

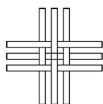
Parish Magazine

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



October-November 2026

Suggested donation **£1.00**



Contents

03	Welcome	22	Bygone Church Press
04	Parish News	23	Prayer Diary
07	Lectionary	26	House Blessing
07	Link to Hope	28	People's Emergency Briefing
08	My walk With God	29	Praying for Extreme Weather
09	Crowhurst Healing Centre	30	Children, Youth & Families
10	Celtic Saints	32	Psalm 23 for the Workplace
13	Called Through Cancer	33	Mouse Makes
14	Book Reviews	34	Jesus Why Haven't You Healed Me
17	Lunchtime Concerts	38	Poetry Corner
18	Home Groups	40	LAMA
19	Walking with One Another	42	Crossword
20	Could Sleep be Spiritual	44	Calendar

Welcome

For the Christian, the Bible is God's Word to us; it tells us about His character and creative purposes, how He has related to people in the past, and His promises for the future. Science is a specific way of studying the world, exploring the physical properties of things – a wonderful way to explore God's creation. So, the question to ask if the Bible and Science seem to be contradicting each other is, have we made a mistake in interpreting one or the other?



Science is very good at answering certain types of questions: 'What size is it?', 'How fast does it travel?', 'What is it made of?', and so on. Questions like 'What's it for?', 'What should I do with it?', and 'What's it worth?' can't be answered using scientific methods. Some of the misunderstanding in discussions of science and religion come from not recognising the limits of science.

It's also important to recognise what the Bible is, and what sorts of questions it can answer. The Bible was written well before people began to investigate the world in ways we would recognise as scientific. Of course, people in the Ancient Near East were studying the world around them, observing the movements of the stars, the processes of life and death that happened all around them, the seasons, the behaviour of physical objects, and so on. But they did not study the mechanisms underlying these things systematically using the tools of science, and they did not see or describe the world in scientific terms – not because they weren't intelligent, but because science as we know it wasn't happening at that time.

Instead, the biblical writers used words that were commonly used in their own cultures to record events, share truth and wisdom, and tell stories that convey deep truth about God's character. If we want to understand God's intention in inspiring these words, we need to do some careful work to connect with those ancient writers and find out what they meant, before we can discover what those words mean to us today.

These principles can help us have far more fruitful conversations about science and Christian faith. If we allow any apparent conflict between Science and the Bible to fuel our search for understanding, not only will we learn as individuals, but we will be able to draw others into a conversation that is relevant to wider society today.

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge.

Parish News

St. Leonard's Building Work Nearing Completion

Fred Bass

It is now over 18 months since the sale of the old Parish Hall on Church Lane was realised and the development there has improved the outlook considerably while providing much needed housing. A local developer has returned the old Victorian dwelling to its original use as two town houses and the hall has been replaced with town houses in keeping with Church Lane's character. As you may know the proceeds from the sale allowed the Parochial Church Council to proceed with the project to reimagine the space in St. Leonard's itself, while increasing the use of St. Luke's for community hire and as the administrative centre for the parish.

As part of reimagining its use we wanted it to be not only a centre of



faith at the heart of our town but better serve the community by upgrading its facilities. The sale of the hall provided enough funding to get the project going, though, of course, more

funds are still needed. We wanted to create proper safe accessible toilet facilities, a kitchen area and a smaller meeting space in the side chapel that can easily be heated for community use.



We are pleased to say the project is almost completed though of course fund raising continues with appeals for funds and bids for grants. We do thank all those that have kindly already donated.

The overall parish finances remain a struggle. Our Church income is mainly from just short of 300 on our church electoral roll.

Sadly, the closure of the VAT Refund scheme for charities as brought in by the current government has added to our costs about £100k, something we could not predict 5 years ago.

The improved facilities will, we are sure, mean St. Leonard's will now continue not only as a centre of faith but will become a much more valuable community space accessible to all Seaford residents at the heart of our town.

Our Archdeacon will formally open the space on Sunday November 22nd at the 9.30am service and there will be a civic reception on November 6th.

Seeing new light...

Mark Gill

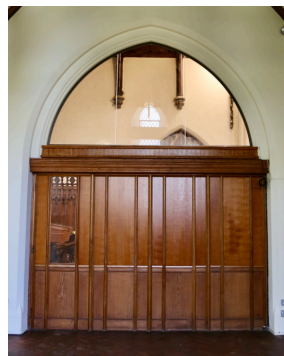
I am always grateful to see unexpected benefits from projects I have been involved in. The Sunday after the glass panelling was installed in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, I arrived at St Leonards and on being greeted at the door, an image caught in the corner of my eye. I turned to look toward the Chancel and saw the image of our Lord Jesus which I could recognise from the central Apse window - reflected in the new glass panelling. It was a 'gasp' moment I shall remember as special, an unexpected benefit, seeing this 'new light' in a new place.

As I write in late August, the re-ordering activities are almost complete to create an enclosed space in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit with access ramp, accessible toilets with renovated Choir Vestry, new media desk, kitchen in the Tower with some supporting works like the perimeter path alongside the north aisle. Our plan to complete by 2 October remains on schedule. As typical of such works in our church with history stretching back 942 years, we have



found issues which required dealing with - such as finding the condition of the electrical circuits requiring upgrade to today's standards. Happily, we have had a

collaboration with the Architect and the electrician Contractor whose electric certificate for



the whole church while reducing our long-term standing charges. However, while we have received some grants and a Diocesan loan, we have a remaining challenge to cover the funding for the re-ordering and to consider the next stage of upgrading the Audio-Visual equipment, most of which has outlived its 20 year life cycle. For this we have a plan and quotation for around £30,000 which the PCC has agreed to implement.

I hope you will see the quality of the work is very good and that it will last the course for many years to come - so that we will see new light in a new place. Thank you for your patience and necessary inconvenience caused during the re-ordering. We will celebrate its completion and give thanks to God for the blessing He gives to us and for the opportunities the new facilities will give us in the future.

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord"

Psalm 122:1



Parish News

Parish Lunch

Parish Lunch meet on Wednesdays 7th October and 4th November 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. 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 7th October and 4th November at 63 Chyngton Gardens from 10.00am to 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 13th October, 10th and 24th November at 11.00am. Coffee will be available from 10.00am to 12.00 noon.

Mothers' Union

On Friday 23rd October at 2.30pm in St. Luke's Diana Woodcock will be speaking about her ministry. In November we

meet on Friday 27th at 1.00pm in St. Luke's for a Friendship Lunch and Christmas Parcels.

Seaford Parish Women's Group

We generally meet on the third Monday of the month in St. Luke's at 7.30pm with a varied programme of speakers and activities. Women's Group autumn programme began on Monday 21st September at 7.30pm in St. Luke's for a board games evening and catch up on members news. On the 19th October at 7.30pm we have Rev Janice Bartholemew coming to speak to us and on 16th November a Christmas Craft evening run by our talented members. In early December we will have our Stopover Charity Service at 2.30pm in St Leonard's to hand over donated Christmas Gifts for the young girls at Stopover and an update on the charity. Women's Group final meeting will be on Monday 14 December at 7.30pm in St Luke's for a singalong of various Carols, refreshment and mince pies. We look forward to welcoming members and new comers.

St. Luke's@7

Join us for a time of informal worship on Sundays 1st and 22nd November. There'll be supper from 6.00pm.

Open Church
Cafe

St. Leonard's Church

Saturday 24th October
10.00am to 12.30pm

Saturday 12th December
10.00am to 4.00pm

Lectioary

October

Sunday 4th: 18th Sunday after Trinity

Exodus 14:19-31

Exodus 16:2-15

Sunday 11th: 19th Sunday after Trinity

Exodus 20:1-17

Exodus 32:1-14

Sunday 18th: St. Luke's Dedication

2 Timothy 4:5-17

Luke 10:1-9

Sunday 25th: Bible Sunday

Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 8-12

Matthew 24:30-35

November

Sunday 1st: All Saints Day

Revelation 7:9-17

Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday 8th: Remembrance

Amos 5:18-24

Matthew 25:1-13

Sunday 15th: 2nd Before Advent

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Matthew 24:14-30

Sunday 22nd: Christ the King

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

Sunday 29th: Advent Sunday

Isaiah 64:1-9

Mark 13:24-37



2026 LINK TO HOPE SHOE BOX APPEAL

*It's time to start thinking about filling a Shoebox
that will be distributed to a family or an elderly
household by Link to Hope.*

The Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal 2026 brings practical help, dignity, and hope to families and elderly people living in poverty across Ukraine and Eastern Europe — not just children. Each shoebox supports an entire household or an elderly person facing isolation or hardship.

There are leaflets available in both churches for you to take away which provide you with a list of contents and instructions. Charity shop finds in good condition are as acceptable as new. Hats and gloves or scarves can be bought or hand knitted. Perhaps join with a friend and fill a box together. We will need the boxes returned to church by the end of October.

My Walk with God

Janice Bartholomew

Sometimes God calls us to things we don't yet know exist and sometimes to things, that at the time, we're sure are impossible.

When I was young, I was certain that I wanted to be a teacher. I knew what that looked like, and even though, aged nine, I didn't know the complexities of the role, it was something I could imagine how to plan for and work towards. I loved being in a classroom and could easily imagine helping young people to learn, and for many years my working life was teaching maths.

In my early twenties, I began to sense a call to ordained ministry. At that time, the Church of England didn't ordain women as priests, so there was nowhere obvious for that calling to go. It was a strange feeling to think that God might be calling me to something which I knew wasn't yet possible for me. It was also painful.

So, for pretty much three decades, I carried this unresolved sense of vocation with me through other opportunities I found to serve God in my local church. The bigger question never quite went away until ten years ago, when I was thoroughly encouraged into the discernment process - a sometimes challenging journey - which eventually led to me being sent to train for ordained ministry at St Augustine's Theological College in Kent. Revd Lucy trained there too — although not at the same time.

St. Augustine's brought together students from a wonderfully broad spectrum of ages, backgrounds and theological perspectives. I found it to be a properly inclusive and

supportive community. Some students studied as independent students, while others were training for Licensed Lay Ministry (LLM), so there was a rich mix of experience and vocation.



For my first two terms, we met in person until covid arrived and teaching moved online. I found that much harder to cope with. There is quite a lot about being together in a room, and learning through talking, asking questions, laughing and occasionally disagreeing, that is hard to match on a screen.

So now, after a long journey, I am particularly delighted to be living in the same place as my licensed ministry. A vocation that once seemed impossible has brought me here, back to the coast, to this parish and community and I continue to learn what God is calling me to do. That seems to be not a small part of exploring vocation; to take the next step trusting that God often knows the destination long before we do.

And one of the things I have learned along the way is that it is good to have someone consistent to walk the journey with you. Another person who can see the possibilities that we cannot yet see for ourselves, and perhaps even notice what God might be doing before we do ourselves.

And sometimes, something that once seemed impossible turns out to be exactly where God was leading us all along.

Crowhurst

Christian Healing Centre

a place of Christ's healing

Tucked away in the beautiful East Sussex countryside, near the historic town of Battle, lies Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. For nearly a century, Crowhurst has been a place where Christians and others have come to seek prayer, healing, encouragement and spiritual renewal.

The Centre is based at the Old Rectory in the village of Crowhurst. Surrounded by peaceful countryside, it provides a welcome opportunity to step away from the busyness of everyday life and spend time in God's presence.

The ministry at Crowhurst has its roots in the healing ministry of James Moore Hickson, an Australian layman who encouraged the Church of England to rediscover the ministry of prayer for healing. In 1928, the Reverend Howard Cobb came to Crowhurst and began welcoming people to the Rectory who were seeking healing and prayer. Two years later, he left parish ministry to devote himself fully to this work.

Today, that ministry continues. Crowhurst describes its purpose as advancing the Kingdom of God through healing, preaching and teaching. The Centre welcomes people from different Christian traditions and offers a place where visitors can explore their faith, receive prayer and discover God's love. Prayer and worship are at the heart of daily life at Crowhurst. Services of healing, worship and prayer are held during the week, and visitors can also

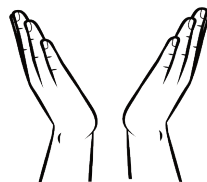
ask to receive personal prayer from a chaplain. Residential guests have further opportunities for worship, reflection and fellowship.

Crowhurst also provides retreats, quiet days and opportunities for individual retreat. The peaceful grounds and welcoming atmosphere make it an ideal place to slow down, listen to God and reflect on the direction of our lives. Hospitality is an important part of the ministry too, with accommodation and meals provided for those staying at the Centre.

For anyone feeling spiritually weary, facing a difficult period, or simply longing for some quiet time with God, Crowhurst can provide a valuable opportunity to pause and pray.

With its long history of Christian healing ministry and its beautiful setting, Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre continues to offer a place of welcome, prayer and hope in the heart of East Sussex.

To find out more about Crowhurst go to: <https://www.crowhursthealing.org.uk> where there are also details of retreat weeks and days coming up during the remainder of 2026.



Celtic Saints

October to November

Derreck Lee-Philpot

Paulinus (?-644) October 10th

Paulinus may have come to Britain with Augustine in 597, as part of the Pope's plan to bring the land back to Roman Christianity. He settled in Kent and became chaplain to Princess Ethelburga. When she was sent to marry the pagan King Edwin of Northumbria, Paulinus accompanied her and presented the gospel to Edwin. Although he was not immediately convinced, his pagan high priest, Coifi, was soundly converted and went off to burn down his own temple! The Pope appointed Paulinus Bishop of York, and later Edwin became a Christian along with all his household.

Paulinus is said to have baptised thousands of people in the River Swale near Catterick, in the Glen near the royal summer residence of Yeavinger (near Wooler) and at the Holystone near Rothbury. In about 627 he certainly baptised Hild (see November 17th), who became the well-respected abbess of Whitby.

In 633, however, Edwin was defeated by Penda of Mercia and Cadwallon of Gwynedd, and his former kingdom returned to paganism, until his nephew, Oswald (see August 5th), reconquered the land and at his request Aidan (see August 31st) came from Iona to proclaim the gospel once again. Paulinus, along with Ethelburga and her

children, fled back to Kent for safety, where he served as Bishop of Rochester until his death.

Wilfrid (633-709) October 12th

Wilfrid went to Lindisfarne as a fourteen-year old pageboy, attending a sick nobleman. He joined the school there, learned to read and write, learned Latin, and indeed, the foundations of his faith. Aidan (see August 31st) was still alive then, though he died two or three years later. Nevertheless, Wilfrid resented the years he spent on Lindisfarne and, when he could, set out for Rome. He fell in love with the city and longed for its ways and the wealth it had to offer. Power, prestige and recognition were his goals – but only so that the Church would be taken more seriously as a force for good.

When the Synod of Whitby was held to resolve differences over the date of Easter and the monks' tonsure, Wilfrid



was Bishop of York. By then he had spent many years in Italy and Gaul, and he stood on the Roman side of the argument. Unfortunately he won in such a way that the missionaries from Iona felt slighted. He sneered at the Celtic Christians' 'ignorance' and 'awkwardness' and misrepresented the issues involved, effectively betraying those who had nurtured him on Lindisfarne. Far from arguing for some kind of united practice, Wilfrid spoke rudely of Columba (see June 9th) and deprecatingly of the entire Celtic tradition. As a result, the Iona missionaries withdrew from England, taking many English monks with them. Much of what Oswald (see August 5th) and Aidan had built was now to be devastated. Many leading figures in the church in Northumbria opposed Wilfrid from this time on.



At various times he was deposed from his office as bishop, exiled and imprisoned, but these troubles were mostly of his own making. Shipwrecked in Frisia (now in the north of the Netherlands), he won the love of the local people by his knowledge of fishing, gained on Lindisfarne, and he was able to evangelise them effectively. Once, in exile, he also evangelised the fierce South Saxons, a farming people whose crops had failed. He taught them to harvest from the sea, and also baptised large numbers of them. By the

grace of God, his time at Lindisfarne had not been wasted!

It was Wilfrid who (during one of his periods of exile) evangelised Sussex and brought Christianity to the area for the first time.

The sharp-eyed among you will have noticed that St Wilfrid is also celebrated on 25th April. His official feast day is October 12th. However, he is also remembered in August with a procession through Ripon where he founded Ripon Cathedral.

Tuda (?-664) October 21st

Educated in the southern part of Ireland, Tuda was chosen as bishop to replace Colman (see February 18th) as bishop at Lindisfarne after the famous Synod of Whitby. So Tuda was bishop, and Eata (see October 26th) was abbot while continuing to serve as abbot of Melrose. We know from the later difficulties experienced by Cuthbert (see March 20th) that the reforms were not accepted easily, so it must have been a difficult appointment. Tuda was known as 'a good and devout' man and might have done much to reconcile opposing factions; but it was just at this time that the plague struck, and he was one of the fatalities as it ravaged the whole land.

Eata (?-686) October 26th

Eata was one of the original twelve boys trained by Aidan and was sent to Melrose to be its first abbot. After the Synod of Whitby in 664, he became Abbot of Lindisfarne, and subsequently Bishop. He and Cuthbert then swapped appointments, without consulting anyone else, to keep Cuthbert closer to his hermitage on Inner Farne; Eata thus became Bishop of Hexham.



them to use them in the service of God and other people. She is especially remembered for encouraging Caedmon (see February 11th) to write songs and stories to help people learn the Scriptures. She also trained at least five men who later became bishops.

Hild also hosted the Synod of Whitby in 664, which settled differences between Celtic and Roman practice, particularly regarding the dating of Easter and the style of the monks' tonsure. Hild naturally supported the Celtic side in the debate, and although the Synod established Roman practice for the whole of Britain and Ireland, Hild accepted its ruling graciously and acted as an intermediary and reconciler between the two sides. Her death came after six years of suffering with a recurring fever. On her final morning, she accepted the Last Sacrament and encouraged her nuns to maintain the peace of the Gospel before she died.

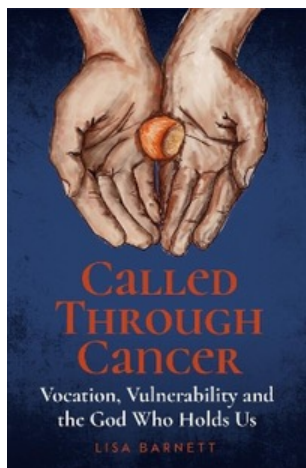
Epilogue

This is the last instalment of the Celtic Saints through the year. There are others, indeed many that we would recognise, but I have tried to keep to those early saints who ministered, worshipped, and evangelised in the very early days of Christian spirituality in England. They worshipped in a particular way; their spirituality was Celtic rather than Catholic and laid the spiritual foundations for us to follow. They are an amazing group of men and women and without them our faith would have a very different look.

Hild (614-680) November 17th

Hild, or Hilda, a member of the royal house of Northumbria, was baptised into the Church of Christ at the age of thirteen by Paulinus (see October 10th). She lived within the royal court and remained unmarried, but as she grew older she became increasingly aware of a call to be a nun. At the age of 33 she decided to join a community in Gaul, but Aidan (see August 31st) persuaded her to stay in Northumbria. She became abbess of a double monastery (for men and women) at Hartlepool, seventy miles south of Lindisfarne. Here she established Irish practice and the teaching of Columbanus (see November 23rd). Later she moved twenty miles further south to become abbess of Whitby, where she created another double monastery which became an important centre of learning and the arts.

Wherever Hild was she always drew out the gifts of others and encouraged



Called Through Cancer

Lucy Hollingsworth

A few weeks ago I was invited to the book launch of a new book written by Lisa Barnett who was my curacy training incumbent and who is the Team Rector of St Mary's Horsham. Lisa read some passages from her book and I was part of a panel of people who were interviewed as part of the evening.

Her book is called 'Called Through Cancer: vocation, vulnerability and the God who holds us'. It is a reflection of vocation and her understanding of vocation in her journey through her cancer diagnosis. It is a beautiful and affirming book encouraging us to live joyously and adventurously knowing that God is with us through all the ups and downs of life. She explores illness as part of our vocation journey, that nothing we go through is wasted.

I have read her book twice in my recent journey and different elements have resonated at different times.

There was her challenge to find God in all things, which is one of the core tenants of Ignatian spirituality. Which some days is easier than on other days. Here I can resonate with the Psalmist's question, while receiving the answer through somewhat grim determination:

'Why, my soul, are you downcast?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him,
my Saviour and my God.(Psalm 42:5)

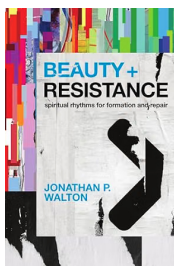
She also considers the challenge to learn to live with the scars, both physical and mental from the journey and the emotional complexity of this. That 'we are called as Christians to allow God to lead us gently through seasons of suffering and into new seasons of hope'.

If you are suffering from an illness or supporting and walking alongside someone who is, then I would like to recommend this book as an honest and encouraging read.

Called through Cancer: vocation, vulnerability and the God who holds us. Lisa Barnett is published by Canterbury Press.

Book Reviews

James Hollingsworth and Derreck Lee-Philpot



Beauty and Resistance

by Jonathan Walton

I like the subtitle of this book: Spiritual rhythms for formation and repair. So, eventually, the author addresses our need for Rest, for Restoration, before Resisting.

This is a powerful book that is more anecdotal than prescriptive. Written by a vicar who burned out, Walton unpacks his life and pressures; his desires to see racial justice in his lifetime. Its worth reading just for that.

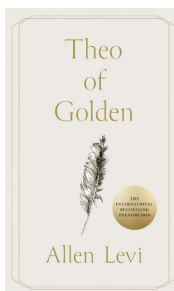
He asks, 'If God was your only audience would that be enough?' Can I say that I am accepted, I am a child of the Almighty, and from that truth not over schedule my diary. Can I reject the false ideology that it is only if I am obedient and compliant then I am loved and accepted. From these thoughts Walton encourages us to build some scaffolding around that part of our lives that needs support, needs a rest.

I don't know how to answer his question: How do you delight? How would you answer that? Walton says that for him, and all his answers are very bespoke and personal, it has been in learning to cook. His book even includes a recipe for bacon and cheese

biscuits.

Walton's faith is practical. His need to protest at rallies to call for justice is important (maybe we could learn something from that). I was glad to see the full version of the Franciscan Benediction: May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half truths and superficial relationships so that you may live deeply in your heart.

This book is a good challenge to us when despite our discipleship, somewhere we have accidentally come to believe that we need to prove our value and so we need to ... (finish the sentence yourself). Its not enough to say this is works theology, we must learn to receive God's love and let that soak in and so learn the rhythms of grace, and receive the comfort of Jesus who says 'Come to me all you who are weary'. **JH**



Theo of Golden

by Allen Levi

This is a super book. Ideal for a long train journey or a beach holiday. His use of words gently massages the soul. It's a simple story of a man who buys pencil portraits and then gives them back to their subjects and in doing so hears

their story. Here we learn the power of being really heard. Here we learn the power of gratitude and of passing it forwards. It's not especially a Christian book. It is just a book about a nice man doing nice things and how that goodness spreads out. This would make for an excellent book club sort of book. I think you would all be changed for the better by it. **JH**

Will I be bald in heaven

by J John.

Brilliant. Utterly brilliant. Everyone should buy this. Home Groups should explore three questions in an evening in a sort of book club style. This is volume 2 and is full of really good Grill-a-Christian type questions but with quite profound and unhurried answers. Why isn't God more obvious? Did Adam have a navel? Do ghosts exist? Was God responsible for Covid? Particularly brilliant is the last chapter that asks back at the (non-Christian) Reader what their basis for unbelief is, and how does that help them with life and love now? This book is so good that I am going in search of volume 1 Will I be fat in heaven? **JH**

When Christians were Jews

by Paula Fredriksen

Don't bother. I suppose it is good and healthy for you to read a book every now and then that you won't agree with or find helpful. I'm sure it will be good for my brain to have engaged with other opinions and scholarship. I bought it based on the title which in her last chapter she regrets. Its very academic and has lots of footnotes and big words: gravid, inculcation, seriatim. Unsurprisingly the scholars and the book reviews think this is a fabulous book.

Alas for me she fails to answer the

question she poses in her preface: why the "Jesus movement vigorously grew, indeed was caught off guard by its own success" and she ends with the sad lament that the Apostles "in their own eyes they were history's last generation". I think they died with more hope than that.

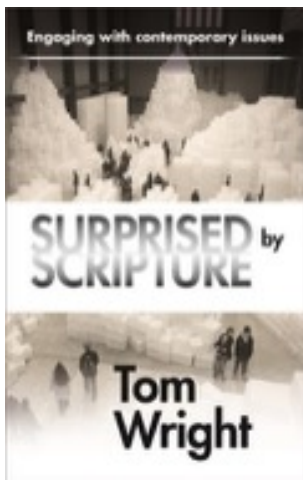
Fredriksen asks piles of questions and throws in phrases like 'I imagine' or 'I have speculated' which isn't what I thought scholarly books were supposed to do. She can't imagine, for example, where you could baptise 3000 people on the day of Pentecost which shows she hasn't engaged much with traditional evangelical scholarship who would simply point to the mikvaot, the ritual baths next to the Huldah Gates in Jerusalem.

Like other scholars before her she notes that the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in AD70 and so this means that any prophecy by Jesus in the gospels must have been written later. I did like her use of Josephus and his referencing Jesus a couple of times, and the idea that there were 255,600 sheep sacrificed at one Passover, implying that the population for that weekend in Jerusalem could have been near to 2million people! And I am open to the idea that Peter in Gethsemane didn't use a sword but a sacrificial knife to slice off the ear of the high priest servant.

I think this is a useful book if you're writing an essay on how the first Christians related to the Jewish temple community in Jerusalem, so it is a good book albeit only for anyone entering their second year theology degree. **JH**

Surprised by Scripture

by Tom Wright (SPCK Publishing)



Oh Wow! Confession time first, I haven't actually finished reading this book, however I am in the process of doing so. Second, one thing you need to know is that

Wright writes under two names, N.T.Wright is for his scholarly, heavyweight offerings for those who delight in losing days of their lives (yes that's me!) wrestling with his observations about scripture, particularly Paul's life and theology. He also writes as Tom Wright for those whose just want to understand stuff in scripture, and TW does brilliantly at writing at an 'entry level' complexity, e.g. his 'For Everyone' series on the new testament is brilliant – read that as well!

But 'Surprised by Scripture' is a Tom Wright title that is almost N.T Wright in content. You will have to take this book seriously as it is not a 'bedtime read', it's a 'brain switched on' read.

That said, so far I have found it excellent. It covers contemporary and

controversial issues not by beating us up with his superior knowledge of scripture, but by questioning where we get some of our foundational ideas from and then asking us to look again at scripture unhindered by our prepositions.

He does not address lightweight questions here,

'Is it possible to love the Bible and affirm evolution?'

'Does belief in heaven mean there's no need to worry about climate change?'

'Should Christians avoid getting involved in worldly concerns like politics?'

'Can a scientist believe in the resurrection?'

That's just a few of the chewy questions.

If you think you know the answers (from whatever the perspective) don't bother with this book as you will probably be offended by the way Tom Wright just peels back the onion layers to expose what lies beneath.

You can probably tell I am enjoying this book, it is not a N.T. Wright masterpiece of scholarly study, a tome big enough to build a house on, or use as a doorstop, but at a mere 256 pages of twelve essay like chapters Wright provides a series of case studies that show how the Bible can be applied to some of the most pressing issues facing Christians today.

DLP

*Man's capacity for justice makes democracy possible,
But man's inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary. (Anon)*

Lunchtime Concerts 2026

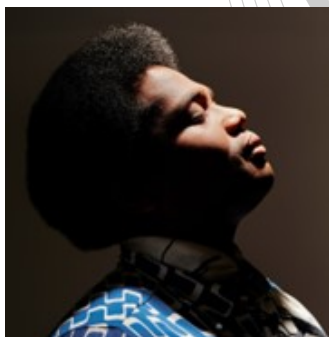
2026 sees the nineteenth series of Saturday Lunchtime Concerts at St. Leonard's Church. Since 2007 there have been 176 concerts from a range of accomplished musicians. The concerts remain free and self supporting by the donations given at the end of each concert by the generous audience.

Saturday 17th October at 1.00pm The Hammig String Quartet

The Hammig String Quartet was formed in 1989, taking its name from the violin-maker Wilhelm Hammig (1838-1925). Over the years the quartet has given many recitals across England and Wales and has made several visits to Leichlingen, Germany. They are regular performers at St George's Beckenham in the Saturday morning Coffee Concert series, and for other special events and services.



Saturday 21st November at 1.00pm Adam Heron (piano)



An award-winning pianist and composer of Nigerian-Filipino ancestry, Adam Heron won the lauded Harriet Cohen Bach Award in 2020. Born in Hong Kong, adopted by his Irish mother, and later educated at the University of Cambridge, Adam achieved widespread recognition following his 2018 television debut as a BBC Young Musician category finalist.

Through his cosmopolitan heritage, coupled with a flair for storytelling, he is a leading ambassador for Black classical musicians. Adam returns to Seaford for the fourth time, bringing an exquisite solo recital.

Parish Home Groups

David & Patricia Robertson

Our mission is to help parishioners seeking a Home Group to identify one that they would like to try.



Seaford Parish has many different Home Groups where people meet together to discuss faith, form friendships, support each other in the Christian journey and pray together. If you're not already a Home Group member, we'd love to explore finding a space with you to try out a group.

Questions you might possibly be asking.

How often do the Home Groups meet?

Typically it's once a fortnight, some just during term time, but the groups do vary.

When do they meet?

Some groups meet during the daytime, others in the evening.

If I try a group, would it be awkward to leave if I didn't want to continue?

Do feel free to try a group for a couple of sessions on a no questions asked basis if you change your mind.

Why are the groups popular?

Groups allow you to explore faith with others. Life can be challenging and it can be helpful to have supportive people from your church family around you. Relationships with others may be built and opportunities arise to journey together in faith. Exploring The Bible with others allows you to ask questions and praying together can be so helpful.

What do the groups discuss?

That's up to each group to decide, with a steer from the leader. For example; a study of a book from the Bible is popular, you might discuss the sermon or follow a structured course from a book or video.

If you're considering the possibility of trying out a group do email us at; homegroups@seafordparish.org.uk or speak to us at church.

We'd love to hear from you.

Memorial Service

You are warmly invited to join us for a special Memorial Service in St. Leonard's as we gather to remember with love those who have died. The service is for anyone who has lost a loved one, perhaps during this past year.

There will be an opportunity to hear their names, give thanks for their lives, and hold their memory in a quiet and caring space. Through prayers, readings, music and reflection, we will remember those we have loved but see no more. All are warmly welcome to join us at 3.00pm on Sunday 18th October.

Many of us can look back and recognise people who have helped us in our faith: a parent, a friend, a church leader, or perhaps someone who was simply willing to listen, pray and encourage us at the right moment.

The Christian life has never been a path we are expected to travel alone. Throughout the gospels, we see how Jesus spent time with a small group of people, His disciples, and helped them grow. The early Church continued this pattern, learning together what it meant to follow Christ in everyday life. Yet many of us wonder whether we have anything to offer others. Life is busy, and we may feel we don't know enough or have enough time to make a difference.

What if discipleship is simpler than we imagine? Often it begins with a conversation over coffee, offering to pray for someone, opening the Bible together, or taking the time to listen well.

The Alongsider Course has recently been launched by the Navigators: a free seven-session video course that explores what it means to walk alongside others and together take steps towards Jesus. Drawing on many years of experience helping people grow in faith, the course encourages ordinary Christians to be intentional about the relationships God has already given them, in their families, friendships, workplaces and churches.

In a world where many people feel isolated, there is something quietly powerful about walking alongside someone and seeing what God can do. Who might God be inviting you to walk alongside? Further info: www.alongsidercourse.com.



"Wait a moment, dear, this isn't a tourists' attraction ratings guide, it's a Health and Safety warning!"



...if you have been affected by any of the issues raised in this sermon...

Could sleep be spiritual?

Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E.

“Sleep is spiritual,” is the claim made in a newly-published guide to discipleship, written by London-based Church of England vicar, Sarah Guinness.

Although over-looked by many, ‘The Alternative Guide to Discipleship’ places sleep firmly at the core of growing in Christian spirituality.

Sarah Guinness writes, “Sleep is not wasted time. It is an opportunity for God to seal our dreams, and to deposit things and ideas in our hearts and minds.

“I’d like to imagine that at night God, who knit our brains and bodies together, stands by our beds, ready to sort through the day that we’ve had, patching the holes, processing that conversation, mending the tears in our armour so that we wake up feeling repaired, refreshed and ready for another day.”

Guinness, the Vicar of Brentford, West London, believes that sleep can be creative, an opportunity for God to speak to us, a place to be vulnerable and a practice run for our Christian lives.

She cites how Adam fell into a deep sleep, and wakes to find Eve, how God speaks to a sleeping Abram about His promises and seals a covenant with him, and how Jesus sleeps and then wakes with clarity to curse a fig tree

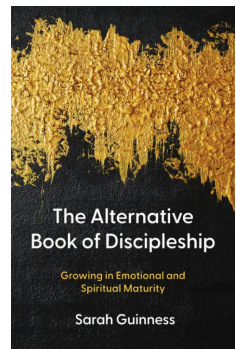
and clear the temple.

In Mark 1, Jesus goes to bed, sleeps and awakes early to pray, and later in the day tells the disciples they need to move on to other towns. “It’s as though,” says Guinness, Jesus “goes to sleep, has a divine download and feels focused on His priorities.”

It’s in our dreams that God speaks to us most powerfully, she explains. “God, being God, can do far more in our sleeping than we can do in our waking. He uses dreams to get our attention.

“People talk about being woken in the night with a strong urge to pray for a person or a situation. Why? Because sleep isn’t dead space when our bodies reboot. Sleep is spiritual.”

In ‘The Alternative Book of Discipleship,’ Sarah Guinness goes beyond the importance of sleep to map out a route to spiritual growth based on managing boundaries, embracing emotions, learning to play, surrendering outcomes, and other insights. It is founded on the author’s experiences as a parish priest and, before that, 12 years as an occupational therapist.





LOCAL TREASURES

| EASTBOURNE |



HANDYMEN



GARDENERS



CLEANERS



IT HELP

LOCAL | VETTED | INSURED

Tel: +44 7535 842935
email: helloric@localtreasures.me
www.localtreasures.me

Bygone Church Press

the latest machinery. ... see and be convinced.

MEMORIAL TO THE LATE VICAR.—An oak lectern of much beauty was unveiled and used for the first time at Seaford Church on Easter Sunday morning. It has been placed there as a memorial to the late Vicar (the Rev. Henry Goodwin Bonnewell). The lectern is six feet in height and has an oak platform for the reader to stand upon. A well carved eagle, which is an excellent example of the sculptor's craft, carries the Holy Writ on its outstretched wings. The bird is lightly poised on a starry globe, signifying the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. The shaft is hexagonal in shape and each face is traceried and enriched with many quaintly carved pateræ. The base is massively moulded and supported by flying buttresses. Around the broad chamfer runs the following inscription: "In memoriam Henry Goodwin Bonnewell, Vicar 1898-1913." The present Vicar (the Rev. F. D. Cremer) placed the work of the memorial in the hands of Messrs. Harry Hems & Sons, the well-known sculptors and church workers, of Exeter. The lectern is a beautiful addition to the church and is quite in keeping with the other chancel furniture.

From the Hastings and Bexhill Independent, 27th April 1916



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

2026005



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)

MOTHERS' UNION

- Give thanks for the witness of the MU over the last 150 years and for the practical provision of help that has transformed lives through faith, community and action.
- For the difference in the lives of millions worldwide through their unique, faith-based and community led approach to tackling poverty, injustice and violence.
- Give thanks for the appointment of Alison Marshall as the new Chief Executive.

CAMBODIA ACTION

- The International Christian Fellowship of Phnom Penh (ICF) has just started the process of recruiting an Associate Pastor. Please pray that the right person will hear the Call to apply and that the search committee will recognise the one God has chosen for the role.
- Remember the Australian Cambodian lad whose education Sarah oversees – sometimes he finds life and studying hard. He is making progress, but he is still much older than his classmates, which causes issues.
- Praise God that M'lup Russey was able to partner with the Ministry of Social Affairs to provide training to 47 Government officials and local authorities in Takeo on the Standard Operating Procedures for Child Protection. Please pray this training leads to swift interventions and more vulnerable children being protected from harm.
- For funds to buy more Bibles and radios to be given to key Government leaders, officials and military personnel.

DIOCESAN FAMILY SUPPORT WORK

- For those responsible for recruiting a new President following the departure of Bishop Martin.
- The nine Trustees under the Chairmanship of Richard Bickersteth.
- The staff members: Martin Auton-Lloyd, CEO. Iaine Waight, Director of

Services. Gemma Cannon-Arthurs, Trusts and Grants Manager. Spencer Farnham, Finance and Governance Officer. Miranda Sinyard, Team Administrator. Jason Palmer, Fundraising Administrator. Hannah Rothwell, Digital Fundraising & Communications Officer. Jane Lyons, Volunteer Coordinator. Barney, Van Driver. Harry Clark, Receptionist. The 14 Family Practitioners working on the front line throughout the Diocese.

- The two Charity Shop Managers, Gemma Bartlett and Rosin Donnelly.

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, families and all attending St Luke's.
- Those who can no longer attend services regularly because of health difficulties or frailty. Those who watch services online.
- Those living and working in Jubilee Gardens, Argent close, Queensway, Maple Fields, Balmoral Close, Monarch Gardens Those living and working in Alfriston Road, Sutton Mews, Alfriston Park, Seafeld Close, Old Nursery Close, Kammond Avenue.

MONDAY

- For those living in areas of ongoing conflict, especially Afghanistan, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gaza, Haiti, The Sahel (including Burkino Faso & Niger, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan. Syria, Ukraine, Yemen: that they might have peace of heart and God will hear their crying.
- For those affected by the devastation following the flooding in Nepal.
- 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 a good response to this year's Shoe Box Appeal in aid of Link to Hope.
- Those living and working in Normansal Park Avenue, Chalvington Close, Normansal Close, Seagrove Way, Sovereign Close, Sandringham Close, Belvedere Gardens.

TUESDAY

- King Charles and Queen Camilla as they lead the working members of their family in carrying out their royal duties.
- For Andy Burnham as he settles into his role of Prime Minister that he will lead and guide with much wisdom.
- The Welsh and Scottish Parliaments and the Northern Ireland Assembly in their regional responsibilities.
- 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
- Those living and working in Sutton Drove, The Byways, Parkside, Byedown, Hindover Road.

WEDNESDAY

- The local GP practices and pharmacies as they deal with accidents, emergencies, routine appointments and liaising with the different local hospitals and health services.
- Those working within the local Emergency Services: Ambulance, Coastguards, Fire and Rescue, Lifeboat volunteers and the Police.
- 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.
- Praise for those who have recently recovered from major illness, trauma, surgery and specialist treatment including Rev Lucy now able to start a phased return to work.
- Those living and working in Hindover Crescent, Haven Brow, Rough Brow, Short Brow.

THURSDAY

- Rev James, Rev Carole and Rev Janice as they minister to the parish and beyond.
- For the Bracher family celebrating the safe arrival of baby Isaac.
- Our new volunteer Treasurer, Mary Silva as she gets to grips with the complex systems. Give thanks for her tenacity in finding a new bookkeeper following the resignation of Anna who is returning to complete her studies at university.
- Give praise in the run up to the completion of the re-ordering and renovations at St Leonards. For the diligent team of builders and other crafts people under the leadership of the Architect Andrew Goodwin who have all tackled the many challenges and necessary changes to original specifications with courtesy and consideration.
- Mark Gill in his tireless efforts to liaise with all parties concerned in the building project whilst being a mindful steward in the best interests of the parish.
- Those living and working in Milldown Road, Sutton Road, Mill Drive, Parkside Road, Gildredge Road, Grove

FRIDAY

- Stefan and Kim working with our Children, Youth & Families.
- The Tots Treats as they plan to return to separate meetings in St Luke's and St Leonard's.
- For the start of the new youth group sessions for Sparks and Ignite on Fridays at St. Luke's, those youngsters digging deeper into faith at Fuelled on Sunday evenings.
- For all those involved with the planning and running of the Holiday Club to be

held in St Luke's at half term from 26th – 30th October: for safety, fun and the opportunity to grow in their Christian faith.

- Those living and working in East Albany Road, Stafford Road, Meads Road, Cornfield Road, Middle Furlong.

SATURDAY

- 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 the opportunity to join together as the church family in November to celebrate the new opportunities we will have to share our new facilities with our local community.
- Those living and working in Highlands Road, Cornfield Close, Mercread Road, Guardswell Place, Vicarage Close.
- Celebrations planned to bless and give thanks to God for the continued opportunities he gives to witness to his word and the blessings showered upon us.
- The need to raise funds to cover the outstanding debts. May we find fun and innovative ways to do this whilst raising awareness of our responsibilities to share this dedicated space with the Seaford community.

House Blessing

Have you ever blessed your house? If not, here is a prayer to help you on your way!

God bless the house from ground to stay,
From beam to wall and all the way,
From head to post, from ridge to clay,
From balk to roof-tree let it lay,
From found to top and every day
God bless both fore and aft, I pray,
Nor from the house God's blessing stray,
From top to toe the blessing go.





Servicing

MOT's

Tyres

OUR EXPERTISE

- **FREE collection and DELIVERY**
- **Affordable pricing**
- **Excellent customer service**
- **Safe work practices**
- **Professional and skilled**
- **Reliable and trustworthy**



**20 Westham Business
Park
Eastbourne Road
Westham
BN24 5NP**

01323 769233

www.suttonz.com

People's Emergency Briefing

Where do we go from here?

John Huggins

On 9th August, the SAINTs (Saints Action in Nature Team) showed the film, the People's Emergency Briefing, in St Luke's. About 40 people attended and we had an excellent discussion afterwards.

The film is pretty shocking and disturbing. It shows presentations by scientists, doctors, economists and national security experts (as well as others) about what is happening as a result of the climate crisis. It will be a tough place for our children and grandchildren to live in unless we get our act together and make changes. As Christians we have a mandate to care for God's good earth, just as God saw that creation was good.

A common response to the film is, "What can I do?" and the film urges us to be involved in making it clear to all the people in government that

addressing the issue is important to us. One thing that the film asks is that everybody who wishes signs a petition to insist that the film is shown on national television in a prime spot. Our local MP has already agreed that this is a good idea, but if you want to sign the petition so that other MPs can see the depth of feeling, you need to go to the QR code or click on: www.nebriefing.org/peb.

There is more that we are thinking of doing as Seaford Parish Churches. One possibility is that we show the film to all of our homegroups and hold a discussion there afterwards. Another possibility is that we show the film in St. Leonard's in the autumn. Please do chat to Rev John Huggins or any of the SAINTs team or our ministry team if you think these are a good idea.



As the Season of Creation draws to an end, have you considered:

The world is not ours, but God's! This means we have a responsibility of caring for God's world: 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.' (Genesis 2:15). The effects of global warming have been all too obvious this summer! 2025 ranked as the third warmest year on record globally. Any hope for the future lies in Jesus Himself. He is the one who sustains creation and will bring everything to completion: 'all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.' (Colossians 1:16,17). God's plan is 'to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.' (Ephesians 1:10). We can look forward to the climax of history when God through Christ will restore our broken world and make everything new. In the present, we are empowered by Christ to take our proper place as stewards of the earth. Simple everyday actions can help to sustain our planet, including recycling of waste, energy saving, choosing reusable options, careful diet and a commitment to simple living can help the planet.

Churches Invited to Pray in Times of Extreme Weather

Churches are invited to pray for all affected by drought, heatwaves and wildfires

British churches have been using prayers written for times of extreme weather. As five successive heatwaves hit the UK this summer, bringing drought, extreme heat and wildfires, local churches have been helping the people affected, both through practical support - and prayers. The prayers they used are found in *A Time for Creation*, a newly expanded Church of England service book.

There is a section headlined 'Prayers in times of extreme weather' and 'A prayer for the farming community in a time of crisis', as well as intercessions for those affected by extreme weather through drought, lack of clean water, storms, flood, wildfires and other events.

The Bishop of Lichfield, Dr Michael Ipgrave, Chair of the Church of England's Liturgical Commission, has encouraged churches to draw from the prayers.

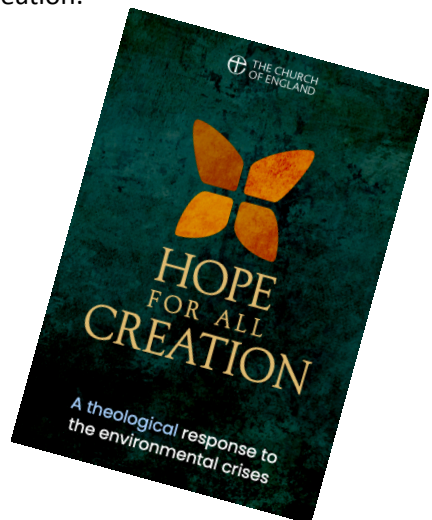
He said that this continues "a longstanding tradition going back to the 1662 Book of Common Prayer", which even includes a Prayer for Rain.

"For centuries, the people of England have turned to prayer in times of extreme weather of all sorts," he said. "The prayer book asks that we may receive 'in our necessity such

moderate rain and showers' as we need. Our prayers invite us to ask, to wait and to know the glory and awesomeness of God when they are answered."

Meanwhile, the new Festival of Creation was launched last month (September) by the Church of England. It sets out the Christian understanding of the environmental crises facing the world, rooting care for creation in the biblical story of creation, redemption and renewal.

In addition the House of Bishops has published a theological response to the environmental crisis called *Hope for All Creation*.



You can download a copy from: <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2026-06/hope-for-all-creation-for-web-new.pdf>

Children, Youth & Families

Stefan Bracher

It's been a little while since we have had the chance to report back on how things are going in the world of Children, Youth & Family Work in our Parish. But wow, what an awesome summer we've had! In August we had Tots' Treats sessions, Beach Church, Craft & Cake Day, and of course our Parish Together Weekend.

Seaford Parish Together Weekend

One of the highlights of the summer has been the Together Weekend. We had an amazing time with over 60 people attending across the weekend. We had various activities and workshops running including, Knot Art, inflatables, flower arranging, Salsa, Pilates, little chef baking, Chiddingly Walk, archery, diving deeper sessions, nail art, prayer tent, movie tent, pool, air hockey, crafts, festival games, sports day, xylophone, hand bells, prayer workshop, sharing the faith workshop, church history and grill a vicar/youth worker. There was also plenty of time to sit and do nothing but relax!

It was a huge team effort to be able to pull off such a huge event for the whole weekend. I am so grateful to the volunteers who came and made it happen. A huge thank you to all those who volunteered with the camp.

One of the most important aspects of camp was the worship and coming together as one big church family, which really did feel like a family! The conversations which were happening were just fascinating between people from St. Leonard's and St Luke's, people

who really don't actually get to meet each other, let alone sit and talk with each other. Camp has also continued to be an outreach tool too. We had several families join us from across our groups too as they asked questions about faith and what it means to follow Jesus.

This year our theme was based around being worthy, looking at how we are worthy to be loved by God and how God is worthy of all of our praise and worship.

We are looking to do camp again next year. We would love your feedback if you attended. We have four sections Stop, Start, Continue and Anything Else, so feel free to write those headings down and hand it to Stefan or Kim or send it in an email. Perhaps you have something which would help you to be able to join in with the fun, let us know that too. Suggestions from this year is a minibus to help people get from the church buildings to the site.

But if you're also thinking about being able to help out next year, please do let us know. It could be something small or big that you get involved with on camp, all help is greatly appreciated.

If you want to run your own social event come and speak to us, or drop us an email (and we'll try and get back to you ASAP) and we can chat through ways you might like to do it and what things to may bear in mind. It would be amazing to be able to be more sociable together.

Holiday Club

This year our theme is Wacky Wild West and we will be looking at the life of Moses. It's a great chance for the children to join us for the whole week taking part in music, dramas, games, different crafts (including cooking) and snacks lined up for all children. Running from Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October 2026. Doors open at 9.45am, we'll start at 10am and finish/pick up time will be at 12.30pm.

Throughout the whole holiday club the children will get points for amazing dancing, trying their hardest, remembering memory verses, being helpful and a ton of other things too! We'll be giving prizes out for all this hard work, with a winner for each year group on Friday 30th October, 6pm-7pm, which parents/carers are encouraged to come along to and find out what the children have been getting up to. - There'll also be some prizes for parent winners too on Friday evening.

We will also be providing free packed lunches for the children to take home throughout the whole holiday club. This helps those families who need some extra support with food over half term. Thank you to Seaford Town Council who have awarded us some funds to cover the cost of packed lunches!

We will also be raising funds to help cover the cost of the holiday club through our Holiday Club Quiz Night on Saturday 10th October at 6.00pm in St Luke's Church.

This year we will need two things, the first being recycling for our junk modelling craft. We are looking for

cleaned materials, including boxes of any size (please no medication boxes), yogurt pots, kitchen roll tubes (not toilet tubes), egg cartons, paper cups, packing paper and anything else that you can envisage being used in the junk modelling craft.

Secondly, as with every holiday club, we also need a huge team of volunteers. Actually around 30 volunteers a day. Please do think if you are able to help at all. It would be fantastic if you could make the whole week, as the children really do start to bond with you. But, any support would be hugely appreciated. There are many roles including ones where you don't need to be so involved with the children. To volunteer for holiday club please follow the link below or email/call Stefan.

<https://seafordparishchurch.churchsuite.com/-/forms/nnir4osh>

Christmas

As well as taking part in the Christmas Magic event held in town on Saturday 12th December, there will be a Christmas Fair on Saturday 5th December in St. Luke's Church 10.30am to 3.00pm. All the funds raised here will be going towards the Children, Youth & Family Work. So, get crafting, cake making and telling others to book a table for their stall too! Use the link below to book in: <https://seafordparishchurch.churchsuite.com/events/6rodsxrg>

If you would like to volunteer with any of the groups, please do let me know by either completing the form using the link below, or by phoning/emailing me. Volunteer form: <https://seafordparishchurch.churchsuite.com/forms/bxz0n0b8>

23rd Psalm for the workplace

The Lord is my real boss and I shall not want.
He gives me peace, when chaos is all around me.
He gently reminds me to pray before I speak and to do all things without
murmuring and complaining.

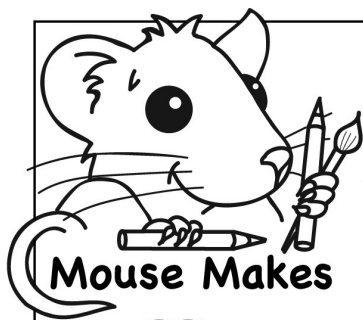
He reminds me that He is my Source and not my job.
He restores my sanity every day and guides my decisions that I might honour
Him in everything I do.

Even though I face absurd amounts of emails, system crashes, unrealistic
deadlines, budget cutbacks, gossiping co-workers, discriminating
supervisors, and an aging body that doesn't co-operate every morning,
I will not stop -- for He is with me!

His presence, His peace, and His power will see me through.
He raises me up, even when they fail to promote me.
He claims me as His own, even when the company threatens to let me go.

His faithfulness and love are better than any bonus cheque.
His retirement plan beats every 401K there is.
When it's all said and done, I'll be working for Him a whole lot longer
and for that, I bless His Name.





The **Bible** is a collection of books, written by many different people who were helped and inspired by God. The **Bible** includes books of history, law, poetry and songs, wisdom, testimony, letters and prophecy.

The **Bible** encourages us, corrects us and teaches us about God and how we can be friends with Him.



2. Which book of the Bible has the shortest title?

1. How many books are there in the New Testament?

2



3

3. The Word of God is sharper than a two edged

Hebrews 4:12



B I B L E S U N D A Y

4. He was an Old Testament prophet that has a book named after him.

5. The first book of the Bible.



6. God's word is like?

A _____
and a _____
Psalm 119:105

8. The last book in the Bible.

5

6

7

9. The Old Testament book of poetry and songs.

9

10

11

12

11. The last book in the Old Testament.

10. Who wrote the third book of the New Testament?

13

14

7. What are the first four books of the New Testament known as?

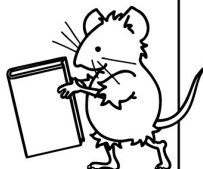
12. Which book tells the story of the spread of Christianity?

13. The Bible is also known as the

14. A book of the Bible named after a woman



of God.
Hebrews 4:12



Jesus, Why Haven't You Healed Me?

Michael Holmes

This comes from the Chosen season 3 episode 2. It relates to the discussion between Little James and Jesus. In the first season, there is a scene with Little James (a disciple of Jesus). Little James has a disability and is struggling with the fact that Jesus is healing all the people who come to Him. But he has not, as yet, healed Little James. Little James is visibly disabled with a limp.

In season 3 episode 2 Little James finally goes to Jesus and tells him he wants to be healed. Jesus tells Little James, 'There are enough testimonies of healing already, you will have a different more powerful story if I do not heal you, because you have faith in Me without being healed. There is so much in this life that matters more than the physical body, and you will no longer suffer, when you are in heaven'.

In the television series, Little James is shown with a limp. Jesus tells him he (James) will do more for Me, because of his disability, Jesus said he trusted Little James with this disability, he told Little James, when he passed from this earth into Heaven there would be no more suffering. When he meets with the Father, in Heaven, he will be able to leap like a deer. This scene had a powerful impact on me.

However, despite having this impact on me, many felt that Jesus never withheld healing from someone who wants it. He never said "Your pain is actually better for me" or imply that someone's

suffering is more useful than their healing. Indeed the scene between Jesus and Little James never existed in the bible.

The scene's powerful influence on me became even more powerful, when I read about Jordan Walker Ross, who plays Little James; he has a form of minor cerebral palsy, severe scoliosis, asthma and limited flexibility in his legs and torso.

Never mind it was not in the bible, I thought the producers of Chosen were both excellent and wonderful in showing a side of Jesus, probably not shown in any of the bible verses.

The fact that Jordan Walker Ross suffered in real life and the term severe scoliosis was used, hit home with me. Many of you may remember my story of my brother, for you I will recount parts of it now, as it fits well with this Chosen episode. As I told you my brother Patrick was born in December 1956. When he should have crawled he didn't, when he should have been walking he was not even crawling. Eventually he was diagnosed with scoliosis of the spine.

Scoliosis is a condition that causes the spine to curve and twist to the side, often resulting in an S or C shape. In Patrick's case it was a C. My brother's scoliosis was congenital which means present from birth.

I suppose today, the medical profession talk of back braces, metal rods, surgery and whatever can be done to straighten the spine. Unfortunately that was not the case in the 1950s and I can remember being told that my brother was likely to live to only 18 to 21 years of age. Actually he died in January, 1993, aged 36. He died in his sleep, his curved spine eventually crushing his vital organs. The fact that he lived so long is a testament to our family and mainly my mother.

Patrick spent his life in a wheelchair and was probably one of the happiest people I knew. To some extent he was skin and bone, he never had the ability to develop muscles.

In order to give you an idea of the impact of scoliosis, I want you to stand up, use your left hand on your left side and use your hand to measure the gap between your bottom rib and the top of your pelvis. Middle finger on the bottom rib, stretch your hand and thumb on the top of your pelvis. Take your hand away and look at the gap. Depending on your height, I would guess the gap at least at some four inches. Now imagine that due to the curve on your spine these (the bottom rib and top pelvis) were touching. My mother developed a special padding of cotton wool and foam to ensure, as much as possible, that Patrick's rib and pelvis never touched.

I suppose some people might find it difficult to understand if I said that he was a gift from God. A peculiar term perhaps; however, he defined both me and my wife's outlook and that of our sons who were 16 and 14, when Patrick died. He has been, forever, a lasting influence on our lives. Even now, when

I see someone in a wheelchair, I mutter a prayer for them and their family, usually the Our Father, as that is the prayer that Jesus taught us.

When Patrick died in his sleep, he was in a Leonard Cheshire home near Maidstone in Kent. I had a call in the early hours of the morning and remember that I didn't have enough petrol and the main route to the home was blocked due to road works, but eventually I got there.

Now some years later, I was awoken around 2.00am one morning. There sitting at the end of the bed was my brother. He had a light shining upon him, just on him and shining inwards, not outwards. The room was pitch black except where he sat. It was a light like I had never seen before and I have never seen since.

Christine was asleep and I tried to get up to go to him, but it was like there was a big invisible hand stretching half way across the bed stopping me. I felt it was a waste of time trying.

Patrick was sitting up on the end of the bed. This had never been possible, when he was alive. So there he was with the C curve of his spine, no muscles, thin arms and legs, deformed body; just sitting there.

The conversation went as follows:-

"Hello Patrick what are you doing here?"

"He has sent me; he has sent me in my earthly body, so that you may recognise me"

"Who sent you?"

"You know who sent me"

"How are you?"

"I am fine and I am very happy"

“Can I ask why did he send you?”

“He wants you to know that you are not to worry and everything will be fine.”

With that the light slowly dimmed and disappeared and Patrick was gone. Christine woke up and told me that Patrick had been and I asked her how she would have known. She said that there was a powerful sense of him having been there. I told her all about it and she wanted to know what was meant by “not to worry and everything will be fine”. Unfortunately, at that time, I had no idea.

It was some years later that I was having problems being a Catholic; I thought their teachings were too black and white and I could not recognise a forgiving God. We left the Catholic Church and eventually found our way to the Church of England. It was then that we understood the term He wants you to know that you are not to worry and everything will be fine.

As I said earlier many Chosen followers felt that Jesus never withheld healing from someone who wants it. He never said “your pain is actually better for me” or imply that someone’s suffering is more useful than their healing.

I could ask “Well if that is true why did Jesus not heal my brother?” I am sure that my brother had a major influence not only on my family, my cousins, my aunts and uncles but also on many more people.

There are many disabled people living today and Jesus is not healing them with miracles. However, when they pass from this earth into Heaven there would be no more suffering. When they meet with the Father, in Heaven, they will be able to leap like a deer.

When Patrick died he cried out in the middle of the night, his nurse came rushing into his room. She watched him die and told me, “I don’t know what it was, but I sensed someone in the room with him. Patrick’s face was full of joy; Patrick was definitely pleased to see whoever was with him. I was not a believer in God, but now I don’t know, I think there is something.”

Thanks to Chosen I can imagine my brother, in Heaven, leaping about like a deer.

The CHOSEN

The Chosen is a popular television series about the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Created by Dallas Jenkins, the series tells the story through the experiences of Jesus and the people who met and followed Him. It gives particular attention to the disciples, showing their different personalities, backgrounds and struggles. The series is based on the Bible but also includes imagined conversations and events to develop the characters and story. The Chosen has become popular around the world and has been translated into many languages. It helps viewers explore the life of Jesus and the meaning of faith, friendship and hope.

You can watch all episodes of The Chosen at <https://watch.thechosen.tv>

At Cooper & Son, we understand that no two lives are the same, which is why every funeral we arrange is completely individual too. Whether you're making the arrangements for a loved one or prudently planning your own, we're here for you in every way.



Cooper & Son

Part of C.P.J. Field

More than a funeral director since 1690.



19 Clinton Place, Seaford BN25 1NP
01323 492 666 cooper_son.seaford@cpjfield.co.uk



Lewes, Seaford and District Branch



Please contact: Jean: 01323 892930

KITTENS TO ELDERLY CATS ALL NEED LOVING HOMES!



Neutering

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

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



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

**This advertising
space
is available**

Reasonable rates

*For details contact
office2@seafordparish.org.uk*

D. NOWICKI

**PAINTING
DECORATING
ARTEXING
PLASTERING
Interior & Exterior**

*Established over 30 years
Local references available
upon request*

FULLY INSURED

Tel: 01323 490528 Mobile: 07971 271861

Email: nowicki@talktalk.net

NORVETT
E L E C T R O N I C S



Established 1955

- Your local electricians for all domestic and commercial wiring, fault finding, installation and repairs.
- Heating, heating controls, timers and thermostats.
- CCTV, security lighting and home automation.

ALFRISTON 01323 870485

enquire@norvett.com

www.norvett.com



@NorvettElectronics @NorvettUK



Poetry Corner

Anthem for Doomed Youth

What passing - bells for those who die
as cattle?
Only the monstrous anger of the guns.
Only the stuttering rifles's rapid rattle
Can patter out their hasty prisons.
No mockeries now for them; no prayers
nor bells,
Nor any voice of mourning save the
choirs,
The shrill, demented choirs of wailing
shells;
And bugles calling for them from the
sad shires.

What candles may be held to speed
them all?
Not in the hands of boys, but in their
eyes
Shall shine the holy glimmers of good-
byes.
The pallor of girl's brows shall be their
pall;
Their flowers the tenderness of patient
minds,
And each slow dusk a drawing of the
blinds.

Wilfred Owen (1893-1918)

*He died seven days before the armistice
was signed.*

Remembrance

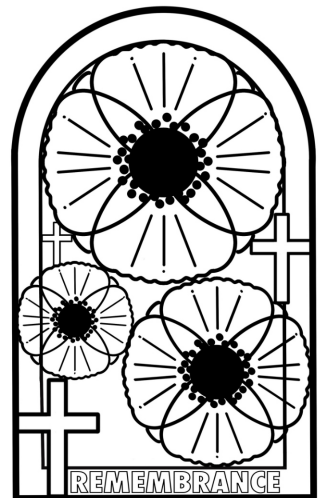
In November we come to remember
How war tore our country apart,
From village and town and all around
Men and boys left home and hearth.

Mothers and wives and sisters all
Saw their brave young men go away,
For some it meant the ultimate price
As they gave their tomorrows for our today.

Another Man left His home above
To rescue this world from sin,
It cost Him His life which He freely gave
So new life could enter in.

In this world there will always be war,
But the time will surely be
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
As the waters cover the sea.

Megan Carter



LIFE AND MORE ABUNDANT MINISTRIES

Lesley Gomez

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



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your prayers. As I write this we are coming through the Typhoon season. It has been relentless. The storms threaten to be like the one last year that uprooted all the trees. There are floods and the river is high. The barrio families evacuate to LAMA House each typhoon to shelter from the storms. One family stayed with us over a few nights as they live across the river and couldn't get home. The rainy season means we are unable to travel so we haven't been to visit J in Manila or minister at the Girls centre.

In August, Michael was asked by the Centre's Head to speak with the

parents of the boys at the RRYC who are on their journey of rehabilitation. It is wonderful that the Head recognises the parents need to hear the Gospel too. Michael shared about the importance of good parenting under the guidance of the Lord-- encouraging parents to lead their children with faith, patience, compassion, and understanding. The discussion highlighted the importance of building faith-based values at home and allowing God's love to guide the way parents respond to their children. Parents were also encouraged to learn the importance of forgiveness-- forgiving the past, letting go of hurt, creating space for healing and a new beginning. More importantly, they were reminded to learn to love and understand their children better, seeing them not only through their struggles or mistakes, but through the eyes of the Lord, who loves them unconditionally. Every child needs guidance, but they also need to know that they are loved, valued, and never beyond the reach of God's grace. May the Lord continue to strengthen these parents as they walk alongside their children, giving them wisdom to guide, courage to forgive, and hearts that reflect the same love, grace and understanding that the Lord has for them.

Where we gather He meets us

The Assemblies of God church which

we attend met together at LAMA House for their prayer meeting . House of Refuge was a beautiful reminder that there is something powerful about coming together in faith. We worshipped. We prayed. We laughed. We shared life. And through it all, His presence was the sweetest part of the night. God is our refuge, always.

Thank you LAMA House Of Worship / Gomez Family for opening your doors and welcoming us so warmly. Also, to everyone who came and even those who couldn't make it, we're grateful for you.

You're part of this family, whether you were in the room or praying from afar. Shalom! Prayer makes a big difference - so thank you all!

Please give thanks for the life of Peter's Mum, who died recently aged 103.

Lots of love

Lesley



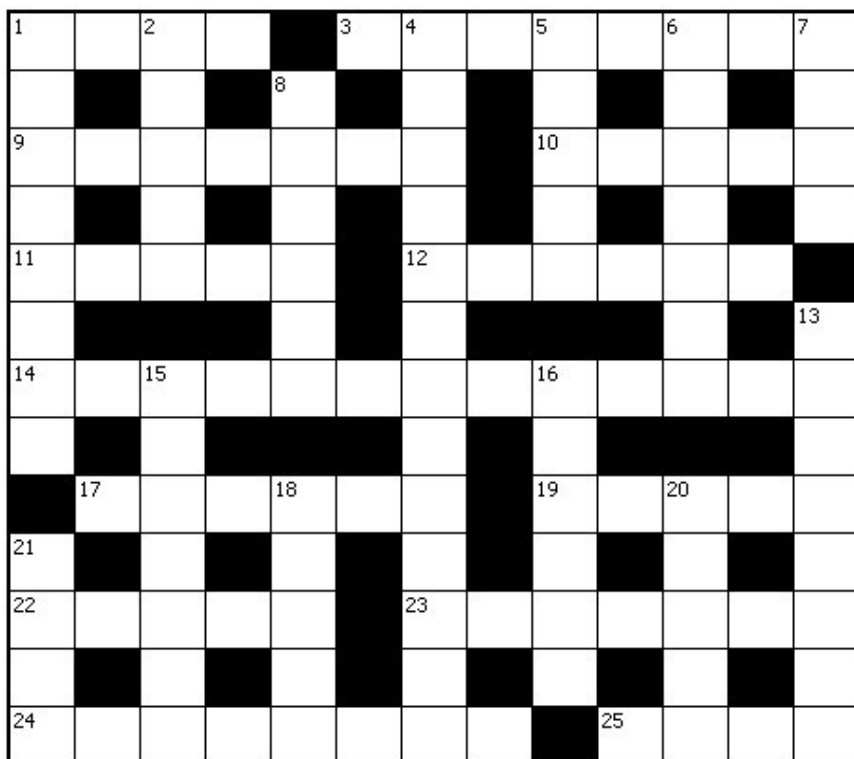
Light Parties, an alternative to Halloween

Instead of buying Halloween-themed confectionary, pumpkins, decorations and even costumes this year why not try a Light Party, a positive and upbeat alternative to traditional Halloween celebrations.

Scripture Union, the Christian charity that first pioneered Light Parties, reports that around 8,000 churches and youth organisations now request their Light Party Pack each year.

A Light Party is a family-friendly Christian event held on 31st October. Instead of featuring ghosts, ghouls and darkness, it celebrates the themes of light and hope in Jesus Christ. Children dress up in bright, colourful outfits, enjoy games such as glow-in-the-dark, eat party snacks and enjoy themselves without any element of fear or oppression.

Crossword



Across

- 1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of — , the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
- 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag.) (4)



THE WELLINGTON HOTEL

HOTEL, BAR AND RESTAURANT



33 STEYNE ROAD SEAFORD

01323 899517

WELLINGTONHOTELSEAFORD@OUTLOOK.COM

Down

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
- 2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4–5, 7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)

October

Saturday 3rd	9.30am	Messy Church	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Sunday 4th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion & Glow	St. Luke's
Wednesday 7th	11.00am	Matins	St. Leonard's
	12.30pm	Parish Lunch	St. Luke's
Sunday 11th	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	Venue TBC
	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
Tuesday 13th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Wednesday 14th	1.00pm	Lunchtime Concert	St. Leonard's
Saturday 17th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion & Glow	St. Luke's
	3.00pm	Memorial Service	St. Leonard's
	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7	St. Luke's
Monday 19th	7.30pm	Parish Women's Group	St. Luke's
Wednesday 21st	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Friday 23rd	2.30pm	Mothers' Union	St. Luke's
Saturday 24th	10.00am	Church Open Cafe	St. Leonard's
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Sunday 25th	9.30am	Family Worship	St. Luke's
Monday 26th to Friday 30th	Holiday Club		St. Luke's
Wednesday 28th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's

Parish Magazine

Items for the December-January edition of the magazine should be sent to by Tuesday 17th November to: magazine@seafordparish.org.uk

November

Sunday 1st	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion & Glow	St. Luke's
Wednesday 4th	11.00am	Matins	St. Leonard's
	12.30pm	Parish Lunch	St. Luke's
Sunday 8th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Family Worship	St. Luke's
	11.30am	Civic Remembrance Service	St. Leonard's
	7.00pm	Prayer@7	Venue TBC
Tuesday 10th	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
Wednesday 11th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Sunday 15th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion & Glow	St. Luke's
Monday 16th	7.30pm	Parish Women's Group	St. Luke's
Tuesday 17th	Magazine copy date		
Wednesday 18th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Saturday 21st	1.00pm	Lunchtime Concert	St. Leonard's
Sunday 22nd	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Family Worship	St. Luke's
	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7	St. Luke's
Tuesday 24th	11.00am	Prayer Ministry & Communion	St. Luke's
Wednesday 25th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Friday 27th	1.30pm	Mothers' Union	St. Luke's
Sunday 29th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Luke's

Crossword Solution

ACROSS

1 dare; 3 cherubim; 9 son Tohu; 10 yield; 11 ranch; 12 enlist; 14 Baalah of Judah; 17 Edward; 19 Sheol; 22 media; 23 open air; 24 apostasy; 25 Eton

DOWN

1 describe; 2 run in; 4 household gods; 5 royal; 6 blessed; 7 MIDI; 8 Joshua; 13 children; 15 added to; 16 Jasper; 18 await; 20 exalt; 21 YMCA

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



Wednesdays

- 11.00am Matins (1st Wednesday of the month)
Holy Communion (other Wednesdays in the month)

Services in St. Luke's Church

Sundays

- 9.30am Holy Communion: a service with hymns (1st and 3rd Sundays)
- 9.30am Family Worship: informal worship (2nd and 4th Sunday) with bacon rolls from 9.00am
- 7.00pm Prayer@7: a short time of worship followed by prayer (2nd Sunday)
- 7.00pm St. Luke's@7: Contemporary worship (4th Sunday)



Tuesdays

- 11.00am Prayer Ministry and Communion (Tuesdays following the 2nd and 4th Sundays) followed by refreshments

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

**Term time*

Parish Directory

Clergy

Revd. James Hollingsworth 01323 893508

Revd. Janice Bartholemew

Revd. Carole Darling

vicar@seafordparish.org.uk

revjanice@seafordparish.org.uk

revcarole@seafordparish.org.uk

Children, Youth & Family Missioners

Stefan Bracher

Kim Cuthbert

cyfw@seafordparish.org.uk

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

Churchwardens

Fred Bass 01323 893054

Liz Morgan-Jones 01323 890644

fred@seafordparish.org.uk

liz@seafordparish.org.uk

Deputy Wardens

Janet Kent (St. Leonard's) 01323 490050

Joanne Lalla (St. Luke's)

Paul Bloxham (St. Luke's)

janet.seaford@btinternet.com

joanne.lalla@btinternet.com

paulandjobloxham@btinternet.com

Parish Treasurer

Mary Silva

atreasurer@seafordparish.org.uk

Prayers

prayer@seafordparish.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer

Martin Waite

safeguarding@seafordparish.org.uk

Home Groups

Tricia Robertson

homegroups@seafordparish.org.uk

Hall Bookings 07425 936674

bookings@seafordparish.org.uk

Fortnightly News

news@seafordparish.org.uk

Magazine

Distribution: Tony Willer

Editor: Malcolm Anderson 01323 891252

magazine@seafordparish.org.uk

A.M. Steer Ltd.

Plumbing, Heating & General Maintenance

17 Jevington Drive
Seaford · BN25 2NT
Phone/Fax: 01323 891281
Mobile: 07785 766410

**Friendly, family business approved by
trading standards.**

Property services include:

- all aspects of plumbing & heating
 - electrical/gas work
 - boiler replacement
 - landlord certificates
- full bathroom & kitchen refurbishments
 - tiling & decorating
 - building works



Contact Andy on: 07785 766410/01323 891281 or

email: amsteerltd@uwclub.net

