



# Parish Magazine

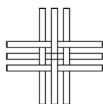
St. Leonard's and St. Luke's Churches



**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All your works shall praise your name,  
in earth, and sky, and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.**

**June-July 2026**

Suggested donation **£1.00**



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# Welcome

## Jacob: the man who encountered the holiness of God

Have you ever had a dramatic turning point in your life? Was there an incident, a meeting or something you saw or read which profoundly changed you? The Old Testament character Jacob had a dream, which changed his life.

One night, in the region of Luz, a Canaanite city, Jacob had a dream. He saw a ladder, on which were angels, linking earth with heaven. The dream revealed to him that God is continually connected with this world. When Jacob woke up, he knew he was in a special place. He became a changed man and changed the place name from Luz to Bethel, which means House of God. Many years later Jacob changed his name from Jacob to Israel. Bethel became a holy place.

How might we define a holy place? We could say it's a place where God has touched earth with something of heaven e.g. with a miracle or a vision. Venues such as Lourdes (France), Lindisfarne (England), St Peter's in Rome or Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre are considered Holy Places. The Garden of Gethsemane was a special place for Jesus.

Jacob certainly wasn't faultless or impeccable. His encounter with God didn't completely change the way he behaved, but it gave him a fresh perspective on life and where he fitted into God's plans. Like Jacob we too may encounter God at a particular time and grow slowly with God and His plans for us. God doesn't wait until we are perfect before He can use us. Sometimes we too may need a Holy Place to make or to return to, to help us remember we are in God's hands.

*Dear God, in my busy life, find for me a place where I can be still; a place to meet with You. I am weak and need your strength for each situation. Give me a holy place where I know your arms are embracing me, always safe and secure. Amen.*

# Parish News

## Buy into the Reordering at St Leonard's

I hope you've noticed the bricks going up for the new toilet block, the ramp being laid and all sorts of other signs that show that we're on course for finishing the reordering in September. This we pray will be wonderful for how the Church can be a bigger blessing to our town and community.

Quite a few of you have asked: Is there anything I can do to help? The first answer is prayer. We've got this far because of so much prayer, so keep at it. Secondly please consider financially supporting the Reordering.

You can give to the Church in the usual way:

- the jar at the back of St Leonard's,
- the Contactless card reader,
- the bank a/c directly.

Please write 'reorder' as a sign to us to restrict this gift to the reordering.

Scan QR code to go to the Parish Giving Scheme website where you can give a one-off gift. If you use the Stewardship website that's good too. If you can tick the Gift Aid bit that all helps.



If you quite like the idea of contributing to a particular bit of the reordering then please consider any of, or a part of, these:

- 5 new internal doors with an average cost of £900 each so



perhaps you could buy a door, half a door, etc.

- The extension block will be covered in insulation and flint. We will need 412 blocks each of which costs £86.
- The Ramp will cost £400 per metre, or if you like £40 for a full hand width!
- Decorating the chapel and the new block will each be about £3,200.
- Heaters will cost £600 each.
- Half a square metre of the Glass Partitions comes to £650 (the total will be £15.7k).

In the kitchen:

- a dishwasher (£1500),
- Fridge (£250),
- Microwave (£150).
- The Bench units will cost £4709, so that's £80 per foot
- The servery itself will be about £10,000.

If you'd like to know more details about any of this please talk to Mark Gill or Rev. James Hollingsworth

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

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

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 June 3rd and July 1st 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 07866483605. or Julia on 01323 895073.

### **Life After Loss**

The next sessions will be on Wednesdays 3rd June and 1st July 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 9th, 23rd June and 14th, 28th July at 11.00am. Coffee will be available from 10.00am to 12.00pm.

### **Mothers' Union**

The MU next meet on Friday June 19th for an ecumenical service with the theme of 'Freiendship'. On July 24th there is the Annual Garden Party with donations to charity.

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

Invitation to join Seaford Parish Women's Group on Monday 15th June, and hear a talk and short video about Homelink, presented by John Butler, in St. Luke's at 7.30pm. This meeting is open to all the Parish, to friends and partners. We feel sure it will be an informative talk about the mission charity we support, however, do we really know how they help the local community? Did you know it was founded by Churches Together? If not, please come and support Homelink and find out much more. Refreshments will be served and the meeting will close with prayers.

On 20th July, we hope to visit Seaford Museum, and follow the visit with refreshments in the Church. Time and date to be confirmed.

*Another of Women's Group meetings - the Post Office Quiz was a great success, see how busy we were identifying the many post boxes around Seaford.*



# Parish News

## Highly Commended

On April 30th Liz Morgan-Jones and Jayne and Fred Bass each were highly commended for services to the Seaford community by Seaford Town Council. They received certificates and thanks from the Lady Mayor, Maggie Wearmouth, for their outstanding contribution to the town. As members of St Luke's and St Leonard's Church, all three work hard to bring the community through the doors and to provide a welcoming and friendly space that everyone can enjoy. Liz has worked tirelessly for Family Support and Jayne and Fred, amongst other things, have opened their garden to the public, raising money for many worthwhile causes, including for the youth of the town. It was a pleasure to see them receive the recognition they deserve for all their hard work over the years. Congratulations!



**Open Church  
Cafe**

**St. Leonard's Church**

*Saturdays*  
**27th June and 25th July**  
**10.00am to 12.30pm**



Thank you, thank you, thank you, to all who have helped from both our churches in any way through Christian Aid week, tramping the streets to deliver and collect envelopes, to those who have responded in church with the envelopes in church, to those who sat at the churn in or out of the porch, to those who provided tea or coffee to the cold ones at the churn.

St. Leonard's managed to cover all but 3 of our allocated streets, but so far the money has not been counted. The money from the envelopes on the chairs has raised £377 of which £250 is Gift Aided, well done.

Next, we have the lunch at St. Luke's on Saturday 30th May organised by both our churches. Food will be served from 12noon until 1.30pm. Tickets are now on sale at £8 each from Colin Pritchard and Paul Bloxham or ring Colin on 01323 894899. There will be a raffle and probably some other things for sale.

## **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).



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

## **Staying in Touch**

There are a variety of ways in which you can stay in touch with all that's happening in the parish:

- Through this magazine you are now reading
- Through the news sheet which is published on the 1st and 3rd of each month
- Through the email news that is sent to coincide with the news sheet
- By logging into ChurchSuite or using the ChurchSuite app
- By checking our website [www.seafordparish.org.uk](http://www.seafordparish.org.uk)

**If you need help connecting to any of these email  
[communications@seafordparish.org.uk](mailto:communications@seafordparish.org.uk)**

# He made me into a polished arrow

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## James Hollingsworth

By the time you're reading this a handful of us will have been both to Plumpton Race Course for May Camp and also the Dalesdown Retreat Centre. May Camp should be sunny and dry with about 400 teenagers from different Church groups from all over Sussex. Hopefully about 200 will have signed up to shoot some arrows and that we will have had safe fun, as we have had every year since 2017 when we first started to do this. The Archery at Dalesdown will be for Family Support Work so I hope we will have all sorts of families having a go. Do pray that on 6th June, the weather is good and all the arrows are found!



The bible has 60 references to arrows. Mostly metaphorical, perhaps as God's justice, perhaps as Satan trying to pin us down (you'll be wanting the shield of faith!), or as a blessing like having children in your youth! I like Isaiah 49v2 – He made me into a polished arrow. The context is particularly aimed at the Suffering Servant aka Messiah, but I think a broader application is allowed:



that God has made you, and cared for you, and has a special call on your life. In prayer, may we allow God's aim to be true, to give us purpose and direction, and the courage and power we need to land where He sends us.

### Saints Alive

June and July are full of some great saints, including St James (25th July) which falls only five days before my birthday!

### 1st June: Justin Martyr

That wasn't his surname. Died 165AD. He was keen to explore the meaning of life and bumped into a Christian (who had a love for the prophets and all the friends of Christ). Justin later wrote "straightway a flame was kindled in my soul". So we should today give thanks to God for the anonymous saints who have nudged us along in our journey of exploring our faith.

He was the first of the philosopher Christians, unafraid to be curious about other world views and see their overlaps with his love of Jesus. There's probably a lesson there too.

### 22nd June: St Alban

Alban would make a good candidate for being our Patron Saint. Like St George, he wasn't English either but he didn't



*DaveWebster14, Public domain, Wikimedia Commons*

care for the persecution of Christians (250AD) and so despite being a Roman Pagan, he hid a Christian priest (perhaps called Amphibalus – try saying that quickly after a glass of wine). Alban's curiosity led to Amphibalus explaining the truth about and the transforming love of Jesus Christ. Alban dressed in the priest's cloak so as to give Amphibalus a chance to run. Alban was arrested, condemned, and beheaded. Lots of miracle stories are related to Alban's death. No doubt it all happened somewhere near St Albans! There's a lesson here in having courage to shelter and stand alongside those who are being marginalised and persecuted.

### **22nd July: Mary Magdalene**

Mary is the first preacher of the Gospel. Jesus told her to 'Go and tell' and because she did, we are Christians today. Magdalene isn't her surname; she came from the village of Magdala which is up in the Galilee. She appears 13 times in the Gospels. I think that makes her the most named female person in the New Testament.

Lots of unhelpful speculation has been gossiped about her. It was

unfortunately started by Pope Gregory (a good pope who sent St Augustine to Canterbury) who in a thoroughly lazy sermon conflated any number of biblical Marys including Lazarus's sister and a woman of ill-repute, so the Mary from Magdala has had a muddled reception.

There's a lesson here in good sermon preparation.

We do know that her encounter with Jesus freed her from seven demons. Her transformed life gave her a passion to throw herself into a life of gratitude and commitment to Jesus. When the other disciples fled, she was the first to empty tomb on Easter morning. She was filled with the Holy Spirit at that first Pentecost. May we mirror Mary's life allowing Jesus to change us and lead us into a life of gratitude.



*The Descent from the Cross by Flemish artist Rogier van der Weyden  
Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons*

# New Associate Vicar

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## Janice Bartholomew

*On Friday 22nd May Rev. Janice Bartholomew was licensed as SSM Associate Vicar. Here she introduces herself.*



### ***Hello!***

I'm Rev Janice Bartholomew and it's a joy to be asked to write a few words to introduce myself as your new SSM Associate Vicar - although I'm very much looking forward to saying hello in person and finding out more about you all when I meet you.

Throughout my working life, I've been a maths teacher, although it's now a few years since I've been employed in a classroom. My husband James is also a teacher – we met in the staffroom! We have three adult children; Rachel who is married and teaches in a primary school, Samuel who works in IT, and Josh who organises and takes part in many things musical.

You might have heard me practising a hobby I'm keen on. I'm a bell ringer, so if you hear enthusiastic ringing coming from the tower here in Seaford, there's every chance I may be involved. With many others I also enjoy the band's post ringing trips to the pub for a pint of Harvey's or a whisky.

I'm currently attempting the Couch to 5K programme. 'Enjoying' may be too strong a word for my relationship with running, but I do like being outdoors,

particularly with a sea view, and I especially enjoy the conversations, companionship and laughter that come with jogging along beside others.

Having lived in Seaford for the last four years I'm delighted to now be properly joining the worshipping communities at St Leonard's and St Luke's and becoming part of the life of the parish. If you'd like to invite me round for a cup of something hot, or to contact me for something else, do use this email address [revjanice@seafordparish.org.uk](mailto:revjanice@seafordparish.org.uk) which is also listed on the website and on ChurchSuite.

I look forward to sharing with you in the journey of faith.



# 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 20th June at 1.00pm**

## James Kirby (piano)

James appears as recitalist and concerto soloist throughout the UK and Europe. Highlights include performances at London's Wigmore Hall, Edinburgh and Aldeburgh Festivals, St. George's, Bristol, and Dora Stoutzker Hall, Cardiff. He is increasingly in demand in the Far East, where recent appearances include concerts in China, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand.



**Saturday 18th July at 1.00pm**

## Martin Smith (euphonium) and Rachel Fryer (piano)

Martin is an award winning, euphonium soloist who has given solo recitals all over the UK and abroad from St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London to St Davids Hall, Cardiff up to the Old Town Hall in Lerwick and The English Church in Madeira. He will feature works from his highly successfully streamed album, *The Lyrical Euphonium* which has been featured on BBC Radio 3 and 4 and Magic Classical including works by Capuzzi, Cecilia McDowall, Rachel Portman, Elgar, Florence Price, Guilmant and Hummel.

Rachel Fryer, a well-known local soloist and accompanist on the south coast, has performed nationally at the Fairfield Halls, St John's Smith Square and for the Beethoven Society.



## Coming Up...

Saturday 15th August: D'Arcy Tronkwon (organ)

Saturday 19th September: Julia Kemp (soprano) & Rosemary Kemp (piano)

# Celtic Saints celebrated in June and July

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## Derreck Lee-Philpot

Another group of Celtic Saints, often little known but each one had a powerful effect upon their world for which we should be thankful as we are Christians as a result of their labours and love for Jesus.

### **Kevin (498-618) June 3rd**

One of the lesser known of the Celtic saints Kevin lived as a hermit at Glendalough in Ireland. There disciples gathered round him and a monastery grew up. He is said to have lived to be 120!

One much-loved story tells of a blackbird building its nest in his outstretched hands as he was praying. He kept perfectly still until the eggs hatched. Regardless of whether this story is true, it paints a beautiful word-picture of his spirituality.

This concern for the natural world around and all its creatures is a hallmark of Celtic Christian thinking.

### **Eadfrith (?-721) June 4th**

Another of the later (for some, one of the last) Celtic saints. Eadfrith is best known as the scribe of the Lindisfarne Gospels and, from 698 was Bishop of Lindisfarne. Although a Saxon, he revered Cuthbert and his work on the Gospels was done to honour his memory.

He was also devoted to many of the

traditions of Celtic Christian spirituality. His designs in the Gospels make free use of Irish geometric designs. He restored Cuthbert's oratory on Inner Farne for Felgild (a hermit monk living on the island) to use. When the Vikings sacked Holy Island, Eadfrith's remains were taken along with Cuthbert's on their long journey to keep them safe.

### **Columba (521-597) June 9th**

Born Crimthain ("the cunning wolf") into a noble Irish family, he was so frequently at prayer as a boy that he was nicknamed Columcille ("the dove of the church") or Columba in its shortened Latin form. Christ had changed the wolf into a dove, but still the impetuosity of the wolf remained, until the time came when his anger brought him into conflict with the High King himself.



Columba had secretly copied a manuscript from a monastery he was visiting. When the deed was discovered the matter was taken to the High King's court, and the ruling given, "To every cow its calf," indicating that Columba's copy rightly belonged to the monastery. He refused to accept the decision and gathered an army to oppose the King. The slaughter was great and the King was defeated, but it brought Columba no comfort, instead the dove within him turned his arrogance to remorse for what he had done.

Columba's penance was to leave Ireland and set out to another land to win as many souls for Christ as had been lost in the battle. So it was that Columba and twelve companions let God's winds blow them until they could no longer see the coast of Ireland. They were finally brought to the island we now call Iona, which Columba made a base from which to spread the message of Christ as far as possible through what is now Scotland. He became the greatest missionary of that land, and his community the powerhouse for spreading the Gospel even further, including Northumbria, for many years after Columba's death.

The evangelisation of mainland England had begun, the nation would never be spiritually the same.

### **Alban (3rd century) June 22nd**

According to the Venerable Bede's 'Ecclesiastical History of the English People', Alban was a pagan living at the Roman settlement of Verulamium (near today's St Albans) at a time of Roman persecution of Christians. He gave shelter to a Christian priest trying to escape his persecutors. Alban watched

his devotion to his rhythm of prayer and vigils, and after a while he was so touched by the grace of God that he began to follow the priest's example. The priest gradually instructed him concerning salvation, and eventually Alban turned away from the darkness of idolatry and sincerely accepted Christ. After the priest had been with Alban for some time, the civil power in Verulamium came to know that he was in hiding there and ordered his capture. Alban dressed himself in the priest's long cloak and surrendered himself, allowing the priest to escape to safety. He was led bound before the judge, who happened to be offering sacrifice to his idols. Alban made it known that he, too, had become a Christian, and the judge was furious that he had presumed to turn to Christ and had exchanged places with the priest, threatening him with severe torture. Alban was unmoved, and with great courage refused to acknowledge the false gods again. Quite an interchange followed between Alban and the judge about matters of faith, and Alban explained to the judge that if he continued to sacrifice to idols he put himself at risk of the terrors of hell. The judge became totally incensed at Alban's words and ordered him to be flogged and tortured, hoping to make him recant. Alban accepted it all with great patience, and when the judge realised that nothing could change his mind, he ordered Alban to be executed by beheading.

Alban was led out to a hill above Verulamium, where he was put to death, becoming the first English martyr. The judge was so moved by all that had taken place that he called an end to the persecution in the city. St. Alban's Abbey was later founded near

this site and the city was renamed 'St. Alban's' in the saint's honour. The date of Alban's execution has never been firmly established, and a range of years from 209 to 313 has been suggested.

### **Etheldreda (636?-679) June 23rd**

Etheldreda, or Æthelthryth, was probably born in Exning, near Newmarket in Suffolk. She was one of four daughters of the King of East Anglia, all of whom eventually left everyday life and founded abbeys. Etheldreda made a vow of perpetual virginity, but as the daughter of a king she was expected to make a political marriage, which she did first of all in about 652 with Tondberct, chief of the South Fens. Somehow she managed to persuade her husband to respect the vow she had made.

When he died in 655, Etheldreda retired to the Isle of Ely, which Tondberct had made over to her as a gift.

In 660 she remarried, again for political reasons, this time with Ecgrith, heir to the Kingdom of Northumbria. He succeeded his father, Oswy, in 670 and, shortly after, Etheldreda became a nun. It is said that while Ecgrith initially agreed she should continue to remain a virgin, he needed to have a legitimate heir to the throne, and in about 672 he decided to try to consummate the marriage. He even attempted to bribe Wilfrid, Bishop of York, to use his influence on the queen to convince her. This tactic failed, and the king tried to take his queen from the cloister by force. Etheldreda fled to Ely with two faithful nuns and managed to evade capture thanks, in part, to the rising of the tide.



*Richard Avery, Public domain, Wikimedia Commons*

Ecgrith later married a second wife, Eormenburg, and expelled Wilfrid from his kingdom in 678. According to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, Etheldreda founded a monastery at Ely in 673, which was later destroyed in the Danish invasion of 870.

### **Boisil (?-661) July 7th**

Boisil was the Prior of Melrose Abbey and welcomed Cuthbert (see March 20th) as a novice. On first meeting Cuthbert he exclaimed, 'Behold the servant of the Lord!' Cuthbert became Boisil's pupil. The Venerable Bede (see May 26th) wrote of Boisil, 'He was a priest of great virtue and prophetic spirit.' This shows Boisil's recognition that God's hand would be powerfully upon Cuthbert. Whilst dying of the plague, Boisil prophesied that God wished Cuthbert to be a bishop one day. If you read about Cuthbert in the February/March Parish Magazine you will have seen that this came to be.

# Bygone Church Press

## BURYING ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE CHURCHYARD.

A correspondent in London recently wrote: It appears that the Vicar of Seaford, in Sussex, has set apart the northern portion of Seaford Churchyard as the burial place for the Nonconformists of his parish. In answer to a question put to him by Sir J. Swinburne on the subject, the Home Secretary (Mr. Matthews) professed never to have heard of the prejudice entertained by a great many people against being buried on the north side of a church. Thereupon Mr. Gladstone turned round to Sir John Swinburne, who was seated immediately behind him, and said that he (Sir John) was perfectly right in the matter, and that the custom of avoiding burials on the north side of a church was almost as well established as the custom of placing churches east and west. In this connection I may mention that the late Captain Beaufoy, of Bowness, Windermere, in his will specifically expressed his desire to be buried on the north side of a church, with the view of doing what he could to put an end to the superstition in question.

Another correspondent, Mr. J. G. Holiway, writing from the Sanctuary, Westminster, in reference to the alleged prejudice against burial on the north side of a church, says:—There certainly was, and probably still is, such a prejudice in my native Lincolnshire. I remember a story which an old Lincolnshire rector was fond of telling, about his own attempts to combat it. "I should have no objection," he said to a parishioner, "to be buried on the north side myself." "Well, sir," was the brisk answer, "will you tek an' start us? Mehbe we'd get on then." In America, it would appear from the quotation given below, that the same feeling prevails, carried thither probably by the East Anglian pilgrim fathers; and that malefactors alone were buried on the north side. The lines are written by Cleveland Cox, an Anglo-American Bishop.

On the north of the church lay buried  
The dead of a hapless fame;  
A cross and a wail for pity,  
But never a date or name.

Mr. James Cubitt, of Loughton, Essex, writes: Some well-known lines of Wordsworth illustrate the strong prejudice formerly existing against burial on the north side of a church:—

'Tis said that some have died for love:  
And here and there a churchyard grave is found,  
In the cold north's unhallowed ground,  
Because the wretched man himself had slain—  
His love was such a grievous pain.

Where churchyards are not crowded, the avoidance of this part is noticeable in many counties. The north side is the sunless side; and as the usual entrance to a village church is by the south porch, it is also the lonely and unfrequented side. Are there any other reasons for the prejudice against it?

From the York Herald, 6th December 1890

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

2026003



# LOCAL TREASURES

| EASTBOURNE |



HANDYMEN



GARDENERS



CLEANERS



IT HELP

LOCAL | VETTED | INSURED

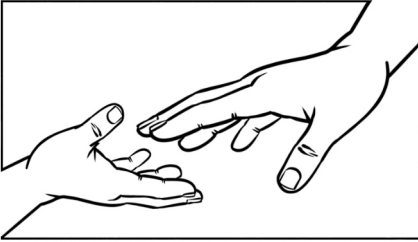
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[www.localtreasures.me](http://www.localtreasures.me)

# Giving Thanks for Fathers

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## Roy Shaw

them, or who lost a dad at a crucial time in life and feel a permanent ache where 'Dad' should be.

There is no finer sound in the world than your child calling you 'daddy', or 'dad'. I love it!

And as I look around our neighbourhood, dads today are far more involved in their children's lives than when I was a child. Pushing prams, holding hands while out on a walk, bathing, playing games. Dads are in all these activities and more. I see the dads on either side of our house, and they obviously love their kids with all their hearts.

Unfortunately, too many kids grow up without a stable and involved male figure in their lives over the whole of their childhood and beyond. And no prizes for guessing the outcome; when they reach fatherhood, their kids often grow up without a stable and involved male figure in their lives.

The month of June brings Fathers' Day - this year on the 21st June. May all dads reading this be pampered like never before! If it's a fine day, it may be a case of 'Stand back everyone- dad's going to bar-b-q'. But before we get carried away, let's spare a thought for those who for one reason or another couldn't be dads, or whose dads fell far short of the high expectations we invest in

Our Christian faith teaches us to look at God as 'Father'- we address Him as such in the opening words of the Lord's Prayer, and it was Jesus' custom to talk to God as 'Father'. Maybe, taking into account those who have had a very mixed experience, or a bad experience of fathers, we should qualify what we say of God and call Him 'the Good Father', or 'our Good Father'.

Because that is what the experience of countless Christians would testify to; that God is a good father. I think of the picture Jesus paints in the parable of the Prodigal Son; the father on the look-out for his wayward son day after day, and when he sees him in the distance runs all the way to him to embrace him. Now in Jesus' time, in that culture, fathers did NOT run, least of all to welcome returning no-goods who had wasted half the father's fortune. Fathers were people of dignity. Run? Never!

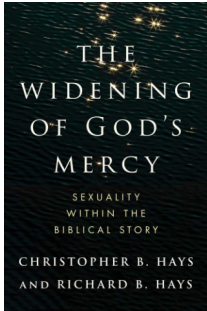
Jesus has turned that on its head. We can be sure that a welcome awaits us; we turn to God, or return to God, and find that He's already half-way towards us, coming at speed to embrace us.

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



# Book Reviews

## James Hollingsworth



### **The Widening of God's Mercy by Christopher and Richard Hays.**

This is a proper academic book with footnotes and everything. You can skip it unless you've read Richard Hay's *The Moral Vision of*

Would that all scholarship could be this humble.

The first half, written by Christopher made more sense to me. Focussing on the OT, he unpacks the doctrine that God's doesn't change his mind (1 Sam 15v29) with the idea that He also regretted making Saul king (1 Sam 15.11). This and other passages launch the authors in to seeing how time and again God sets a behavioural condition but then through His mercy widens it. My favourite would be Isaiah 56 where God welcomes in Eunuchs in shocking contrast to so many Torah rules (eg Deut 23.1). Then God fully welcomes in foreigners to Levitical roles which is a breathtaking reversal of Torah. This is the God who demands mercy not sacrifice and a reminder to me that I have so much more to learn.

### **Lucy's Eyes and Margaret's Dragon by Giselle Porter**

This is a really weird book focussing on the lives of Virgin Saints. Don't buy it, its too expensive. I found it in a charity shop. All of Porter's saints died a horrible death but were consistent to their love of Jesus and thereby exerted great wonder and miracles often from beyond the grave. Most of them are the stuff of legends but that's not to say that they weren't real people, real saints,

*The Moral Vision of* the New Testament. This was a hugely important book that came out in the 1990s just as I was writing theological essays at University. *The Moral Vision* was the definitive go to book for all good evangelical pastors looking for help understanding God's vision for how we should live our lives.

I most remember from it how very thick, heavy and daunting the book was but I did like his reduction of St Paul's ethics to: Be who you are in Christ. The more you think about that phrase the better it gets.

But the book was also the seminal work helping a generation of evangelicals understand why God did not like gay people. Apologies for the horrendously cheap summary but that was the basic take home point for so many of us then. Skip forward 30 years and here he is with his son Christopher writing a rebuttal to his own earlier scholarship.

even if the stories that grew up later are hard to verify. But Joan of Arc was very real and the stories that go with her are quite solid.

So let me tell you Porter's version of Saint Margaret of Antioch (20th July), patron saint of childbirth. Banished from her (pagan) father's home for being a Christian, she became a shepherd. She refused the romantic advances of a powerful person (actually quite a lot of the saints that Porter writes about have this formula which really suggests that you are better off with Jesus than with some rich person who is willing to torture you for refusing his affectations of love). She's racked and flayed and then visited by Satan. The Devil comes to her as a dragon who swallows her up. But inside the dragon, Margaret made the sign of the cross so that the dragon was split in two. Out came Margaret and hence she is the patron saint of child birth. One of you kind people gave me an icon of Margaret with a dragon. Thank you. She ends up having her head cut off but not before thousands are converted having admired her faith and the way she died. There could be a lesson here in reminding ourselves of the power of the sign of the Cross.



### **When the Saints go flying in by Joseph Yoo.**

This is a brilliant book and you should consider borrowing it, buying it. He's an Episcopalian priest. But you want to read him because he is the next generation –

Gen Z – of Christian. His writing has a bounce and self-deprecating introspection that makes you want to read one more story. I came across him on Instagram where he gives really short sermons on quite well known scriptures and pulls out of them reflections that leave you feeling blessed.

In his book he writes about a handful of saints most of whom I have heard of. I had never heard of St Kateri Tekawitha. She died in 1680, was canonised 1980, her day is 17th April. She was the first Native American saint. This is a time when the French, English and Dutch were fighting each other for land, and bringing smallpox to the natives. Kateri's parents died of smallpox, she was horribly scarred by it all becoming almost blind so that her Mohawk tribe called her 'she who bumps into things' or Tekawitha. She was drawn to Jesus by Jesuit missionaries and baptised on Easter day 1676. She took a vow of chastity (I suspect that Porter would like this saint) and then lived a harsh ascetic life. Perhaps, suggests Yoo, echoing the Mohawk warriors who show their courage by great acts of daring. She died aged 24 and witnesses say that on her death, her smallpox scars were healed.

So far, so amazing. But the Jesuits applied to the Pope for her canonisation based on the true story of Jake Finkbonner, a native American, who contracted necrotizing fasciitis, a deadly flesh eating bacteria. His friends and family prayed for him to Kateri Tekawitha. A nun visited him with a piece of the saint's wrist bone. Jake recovered. I like this story because it messes with my protestant presumptions and prejudices.

# A Reflection Upon Approaching Retirement

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## Derreck Lee-Philpot

**“Retirement – it’s not the end of the road, it’s the start of the open highway!”**

The above is one of the few positive perspectives of retirement among the plethora of jokey, often flippant, quotes, cards, posters, T-shirts I have seen.

Aside from the jokes, retirement is often seen as the time where we put up our feet, pull a favourite book from the shelf, crack open that bottle of whisky saved for the occasion, and ‘chill out’ until called home to be with Jesus.

Neither alternative is particularly appealing to me, except maybe the bottle of Irish 😊. So, what is retirement about? Many (retired and not-yet-retired) may have a view, but these are my thoughts as I fast approach the date.

What am I retiring, stepping back from? The obvious answer is..... ‘I’m retiring from being a priest’.

Hmmm, but is that true? Certainly, I will be financially retiring from the Anglican priesthood as my bank account may soon lament !

Your view may depend on whether you see priesthood as a role you take on, or, as a description of who you are?

When I retired from the Fire Service

(this is the second time around for me) I was made aware of the psychological effects of retirement. Many firefighters struggled because their personal identity and self-esteem was inextricably bound up in their firefighter’s uniform and role. Having that removed and no longer being the ‘cavalry’ that arrives to bring order out of chaos can be a massive blow to one’s self-image; many firefighters find retirement traumatic. Likewise, having one’s self-image and identity built upon the role of priest may also be disturbing and disconcerting when it ends upon retirement.

My personal identity has never been founded in what I have done, either firefighting or priesthood.

So, for me, priesthood has never been a ‘role’, rather it has been an expression of who I am in God and the practical use of what spiritual gifts I may have been given. For example, I led my first homegroup at 21, was preaching at 22 years old, was in a church leadership team at 26. I helped plant a new church for the first time as a 33yo. In 1999 I went to Kosovo to deliver humanitarian aid and to preach in one of their struggling churches.

All this before the thought of formal ordained priesthood was suggested.

All this came out of who I am. Even my later trips to Uganda (twice) and South Sudan were not from a priestly role, but

again, just a reflection of who I am.

Priests may retire when they get to seventy years old, but Christians never retire, they (should) continue in service using their God-given gifts wherever they might be received. Nowhere in scripture do I see God calling people to retire, only to serve Him further, like...

- Abraham was 75 when called to leave all he knew to go somewhere else (Genesis 12)
- Moses is called at the burning bush, he is 80.
- Caleb was 85 when he followed Joshua into the Promised Land. (Joshua 14:7-10)
- Elizabeth ('very old' Luke 1:7) and Sarah 90 (Genesis 17:17) called to give birth to amazing children.
- Anna, called to be in the temple every day saw Jesus at 84 (Luke 2:37)

And the list goes on and on.....

I am not as old as any of those listed above, so there must be much more that God has in store for Corrinne and I. So, I anticipate that retirement is the opportunity to serve the Body of Christ in ways that were not open previously, i.e. 'not the end of the road, but the start of the open highway!'

So, what does all this mean for my (and Corrinne's) post-retirement future? We don't really know, we just know it is the start of another adventure! The thing with adventures is that they are unsettling, often uncomfortable, always challenging, usually change the character of the adventurer. I am reminded of the quote from Peter Pan when talking to Wendy...

*"Shall we have an adventure now, or would you like a cup of tea first?"*

For many the cup of tea would be the option, adventures are going beyond our 'comfort zone' into places or experiences we've never been before.

Many might answer like Bilbo Baggins answered Gandalf at the start of 'The Hobbit'....

*"We don't want any adventures here, thank you! You might try over The Hill or across The Water."*

Sit down, have a cuppa, wait until the feeling passes! We forget, or have never realised, that if God initiates the adventure, it is always thrilling!

We don't know what God's next adventure is for us, but we have bought a house that has the capacity to be used in His service. Maybe to have sessions to look more deeply at the scriptures, to 'deep dive' into the stories and parts of scripture we think we know, to see how the 'New is in the Old concealed, and the Old is in the New revealed'. Corrinne will have the space to invite people to explore the depths of Godly Play, to discuss dreams and visions – not just in scripture but in people's experience. To just spend time with friends talking and sharing about Jesus.

There is also the delight of spending more time with grandchildren, what a joy and privilege! Also to travel, yes I am sure that fun is part of retirement too, although I have been warned that....

*"The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off!"*

We would like to thank all of you here in Seaford for being a part of our adventure here, we have enjoyed your company on the journey and learned much from those who have opened their hearts to us.

We are not leaving Seaford and have bought a house locally – that’s how much we have enjoyed being here!

As we have enjoyed your company in the past, we look forward to your friendship and fellowship long into the future.

Soon we will let you know of our moving date and my last Sunday, they will be bittersweet, but also the door into the next adventure.

Whatever the adventure that comes we will, like Paul ,

“...press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:12-14)

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## Poetry Corner

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Selected by Jim Holmes

### Dusk in June

Sarah Teasdale ( 1884 - 1933 )



Evening, and all the birds  
In a chorus of shimmering sound  
Are easing their hearts of joy  
For miles around.

The air is blue and sweet,  
The first few stars are white, -  
Oh let me like the birds  
Sing before night.



# Prayer Diary

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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)***

Prayer Diary for June and July

Please pray for our Mission Partners

## **SAMARA'S AID**

- For peace in Syria where there is unrest and fighting.
- For the safety of all those working for Samara's Aid.
- For the work being done to extend Samara's Aid to more areas to help families and children of all religions by supplying food and a safe place to play and learn.

## **HOMELINK – giving support in Lewes District**

- Give thanks for the trustees and administrative staff helping people who are homeless or under threat of homelessness and who don't have the necessary savings to obtain an interest-free loan for the rent in advance and a damage deposit so enabling them to access privately rented accommodation.
- Give thanks for those who have benefitted from the non-repayable small grants for essential household items such as a kettle, bed or fridge.
- Give thanks for those who have felt supported and had their lives changed around.
- Pray for sufficient funds to be raised and accommodation to be available when needed.

## **BEACHY HEAD CHAPLAINCY TEAM**

The forthcoming 10 Year Masterplan Workshops organised by East Sussex Health team to plan the strategy for suicide prevention at Beachy Head with those committed to the cause. May they be productive, sensitive and lead to life-saving breakthroughs.

The safety of the Chaplains on patrol and all who come to enjoy the peace and beauty at this time of an increase in dangerous and reckless driving of speeding

and racing motorbikes and cars. That there will be a unified and effective response from Sussex Police, ESCC, Eastbourne Borough Council and the South Downs National Park as they work together to enforce the Public Spaces Protection Order.

That they will have success as they seek 500 new prayerful partners to support the team financially with the Campaign: Even at The Edge There is Always Hope.

## **CHURCH ARMY**

- The Church Army Centres of Mission in local communities building relationships, supporting those living in poverty, alongside growing creative, accessible Church Communities.
- The new Vision and Strategy for Church Army and where their priorities and focus should be moving forward.
- Those being Admitted and Commissioned at a service on 11 July in Sheffield.
- The Gathering at High Leigh in November along with the AGM.

## **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.
- Those attending the Bible Study at the Wellington following the Alpha Course.
- Those living and working in Walmer Road, Chyngton Avenue, The Shepway, Saltwood Road, Pevensey Close, Millberg Road.

## **MONDAY**

- That our world leaders will act with wisdom, integrity and humility to guide nations towards peace, justice and the common good.
- That God will provide 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 Manor Road, Manor Road North, Manor Close, Stoke Close, Stoke Manor Close, Chesterton Drive, Chesterton Avenue, Farm 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 to provide stable government.
- 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 Eastbourne Road, Tudor Manor Gardens, Old Poplar Close. Chyngton Lane, Chyngton Lane North, Stirling Avenue, Perth Close, Stirling Close, Elgin Gardens.

## **WEDNESDAY**

- Our MP James MacCleary: that he will serve the Lewes constituency with diligence and honesty.
- For the members of East Sussex County Council, Lewes District Council and Seaford Town Council. For those newly elected to serve with diligence and fairness.
- The local GP practices and pharmacies as they deal with accidents, emergencies, routine appointments and liaising with the different local hospitals and health services.
- 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. The families of those several children who have serious illnesses.
- Those living and working in Hythe Crescent, Dymock Close, Hythe View, Hythe Close, Hastings Avenue, Dover Close, Folkestone Avenue, Lansdowne Road.

## **THURSDAY**

- Rev James, Rev Derreck, Rev Carole and Rev Janice (our new Associate Vicar as she joins the team) 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.
- Our newly appointed Facilities Manager, Tony.
- The new Home Group Co-ordinators David & Tricia Robertson. All Home Groups and their leaders.
- The retired clergy who live in our parish & those who worship with us.
- Those living and working in Bodiam Close, Cinque Ports Way, Deal Ave, Sandgate Close, Battle Close, Dymchurch Close, Hillside Ave, Winchelsea Close.

## FRIDAY

- Stefan and Kim working with our Children, Youth & Families.
- As they plan ahead for the summer activities, Beach Services and the 'Parish Together Weekend' – an event for everyone in the church family 14 – 17 August.
- 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 Chyngton Gardens, Greenwell Close, Upper Chyngton Gardens, Rye Close, Romney Close.

## 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 Seaford Grange, the development on the former Newlands School site off Eastbourne Road.

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## A Peaceful Mind in June & July

*There is a lot of talk about 'mindfulness' these days, and how to find calm moments in our daily lives. As Christians, we have an extra, divine resource to call on.*

This is a time when we tend to spend more time outside, and probably see more of other people...

- A man that has friends must show himself friendly... Proverbs 18:24
- Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people but love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord. - Leviticus 19:18,34
- How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! - Psalm 133:1
- Whoever would foster love covers over an offense, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends. - Proverbs 17:9



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# Chichester Cathedral

# 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.

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

## **Chichester Peregrines**

The cathedral has welcomed the birds for more than two decades, and this year carries added significance: 2026 marks the 25th anniversary since peregrines were first regularly observed on the cathedral.

The pair has become a defining feature of the site, with more than 70–80 chicks fledged since the early 2000s. The peregrine project is a collaboration between Chichester Cathedral, the Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS) and local wildlife enthusiasts David and Janet Shaw who have been observing the birds since the very beginning.

The cathedral will be hosting drop-in Peregrine Open Days on the Cathedral Green, Wednesday to Sunday, 6th June to 5th July (10.00am - 4.00pm), offering visitors the opportunity to watch the birds through telescopes, view live footage onsite, and speak with volunteers who have supported the project for many years.

You can watch a live-stream of the peregrines at  
<https://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/chichester-peregrines>

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

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

# Sometimes Jesus Reminds Me of Morecambe & Wise

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## Michael Holmes

This is a statement I made to James, our vicar, some weeks ago. I did qualify the statement with a singular comment that one could immediately understand, but I never gave examples. I am sure you all know who Morecambe & Wise were so if I say “.... I am playing all the right notes, but not necessarily in the right order” you will know that this relates to their relationship with Andre Previn, or “Preview” as they preferred to refer to him.

Now, with a Catholic upbringing, when I wanted something from God, I normally pray to him with the “Our Father”, the prayer he taught us. Sometimes I adopt the approach of Our Lady, Mary, mother of Jesus, you may remember that, at the marriage feast of Cana, Mary did not tell Jesus, her son, what he should do, she just told him the problem, “They have run out of wine”. She never told him what to do she just gave him the problem.

Unfortunately for me, my younger version of me was never up to approaching Jesus in the way that Mary did. If it was something I wanted, I was more likely to tell him the problem and then tell him exactly what I wanted him to do and I mean “exactly”.

For the problem I had in mind to tell you about, it would have been far better for me to have adopted the approach of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Just tell him

the problem and let him get on with it. But no I could not do that could I. I told him exactly what I wanted him to do.

I will now tell you of the problem, I will tell you what I wanted Jesus to do, I will tell you his solution to my problem and, as I told him twice, although I got what I wanted, I was unhappy with his solution, although he didn’t, I am sure you could imagine him telling me – “I am playing all the right notes, but not necessarily in the right order”.

The background to the problem – I left school at 17 with a handful O’ levels and joined the nearby Woolwich Building Society HQ. It seemed an easy solution. My secondary modern school reported that I was very bright capable of getting many more O’levels: should have considered A levels, but I was basically lazy.

On joining the Woolwich, they said I had to work there a full year and then they would send me to college day release plus I had to do one evening. So at 18 I started on doing a Higher National Diploma in Business Studies and at 20 I finished this with all passes at distinction level. They gave me their student of the year award. During that time, I had worked through their Insurance and Mortgage departments and I was spending my third year in Internal Audit. I decided I wanted to qualify as an accountant, they decided I

was on their particular career path to be a branch manager, leading on to area manager and then onto divisional manager.

We had disagreements and I left, found an excellent manufacturing firm who offered me a 5 year management accounting training scheme. So around the age of 20/21 I embarked on working to be an accountant.

I had already done two years of extensive study and, to a major degree, proved my school to be right. Remove the laziness and I could succeed. This meant that I was 20 verging on 21, very busy studying, and I appeared to have no interest in girls.

Well that soon changed. I had first met Christine at our church youth club and I liked her. She was two years older than me, so certainly from 16 to 19 I didn't think I had a chance, that two year difference seemed a bit too much. But at 20/21 maybe there might be a chance.

I found out that Christine was a member of a church youth organisation and they did good works in the parish. Visiting old people, baby sitting etc; you name it they did it. So I joined that organisation and made sure that I was out doing good deeds with her.

It was in early January 1971 that Christine's father died, he was only 55 and he died from cancer. Unfortunately I was down to do a Woolwich audit in Chester and was unsuccessful in trying to get the day off. I apologised to her. She told me, sometime later, that, after her father's funeral she asked him to find her a nice boy.

It is true to say that we both went to the same Sunday church service, we both ended up in the same bench; we were seen together quite a lot. I would have classified Christine as the darling of the parish, youngsters flocked to her. I heard them say – “who is he” and she would say “oh that's Michael” to which she got “is he your boyfriend?” – “oh no we are just good friends”. The parish decided we were a couple before we did. Questions were “are you going out?” “Let us know when you get engaged” “let us know when you are getting married, we don't want an invitation, but can we just attend the marriage service”

All the time, Christine said “we are just good friends”. So eventually I plucked up the courage to ask her out. I ended up on cloud nine, when she said “yes”. We went to the cinema, we went out for dinners. I am sure you remember that famous meal – prawn cocktail, steak, chip, peas and onion rings followed by black forest gateaux. Sometimes we would sit in the pub for an hour or so, sipping wine, and just chatting. We also loved walking in the countryside.

Christine was fully understanding as to my situation she appreciated that I was on a five year course covering 18 exams towards an accountancy qualification. I was working a full week, doing a correspondence course, one night a week at college and devouring the necessary books and reading material. It suited her to meet one night in the week and one day at the weekend.

Despite all this, I just felt everything was not going according to my plan. I felt like we were just good friends. I needed to have a good long discussion

with God, I needed his help. So with my concerns I decided to have a long chat with God. I told him the following:

1. I was happy in Christine's company
2. Working with her within the youth organisation made me feel good about myself
3. I could easily imagine Christine as the mother of our children
4. Given 1,2 and 3 above, I loved her and wanted to marry her

So I had given him the low down, now I told him. Look, after your crucifixion, at Pentecost, your disciples were locked in a room and in fear, you sent down the Holy Spirit in tongues of fire. Your disciples lost their fear, went out into the world and converted many to your faith. They all understood various languages. So what I want is for you to send me the Holy Spirit as tongues of fire and all I want is to be able to speak and communicate to Christine in the language of love and I want to move from "just good friends" to "boyfriend / girlfriend". I told him it's not much to ask for so get on with it.

Well I said I would tell him exactly what I wanted.

So on the Sunday morning service, the new me was going to speak to the girl I loved, God had given me the Holy Spirit in the form of tongues of fire, or so I thought. What could go wrong?

And then she hit me with it – "Look I don't like two timing boys. Someone else has asked me out and I have said yes. So I think we should just pack up seeing one another". Oh I could feel the arrow striking my heart and it was not Eros. God only knows what I must have looked like. Off she went towards her

home. I, well I went back into the church, lit a candle and told God just how much he had pissed me off.

So I was going around like a bear with a sore head, it was impacting my ability to study and I was just going to have to accept that I was going to lose the love of my life. Who knows maybe God had something else for me.

It so happened that there was a big party to go to, some 13 days after Christine had dropped her bombshell. We were both due to go to that party. My friends were asking me "will you be going to the party?" my answer was a firm "NO". When asked why, I told them I didn't want to meet Christine.

They told me that Christine was not coming to the party, her girlfriends had told them. Obviously, she would be busy with her new boyfriend.

So I went to the party. There I was chatting up a lovely dark haired young Irish lady called Mary McCarthy. Suddenly, I noticed Christine had arrived with her best friend Ann Troy. I thought "Oh God make me invisible". If that was not bad enough, they were coming straight for me. As soon as they were within hearing distance, I heard Ann ask "So Christine are you dating at the moment?" I heard a "No". As I was wondering what I just heard, Ann asked "So does that mean you don't have a boyfriend, at the moment?" Christine's answer was "Yes it does, I don't have a boyfriend at the moment"

I felt sorry for Mary McCarthy, as I said "Sorry I have to go", I went straight over to Christine and Ann, her friend, smiled at me as she moved away. I asked Christine to confirm that she didn't have

a boyfriend and then I asked her for a date. She said "Yes". I then provided a proviso – "can we be boyfriend / girlfriend and not just good friends?" She said "Yes".

We had a long and interesting chat. I found out, when we were first going out, Christine had asked me who my favourite actresses were on TV, film or on the stage. I gave her three names and they turned out to be 4, 7 and 9 years older than me. The question was a bit off, as being 20/21 the most actresses would be older than me. Given that she was two years older than me; she was not sure whether I was into older women. Also she thought I had asked her out just to shut up all those parishioners. So what chance had I got?

Given that we would be back together, I asked what I had that her new boyfriend did not have? She told me I was asking the wrong question, what I should have asked was "What had he got, that I did not have?" She told me that the answer to that question was "a wife that did not understand him".

She also said that when she, for want of a better word, dumped me, she immediately saw, in my face, that I loved her. Like me, she asked God to help get me back; I asked what did he do about it. All she said was "... well I (she) caused the problem, so it was up to her to fix it".

All was fixed, in 2-3 months we were engaged and 2+ years later we were married. This July we will have been married 53 years. It was and has been one of the best decisions of my life.

Once we were going out and back together again, I thought it right that I should talk to Jesus. I told him I was sorry I said he pissed me off; I thanked him for everything he had done, but I did say surely he could have made it much easier for me.

I am not sure, but I think I heard him say

"I played all the right notes, but not necessarily in the right order"



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



*My sermon today comes from Apps Chapter 1 beginning at verse 2...*

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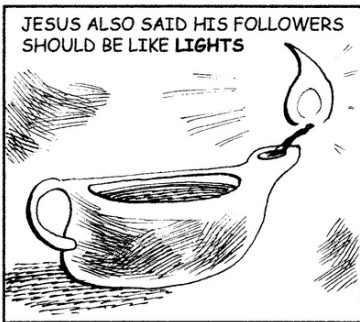
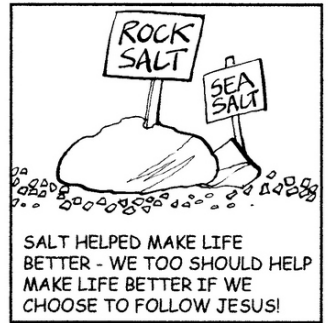
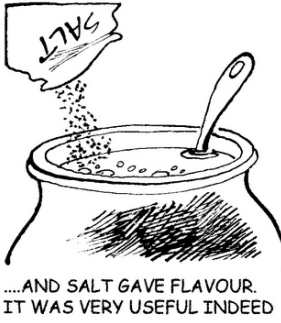
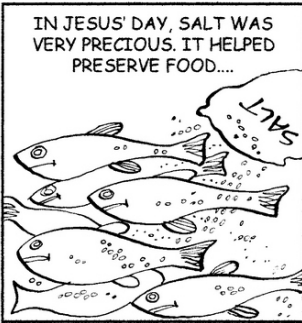
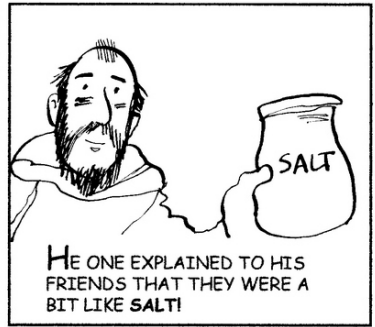
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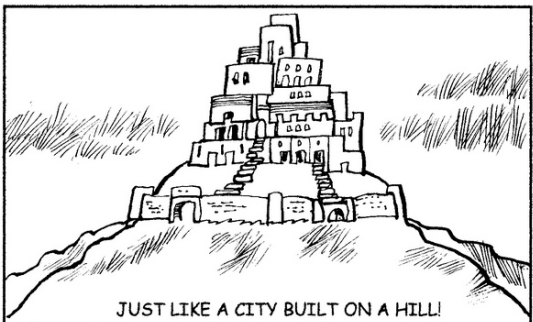
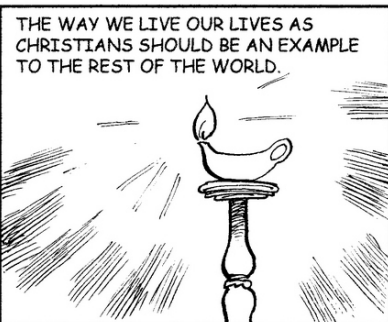


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# The tale of the Salt and Light



'NOBODY LIGHTS A LAMP - THEN PUTS IT UNDER A BOWL', SAID JESUS



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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,

Regional Rehabilitation Centre for Youth



At the beginning of May we were able to hold our first Baptismal service at the Young Offenders Centre.

We expected to baptise 6 boys to begin with, but baptised 30 boys, some were sobbing especially D, who struggles with mental health problems. He could hardly stand after he got out of the pool, overcome with emotion. God clearly met him in a special way. Staff on duty were also crying. It was a very emotional day, the blessings of God's grace and love. Please continue to pray for two of the boys at the Young Offenders Centre. We have been praying long for them, J and D come

forward for prayer every week and put their trust again in God to help them. They have been at the centre for over 12 years and were told they would soon be released but the verdict they received this week is that they will be transferred to adult prison in Manila. It is the worst news. Our hearts are very heavy for them. However, J said he is ready, the fear is gone and he knows God goes with him and has a plan, he quoted the verse in Jeremiah. "I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord - plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a hope and a future." It is wonderful how they are growing in their faith and the staff at the centre are also asking for prayer and to be baptised, having witnessed the transformations at the Centre. It is amazing what God is doing! This day some of the staff came forward with them and also prayed for them with Michael. Unfortunately, we have no update about Kevin in Tondo, we have lost contact with him. Please continue to hold him in your prayers. Pray we hear news from him.

Michael's sons Rain and Riley joined our worship team this month at church. The photo shows the team praying for them at the end of the service. What a blessing to pass on the anointing for worship to the next generation.

The 8th of May was our daughter Ana's wedding day! She married Lhevie

Lopez. Sadly, one of our close friends from church had died after a long battle with cancer – the funeral was held the following day. Then Mothers Day on Sunday was sad without her there. It is extremely hot here now, days are difficult. We feel exhausted. Thank you for prayers and all you do to help the ministry here. God is doing amazing things! Lesley, Peter & family



# THE WELLINGTON HOTEL

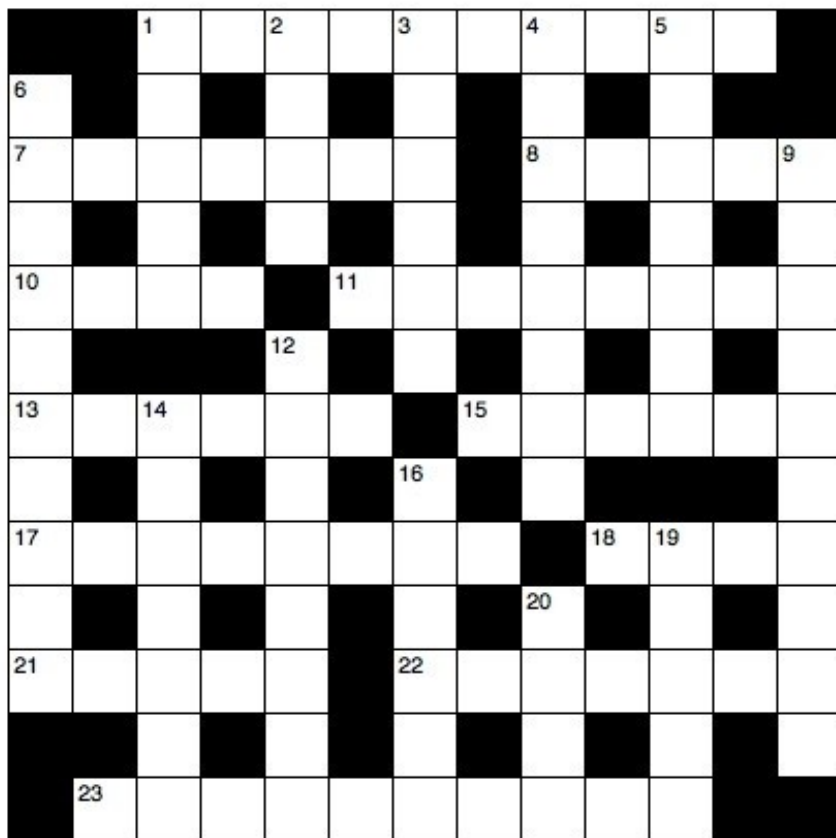
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# Crossword



## Across

- 1 Evil (Genesis 6:5) (10)  
 7 Musician called for by Elisha when he met the kings of Israel, Judah and Edom (2 Kings 3:15) (7)  
 8 The request that led to the institution of the Lord's Prayer: 'Lord, — us to pray' (Luke 11:1) (5)  
 10 'We are hard pressed on every—'(2Corinthians4:8)(4)  
 11 Fraud (2Corinthians6:8)(8)  
 13 'His troops advance in force;they build a siege ramp against me and — around my tent' (Job 19:12) (6)  
 15 Where Rachel hid Laban's household gods when he searched his daughter's tent (Genesis 31:34) (6)  
 17 'Now about spiritual gifts,brothers,I do not want you to be—' (1 Corinthians 12:1) (8)

# June-July Lectionary

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**June 7th: 1st Sunday after Trinity**

Romans 4:13-25

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

**June 14th: 2nd Sunday after Trinity**

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35-10:8

**June 21st: 3rd Sunday after Trinity**

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39

**June 28th: 4th Sunday after Trinity**

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42

**July 5th: 5th Sunday after Trinity**

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

**July 12th: 6th Sunday after Trinity**

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

**July 19th: 7th Sunday after Trinity**

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

**July 26th: 8th Sunday after Trinity**

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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18 Nomadic dwelling(Genesis26:25)(4)

21 'As for man,his days are like—,he flourishes like a flower of the field' (Psalm 103:15) (5)

22 Or I live (anag.)(7)

23 Those guilty of 1 Across(Romans13:4)(10)

**Down**

1 'God so loved the — that he gave his one and only Son' (John 3:16) (5)

2 'Away in a manger, no — for a bed' (4)

3 Mob ten (anag.) (6)

4 'Each — group made its own gods in several towns where they settled' (2 Kings 17:29) (8)

5 Began (Luke 9:46) (7)

6 Speaking very softly (John 7:32) (10)

9 Workers Ruth joined when she arrived in Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi (Ruth 2:3) (10) 12 Put in jail(Acts22:19)(8)

14 Aceturn(anag.)(7)

16 Discharge(Acts21:3)(6)

19 'All these—come from inside and make a man "unclean"' (Mark 7:23) (5)

20 'Let us rejoice and be glad and — him glory!'(Revelation19:7)(4)

# June

<b>Wednesday 3rd</b>	12.30pm	Parish Lunch	St. Luke's
<b>Saturday 6th</b>	9.30am	Messy Church	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Sunday 7th</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion & Glow	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Family Communion	St. Luke's
<b>Tuesday 9th</b>	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Sunday 14th</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Family Worship	St. Luke's
	7.00pm	Prayer@7	Seaford Baptist Church
<b>Monday 15th</b>	7.30pm	Women's Group	St. Luke's
<b>Friday 19th</b>	2.30pm	Mothers' Union	St. Luke's
<b>Saturday 20th</b>	1.00pm	Lunchtime Concert	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Sunday 21st</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion & Glow	St. Luke's
<b>Tuesday 23rd</b>	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
<b>Saturday 27th</b>	10.00am	Church Open Cafe	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Sunday 28th</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Family Worship	St. Luke's
	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7	St. Luke's



POVERTY

on Saturday 13th June 2026

## CREAM TEAS

At the Parish Hall, Bishopstone at the rear of  
St Andrew's Church

2.30pm to 4.30pm

There will be a raffle

Tickets at £5 from Christian Aid representatives  
or ring Colin on 01323894899

### International Day of Prayer for the Emergency Services

Each year, the Christian Police Association hosts an International Day of Prayer for the Emergency Services. This year it will be on Thursday 25th June 2026.

For details go to <https://cpauk.net/events/>

<b>Wednesday 1st</b>	12.30pm	Parish Lunch	St. Luke's
<b>Saturday 4th</b>	9.30am	Messy Church	St. Leonard's
<b>Sunday 5th</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion & Glow	St. Luke's
<b>Sunday 12th</b>	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>Tuesday 14th</b>	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
<b>Saturday 18th</b>	1.00pm	Lunchtime Concert	St. Leonard's
<b>Sunday 19th</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion & Glow	St. Luke's
<b>Monday 20th</b>	TBC	Women's Group	Seaford Museum
<b>Tuesday 21st</b>		Magazine copy date	
<b>Friday 24th</b>	2.30pm	Mothers' Union	TBC
<b>Saturday 25th</b>	10.00am	Church Open Cafe	St. Leonard's
<b>Sunday 26th</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Family Worship	St. Luke's
	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7	St. Luke's
<b>Tuesday 28th</b>	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's

## Parish Magazine

Items for the August-September edition of the magazine should be sent to by Tuesday 21st July to: [magazine@seafordparish.org.uk](mailto:magazine@seafordparish.org.uk)



### Crossword Solution

**ACROSS:** 1, Wickedness. 7, Harpist. 8, Teach. 10, Side. 11, Impostor. 13, Encamp. 15, Saddle. 17, Ignorant. 18, Tent. 21, Grass. 22, Olivier. 23, Wrongdoers.

**DOWN:** 1, World. 2, Crib. 3, Entomb. 4, National. 5, Started. 6, Whispering. 9, Harvesters. 12, Imprison. 14, Centaur. 16, Unload. 19, Evils, 20, Give.

# 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 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

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## 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
Revd. Janice Bartholemew		revjanice@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
Joanne Lalla (St. Luke's)		joanne.lalla@btinternet.com
Paul Bloxham (St. Luke's)		paulandjobloxham@btinternet.com

## Parish Treasurer

atreasurer@seafordparish.org.uk
prayer@seafordparish.org.uk

## Prayers

## Safeguarding Officer

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

Tricia Robertson	homegroups@seafordparish.org.uk
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Hall Bookings	07425 936674	bookings@seafordparish.org.uk
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Fortnightly News	news@seafordparish.org.uk
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## Magazine

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Editor: Malcolm Anderson	01323 891252	magazine@seafordparish.org.uk
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