There will then be a break during the rest of December and January.

Parish Magazine


Items for the February-March edition of the magazine should be sent to by Tuesday 20th January to: magazine@seafordparish.org.uk



Open Church Cafe

St. Leonard's Church

Saturday 24th January from 10.00am to 12.30pm



RAISING FUNDS
FOR OUR
CHILDREN,
YOUTH AND
FAMILY WORK



£1
ENTRY
UNDER 12'S
FREE



SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER 25
AT 10:30AM - 3PM



Christmas FAIR

ST LUKE'S CHURCH,
WALMER ROAD, SEAFORD,
BN25 3TH

JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS STALLS, MUSIC,
MULLED WINE, MINCE PIES & SANTA'S GROTTO
ALL IN A FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE!

TO BOOK A STALL/TABLE
PLEASE SCAN BELOW
[TINYURL.COM/SEAFORDCHRISTMAS25](https://tinyurl.com/seafordchristmas25)



SEAFORD PARISH CHURCH
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES
ST LEONARD'S AND ST LUKE'S

I believe in the Saints

James Hollingsworth



Happy New Year!

Of course, you realise that I am referring to Sunday 30th November, the First Sunday of Advent. Advent is the start of the Christian Calendar. So, this is as good a time as ever to have a think over the period of Advent how you and your faith are doing?

Have a look over this last year, can you spot those moments that were ghastly and dark? You prayed for some light, some guidance, and maybe you saw it, or maybe now with some hindsight you can see that God held you and has brought you through it.

In the light of the faithfulness of God, perhaps you might make a New Year's Resolution that involves praying differently, worshipping with more intent and attention. Perhaps you might feel bold enough to invite two or three people to the very many different sort of Carol services that we have this year. Perhaps you might invite someone to come to the Alpha Course in January.

This year we will be doing A Quiet Carol service (see a list of services on page 3). So many of our carols are full of bounce and joy and quite rightly so but some of us sometimes just need a quieter time of reflection on the good news of God in Jesus Christ arriving here on earth. We will sing some quieter carols and note this awesome moment of incarnation.

Throughout December and January, on

Facebook, you will find a Thought for the Day, three times a week, reflecting on a carol. I hope that they work on you like a musical earworm that leaves you humming a joyful song through the day. Do let me know if you have a favourite. My favourite is 'O little town of Bethlehem'. On the one hand it will this year make me extra sad as I think about some of the people that I have met when I have visited Bethlehem and the struggles that the Christians there continue to go through. But 'the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight' this is the line that gives me strength to persist in prayer and worship.

I believe in the Saints

2025 closes the Year of the Creed. We have looked over the Nicene Creed, preached on it, done 'Thought for the Day's' on it, explored it through this magazine. We will keep saying it because we still believe in 'One God, ... maker of all that is, seen and unseen, ... and We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come'. Amen indeed.

So, for 2026, I thought perhaps we could look at some Saints. We recognise a lot of official Catholic Saints but add to that list also some Saints who are not official saints but who are recognised in the Anglican Calendar (eg John Wycliffe) as heroes of the faith. Some of them are solid in their historical, geographical,

existence and others we're not so sure about.

I was listening to the Archers recently, one of the characters offered to cover a shift on the farm and the other character replied, 'ooh you're a saint'. I get how and why we say stuff like that and I don't want you to stop saying things like 'ooh you're an angel' when someone helps you open a jam jar that was extra tight. But you and I know that that isn't what an angel is and it isn't what a saint is.

Let me know if you have a favourite Saint and I will try to find out about him or her.

December 6th: Bishop Nicholas

You do know that Santa Claus is real? Once upon a time there was a man called Nicholas. He was born perhaps 270 or 280AD – we're not that sure- in Turkey, he became a Christian, he became the Bishop of Myra in Turkey. His parents were very wealthy but they died when he was still young. So, he had to grow up quickly.

The legend starts with the story of how he heard of a poor family where there were three daughters but no money, no dowry, and the danger that they might end up sold into slavery or prostitution. The Bishop threw some money through the window as an anonymous gift. Variations of the story has Nicholas throwing three bags of money down the chimney. The point is that Nicholas was saving people from being slave trafficked. That's how Nicholas started, and later on he gets sainted and later on we get Saint Nick or Santa Claus.

Other stories regarding bishop Nicholas are that during the Diocletian persecution which ended in 303 he was put in prison and tortured.

But my favourite story must be when Bishop Nicholas was at the Council of Nicaea, 325, when we got our Nicene Creed about Jesus being fully God and fully human. A deacon called Arius had caused the Council to happen by popularizing his idea that Jesus was just a nice bloke. The story goes that this theological nonsense incensed Bishop Nicholas so much that he punch Arius. You might not be ready for a santa that punches people, I think the story is made up – but we certainly get the image of a man who was prepared to fight for what he believed in – because without that Nicaean understanding of Jesus there would be no true forgiveness. The story goes on that he was then put in chains and in jail for throwing the punch but in the morning Nicholas was found sitting in jail, but with chains off and the door unlocked. And everyone was so impressed they let him out.

So on 6th December, give thanks to God for all Nicholases everywhere. And give thanks for the generosity of Bishop Nicholas who used his money to stop slavery. When you come to buy your presents this year, perhaps you might bear in mind the work of your church and other local Charities.

December 13th: St. Lucy

Happy St Lucy day to you! She was born 283AD in Syracuse Sicily. She was a Christian but her dad died when she was young. She was engaged to be married to someone who wanted to marry her because she was wealthy. So, she gave lots of her money away to the poor. She died in 304 just after the end of the nasty Diocletian persecution – so that would suggest that even though the formal persecution of Christians had ended there were still some

vindictive vendettas to be sorted – its thought that she was betrayed by her angry betrothed who now saw that he was getting a poor wife. Alas Lucy was tortured for her faith in Jesus. Her eyes were gouged out which is why sometimes you see her portrayed as holding a plate with her eye balls on them. You should not be surprised then that she is the patron saint of the blind. In Scandinavia they make quite a thing of St Lucy's Day with women skiing down snowy slopes whilst wearing white dresses and a crown of candles.

Try to remember on 13th December to give thanks to God for all Lucy's everywhere! Pray for the courage to have the same faith that she had. Note her generosity and pray about how and who you can be generous to over Christmas.

There are lots of other Saints in December such as Bishop Ambrose (7th) who played a role in the conversion of St Augustine, of John of the Cross (14th) who helped us hold on to faith even through the dark night of the soul and that turbulent priest Thomas Becket (29th) who was martyred in 1170. But John Wycliffe is not a Saint in the traditional use of the word.

December 31st: John Wycliffe

Wycliffe was a Catholic priest and professor at Oxford University who having had a stroke, died on 31st December 1384. His big gift to the Church was to translate the Latin Vulgate bible into (Middle) English. You can still buy it but it looks a bit expensive for me.

Bearing in mind that the Reformation didn't really start until 1517 with

Luther, this would explain why some hail John as 'the morning star of the Reformation'.

I think one take away point from his life is the importance of having God's word in a language that you can understand. When Jerome translated the Greek Bible into Latin in the fourth century he was doing it in order to help Christians read Holy Writ in the common tongue but by Wycliffe's day very few spoke Latin. Those who agreed with him, took his translation out to the people, preaching and reading Scripture to the poor and uneducated in a language they could understand. They were known disparagingly as Lollards.

He's not a Saint in the Catholic Church sense of the word. Rather they decided he was a heretic and dug up his bones in 1428 and burnt them. But to the rest of us, we can be glad of his life of courage and integrity. May it lead you to appreciate the Bible more, and lead you to open it up and begin to read God's word that has brought healing and transformation to so many people's lives.

Should you so choose, if you were to read three chapters of it per day you could read the whole bible in a year. I suggest you start now.

January

I could have written about St Basil who helped us understand the Trinity and who established monasteries; or Hilary of Poitiers who wrote hymns in mid third century and cautioned us against a love of Church buildings (at first we define them but in time, they may define us!), or Antony of Egypt whose life started the monastic movement and so on. I hope all this talk of saints

leads you to think about who has had a saintly impact on your life.

January 11th: Mary Slessor

Mary Slessor (1848–1915) was a humble Scottish missionary whose deep faith and fearless love for others made her a shining light in the world. Born into poverty in Aberdeen, she worked long hours in a cotton mill from a young age. Yet even in hardship, Mary's heart was full of faith. She was inspired by stories of missionaries like David Livingstone and felt God calling her to serve in Africa. Trusting that call, she left behind the comfort of home and travelled to Calabar, in present-day Nigeria, to share the message of Jesus Christ.

Life in Calabar was dangerous and difficult, but Mary's trust in God never wavered. She lived among the local people, learned their language, and treated them with deep respect and love. Unlike many of her time, she did not see herself as above those she served; instead, she lived simply, as one of them. Her compassion was especially seen in her care for women and children. She rescued twins who were condemned by local custom and became a mother to many orphaned and abandoned children. Her courage, gentleness, and faith earned her the name "White Ma"—a sign of affection and trust from the people she loved.

Mary Slessor is a powerful role model for Christians today because her life shows what it means to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. She trusted God's strength more than her own, loved others without fear or prejudice, and served with humility and grace. In a world still divided by injustice and need, Mary's life calls us to step out in faith, to love bravely, and to be the hands and

feet of Christ wherever He sends us. Her story reminds us that when we give ourselves fully to God, He can use even one life to change the world.

January 13th: George Fox

Not to be confused with Foxe who wrote Foxe's Book of Martyrs (1563)! Rather instead today is a good day to give thanks for Quakers.

George Fox (1624–1691) was a man who longed to know God deeply and to live a life guided by His Spirit. Born in Leicestershire, England, Fox grew up in a time of great religious confusion and division. As a young man, he searched earnestly for truth, visiting priests and preachers, but found no peace in mere words or ceremonies. Finally, after years of struggle, he heard God speak to his heart: "There is one, even Christ Jesus, who can speak to thy condition." From that moment, his life was transformed. Fox devoted himself completely to following the inner guidance of Christ.

He became the founder of the Religious Society of Friends, later known as the Quakers. Fox taught that every person could know God directly through the Holy Spirit, without needing wealth, rank, or ritual. His message was simple yet powerful—live truthfully, love others sincerely, and let your life reflect the presence of Christ within you. Though he was often ridiculed, beaten, and imprisoned for his beliefs, Fox never turned away from his calling. His courage and calm spirit inspired many to seek a deeper, more personal faith.

George Fox's life is a beautiful example for Christians today. In a noisy and divided world, his example reminds us to listen for God's still, small voice and

to live with integrity and peace. He challenges us to live our faith not just in words, but in action—to speak truth, stand for justice, and show compassion to all. Like Fox, we are called to be guided by Christ’s Spirit in every moment, trusting that when we walk in obedience and humility, God will use our lives to bring His light and love to the world.

January 28th: Saint Thomas Aquinas

Some of the Saints we’ve seen so far have not been what the Catholic Church have listed as Saints but I hope you can see that they are worthy of our gratitude, worthy of emulating aspects of their lives. I hope you find some encouragement in this next saint:

Saint Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) was one of the greatest thinkers in Christian history, yet his life was marked not by pride but by deep humility and devotion to God. Born in Italy into a noble family, Thomas showed an early desire to serve the Lord through study and prayer. Against his family’s wishes, he joined the Dominican Order, choosing a life of simplicity and learning over wealth and status. From the beginning, his heart was set on one purpose—to know God and to help others know Him more deeply.

Thomas believed that faith and reason were not enemies but gifts that together reveal God’s truth. Through his writings, especially the *Summa Theologica*, he helped Christians understand that every part of creation points back to its Creator. But beyond his great intellect, what made Thomas truly remarkable was his humility. After years of study and teaching, he had a mystical experience that left him awed by God’s presence. From that moment, he said, “All that I have written seems like straw compared to what has been revealed to me.” His faith was not just of the mind—it was a love that filled his whole heart.

Saint Thomas Aquinas is a timeless role model for Christians today. He teaches us that our faith should engage both heart and mind, that learning and worship belong together, and that true wisdom begins with love for God. In a world filled with confusion and distraction, his life reminds us to seek truth diligently and to use our gifts for God’s glory. Like Thomas, may we live with humility, think deeply, and love completely—always seeking the One who is Truth itself.

With New Year’s Resolutions in mind, here is John Wesley’s rule of conduct:

- Do all the good you can
- By all the means you can
- In all the ways you can
- In all the places you can
- At all the times you can
- To all the people you can
- As long as ever you can.

Safeguarding

Ruth Saunders

Safeguarding must never become synonymous with an obligatory bureaucratic tick box exercise. I have spent many hours over the last 14 years, chasing you to update your DBS checks and renew your training, and there are times when we all must have felt, that a bureaucratic tick box exercise, is exactly what we have been doing. Thank you so much, for working with me to get that obligatory exercise done.

For it is only a part of this thing called safeguarding, which has crept up on us all over the past decades. The record of Chichester Diocese along with many other institutions, has shown time and time again, that we have failed in our duty to keep children and adults safe and cared for. We will not find the word Safeguarding in the Bible, and yet, there are over 2000 references to matters of justice and injustice there, where the principles we now consider to be a part of Safeguarding, are clear. Widows, orphans and strangers are of particular concern to God, but they represent every one of us. Although we may balk at the use of the word vulnerable, never believing that that includes us, we are all vulnerable at times, be it through illness, bereavement, the challenges of caring for another person, the struggle to keep your family provided for after redundancy or the depths of depression.

We know of the shocking stories of abuse, the failure to deal with it and the outcomes for victims, which we have read about in newspapers, and think that nothing like that can happen where we are. But history and experience tell

us that it can, and it is important that we are all aware of what abuse may look like. And lots of abuse will not hit the headlines, but the victims may be sitting next to us in church, or standing in front of us in the queue in Morrisons. And there we may be able to make a real difference to someone, if we are always on the alert for signs of unhappiness.

Undertaking DBS checks and training courses, is only part of our safeguarding responsibilities. The discussions we have in training sessions, talking through concerns confidentially with another person, praying with or for someone, taking action are all things that we have shared and committed to over the years. Thank you for all those conversations I have had with you, about yourself, a person close to you or someone you don't know so much about, where we have shared stuff, and prayed and looked at options.

It's been hard work at times, and I know that you must sometimes have felt like avoiding me, lest I have yet another little thing for you to fill in! But I hope that together we have made a difference to some peoples' lives, and that we are all better equipped to understand and be alert to the sadnesses and difficulties that any of us could face. Thank you for all your support, responsiveness, grace and good humour.

Christingle

The word 'Christingle' actually means 'Christ Light', and celebrates the light of Jesus coming into the world. Stories of how the Christingle began look back to the Moravian Church, which is found in the Czech Republic. The Moravians have held Christingle services for more than 200 years, and according to them, this is how the first Christingle might have been made.

Many years ago the children in a village were asked to bring a Christmas gift to put beside the crib in the church. One family was very poor, and had no money for gifts, but the three children were still determined to take something. The only nice thing they had was an orange, so they decided to give the Christ-child that.

But then they discovered the top was going green, so the eldest cut it out, and put a candle in the hole. To add some colour, one of the girls took a red ribbon from her hair and tied it around the middle of the orange. It was hard to make the ribbon stay still, so they fastened it in place with toothpicks. The toothpicks looked a bit bare, so the youngest child added some raisins to them.

The children took their decorated orange lantern to the church for the Christmas Mass. The other children sneered at their meagre gift, but the priest seized upon it with joy. He held it up as an example of the true understanding of the meaning of Christmas, for the following reasons: the orange is round, like the world; the

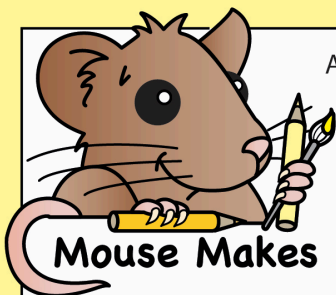
candle gives us light in the dark, like the love of God; the red ribbon goes round the 'world', as a symbol of Christ's blood, given for everyone; the four sticks point in all directions, and symbolise that God is over all: North, South, East and West; and the fruit and nuts remind us of God's blessings.

The Children's Society first introduced the Christingle Service to The Church of England in 1968, and it has since become a popular event in the church calendar. This candlelit celebration is an ideal way to share the key messages of the Christian faith.

Join us for our



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



At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, God's Son and our Saviour coming into the world as a baby, and we look forward to the time when Jesus will come again, not as a baby but as the King of kings and Lord of lords!

read

John 14:3

A baby needs clothes to keep warm like a snugly sleep suit or a vest and nappy.

What were you dressed in?

Jesus was wrapped in

.....

read Luke 2:7

A baby needs somewhere to be born like at home or in a hospital.

Where were you born?

Jesus was born in a stable in

.....

read Luke 2:1-6



A baby needs somewhere to sleep like a crib or a cot.
What did you sleep in?

Jesus slept in a

.....

read Luke 2:7



A baby needs a name.

What name were you called?

Jesus was given a special name that had a special meaning.

read

Matthew 1:21-23

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

NADOLIG LLAWEN ★ NOLLAIG CHRÌDHEIL ★ NOLLAG SHONA
JOYEUX NOËL • FELIZ NAVIDAD • BUON NATALE • GOD JUL • FROHE WEIHNACHTEN

Lunchtime Concerts 2026

2026 will be the nineteenth series of Saturday Lunchtime Concerts at St. Leonard's Church. Since 2007 there have been 176 concerts from a range of accomplished musicians. The concerts remain free and self supporting by the donations given at the end of each concert by the generous audience.



February 21st
Trio Nuovo (guitar and woodwind)



May 16th
Gerard Brooks (organ)



March 21st
Fiona Hosford (harp)



June 20th
James Kirby (piano)



April 18th
Sharona Joshua (harpsicord)



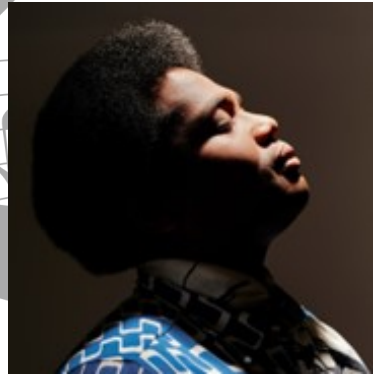
July 18th
Martin Smith (euphonium) and Rachel Fryer (piano)



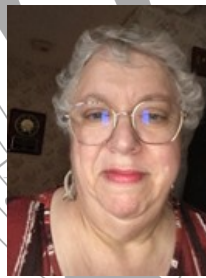
October 17th
Hammig String Quartet



August 15th
D'Arcy Trinkwon (organ)



November 21st
Adam Heron (piano)



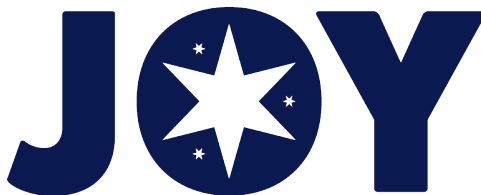
September 19th
Julia Kemp (soprano) and Rosemary Kemp (piano)

All concerts are in St. Leonard's Church and last an hour.

Admission is free with a retiring collection.

Memories of Yore

David Farey



Christmas and New Year is often a time for reflection on the past, and those of a certain age will allow ourselves to drift back to Christmases of our youth.

I recall a Christmas when on a cold winter's night when as a family we were gathered around the coal fire and just talking together. We used to do that in years gone by. My dad was remembering his time of driving lorries in the war. He was in North Africa and he told mum, me and my brothers of how he was in Bethlehem on Christmas Day, 1944 I think. He talked about what it was like, remembering the bells ringing out across the town. We got talking about the Christmas story.

He brought it alive for me, how the shepherds still looked after their flocks. He said something which I've never really looked into, to discover the truth of what he said. He said that it was more likely that Jesus was born not in the middle of winter when we celebrate it. In the winter the shepherds would bring their sheep into shelters because of the intense cold. So, the fact that the Bible reports the sheep being out in the fields indicates that it was warmer and so unlikely to have been winter.

It doesn't really matter. The essential bit is that it really did happen. The Christian Church homed in on the December celebration to hijack a pagan festival. The Church used to do that. A pagan shrine would be replaced with a church

as the faith swept the land. One of my parishes had a very old church and the fields around were quoted in text books as still being laid out on the Roman pattern. I would often reflect that worship may have happened on that site for well over the thousand years beyond the age of that church building, and the site was thus sanctified by the worship of the faithful villagers around for a very long time.



In my reminiscing my mind can then jump some years to when I found faith in Jesus for myself, spurred on in part by those early fireside stories. I wanted to find out about Jesus for myself and started going to church. It was all a new experience to me then. I began to learn from the sermons I heard and the conversations over coffee after. But I knew there was more.

I had read about the home groups and knew that I had to overcome my natural human reluctance to get 'too involved'! But I summoned up the courage and went along. I was relieved and surprised to find that my lack of knowledge was

often matched by others attending, and that they were asking the same questions. I grew in understanding – and faith.

It was a journey that led me to hear the call from the Lord to the ordained ministry. Three years after first going to church I began the process that led to my ordination. But it is those events along the journey that I reminisce over

and as we sing the carols and put up the decorations I am so thankful for those stories my dad told by the fireside. Perhaps we all have memories we can draw on at this season which can help us to mark our own journeys of faith, and it so good to share those memories among us, over coffee or in our groups – because that’s how we grow.



FAMILY & ELDERLY SHOEBOX APPEAL

Ukraine • Moldova • Romania • Bulgaria



Thank You

Bygone Church Press

In the early summer of 1940, Michael Lyne was at Seaford, Sussex, waiting to be drafted to France to join the hard-pressed BEF. In early May he was granted a short embarkation leave (12 hours) and immediately telegraphed his fiancée: "Come down and marry me, but may have gone."

The couple were married in Seaford Parish Church by Special Licence of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Lyne's father travelled from Ledbury to assist in the ceremony. Michael Lyne arrived at the church on the only form of transport available to him, a very ancient ladies' bicycle known to all the fox-hunting members of the officers' mess as the "Bitch Bike".

After the honeymoon, Lyne's regiment moved to Devon and then to Winchester.

From Field Magazine. Michael Lyne was a sporting artist, and the youngest Son of the Reverend Arundell.

A series of extracts from newspapers of the past, some serious, some amusing, some inspirational.

2025004



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)

CHURCH ARMY

- For new Students at the Church Army College as they undertake their studies alongside practical work.
- The Church Army AGM taking place this month. For all the changes being made to how we serve communities, move the Administrative Offices and sell off properties to grip the present financial situation.
- The CEO Matt and the Board of C A as changes are made to support CA personnel serving deprived communities across Britain.

HOMELINK

- The valuable work HOMELINK is doing in helping people into housing by providing interest-free loans to cover the cost of the deposit and the first month's rent.
- That those who HOMELINK can help are able to find a suitable property at an affordable rent.
- That more people will come forward to be a Trustee to help in the organisation and the running of the charity.

LAMA Ministries in the Philippines

- Pray that the Director of the Department of Social Development will approve Michael's request to have a water baptism at the Regional Rehabilitation Centre for Young offenders - most of the boys want to be baptised in water! Not something that is recognised in the Catholic DSWD.
- The Philippines has been bombarded with strong typhoons this rainy season (June - November) and more to come. This month {Nov} we have also had a series of earthquakes - the Southern Islands hit badly, even tsunami warnings! There is always a lot of clearing up and maintenance to do.
- We are thankful that our house in San Fernando remains standing as the foundations are compromised, the walls are badly cracked! Michael and family live here.
- When the weather calms down we need to fix the ceilings and roof at LAMA House - damaged by the heavy rain and winds.
- We also need a new water tank at LAMA House - it has lasted 35 years and has been patched up but now is leaking.
- Funds are low

SUNDAY

- For the deepening and strengthening of our faith and spiritual growth as we gather to worship week by week.
- For our role in carrying out God's mission.
- All those who lead our various services, the clergy, musicians, choir, bell ringers, readers, intercessors, the stewards, tech teams, the vergers and all who attend.
- The Prayer Ministry Teams at St Leonard's and St Luke's.
- For all who visit St Leonard's during the week and those who greet them.
- The Coffee Morning Services at St Luke's
- 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. For those attempting to broker peace deals.
- Protection for all citizens and particularly the Christians in Iraq following the parliamentary elections and for reconciliation between divided communities.
- Protection for the Christian families in Lebanon enduring deep economic hardship amidst political instability.
- Protection for the Christians in Syria recently forced to flee their churches amidst the violence and shortages that bring daily struggle.
- For those living and working in Blatchingotn 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.
- Wisdom and guidance for those working in government, the courts and other statutory agencies, charities and support groups as they seek to alleviate the suffering of genuine refugees who have fled to Britain from intolerable situations.
- Those working within the local Emergency Services: Ambulance, Coastguards, Fire and Rescue, Lifeboat volunteers and the Police
- 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.
- The local GP practices and pharmacies as they deal with accidents, emergencies, routine appointments and seasonal pressures.
- Our local nursing and care homes remembering those who go from the parish to provide regular worship services.

JOY

Happy Christmas



SEAFORD PARISH CHURCH

St. Leonard's & St. Luke's



To everyone in our church family, wishing you all a fun filled, blessed and peaceful Christmas. Sue and Darrel x

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and blessed New Year.
Linda Parsons

Peace and Joy to all!
Greetings from Mark and Ali Gill

Peace and many blessings for Christmas and the New Year. Love from Jenny Rolfe

To all the church family
Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year
From Janet Fairchild.

From Somerset to all our friends in Seaford, may Christmas fill us all with the hope only He can give,
From Mike & Wendy with our love.

May the light of Jesus shine brightly among us and through us all at this Christmas time!
With love from Martin and Lucy Miller, Josh and Matt

Happy Christmas and a Happy New year
Love from Nicola H, 🌲🧑🏻‍🎄🌟

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

Wishing everyone at St Leonard's and St Luke's a very blessed Christmas and New Year. Diana Woodcock

Wishing everyone at St Leonard's and St Lukes a very happy and blessed Christmas season and a peaceful and joyful new year.
With love Linda and Mike Keller

Our very best wishes to all in our Church Family a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.
With much love Jo and Paul

Christmas greetings to all our Seaford friends from Eddie and Rosemary Collict

Wishing a very happy Christmas to all my parish family and a very blessed and healthy New Year to you all, thank you for your friendship and support.
Love Margaret (Coggins) xx

Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.
Bridget and Malcolm

May you be blessed with God's peace and joy this Christmas and surrounded by His love through the new year.
From Ethel and Esther

May you know God's peace and blessing this Christmas and in the year ahead,
Liz Morgan-Jones

Warmest Christmas greetings to you all.
Heather, Bob and James x

Christmas Blessings to all.
With love, Connie. X

Wishing all our church family a wonderful Christmas time and a happy, healthy New Year.
Love and blessings from Paul, Sam, Hope, Noah, Leo and Milo Fowler

Hello Everyone and a Happy and Blessed Christmas and New Year to you all!
Bob Carrington.

May the joy of Christ's birth fill your hearts this Christmas, and may His grace guide you into the New Year with peace, hope and love.
Merry Christmas and a Blessed New year! from Fred & Jayne Bass

Jesus is the reason for the season! May you all know the love joy and peace that Jesus brings.
Mark and Tracy Cheal

Merry Christmas and a peace-filled New Year, with love and prayer, James & Lucy

Happy Christmas to you all hoping you have a peaceful and joyful time,
Pat and Aileen xx

Wishing all the church family a very blessed and peaceful Christmas.
Love George

Happy Christmas to all our friends at St Luke's and St Leonard's.
Love Phil and Carol

Sending love hugs and prayers for Christmas and the new year, to everyone in our church family.
Love Sally and Lloyd Thompson

To all our friends in Seaford Parish, May every Christmas blessing be yours over this Holy Season,
Love derreck & Corrinne

Christmas and New Year wishes to everyone.

Thank you so very much for the support given to us over the past two decades.

We cannot believe it has been that long since we started our volunteering journey with you. Doesn't time fly when you are having so much fun.

With love from Hazel and David Bramley xx

I heard the Bells on Christmas Day

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:
'There is no peace on earth,' I said
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men.'

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

JOY

- Those needing help and support in their own homes and those who care for them.
- Those living and working in West Street, Green Lane, Dane Road, Dane Close, West View, Pelham Road, Chatham Place, Richmond Road.

THURSDAY

- Sarah Mullally as she prepares for her role as Archbishop of Canterbury.
- Rev James, Rev Lucy, Rev Derreck and Rev Carole as they minister to the parish and beyond.
- Our Churchwardens and Assistant Wardens.
- Our Admin Assistant and Bookings Secretary, Charlene. Our Verger Heather and Cleaner Andy.
- Our Treasurer.
- The retired clergy who live in our parish & those who worship with us.
- Those who lead and those who attend our Home Groups.
- Those living and working in Barcombe Close, Barcombe Avenue, Steyning Road, Steyning Close.

FRIDAY

- Stefan and Kim our Children, Youth & Families Workers.
- The Tots Treats meeting every Wednesday in St Luke's and Thursday in St Leonard's.
- Our youth groups for Sparks 5.45-7.15pm and Ignite 7.45-9.30pm meeting weekly on Fridays at St Luke's. Those youngsters digging deeper into faith at Fuelled on Sunday evenings.
- That all in our town's nurseries, schools and colleges will hear the true meaning of Christmas.
- Those living and working in Findon Close, Lindfield Avenue, Ladycross Close, Rodmell Road.

SATURDAY

- Those organising and those attending the services and special events during Advent.
- The monthly Open Church Coffee Mornings in St Leonard's providing a welcome for all who come along.
- For a good welcome, conversations and fellowship as we open St Leonard's for 'Christmas Magic' to one and all for the town wide celebrations on Saturday 29 November.
- Those grieving and those attending the 'Life after Loss' Coffee Mornings.
- The Parish Lunches on Wednesdays 3 December and 7 January at St Luke's. The team preparing and those who attend.
- Those living and working in Chittenden Avenue, Trenchard Close, Mabey Drive, Berry Lane, Montgomery Way

Poetry Corner:

Bob Rice



The Christmas season

What kind of present do you seize on?
A memory of a past been and gone?
Or current pleasure that comforts you,
Till all the snow is gone and the year is new?

The birth of a baby in a stable condition,
Rising one day to a heavenly position,
Brings a hope to a believer's
Heart,
Carrying God's love from the start.



If I were a snowman

If I were a snowman,
Made to a child's plan,
With an icy heart thawed only by the sun,
Not given to sobs by news from anyone,

With eyes of coal and mouth of twig,
The wooden smile just
How big?
mood of the child on the day,
My expression frozen that way,

I'd see not the reality with blackened coals,
My world not guided by Our Father's goals,
My snowman staying for a month of the year,
maybe longer than a Christmas tear?





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*A very Happy
Christmas from all
at the Cathedral*

Advent Procession* on Sunday 30th November at 4.30pm.

Carol Services with readings and carols to celebrate the Christmas story on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th at 6.00pm, Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st* at 3.00pm Doors will open 1 hour before each service.

Children's Crib Service on Christmas Eve at 11.00am and 2.00pm. The Christmas story is unfolded as carols are sung and the Nativity scene is built. Both services are especially designed to appeal to children & young people, but are open to all. Children are invited to dress as the characters from the Nativity story if they wish.

Christmas Eve Evensong* at 6.00pm. Choral Evensong sung by the Cathedral Choir with congregational carols. Doors open 1 hour before the service.

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass* at 11.00pm. The first Christmas Eucharist led by the Bishop of Chichester. Doors open 1 hour before the service.

Christmas Day

8.00am: Holy Communion (BCP) in the Lady Chapel.

9.00am: Christmas Day Service for children and families. Special Christmas Eucharist for children 0-12yrs and their parents, guardians or caregivers.

10.00am. Christmas Day Choral Matins sung by the Cathedral choir.

11.00am. Christmas Day Eucharist* led by the Bishop of Chichester.

The Cathedral will be closed from 12.30pm for the rest of Christmas Day.

Sunday 4th January 2026

6.00pm: A special service to celebrate the arrival of the Magi at Bethlehem featuring a living tableau of the Nativity.

The Cathedral choir will be on leave from 25th December to 4th January. Please see the cathedral's website at chichestercathedral.org.uk for guest ensembles during this week. You can also check website for details of events in 2026.

***These services will be livestreamed. Booking is not required for any of these services**

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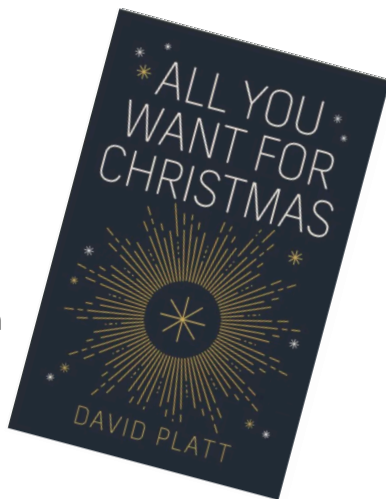
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CHRISTMAS BOOKS

All You Want for Christmas

By David Platt, 10Publishing, £9.99

At our deepest level, we all have needs we long to be met and desires we want to be fulfilled. Jesus came and meets our deepest need. This new giftable Christmas book, *All You Want for Christmas* (hardback) explains four simple reasons why He came: to be with you; to die instead of you; to show you how to live; to be your servant; to be your God.



Are you ready for Christmas?

By Roger Carswell, 10Publishing, £3.99

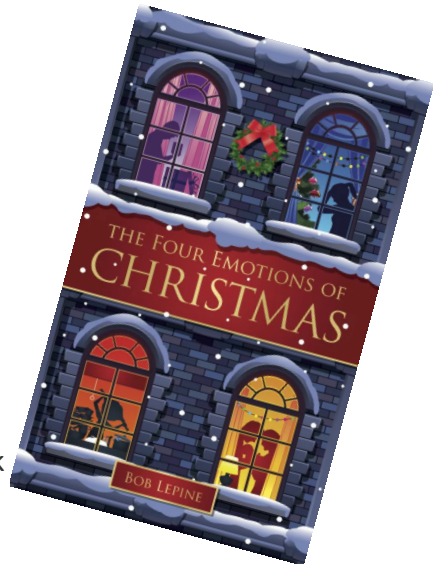


Christmas is a hectic time of year: cooking big meals, buying and wrapping the presents, sending the cards, and wondering if we've forgotten something. All these preparations help to make Christmas such a special time of year, but before the very first Christmas it was God who was getting the world ready to meet His Son. This book tells the story of God's Christmas plan, and explains how He can help

us to be ready for Him today. You'll discover how the baby whom God sent that first Christmas is still His message of hope, joy, and peace to us today.

The Four Emotions of Christmas **By Bob Lepine, 10Publishing, £3.99**

We expect Christmas to be a season filled with happiness and love. And yet so often, what we want to be a nice, relaxing family day turns into 24 hours of stress and disappointment. Our loneliness and sadness are amplified because of how out of sync they are with what the season has promised. Shouldn't there be something better than this? This book is designed to be given out widely, and contains a clear gospel message.



The Grumpy Owl and the Joy of Christmas **By Jonathan Maltz and Christopher Poch, CHP, £5.49**



Here is a beautifully illustrated children's nativity story told from the unusual angle of a grumpy owl who lived in a little old empty barn in Bethlehem.

When a man, a woman and their donkey burst into his barn, making a lot of noise, the grumpy owl decides to fly away to somewhere quiet where he can be grumpy in peace. But can he find such a place, or will he return to his barn in time for a big, not-at-all grumpy, surprise?

The Bears' Christmas

A Christmas Allegory

Pat Farey



Lilliana was busying herself putting the finishing touches to the mince pies she had been making. It was almost time for some honey tea, which the bears always enjoyed, being bears. Bavula was assembling the Christmas tree, which was quite an effort for a small yet reasonably strong bear. The front door was open and he was hauling it in from the woods where they lived.

Christmas was always special for the bears. Every year, Bavula and Lilliana made it the best of times, and this year was no exception. Once the tree was assembled and tea made, they sat down together and peered through the little window in the front room of the cottage. It was certainly blowing a gale out there and what with the frost on the window, they were glad to be inside. With the log fire lit, they began to sip their honey tea that Lilliana poured from the pot.

As they chatted they remembered how they came to live at the cottage, which you would not know about yet. You see, they had come on quite a journey, a long trip with many complications, and because they were only small bears, it was not the easiest of things to do. In fact, they would never have done it without the help of the King. Every day, as they looked around their little cottage, they felt so grateful for all he had done to help them.

Let me explain...

The King was always aware of everyone who lived in the wood, in fact, he cared a great deal for each one. Some looked to him and asked for his assistance while sadly, others ignored him, which made him feel quite sad. Bavula and Lilliana however, were only too pleased as they had got themselves into quite a mess, as bears can so easily do. It was as they were approaching the wood one day, that the King noticed them.

He walked over to them and asked if they would like some help. They had travelled a long way and had felt very alone, the offer of help brought tears to their small, frightened eyes.

So he told them what he was going to do. He would lay a pathway of stones for them to follow. They had to follow the pathway very carefully as the King explained he would not always be there to ask, but he would place the stones in the best places, even if it seemed like a long way round. After all, being the King, he could see ahead and did not want them to walk into any danger as

he realised they had already been struggling. He simply told them to be vigilant and to carefully follow exactly where the stones had been put.

As you can well imagine, it had been quite a journey, yet they were obedient bears and followed carefully the pathway the King had laid. In the end they found the little cottage - just where the King knew they would be happy and safe. It was quite remarkable how he knew the little bears so well and exactly what they needed. He even left them a jar of their favourite honey tea on the shelf!

So back to Christmas.

Lilliana went to get the mince pies. Just as she went over to the kitchen she could hear some footsteps... that sounded like the King! Maybe he was coming for a visit - he did call from time to time. Bavula jumped up, ran to the door and invited him in.

Well, what a joy, the perfect moment, the Christmas tree up, honey tea made and mince pies ready to share with the King. What could be better than spending some moments with the King sharing honey tea and mince pies!

Hope you get to spend some time with Him too, even if it is something other than honey tea! Happy Christmas!

And there were shepherds...

In his gospel, Luke tells how the shepherds in the fields were keeping watch over their flocks when they were terrified by the sudden arrival of heavenly angels, surrounded by the glory of the Lord. And the message of the angel that night has rung down the centuries:

“I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”
(Luke 2:10,11)

And so, the first people to greet the Saviour were not rich VIPs, but humble shepherds. And in turn, it was the shepherds who became the first evangelists: for they would have gone

home to their families and neighbours that night with the amazing news of what they had seen.

Meanwhile, for Mary there followed a time of reflection. She gathered up in her mind all her impressions, and all that the shepherds had shared about the angelic visit. She knew it was treasure, and not to be squandered. Then she quietly pondered in her heart the meaning and significance of all that had happened, so that she would never forget.

Exuberant witness and quiet contemplation are not opposites. They are, in fact, good companions in the spiritual life!

So, this Christmas, let's be filled with the joy that the Saviour has also been born 'to us'. May our lives reflect the glory of His coming, even in a small way. May our interactions with friends, colleagues and families during this Advent season reflect the great joy that the angels brought that night, so long ago.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

An updated Christmas Shopping story by Graham Tubb

See how many familiar high street names you can spot...

'Wait Rose,' said John, 'Lewes is a quaint old town for festive shopping. But we mustn't overspend and run up bills. Don't forget Gilbert and our friend Sullivan are on our list. I've got a little list and I've got them on the list! If the weather is wet we must wear boots, also pale coloured clothes show marks and Spencer their dog has muddy paws. So we may have to leave our pets at home. They have a good range of gifts for animal lovers.

The Morrisons may join us, then we can have tea with the McDonalds. But that could be verging on a bit of trouble. They know how to spend the pound, land themselves in debit one day. But we mustn't pry, mark my words. Let's hope for fine weather. Spoons may be a good buy for a cook. Who knows after a hard day's shopping we may end up in paradise. Park spaces may be limited though. This all sound like a habit at least it only happend once a year I guess. What next?



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Christmas with The Ashdown Singers

Directed by Sam Barton

Sunday 7th December 2025 at 3.00pm
St Thomas More Church, Sutton Road, Seaford

Join us for a festive treat on December 7th, as the Ashdown Singers perform their annual Christmas concert in aid of HOMELINK.

The performance will be followed by tea and mince pies. Entry is free, with a collection at the door to support our Christmas Appeal.

The Ashdown Singers are a 20-strong chamber choir led by musical director Sam Barton. Their Christmas concerts have become a highlight of the local calendar, thanks to the high quality of their performances and their wonderfully festive repertoire.

HOMELINK is a registered charity led by a Board of Trustees (including one from our Parish) and run by a Management Committee, all of whom are volunteers. Other volunteers help in a wide range of roles.

HOMELINK normally employ five part-time staff: two Client Managers; a Repayments Officer; a Finance Manager; and an Administration and Development Officer;

HOMELINK's office is rented from Age Concern in the House of Friendship in Lewes.

Christmas Day

George Wither 1588 - 1667 poet and soldier in the time of the Civil War.

As on the night before this happy morn,
A blessed angel unto shepherds told,
Where (in a stable) He was poorly born,
Whom nor the earth nor heaven of heavens can hold:
Through Bethlehem rung
This news at their return:
Yea, angels sung
That God with us was born:
And they made mirth because we should not mourn
This angel-carol sing we then,
To God on High all glory be,
For peace on earth bestoweth He,
And showeth favour unto man.

This favour Christ vouchsafed for our sake
To buy us thrones, He in a manger lay
Our weakness took, that we His strength might take;
And was disrobed that He might us array;
Our flesh He wore,
Our sin to wear away,
Our curse he bore,
That we escape it may,
And wept for us that we might sing for aye,
With angels therefore sing again
To God on high all glory be;
For peace on earth bestoweth He
And showeth favour unto men.



Lesley Gomez

Life And More Abundant Ministries



Dear Friends

Thank you for all your support. I am so thrilled with what GOD is doing through LAMA Ministries, thanks for your part - as we cannot do anything without you! Please let us know how we can pray for you, we pray every Sunday evening and through the week and bring your requests to the LORD.

Children in conflict with the law

This is a group of around 20 boys below the age of 18 who have been involved in crime, including serious crimes - they won't be sentenced by the Court to the Juvenile prison (RRCY) but stay in the community under supervision by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). The Social Workers asked Michael to visit monthly to teach the boys how to follow Jesus. Gina (Social Worker) worked at LAMA House when we took care of teenage boys. She now works here. What an opportunity!

Acts 2:43 "A deep sense of awe came over them all ..." this is what we feel as we minister at the Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth. At RRCY, most of the boys have surrendered to Christ and want to be baptised in water, more than 100 boys! Please PRAY that the DSWD Director will approve Michael's request to have a water baptism at RRCY - most of the boys want to be baptised in water! Not something that is recognised in the Catholic DSWD

God's Presence on the beach

Michael and the team have such a wonder-filled time bringing worship and the Gospel to the beach. So blessed with this team! The Cafe is often filled with the Glory of the Lord as we lift up Jesus' name - customers are often completely new to church worship but they listen and are ministered to in a very real way every week. "At sunset, they brought the sick and oppressed to JESUS - and He healed them all."

Funds

Sadly, we had to let Johndel go - one of our former 'LAMA boys,' he has been cooking for us and the boys for the past 7 years - such a blessing, especially through the pandemic. But funds are low, and we can't afford to keep him on. He has found work, and we can all cook! but we miss him so much. We still need additional funds in order to do the mission work as planned.

Please consider supporting us monthly by direct debit or standing order. I had hoped that sales of my book, 'Have a Little Faith', would prompt the needed boost - but that hasn't happened.

I have some copies if anyone wants to buy for Christmas gifts. We sold over 3000 copies and readers loved it - but now sales have dwindled and SPCK, the Publisher, is not re-printing. When I find time I will try to self-publish on Amazon.

For now, Matheo takes up my energy- we are in the process of adopting him. We celebrated his third birthday at the beginning of November. What an extraordinary gift he is!

Typhoons

As I write this the Philippines are recovering following the impact of two consecutive typhoons that have affected the country in the past two weeks. On 2nd November, Tropical Cyclone Kalmaegi (local name Tino) quickly intensified into a typhoon triggering massive flooding and loss of life. Super typhoon Fung-Wong (local name Uwan) made landfall on 9th November. This typhoon affected us at LAMA house more directly. LAMA House is a Designated Evacuation Centre.

More than 50 families evacuated to LAMA House on the Sunday as the storm was coming in. The typhoon had made landfall with its force hitting our region of Northern Luzon later that night and in the morning of the 10th still full force winds. Our electricity went out at 6pm and by 9pm the wind was getting catastrophic. We managed to occupy most of the rooms here in LAMA House with so many evacuees. We hoped and prayed that all those living in their frail make-do shacks at the beach would be OK as not all were able to get to us here but we were full. We survived the night. Lama was packed for a few days and it was hard work

managing the chaos without any staff to help. The Storm stayed above us. Thankfully there wasn't too much rain where we are, so no flooding, but the winds were very strong. Michael's house seems to be holding up, most trees at LAMA House have snapped and parts of the kitchen roof have been carried by the wind. And some people have lost their newly installed roofs. Some, their whole house entirely got blown away.

Prayer points: What do we need most? The Philippines has been bombarded with strong typhoons this rainy season (June - November) and more to come. This month (November) we have also had a series of earthquakes - the Southern Islands hit badly, even tsunami warnings! There is always a lot of clearing up and maintenance to do. We are thankful that our house in San Fernando remains standing as the foundations are compromised, the walls are badly cracked! Michael and family live there.

1. When the weather calms down we need to fix the ceilings and roof at LAMA House - damaged by the heavy rain and winds.
2. We also need a new water tank at LAMA House - it has lasted 35 years and has been patched up but now is leaking.

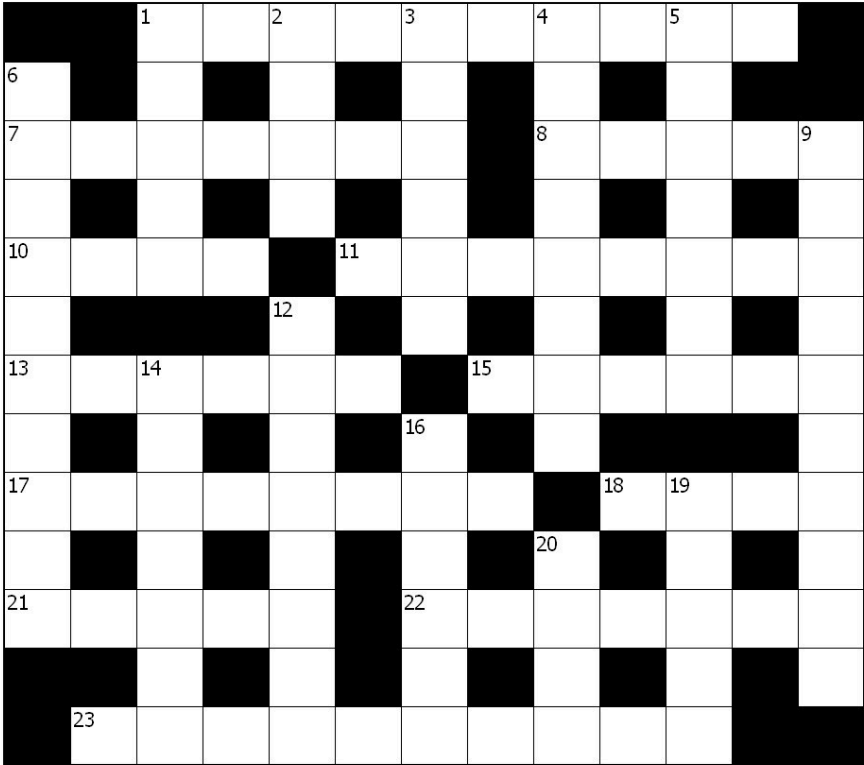
Thank You for your continued prayer and support.

Happy Christmas and every blessing for the New Year

Peter & Lesley and family x

www.lamaministries.org Email: lama.min.org@gmail.com

Crossword



Across

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14,15) (7)
 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith (6)
 17 Stormy (8)
 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone unclean (Numbers 9:11) (4)
 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

December-January Lectionary

December 7th: Advent 2

Isaiah 11.1-10
Matthew 3.1-12

December 14th: Advent 3

Isaiah 35.1-10
Matthew 11.2-11

December 21st: Advent 4

Isaiah 7.10-16
Matthew 1.18-25

December 28th: 1st Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31.15-17
Matthew 2.13-18

January 4th: Epiphany

Ephesians 3.1-12
Matthew 2.1-12

January 11th: Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 42.1-9
Matthew 3.13-end

January 18th: 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 49.1-7
John 1.29-42

January 25th: Conversion of St Paul

Acts 9.1-22
Matthew 19.27-30.

That well known pilot

At Sunday school, the younger children were drawing pictures to illustrate a biblical story. The teacher was startled to see one little boy was drawing an airplane. "This is the Flight into Egypt," the little boy explained. "See, here is Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. And this," he said, pointing to the figure in the front of the plane, "is Pontius. He's the Pilot."

Down

- 1 and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8) (5)
 - 2 The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as ... as a lion (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
 - 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
 - 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19,20) (8)
 - 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
 - 6 Offer your bodies as living , holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1) (10)
 - 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
 - 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
 - 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
 - 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
 - 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
 - 20 You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will ... his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21) (4)
-

December

Wednesday 3rd	11.00am	Matins	St. Leonard's
	12.30pm	Parish Lunch	St. Luke's
Sunday 7th <i>Advent 2</i>	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion & Glow	St. Luke's
	11.15am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
Monday 8th	2.30pm	Stopover Service	St. Leonard's
Wednesday 10th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	6.30pm	Mayor's Carol Service	St. Leonard's
Sunday 14th <i>Advent 3</i>	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	St. Luke's@7 Christmas	St. Luke's
Monday 15th	7.30pm	Women's Group	St. Luke's
Tuesday 16th	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
Wednesday 17th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Sunday 21st <i>Advent 4</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion & Glow	St. Luke's
	6.00pm	A Service of Lessons and Carols	St. Leonard's
Monday 22nd	4.00pm	Messy Christingle	St. Leonard's
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Wednesday 24th <i>Christmas Eve</i>	3.00pm	Crib Service	St. Luke's
	6.00pm	Nativity Service	St. Leonard's
	11.00pm	First Communion of Christmas	St. Leonard's
Thursday 25th <i>Christmas Day</i>	8.00am	Christmas Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Christmas Family Communion	St. Luke's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Sunday 28th <i>Christmas 1</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Luke's
	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
Tuesday 30th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Wednesday 31st	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's

January

Saturday 3rd	9.30am	Messy Church	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Sunday 4th <i>Epiphany</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion & Glow	St. Luke's
Wednesday 7th	11.00am	Matins	St. Leonard's
	12.30pm	Parish Lunch	St. Luke's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Sunday 11th <i>Baptism of Christ</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Family Worship	St. Luke's
	7.00pm	Prayer@7	TBC
Tuesday 13th	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
Wednesday 14th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Sunday 18th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
2nd Sunday of <i>Epiphany</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion & Glow	St. Luke's
Monday 19^h	7.30pm	Women's Group AGM	St. Luke's
Tuesday 20th		Magazine copy date	
Wednesday 21st	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Friday 23rd	2.30pm	Mothers' Union AGM	St. Luke's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Sunday 25th <i>Conversion of St Paul</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Family Worship	St. Luke's
	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7	St. Luke's
Tuesday 27th	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
Wednesday 28th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's

Crossword solution

ACROSS: 1, Tabernacle. 7, Absalom. 8, Incas. 10, Roes. 11, Captured. 13, Fright. 15, Cavell. 17, Cyclonic. 18, Herb. 21, Sonar. 22, Amazing. 23, Settlement.

DOWN: 1, Taste. 2, Bold. 3, Ramiah. 4, Abiathar. 5, Lucerne. 6, Sacrifices. 9, Saddlebags. 12, Theocrat. 14, Incense. 16, Pilate. 19, Exist. 20, Save.

Regular Services & Groups

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 (Tuesdays following the 2nd and 4th Sundays) followed by refreshments

Sunday	Glow (children's group)	9.30am	St. Luke's	1 st and 3 rd Sundays
	Fuelled	6.00pm	St. Luke's	Weekly
Monday	Women's Group	7.30pm	St. Luke's	3 rd Monday
Tuesday	Bell Ringers	7.30pm	St. Leonard's	Weekly
	Tots	9.30am	St. Luke's	Weekly*
Wednesday	Parish Lunch	12.30pm	St. Luke's	1 st Wednesday
	Tots	9.30am	St. Leonard's	Weekly*
Thursday	Choir	7.00pm	St. Leonard's	Weekly
	Mother's Union	2.30pm	St. Luke's	4 th Friday
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

*Term time

Parish Directory

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

Children, Youth & Family Missioners

Stefan Bracher		cyfw@seafordparish.org.uk
Kim Cuthbert		kimc@seafordparish.org.uk

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

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Paul Waller (St. Leonard's)	01323 872088	
Joanne Lalla (St. Luke's)		joanne.lalla@btinternet.com
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Paul Waller	01323 872088	atreasurer@seafordparish.org.uk
		prayer@seafordparish.org.uk

Prayers

Safeguarding Officer

Martin Waite		safeguarding@seafordparish.org.uk
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