

# Parish Magazine

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

**Hosanna!**

**Crucify him!**

**Finished!**

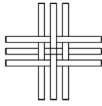
**He is risen!**

**Alleluia!**



April-May 2026

Suggested donation **£1.00**



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# Welcome

## Same Old, Same Old

Well, here we are at Easter – and guess what the sermon subject is likely to be? Christ is risen – He is risen indeed!

In so many ways it really could be ‘same old, same old’ and the preacher could just repeat last year’s sermon. Let’s face it, nothing will have changed in the Easter story in the last 12 months.

Or has it? For me, and I suspect for most folks, 12 months can be a ‘long’ time; and things change in our lives. Babies are born, youngsters change school, teenagers leave school, young people move out, friends die, accidents happen, and pains and sorrows come and go.

Around all of that personal business the world turns: there are holidays, seasons, catastrophes, people hurting people, people caring for others and on and on it goes. Things might repeat but they are never truly ‘the same’.

So it is with the Easter story. Christ is risen – He is risen indeed! Really? In the midst of my life and the world around me? In the centre of your life and your community?

Is it any less amazing today than it was last year, or the year before, or a decade previously or when the women went to the tomb that first Resurrection Day?

In so many ways I need to hear this story again – but anew. New, not just because the preacher will (hopefully) have made it register with what’s happening around my small community today and new because I am not the same person I was a year ago – for better or worse!

Hear those words differently this year than ever before.

Christ is risen – He is risen indeed!



# Parish News

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

### Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 11.30am

St. Leonard's Church

*Agenda and Reports will be available prior to the meeting*

Copies of the agenda and annual report will be in St. Leonard's and St. Luke's Churches or can be downloaded from our website [www.seafordparish.org.uk](http://www.seafordparish.org.uk)

#### **St. Luke's Painting**

St. Luke's will not be available for midweek whilst it's being painted:

April: Monday 20th to Thursday 23rd

June: Monday 22nd to Thursday 25th

July: Monday 27th to Thursday 30th

Any queries please contact Charlene Hobbs [bookings@seafordparish.org.uk](mailto:bookings@seafordparish.org.uk)

#### **Parish Lunch**

Parish Lunch meet on Wednesdays April 8th and May 6th in St. Luke's at 12.30 for a home cooked 2 course meal and fellowship. We ask for a payment of £6.00 to cover your meal, if you are unable to attend please advise us by the Sunday before the lunch to help us with catering. For tickets and information please call either Sue on 01323 490415 or Julia on 01323 895073.

#### **Life After Loss**

The next sessions will be on Wednesdays 1st April and 6th May 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 details call Diana on 01323 891749 or Chris on 01323 658309.

#### **Coffee, Prayer Ministry & Communion**

The next services of Prayer Ministry with Communion will be at St. Luke's on Tuesdays 14th, 28th April and 12th, 26th May at 11.00am. Coffee will be available from 10.00am to 12.00pm.

#### **Confirmation**

If you would like to be confirmed do get in touch with one of the vicars. It will happen on 2nd June at 7.30pm in Newhaven.

## **Mothers' Union**

The MU next meet on Fridays April 17th and May 29th at 2.30pm in St. Luke's.

## **Seaford Parish Women's Group**

Another successful evening, on Monday 16th March Women's Group met for an informative evening on the history of Post Boxes. We learnt about the different shapes, colours, had a quiz and a photo identification of find that post box in Seaford. It was much enjoyed by all participants and thank you to Aileen for your hard work and research.

On 27th April we will meet in St Luke's at 7.30pm to hear about Gill's recent visit to Africa, and her Safari adventures. On Monday 18th May we will have our annual meal. More details to follow.

We usually meet on the 3rd Monday of the month in St. Luke's at 7.30pm, however due to redecorating the dates, times and venues are subject to change. Join us for interesting topics and fellowship, new members are always welcome. Please check the notice sheet for reminders of our meetings.



## **Open Church Cafe St. Leonard's Church**

*Saturdays 25th April and 23rd May from 10.00am to 12.30pm*

*Dear All,*

*We didn't want to leave Seaford without saying a very big thank you.*

*We arrived twelve years ago to help Mike's aunt, we knew very few people, we go leaving many friends. Thankfully communication is far simpler now with texts, emails etc. so we can keep in touch.*

*Thank you so much for all your love, forbearance and help especially so in praying for our son when he had his heart attack and Mike with his cancer - wonderfully both are now well.*

*A 'thought for the day' phrase has stayed with me, " meaningful friendships are forged in the soil of service" & that is our experience.*

*So a big thank you for friendship, teaching & learning much from you all- an extraordinary group of lovely people. May God continue to bless you all,*

*Mike & Wendy*

# Parish News

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## **St. Leonard's Re-ordering**

The project to improve the facilities in our 936 year old church started in February with excavation for foundations for the new toilet block. As expected, some remains were found by the Archaeologists. The local media were interested and we issued the following press release which you may have seen in one of the local papers or online.

## **Unmarked Burials Discovered During Seaford Church Excavation**

*The church in Seaford has confirmed that several unmarked burials have been discovered during a planned archaeological excavation within the church grounds.*

*The excavation forms part of the preparatory work for a forthcoming building project that will deliver much-needed facilities for the local community.*

*The Vicar of St Leonard's, in the parish of Sutton with Seaford, Revd James Hollingsworth, said: "Some of the bones are likely to be from a Victorian paupers' grave, though it is still too early to confirm. We are awaiting a full report from the archaeology team. The remains are being kept on sacred ground, within the church, and will be interred with prayer and due care once the archaeologists finish their work. We believe there are around 30 burials in this small area, probably dating from the Victorian period or earlier."*

*The excavation is being carried out by Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd,*

*working in consultation with the church, the Diocese of Chichester Buildings Team and local authorities.*

*Dr. Jon Baczkowski, Senior Project Manager for Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd said: 'The CBAS team have been investigating a small area of the churchyard prior to an extension to the north vestry. The number and range of human burials encountered relates to at least 300 years of use in this part of the churchyard. The graves are unmarked and being on the north side of the church, traditionally seen as a less desirable part of the churchyard to be buried in, may relate to paupers' graves dating from the 18th century until the 19th century. Once we finish recording the burials a report will follow which will add to the history of the church, burial practices, and the local population'.*

The work started well and will continue into the Autumn. We will have some temporary re-arranging to do with moving chairs and various items as the work progresses, in a way to keep the Church functioning as much as possible. Over the summer, we should expect that the Chapel work will be mostly complete by July and the toilet block foundations should be in with the walls coming up.

Thank you for everyone coming into church and being aware that the works are on-going on during the week and to follow any directions or notices regarding access to various areas of the church. Generally, the north side is

being worked on and will have some time limited access restrictions. Once complete, we look forward to having our improved facilities ready for the winter season! If anyone would like to

contribute to the re-ordering, please use the usual donation points informing the Churchwardens or Treasurer of your kind donation.

## **Pre War Photographs**

Do you have any pre war photographs of St. Leonard's Church interior? The history of our magnificent building is being updated from the former mainly written recordings, with more emphasis on visual imagery, to accompany the written word.

Maybe your Parents/Grandparents had photos taken of their Baptism beside the old font, with one of the 'lost' windows in the background. They may also have had photos taken beside the old doors, West or South.

A couple of the lost windows have been theorised from old postcard images, but the images are too small to enhance further. There must be images in existence somewhere, possibly in your Family's drawings or paintings, that can be combined as a pictorial record to pass over to the next custodians.

There have been so many subtle changes to the building over the years, that can often, only really be seen when comparing images from different periods.

If you could all carry out a quick search, and ask your friends to look too, I am sure that we will uncover some gems. Photos taken outside, close to the Church are also useful for seeing the 'lost' windows.

Thank you.

Tony Willer

## **Virtual Tour of St. Leonard's**

A reminder for those that may have missed it, we have a virtual tour for visitor use, which can also be accessed from your home computer or tablet. In actual fact it is more user friendly on a computer. It is by no means finished yet, as it is being updated periodically (so please keep checking back, and feel free to comment or suggest additions), and it will shortly have links to St. Luke's and St. Nicholas too.



The link is <https://hands.seafordparish.org.uk/>

# Good Friday... seriously?

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## James Hollingsworth



### Good Friday ... seriously?

Before Easter, Kim and the Vicar were invited into Seaford Head to do a School Assembly. I'm hugely impressed at young people, their questions and their ability to look alert on a Monday morning. If you're a Christian then you're so used to Good Friday that I wonder when it was you last tried to explain it to someone else. What do you think we should have said? How do you think we should have explained it? We had 15 minutes and too many young people to take individual questions.

Kim got them shouting! We showed some slides and invited the crowd to shout 'good' or 'bad' accordingly: chocolate, homework, sleepy lie-ins, pizza, being betrayed by your best friend, someone sacrificing themselves to save others. Then she took them through a high-speed summary of what happened. Starting with Jesus arrested, the disciples running away, the crowd shouting for Jesus to be killed, Jesus being nailed to a cross, dead, buried. Then we tried some metaphors; firstly a photo of a broken mobile phone – Jesus the one who repairs what we humans have broken; secondly a picture of a life-guard diving into rescue someone; and then I showed a slide of Sam McBratney's book: Guess how much I love you. I remember reading this to my children over and over again. Its about small hare and a big hare. Little Nutbrown Hare says 'I love you to the moon' and Big Nutbrown Hare replies:

and I love you to the moon and back. Do you remember that story of asking God how much do you love me: 'This much, he said, and he stretched out his arms and died'.

So then we asked them to shout out if they thought Good Friday was Sad, Unfair, Brave, Loving, Good. Its all of those. But come Sunday, we see a eucatastrophe as Tolkien called it. Jesus alive, alive and with us in our hopes and fears, in His Holy Spirit at work in our lives.

How would you have done it?

### Saints Alive!

I find it really helpful to think over the stories of how other Christians have held the faith in their different ways at different times. Its not difficult for the Church of England to set aside a particular person for each day of the year. But here's three for April.

### Dietrich Bonhoeffer

*(Martyr, 9th April)*

Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran pastor and theologian who lived during the rise of Nazi Germany. The sensible option was to keep quiet, keep your head down. Bonhoeffer spoke boldly against injustice and the growing acceptability of antisemitism. He became a lecturer travelling to USA and had an opportunity to stay there and not return to his homeland where he would certainly be in danger. But he put

his trust in God, returned and formed, with others, the Confessing Church as a group to support each other in a faith that sought to resist having the Church destroyed or becoming a tool of the state.

The key writing to read would be *The Cost of Discipleship* which unpacks the Sermon on the Mount. This work reminds us that following Christ is not always comfortable or convenient but demands courage and sacrifice.

Bonhoeffer became involved in a plot to blow up Hitler. He was caught, imprisoned, and murdered by Nazis in Flossenburg concentration camp in 1945. Even in prison he continued to write letters full of faith, hope, and trust in God.

Bonhoeffer gives us the uncomfortable challenge to not become a boiled frog! – to not accept but to speak out – to not allow our silence to lead us into complicity.

I pray that I would have his faith and courage.

### **Saint George** *(Martyr, 23rd April)*

I rather expect you to know all about this Saint. His flags are everywhere. The story that usually goes with him is about him slaying the dragon. Historically, it's more likely that he was born in Palestine, became part of the Roman Army, but during the Diocletian persecution refused to renounce his faith so he was martyred at Lydda, south of Tel Aviv, in 304.

There were churches in England dedicated to Saint George before the Norman Conquest. So it shows that

he's been highly thought of for a long time. However, it wasn't until after the crusades that George replaced Edward the Confessor as Patron Saint of England. Edward III made St George the patron of the Order of the Garter and that cemented his position in English folk lore.

It worth noting that this foreign saint was taken to heart not only by the English but also by Bulgaria, Portugal, Lithuania, Ethiopia, Palestine and rather obviously Georgia itself.

I can't find a good story about him and a dragon so I agree with most scholars who think it likely that George's depiction as wearing armour got him confused with St Michael wearing armour whilst he slays the dragon, the devil (see also Rev 12.7-9).

I suppose if there are lessons to take away from his life it would be about holding to the faith, having courage, and for us it would be about celebrating this foreigner who has won the hearts of so many countries.

### **Catherine of Siena** *(Teacher of the Faith, 29th April)*

Catherine of Siena, Italy, died 1380. She was the 24th child in a family of 25 children, so perhaps we should really be celebrating Catherine's mum. She was always keen on Jesus and became a nun by 18. She is quoted as saying "Be who you were created to be and you will set the world on fire". And she did. "The poison of selfishness destroys the world". Her key work is her Dialogue.

Through contemplative prayer and mystic experience she devoted her herself to active care for the poor and sick especially during times of plague.

She cared for those others avoided, believing that in serving them she was serving Christ himself. At the same time, she became known for her spiritual insight and courage. Catherine wrote letters to church and political leaders, urging them to pursue peace, justice, and faithfulness. She famously encouraged the Pope to return from Avignon to Rome during a time of division within the church.

I think Catherine is amazing because she made the world better through compassion, courage, and prayer. She believed that love for God should overflow into service for others. So keep praying and keep boldly serving. Saints Alive (March)

### **Julian of Norwich**

*(Spiritual writer, 8th May)*

Julian was a woman. She died 1417. She's the one with the hazelnut and the visions and the phrase "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well." I find her an uncomfortable saint because she decided that it would be best if she walled herself into her own small cell attached to a church in Norwich. That seems odd to me. Perhaps like the Desert Fathers and Mothers before her, this odd approach to living served her well enough. People would come to her window for spiritual counsel and wisdom. She wrote Revelations of Divine Love which remains the earliest book written in English by a woman.

This is where we read what God revealed to her from a hazelnut. Picture one, lying on your palm, to you it might be quite ordinary, to an early medieval person it was quite useful either as flavouring or as the potential for growing trees to make wattle and daub

homes or even arrows. Anyway, its very common, boring, ordinary. But Julian saw in it the wonder that God had made it, and that's amazing, and its sheer existence can be put down solely to being loved by God. And that's you. Julian understood from the hazelnut that God made it, God loves it, God protects it. And that applies to you too.

### **The Venerable Bede**

*(Teacher, 25th May)*

The Venerable Bede (see also 1066 And All That), died 735 and is the man who popularised BC and AD. Previously there was a chap called Dennis the Little (aka Dionysius Exiguus) who around 500AD had sat in a library in Rome and worked out what year Jesus must have been born in. He set it at year 1 because I don't think he knew about the number zero. Clever scholars have since said that Jesus was probably born in 4BC but I think that's still rather brilliantly clever of him. Anyway, Bede put a lot of that sort of thing in his work: The Ecclesiastical History of the English People. Here we find the story of the conversion of King Edwin of Northumbria. Bede tells us that Paulinus explained how our lives are like that bird that just flew into the barn, we know nothing of our lives before we come into the light, and then out flew the bird, and we know nothing of what lies beyond our life, but God has come to us in Jesus and has risen from the dead, and so we Christians do know!

You'll also find here the story of how the Celtic Christians, who had worked hard at converting Christians in the north, were given short shrift by the Catholic Christians at the Synod of Whitby 664. (The reader may spot a bit of bias from the author here).

What I like about Bede is that you don't have to be brave and kill dragons, like George, or be Martyred like Bonhoeffer, or be walled up like Julian, or be a mystic like Catherine and Julian, to be fully on fire for Jesus. He spent most of his life in the monastery at Jarrow in Northumbria, dedicating himself to study, teaching, and prayer. Bede quietly got on with being a monk, writing things, serving his local community. And that's a good Christian life.

### **Josephine Butler**

*(Reformer, 30th May)*

Praise God for feminist Christians! She was born in 1828 and died 1906. She was well off, politically connected, with an active faith. She married, had four children but one of them died. It seems that that was the catalyst for activism. She worked tirelessly to defend the dignity of women and challenge

injustice in society. She started off with her local workhouse (a place where people were put who were unable to support themselves financially. The idea was that they would go out to work and that would pay for the running costs. This led to all sorts of maltreatment and abuse.)

Butler campaigned for women's rights working in 1869 to repeal the Contagious Diseases Acts which was really a forced medical examination of alleged prostitutes. Butler described this as 'surgical rape'. She succeeded in 1883. My CofE book of saints says that she based her spirituality on St Catherine of Siena.

I'm in awe of this woman who saw when so many of us would turn a blind eye, and who let anger and grief drive her to fight for justice, dignity, and protection of the vulnerable.

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## **Passion, from a different perspective.**

You can see Jesus Christ in the Garden and on the Cross.

You can see God saying to Jesus, in effect, "Son, I am going to tell you something I've never told anyone, and I will never say it again. Throughout all eternity I've always said and always will say, 'If you obey me, I'll come near to you.' But to you I say, 'If you obey me now, I will abandon you.' I will let you go, so I don't have to let them go. I will pour all the wrath and punishment humanity's sins deserve onto you. And even though you are the eternal Son of God, the pain and the power of that justice will be so great, your body and soul will be ripped apart – so theirs don't have to be.

Are you willing to do this?"

Jesus said, "Yes."

That's unfailing love.

*(extract from 'What is wrong with the world?' by Timothy Keller © 1960, 1971, 1977, 1995, 2020 Lockman Foundation)*

# Celtic Saints celebrated in April and May

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## Derreck Lee-Philpot

### John the Beloved

*(gospel writer) May 6th*



*Peter Paul Rubens, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons*

It may be odd to think of John as being a specifically Celtic saint, but he was celebrated by the Celtic Church on May 6th until the late Middle Ages. The Celts divided the year into four seasons commencing in November, February, May and August. Christian Celts shared the feast days of the four Gospel evangelists between these seasons, so that one occurs in each. Today St John is normally celebrated on December 27th. As with the Eastern church, Celtic Christians valued John's Gospel above all the others, believing it to have been written by 'the beloved disciple', the one who leaned against Jesus' breast at the Last Supper and who heard the heartbeat of God. This was the teaching that actually lay behind the dispute at the Synod of Whitby in 664 chaired by King Oswiu of Northumbria. The Celts were more inclined to listen to the teachings they believed to have been passed down from John than those the

Western church believed were passed down from Peter, who was given 'the keys of the Kingdom' and believed to have been the first Bishop of Rome. When the Pope's advocate (Bishop Wilfrid) warned King Oswiu that he might lose his salvation if he decided against the saint that had the 'keys to the kingdom' the King fearing for his eternal destiny approved the Catholic perspective of Easter and other doctrines. Our spirituality would be significantly different if the King had not been so swayed.

### St Eadberht

*(Bishop of Lindisfarne 688-98)*

After the death of Saint Cuthbert in 687, Wilfrid acted as administrator of the see of Lindisfarne. His brief tenure was confrontational. Eadberht was consecrated bishop of Lindisfarne in 688. He is credited with securing the buildings of St. Finan's wooden church with lead, making them more durable. He is also notable as having founded the holy shrine of his predecessor Saint Cuthbert on the island of Lindisfarne, a place that was to become a centre of great pilgrimage in later years.

It is said that Eadberht favoured poverty and long periods of solitude and devotion as part of his service in the bishopric. He was known for his great

knowledge of scripture and for giving a tenth of everything to the poor. When he died he was buried in the same location from which Cuthbert's body had been exhumed earlier the same year. When the monks withdrew from the Island in 875 Eadberht's relics were eventually moved to Durham.

Eadfrith succeeded him and became the scribe of the Lindisfarne Gospels and, from 698, Bishop of Lindisfarne, we'll meet him again in June.

### **St Wilfrid (c. 633 – 709 or 710)**

*25th April*

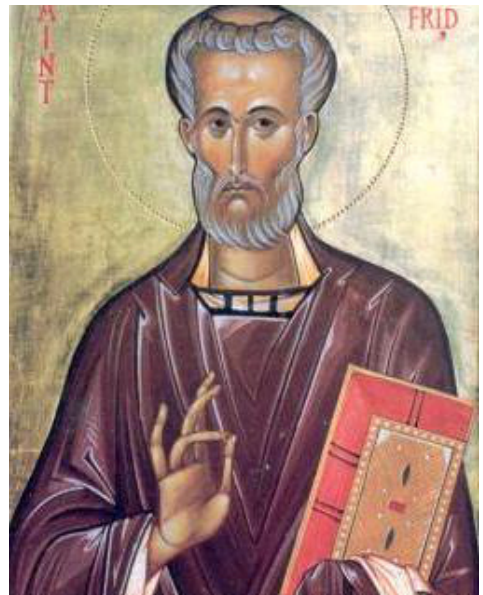
Wilfrid was an English bishop and saint. Born a Northumbrian noble, he entered religious life as a teenager and studied at Lindisfarne, at Canterbury, in Francia, and at Rome; he returned to Northumbria in about 660, and became the abbot of a newly founded monastery at Ripon. In 664 Wilfrid acted as spokesman for the Roman position at the Synod of Whitby, and became famous for his speech advocating that the Roman method for calculating the date of Easter should be adopted, suggesting that Peter holding the keys to the kingdom should be followed – not John. His success prompted the king's son, Alhfrith, to appoint him Bishop of Northumbria. Wilfrid chose to be consecrated in Gaul because of the lack of what he considered to be validly consecrated bishops in England at that time.

He was a bit of a rebel, clashing with the Northumbrian King twice and being exiled, his fellow churchmen also tried to excommunicate him but he was spared following two trips to Rome to appeal to the Pope.

During his second exile he came to West Sussex settling in Selsey where he founded an episcopal see (diocese) and converted the pagan inhabitants of the Kingdom of Sussex to Christianity.

He lived ostentatiously bordering on outrageously, and travelled with a large retinue. He ruled a large number of monasteries, and claimed to be the first Englishman to introduce the Rule of Saint Benedict into English monasteries. The medieval historian Bede also wrote extensively about him but he is mainly remembered for his championing of Roman customs against the customs of the British and Irish churches.

He was also seen as an advocate for monasticism.



*Aidan Hart, Website, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons*

# CAP turns 30, and looks back on tens of thousands of people freed from debt



The well-known charity Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

It was in Bradford, back in 1996, that a local Christian, John Kirkby, felt called to leave his career in finance, and use his knowledge to help local people deep in debt.

With a modest donation and a lot of faith, John set out to make himself available to parents who couldn't feed their children, families facing eviction and desperate people living without hope. John used his expertise to negotiate with creditors, set up budgeting systems and offer a lifeline to those trapped in debt.

But John knew that people all over the country were struggling in a similar way. And so he began looking to expand the work across the UK. With the vital ingredients of a church to partner with, a passionate person to be trained as a debt counsellor and the faith that God would provide, four new CAP centres were opened at the end of 1998.

Since then, CAP has rapidly grown its Debt Centre network, with services to tackle the causes of debt and poverty also introduced.

Its Debt Help department offers practical advice on how to live well on a low income, through CAP Life Skills groups, as well as supporting people stepping into employment through CAP Job Clubs. Through a UK-wide network of CAP projects, it has a vision of transformed lives, thriving churches and an end to UK poverty.

CAP has been accredited by the Money and Pensions Service, and it has won national awards for excellence. Over the past 30 years, it has helped tens of thousands of families and individuals to break free from debt and poverty.

Today CAP provides free debt counselling, job clubs, and life skills training through local churches. The service is open to anyone who needs it.

Go to: <https://capuk.org>

# “Jesus remember ME when you come into your kingdom!” (Luke 23 v39-43)

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## Corrine Lee-Philpot

Yes; little, insignificant me. But why would you accept me?

I have done so much wrong, I have no good works to offer you to give you reason to include me in your Kingdom, no money, no fine words to convince you that I am a person of worth. The last flicker of life that I have left in this world is about to go out.

I know that this death, this condemnation is what I deserve. But I know that you Jesus have done nothing wrong yet here we are. Are we equals at this moment? Two men condemned to death!

But.... but..... I know who you are! That is all I need to know. I will trust you with this last little bit of earthly me. I will trust that your death will open up hope and more life for me in your Kingdom; little, insignificant, unworthy, empty handed me.

Today, yes today, you say I will be with you in the garden, in paradise. I am overwhelmed that you expend some of your precious breath to reassure me, to accept me, to want to wrap those bloodied arms around ME!

Thank you Jesus for remembering ME.

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## Thy Kingdome Come

This year's Thy Kingdom Come is all about the presence of God through His spirit.

The God who is with us in the everyday – in the joys and sorrows of life (and everything in between) and the One who, through His spirit, longs to reveal Himself to those who do not yet know Him.

From the story of Ruth to the story of Gideon, from the story of Elijah to the story of the early church who waited for the promised Holy Spirit to come- over the 11 days we will explore a different Bible story each day, which demonstrates God's transformative presence, power and love at work in the lives of people and places.

The hope is that as we pray for five people, they will also experience the life-changing love of God and choose to follow Him. Find out more at:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global>

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# Lunchtime Concerts 2026

2026 sees 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.

**Saturday 18th April at 1.00pm**

## **Sharona Joshua (harpsichord)**

Pianist, fortepiano, harpsichord, and historical piano virtuoso, Sharona Joshua, has honed her craft under the guidance of esteemed mentors. She studied piano with the late Professor Alexander Volkov at the Rubin Academy in Israel, fortepiano with the late Christopher Kite at the GSMD in London, harpsichord with Richard Egarr and David Roblou in London, and historical piano with specialist Sally Sargent in Vienna. Sharona regularly performs as soloist and chamber musician on concert platforms and radio.



**Saturday 16th May at 1.00pm**

## **Gerard Brooks (organ)**

Gerard Brooks is Director of Music at Methodist Central Hall Westminster where he plays the famous Hill organ, and Curator Organist of Richard Bridge's eighteenth century organ at Christ Church, Spitalfields in London. He is a vice president of the Royal College of Organists and a former professor at the Royal Academy of Music. His many CD recordings include the complete works of Eugène Gigout and Camille Saint-Saëns.



### **Coming Up...**

Saturday 20th June: James Kirby (piano)

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

# Bygone Church Press

"If any of you know any reason in law why they may not marry each other, you are to declare it now."

**A PARISH CHURCH REMINISCENCE.**—A writer on "Humours of Bann Publishing" in *Tit Bits* tells a curious story of the banns of marriage being stopped by the bridegroom at Seaford Parish Church about the middle of the century. It is said that when the clergyman was reading the announcement he was rudely stopped by a voice coming from the congregation, "I forbid the wedding." The interrupter was requested to walk into the vestry, and he was then asked the reasons for his prohibitory exclamation. The parson first asked if he were a relation, and the man replied, "No, I'm the bridegroom himself; but having learned that Ciss has a tongue which, after marriage, will run faster than the clack of her master's mill, I am resolved to be off; so your reverence may marry her yourself, if you please." This amiable young man certainly had an eye to his future domestic bliss, and as for the unfortunate "Ciss"—well, we trust her unrestrained loquacity did not cost her the loss of another intended husband. But does not the simile "clack of her master's mill" tend to undermine the authenticity of the story?

From the Hastings and Bexhill Independent 17th August 1893

Seaford did have working windmills at this point, which could have given provenance to the "clack of her masters mill" statement.

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

2026002



## **A History of the Bible. The book and its faith**

Author: John Barton

Publisher: Penquin (2020)

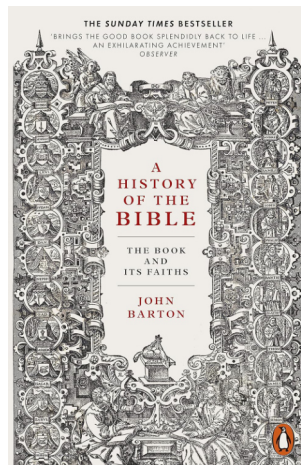
This is a great year for this sort of book to come out. William Tyndale published his bible in 1526, so here we are 500 years later. So, as St Augustine said, "Pick it up and read it".

Alas this book of Barton's is probably only useful for university theology students. The first half of the book gives a complicated summary of the Old Testament. If you know your bible a little you won't learn anything new here. If you don't know your bible, you'll get really confused really quickly. The second half of the book is a good deal more interesting, and I suspect more likely to be used in university essays. Here Barton explores how we got our bible, though I think you'd be better off reading *When God spoke Greek* by TMLaw. The bit you want to read is his overview of the history of interpretations from Origen's allegorical view contrasted with the Antiochene plain sense of scripture before skipping quickly to the Higher Criticism trend of a century ago. I had hoped for either more on examples such as slavery (its justification and rejection) or prejudice busting examples such as the word

'homosexual' only very recently appearing in our Bibles (1946 RSV).

The book gets a heavy endorsement from Prof Diarmaid MacCulloch who wrote the definitive book on the history of Christianity. These two on your shelf will look impressive and help you sound clever but I'm less sure as to whether it will help you know your scriptures or your Lord better. My advice would be to go read a bible. You can even buy a New Testament as translated by William Tyndale complete with his spelling! (see last month's mag for an example of that).

*James Hollingsworth*



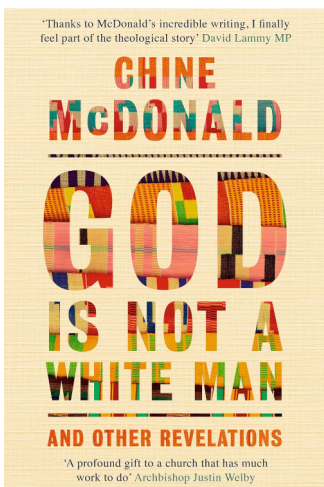
## God is not a white man

Author: Chine McDonald

Publisher: Hodder & Stoughton (2021)

This is a brilliant book, and I think you should all read it. It is not a theology book explaining how God isn't white or male. It is not a history book explaining the (false) missionary story about how white males took the gospel to Africa when in truth it was the Africans who brought the gospel to Europe and on to us. Thank you. Instead it's a collection of personal anecdotes and historical reflections on the ease with which white males have written history, philosophy, and power and in doing so have dominated the dialogue that manages consistently to belittle everyone else. Its 200 pages, very readable, her conclusion is that she would like more of us to read this book and engage with the important issue of racial justice. Quite right.

*James Hollingsworth*



## The Great Awakening, Cultural Progressivism & the church in Britain

Author: Martin Charlesworth

Publisher: Independent Publishing Network (2025)

If you want to read a book which takes a bold, historical, and biblical look at many of the contentious issues with which we are surrounded today, then this is the book for you.

Moral panics, critical theory, free speech, gender ideology and wokery in all its pervasive forms are studied carefully then studiously explored in a very readable format which gives a greater understanding of what is going on in our world. Martin Charlesworth also points to ways in which we, as the Christian church, might respond to these issues in wise, loving, and practical, biblical ways.

These are very important issues which need to be carefully considered. Controversial? Oh yes! The societal ideologies presented here will challenge the reader to consider where or even whether they should be a part of our Christian walk.

As my Dad used to say... 'Light the blue touch paper and retire immediately!'

*Corrine Lee-Philpot*





# Christian Aid Week

## 10-16 May

### Where hardship means hunger... urban farmers can grow hope.

In the crowded informal settlements of Nairobi, most parents wake with the crushing knowledge that if they don't earn money that day, their children won't eat that night.

That includes Fridah Moraa, a recently widowed grandmother who lives with her twin sons, daughter and grandson in Dagoretti, a sprawling settlement that's among the biggest in Kenya.

'When I wake up, I have a lot of worries. Sometimes I don't have food,' says Fridah. The aching hunger is bad enough. The relentless stress is overwhelming. Fridah's situation is devastatingly common.

That's because alongside Nairobi's imposing skyscrapers and luxury safaris, Kenya's capital holds areas of acute deprivation.

In areas like Dagoretti, there are limited formal work opportunities and heartbreakingly low pay, with most people living on less than a dollar a day. On top of this, food prices are high, in part due to the climate crisis.

Getting three meals a day is not easy. Most manage two. Some, just one.

Others go the whole day without eating.

The terrible consequence of this situation is that many families are simply not getting the nutrition they need, including children. The effects of malnutrition can last a lifetime, with stunting permanently affecting both physical and mental development.

#### Bad days

Like many others in Dagoretti, day-to-day life for Fridah is precarious and volatile. To bring in enough money to feed everyone, and cover all essential outgoings, Fridah sells vegetables on a market stall.

'The challenge is that sometimes I have customers, but no money to buy vegetables. But I can't give up – my children need to go to school. They need to eat.'

On days when she doesn't have enough customers, or cannot buy stock to sell, Fridah's stress soars. At times like this, she'll often go without food so that her children can eat a little.

'Sometimes I don't know how I'll buy food. I don't know how I'll feed my family. But I believe in myself and pray to God that I will succeed.'

Growing hope and resilience



Fridah was introduced to an impactful agricultural project run by Christian Aid's partner, Beacon of Hope. The project offers Dagoretti residents the opportunity to train as urban farmers. By offering skills training, seeds, tools and space-efficient plots to grow produce near their homes, parents like Fridah are turning the tide on urban poverty.

With grit and determination, Fridah's studying hard. Sessions don't just cover farming techniques, such as pest management, compost production, and seed cultivation, but business skills, including money management and marketing.

Gaining both knowledge and confidence, Fridah was eager to start growing her own food. 'I discovered I could sow here – right where I stand! I learned that here in Nairobi, you can farm where you live, even if you don't have land.'

Hidden at the end of a concrete alley, you'd never guess a lush, plant-packed space could thrive. As Fridah pulls open the rickety gate and takes in what she's achieving, her face shines with pride.

Fridah's now beginning to reap the

benefits of the nutritious produce she's growing. Colourful kale, tomatoes and a range of indigenous vegetables are now being sold on her market stall and fed to her family.

From living meal to meal, not knowing if her children will go to bed with empty stomachs, Fridah now cherishes the security her small urban farm is bringing, knowing that she can better protect her children from the threat of malnutrition. 'Urban farming has changed my life.'

Fridah adds: 'When what I have planted grows – that is what makes me happy. When I get money that I have earned – that is what makes me happy.'

Christian Aid and its supporters are joining together once again during Christian Aid Week (10-16 May) to fundraise in all kinds of ways – from coffee mornings and craft stalls to hiking and biking for the 70k in May challenge.

With seven days to make a difference, every gift, act and prayer counts. What will you do to support someone like Fridah to grow food, protect their children from hunger, and nurture hope?

- £5 could buy the seeds that kickstart a family's nutritious vegetable garden.
- £10 could pay for the pair of chickens that produce fertiliser for an urban farmer.
- £15 could purchase the hand tools that mean an urban farmer can tend their crops.
- £30 could buy the trio of cone garden planters that host hundreds of plants in a tiny city space.

# The Beauty of Good Friday

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## Dr Ruth Bancewicz

Some of the most beautiful things in the world have an ugly side. What about the emperor penguin chick, nestling in a feathery pouch above its parent's feet? There's a lovely moment when mum and dad greet each other over the gaping beak of their fuzz-ball offspring. Heads bent together, making a heart shape in the air, we can't help seeing a reflection of our own ideals of love in the pair.

But the reality of what those birds are going through is even more gruelling than human parenthood. Father penguin has spent all winter sheltering the egg from freezing hurricane-force winds, while mother penguin was feeding at sea. When the chick hatched its parents started an exhausting game of tag, taking it in turns to walk across the ice and risk being eaten by leopard seals or killer whales, in order to catch fish for their new offspring.

The living world is truly wonderful in so many ways, but the darker side of the picture is never far away. Creation is groaning (Romans 8:22), and just waiting to be rescued. Enter Jesus, through whom all of Creation was made. The king of the universe came to live with us, bringing His great love and wisdom to the human population of first-century Israel. The Creator was relating to His creation in a very personal way, and this could have been a totally beautiful picture.

But there is a horrifically ugly side of

Jesus' story that threatens to obscure the beauty of what He did on Good Friday. It was a brutal and terrifying day when human sinfulness resulted in the Son of God being executed by His enemies, but thankfully there was much more to it than that. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ set off a seismic wave of spiritual events whose effects are still rippling out across the world.

So that ugly day over 2,000 years ago is called 'good' because of what it achieved. Those who follow Jesus find their lives are changed for the better, even if their day-to-day existence may still be incredibly tough. When people come to understand what Creation is for and who it belongs to, they can begin to serve and preserve the earth as they should. These things are only whispers of what is to come, but they give me hope for the future redemption of all Creation. I can choose to dwell on the beauty of Jesus' death because it was not the end of the story – the future beckons.

This article is extracted (with permission) from *New Life: Reflections for Lent*, edited by Amy Robinson and Wendy H Jones (£7.99).

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



# Prayer Diary

**This prayer diary offers a focus for personal and corporate prayer**

***I will lift my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 121: 1&2)***

Please pray for our Mission Partners

## **CHRISTIAN AID**

- Sudan refugees: This year Christian Aid Week [10th – 16th May] concentrates on Akech a refugee and her family from North Sudan to South Sudan, her struggles and how Christian Aid has helped her but there are millions more like her.
- Collectors: Pray for our envelope collectors' joy and safety and those who fill the envelopes, generosity of spirit and money.
- Deliverers: Pray for those who feel unable to collect the money as well as delivering the envelopes.
- Churn sitters and collection points: Pray for those sitting at the churn to receive uncollected envelopes, that they may enjoy the experience, encouraging passers by to contribute and answer questions they might raise
- Service: That the service at 6pm on Sunday 10th May at Cross Way, may be well attended, the speaker inspiring and that it be a prayerful and encouraging start to the week.

## ***Pause and pray with us...***

- Lord Jesus, you were carried into Egypt in your mother's arms, in search of safety.
- We pray to you for those crossing into South Sudan to escape violence.
- Shelter with your love all who have had to leave their homes and face an uncertain future.
- Lord Jesus, you challenge us to love our neighbour, to do good, and to seek justice.
- We pray that those who have the power and resources to act will turn their attention to this crisis. Amen

## **CAMBODIAN ACTION**

- The safety and protection of those on both sides of the Thai-Cambodian border that have been displaced by the recent conflict between the two countries.
- The need for Sarah and Pola to visit the UK this year for a home assignment, to spend time with Sarah's family, their supporters and also so that Alice can visit universities where she is considering applying. If this is to happen they need more money to cover the return flights and other expenses.
- Give thanks that Pola and the team have a new construction job and another possibility in the pipeline.
- Praise God for his faithful provision of funding for M'rup Russey: two sources are able to commit until the end of 2029 so they can continue supporting vulnerable children and young people and their families. Remember Sarah as she spends the next six months writing the project plans for these donors: she asks that the project can go smoothly and her aging, very erratic laptop doesn't give her any problems!

## **SUNDAY**

- That each of us would know our role in carrying out God's mission.
- For the deepening and strengthening of our faith and spiritual growth as we gather to worship week by week.
- 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. For those who sit near you at services.
- The Prayer Ministry Teams at St Leonard's and St Luke's.
- The children and their leaders attending St Luke's for Glow and Family Worship on a Sunday morning.
- Those who can no longer attend services regularly because of health difficulties or frailty.
- That there will be good follow up for all those who attended the Alpha Course earlier in the year with plenty of support for those starting their own journey of faith.
- For those living and working in Chyngton Way, South Way, Mark Close, Newick Close, Hamsey Lane.

## **MONDAY**

- That our world leaders will act with wisdom, integrity and humility to guide nations towards peace, justice and the common good.
- Seek His protection for the vulnerable, compassion for the marginalized and stability in those regions facing conflict.
- For those suffering for their Christian faith living in fear of their lives oppressed by governments or other religions for believing in Jesus.
- Those who mourn the loss of a loved one
- For God's peace, mercy, and healing amidst the chaos and suffering.
- For those living and working in Fairways Road, Poynings Close, Fairways Close, Lullington Close, Field Close.

## **TUESDAY**

- King Charles and Queen Camilla as they lead the working members of their family in carrying out their Royal duties.
- For the Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, Leader of the Opposition, Kemi Badenoch, members of the cabinet and all members of Parliament: that they will act with integrity and justice.
- The Welsh and Scottish Parliaments and the Northern Ireland Assembly in their regional responsibilities.
- Those working within the local Emergency Services: Ambulance, Coastguards, Fire and Rescue, Lifeboat volunteers and the Police.
- For all who visit St Leonard's during the week and those who greet them.
- The Coffee Morning Services at St Luke's
- Those living and working in Green Walk, St Wilfrid's Close, Kingston Green, Kingston Close, Kingston Way.

## **WEDNESDAY**

- Our MP James MacCleary: that he will serve the Lewes constituency with diligence and honesty.
- For the members of East Sussex County Council and 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.
- Those needing help and support in their own homes and those who care for them.
- Those in the church family currently in hospital or receiving regular treatment.
- Those living and working in May Avenue, Buckthorn Close, Rowan Close, Badgers Copse, Eastbourne Road.

## **THURSDAY**

- Sarah Mullally, as she begins her role as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury
- Rev James, Rev Derreck and Rev Carole as they minister to the parish and beyond. For Rev Lucy currently on sick leave.
- Our Churchwardens and Assistant Wardens.
- Our Admin Assistant and Bookings Secretary, Charlene. Our Verger Heather and Cleaner Andy.
- The Annual Parish Church Meeting (APCM) on Sunday 26th April 11.15am at St Leonard's.
- The Home Groups and their leaders.
- The retired clergy who live in our parish & those who worship with us.
- Those living and working in Ash Drive, Sycamore Close, Elm Close, Willow Drive, Juniper Close.

## FRIDAY

- Stefan and Kim our Children, Youth & Families Workers,
- The Tots Treats meeting every Wednesday in St Luke's as usual.
- The Tots Treats meeting on Thursdays relocated to St Luke's during the building work at St Leonard's!
- Our youth groups 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.
- The regular Sunday evening youth services attended by groups from Seaford Parish, Newhaven Parish, Barcombe Parish and Seaford Baptist Church.
- Those living and working in Bainbridge Close, Sutton Avenue, Links Close, Darwood Drive, Hazeldene, Headland Avenue.

## SATURDAY

- That there will be good follow up for all who attended the Youth Alpha sessions earlier in the year.
- The monthly Open Church Coffee Mornings in St Leonard's providing a welcome for all who come along.
- Those grieving and those attending the 'Life after Loss' Coffee Mornings.
- The Parish Lunches on the first Wednesday in the month at St Luke's. The team preparing and those who attend.
- For Mark Gill as he co-ordinates the projects to update St Leonard's. Safety for the workforce and all using the church. Wisdom to manage the diary and events during this work.
- Those living and working in Downsview Road, Hartfield Road, Wenthill Park, Wellington Park, Aquila Park, Downs Road.

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# Resurrection Prayer

Loving Father,

Thank you for Jesus; for His life and death, but most of all for His resurrection, which makes all things new and possible.

Thank you for the reality that He defeated death by His work on the Cross and offers life forever with Him to all who believe in Him and receive Him into their lives as Lord and Saviour. Thank you for that incomprehensible but very real resurrection peace that we can know even in our darkest times by the presence of your Holy Spirit in us. In joy and thankfulness, we praise and honour you this Eastertime. In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



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# Nature's Embrace

As Chichester Cathedral's Festival of Flowers 2026 approaches, this landmark 30th anniversary year promises not only breathtaking floral installations, but a celebration of emerging talent, shared creativity and ideas passed from one generation to the next.

Guided by the 2026 theme Nature's Embrace, the Festival explores humanity's enduring relationship with the natural world – highlighting wellbeing, sustainability and the joy of working with living materials. This year, the theme also provides a natural framework for encouraging and inspiring the next generation of designers and horticultural creatives.

## **From concept to creation**

Students from Plumpton College will once again play a central role in the Festival, gaining hands-on experience within one of the South's most visually ambitious cultural events. Students from Plumpton's floristry course will take on the challenge of creating large scale floral installations for the Cloisters and Nave, including a hanging cloud display that depicts the four seasons.

Their involvement goes far beyond arranging flowers. Students will work through the entire creative process – developing design ideas, selecting flowers and planning installations within the Cathedral's historic spaces.

This marks the fourth year Plumpton students have participated in the Festival, offering a rare opportunity to experience the scale, collaboration and creative ambition involved in delivering a major public event.

“Opportunities like this are invaluable,” Areta Richards, Floristry Lecturer at Plumpton College remarks. “Our students are developing far more than floristry skills; they are problem-solving, collaborating, managing budgets and responding to an extraordinary architectural space. To do that within Chichester Cathedral is something they will carry throughout their careers.”

Chichester's Festival of Flowers takes place on 3-6 June 2026

[www.chichestercathedral.org.uk](http://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk)

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# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

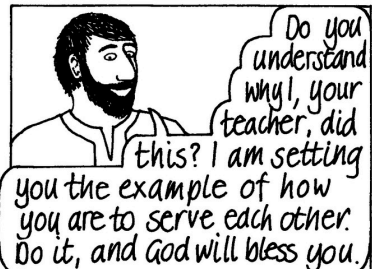
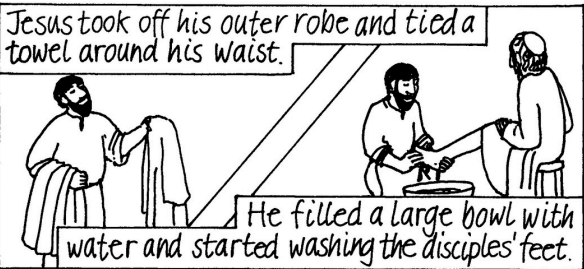
It can be read in the Bible in  
Luke 22:24, John 13:3-17

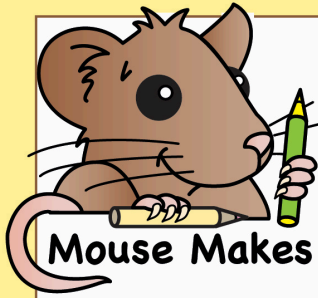
Jesus and his disciples were celebrating the Passover with the special meal. The disciples were bickering again.



There was a reason why no-one wanted to be the least important - the roads were mud and everyone's feet got very dirty.

It was the job of the least important servant to wash everyone's feet...



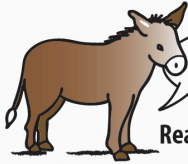


GOOD NEWS  
 OHOSANNA  
 DEATH QBV  
 VNCOE EUI  
 UAHNAARO  
 MIREVSYU  
 ALIVETDR  
 RISENEOK  
 YOTHORNS  
 PALMSQKA  
 RPILATEN  
 CRUCIFYG  
 RHIQUAKE  
 OCJESUSL  
 STOMBVDY  
 SRYEMPTY

JESUS • DONKEY • PALMS  
 HOSANNA • PILATE • THORNS  
 CRUCIFY • NAIL • CROSS  
 QUAKE • DEATH • BURY  
 TOMB • STONE • EMPTY  
 ANGEL • MARY • HEAVEN  
 RISEN • ALIVE • GOD  
 GOOD NEWS • CHRIST  
 SAVIOUR • EASTER • JOY



EASTER WITNESS - I WAS THERE



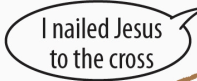
I carried Jesus into Jerusalem

Read Matthew 21:1-11



I handed Jesus over to be crucified

Read Matthew 27:11-26



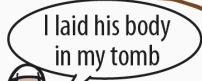
I nailed Jesus to the cross

Read Mark 15:16-32



We watched Jesus die

Read Mark 15:33-41



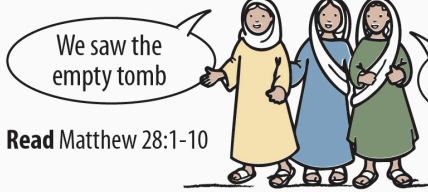
I laid his body in my tomb

Read Mark 15:42-47



I guarded the tomb

Read Matthew 27:62-66



We saw the empty tomb

Read Matthew 28:1-10

and spoke to the angel



Jesus is alive!  
He ate a meal with me!

Read Luke 24:13-35

# Resurrection life

---

Roy Shaw



Did you have ‘a good Lent’? Were you able to make the journey with Jesus through the turmoil of those last days of His earthly ministry as He set His face to go to Jerusalem, knowing He would be killed there? I find the Lenten journey, particularly Holy Week (the week leading up to the crucifixion) harrowing, and by 3 o’clock on Good Friday - the hour at which Jesus traditionally died - I am wrung out.

All of which makes Easter Day and the weeks that follow, with the joy and reality of new life, so much the sweeter. No wonder Christians make this the most important day of the year - much more so than Christmas. God, in the resurrection of Jesus, has vindicated the way of love, truth, sacrifice and service, kindness and hope over the self-serving and grubby ways that seek power, self-advancement, privilege, hatred and division. Hallelujah!

It’s all summed up in the poem ‘Easter Wings’ by the 17th century poet and priest George Herbert. For me, it’s not the words of the poem so much as its shape - it’s written in the shape of a butterfly’s wings. Now that’s clever; - to let both shape and words express something lovely, like the freedom and beauty of a butterfly on the wing. That sums up Resurrection life.

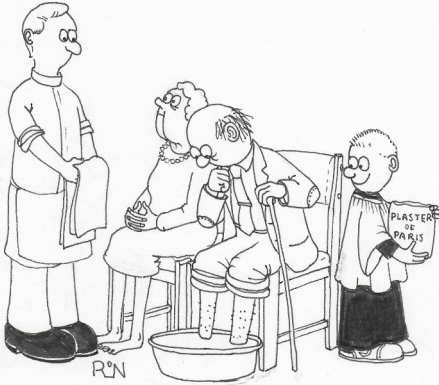
We are not asked to explain how the Resurrection took place. That is known to God alone, and we would trip ourselves up in all sorts of ways as we seek to find a rational explanation as to how it happened. But we are invited to live it - yes, live the Resurrection in ourselves -as we ask the Risen Lord to lead us through each day. In time, this constant invitation to live out the Resurrection changes our whole being, as we try, in the words of Mother Teresa to ‘do little things with great love.’

The more I try and live out Resurrection life (more properly, the more I allow Jesus to live the Resurrection life through me) the more boundless I find it to be. Which I guess is why God gives us a season - seven weeks up till Pentecost - to allow this stupendous fact of the Resurrection to sink into us, call out a response from us.

Enjoy your Easter eggs, your Easter bonnets, your egg-pacing; in fact, have a great Easter. But don’t let the Resurrection pass you by. It’s the gateway to what Jesus calls ‘life in all its fullness’.

*The Revd Roy Shaw, a retired but active priest in the diocese of York, where he is a spiritual director*

# Cartoons



Maudy Thursday on April 1st - the last temptation of Eric



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## Love

*George Herbert*

Love bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back,  
Guilty of dust and sin.  
But quick-eyed love, observing me grow slack  
From my first entrance in,  
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning  
If I lack'd anything.

'A guest,' I answer'd, 'worthy to be here'.  
Love said 'You shall be he'.  
'I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, My dear  
I cannot look on Thee'  
Love took my hand and smiling did reply,  
Who made the eyes but I?'

'Truth, Lord; but I have marr'd them: let my shame  
Go where it doth deserve'  
'And know you not,' says love, ' Who bore the blame?'  
'My dear, then I will serve'  
'You must sit down,' says Love,' and taste my meat.'  
So I did sit down and eat.

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It was commented that Socrates on coming into The Exchange at Athens where they that traded asked him " What will you buy? What do you lack?" commented "Who would have thought that there were so many things which I do not want"

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# LIFE AND MORE ABUNDANT MINISTRIES

Lesley Gomez

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Worship - Prayer - God's Word - Evangelism - Chaplaincy - Training

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Dear friends

We appreciate your prayers so much and continue to pray for requests that you have sent us. We are coming in to our Summer - the dry/hot season, which will go on to May or June with increasingly hot temperatures. I had planned to come home to UK to avoid the sauna-like conditions but the war in Iran has halted all flights. Please pray for our health, everyone struggles in the heat. Charis who works part-time to keep LAMA House clean and with Mattheo, her two girls are sick -Cailey has a bad case of chicken-pox and Chelsea had the chicken-pox and now has pneumonia. Like me, they really struggle with their health all the time due to asthma. I have had five different courses of antibiotics since December as well as steroids, but I do feel stronger most days.



## Kevin

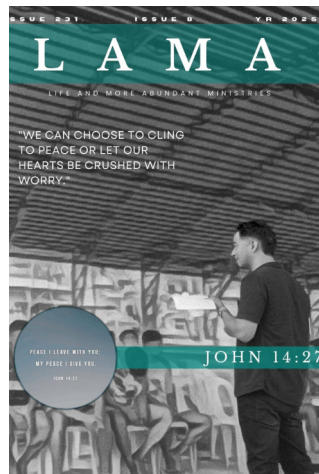
Please pray for Kevin, a former LAMA boy, who lives in Tondo, Manila- we visited twice recently. One of our supporters asked me to recommend a ministry in Tondo he could support, after seeing a Youtube documentary about Happy-land, where a fire recently swept through hundreds of squatter homes.

The Lord led us to a ministry when we noticed some foreign teenagers walking along the road and stopped to talk, we thought they were YWAM but it turns out they were linked to Globe, Brad Thurston - a friend of mine! We left parcels of clothes and mosquito nets for them to distribute. There is no way to describe the property in this place, it is not happy - it felt too dreadful even to take photos. Recent news is that Kevin was hit by a truck at the Port area of Manila, he was taken to hospital but then moved out of Manila, to relatives.

- Pray we can find him again and help.
- Pray for healing, his injuries may be serious.

## Pray for RRCY Young Offenders

Please continue to pray for boys who have served long sentences and have received their release papers, but months later still are detained. It is soul-destroying. They think the Judge needs to sign documents piled up on his desk. For one boy new evidence has been submitted since news of his release, now he is afraid he might be transferred to adult jail in Manila. After the service this week he asked for prayer and began to cry, another boy also waiting to go home came and hugged him tight and prayed with us. Their hope and trust is in the Lord whatever happens, but the uncertainty and fear is crushing. They boys pray for and support one another and there are reports of boys praying for sick house-parents who were then instantly healed! Please pray that papers will be signed and justice done. We have bought a pool and are waiting for the go-ahead to start baptisms. The LORD is here and very real to them.



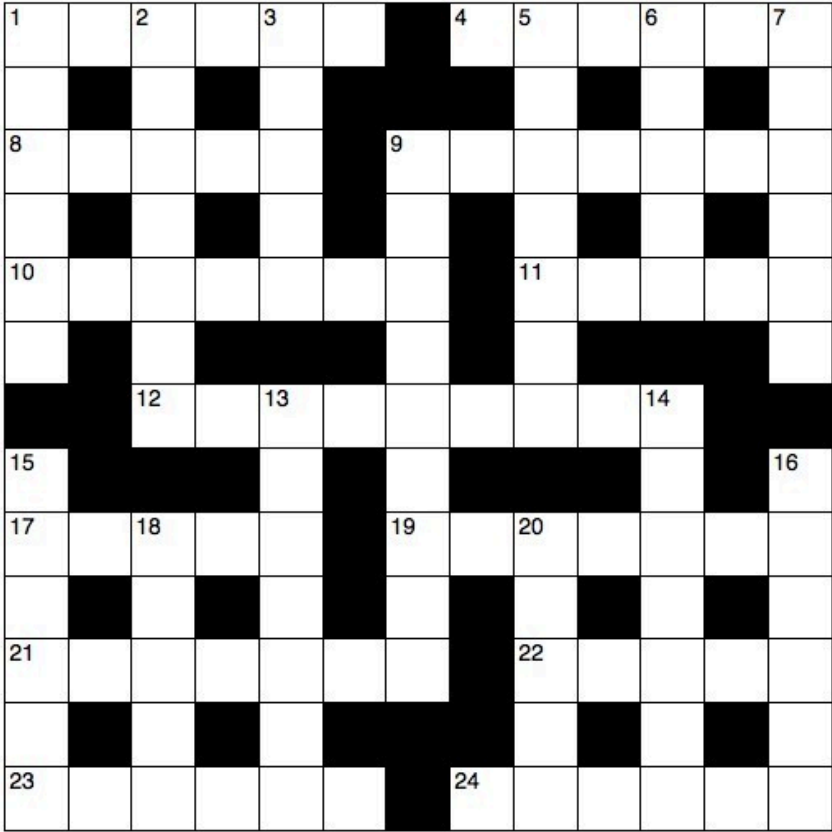
## What do we need?

We have finished fencing in the baby goats. We need to repaint the roof and do repairs to the ceilings where the rain came in. Prices are shooting up because of the war so will wait, the price of gasoline and diesel affects everything. We continue to need an increase for monthly expenses. Thank you so much for prayers and for helping us financially. It is such a blessing to be a part of what GOD is doing in these days. His Presence is with us, and it is awesome!  
Keep looking up!

Much love

Lesley, Peter and family.

# Crossword



## Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)  
 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)  
 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)  
 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)  
 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)  
 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)  
 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)  
 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)  
 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)  
 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)  
 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)

# April-May Lectionary

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**April 5th: Easter Day**

Acts 10.34-43  
Matthew 28.1-10

**April 12th: 2nd Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2.14a, 22-32  
John 20.19-end

**April 19th: 3rd Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2.14a, 36-41  
Luke 24.13-25

**April 26th: 4th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2.42-end  
John 10.1-10

**May 3rd: 5th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 7.55-end  
John 14.1-14

**May 10th: 6th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 17.22-31  
John 14.15-21

**May 17th: Sunday after Ascension**

Acts 1.6-14  
John 17.1-11

**May 24th: Pentecost**

Acts 2.1-21  
John 7.37-39

**May 31st: Trinity Sunday**

2 Corinthians 13.11-13  
Matthew 28.16-20

- 
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)  
24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me'  
(Matthew 25:36) (6)

**Down**

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)  
2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)  
3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)  
5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)  
6 11 Across is certainly this (5)  
7 He reps (anag.) (6)  
9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)  
13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury  
(Acts 8:27) (7)  
14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1  
Timothy 3:8) (7)  
15 The human mind or soul (6)  
16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their  
bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)  
18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)  
20 Bared (anag.) (5)

# April

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<b>Thursday 2nd</b> <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	7.00pm	Holy Communion and Tenebrae	St. Leonard's
<b>Friday 3rd</b> <i>Good Friday</i>	9.00am	Messy Church	St. Leonard's
	10.00am	Walk of Witness	Departs St. Leonard's
	12.00noon	Meditations at the Cross	St. Luke's
<b>Saturday 4th</b> <i>Easter Eve</i>	7.00pm	Easter Vigil	St. Leonard's
<b>Sunday 5th</b> <i>Easter Day</i>	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Family Communion	St. Luke's
<b>Wednesday 8th</b>	12.30pm	Parish Lunch	St. Luke's
<b>Sunday 12th</b> <i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i>	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Family Worship	St. Luke's
	7.00pm	Prayer@7	TBC
<b>Monday 13th</b>	7.30pm	Women's Group	St. Luke's
<b>Tuesday 14th</b>	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
<b>Friday 17th</b>	2.30pm	Mothers' Union	St. Luke's
<b>Saturday 18th</b>	1.00pm	Lunchtime Concert	St. Leonard's
<b>Sunday 19th</b> <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i>	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion & Glow	St. Luke's
<b>Thursday 23rd</b> <i>St. George's Day</i>	6.00pm	Evening Prayer	
<b>Saturday 25th</b>	10.00am	Church Open Cafe	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Sunday 26th</b> <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Family Worship	St. Luke's
	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7	St. Luke's
<b>Tuesday 28th</b>	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
<b>Friday 27th</b>	2.30pm	Mothers' Union	St. Luke's

## Crossword Solution

**ACROSS:** 1, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, Delaiah. 10, Falwell. 11, Water. 12, Recovered. 17, Sidon. 19, Radiant. 21, Centaur. 22, Broil. 23, Eleven. 24, Prison.

**DOWN:** 1, Cliffs. 2, Scholar. 3, Issue. 5, Holy war. 6, Moist. 7, Sphere. 9, Deliverer. 13, Candace. 14, Deacons. 15, Psyche. 16, Stolen. 18, Dance. 20, Debar.

<b>Saturday 2nd</b>	9.30am	Messy Church	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Sunday 3rd</b> <i>5th Sunday of Easter</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion & Glow	St. Luke's
<b>Wednesday 6th</b>	11.00am	Matins	St. Leonard's
	12.30pm	Parish Lunch	St. Luke's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Sunday 10th</b> <i>6th Sunday of Easter</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Family Worship	St. Luke's
	7.00pm	Prayer@7	TBC
<b>Tuesday 12th</b>	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
<b>Wednesday 13th</b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Thursday 14th</b> <i>Ascensipn</i>	7.00pm	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Saturday 16th</b>	1.00pm	Lunchtime Concert	St. Leonard's
<b>Sunday 17th</b> <i>Sunday after Ascension</i>	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion & Glow	St. Luke's
<b>Monday 18th</b>	7.30pm	Women's Group	St. Luke's
<b>Tuesday 19th</b>		Magazine copy date	
<b>Wednesday 20th</b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Saturday 23rd</b>	10.00am	Church Open Cafe	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Sunday 24th</b> <i>Pentecost</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Family Worship	St. Luke's
	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7	St. Luke's
<b>Tuesday 26th</b>	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
<b>Wednesday 27th</b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Friday 29th</b>	2.30pm	Mothers' Union	St. Leonard's
<b>Saturday 30th</b>	10.00am	Church Open Cafe	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Sunday 31st</b> <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion & Glow	St. Luke's

**Parish Magazine:** Items for the June-July edition of the magazine should be sent to by Tuesday 19th May to: [magazine@seafordparish.org.uk](mailto:magazine@seafordparish.org.uk)

# 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 (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)

### Wednesdays

During building work in April there are no mid-week services. See calendar.



## Services in St. Luke's Church

### Sundays

- 9.30am Holy Communion: a service with hymns (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

<b>Sunday</b>	Glow (children's group)	9.30am	St. Luke's	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays
	Fuelled	6.00pm	St. Luke's	Weekly
<b>Monday</b>	Women's Group	7.30pm	St. Luke's	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday
<b>Tuesday</b>	Bell Ringers	7.30pm	St. Leonard's	Weekly
	Tots	9.30am	St. Luke's	Weekly*
<b>Wednesday</b>	Parish Lunch	12.30pm	St. Luke's	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday
	Tots	9.30am	St. Luke's	Weekly*
<b>Thursday</b>	Choir	7.00pm	St. Leonard's	Weekly
	Mother's Union	2.30pm	St. Luke's	4 <sup>th</sup> Friday
<b>Friday</b>	Sparks	5.45pm	St. Luke's	Weekly*
	Ignite	7.45pm	St. Luke's	Weekly*
<b>Saturday</b>	Messy Church	9.30am	St. Leonard's	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday

\*Term time

# Parish Directory

## **Clergy**

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

## **Children, Youth & Family Missioners**

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

## **Parish Office- calls can be taken Monday to Friday 10.00am to 12.00 noon**

07391 787130	admin@seafordparish.org.uk
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## **Churchwardens**

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

## **Deputy Wardens**

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

## **Parish Treasurer**

Paul Waller	01323 872088	atreasurer@seafordparish.org.uk
		prayer@seafordparish.org.uk

## **Prayers**

## **Safeguarding Officer**

Martin Waite	safeguarding@seafordparish.org.uk
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## **Home Groups**

David Farey	homegroups@seafordparish.org.uk
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<b>Hall Bookings</b>	07425 936674	bookings@seafordparish.org.uk
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<b>Fortnightly News</b>		news@seafordparish.org.uk
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