

The Parish of Sutton
with Seaford

Parish Magazine

Parish News
Clergy Letter
Book Reviews
Mission News
Prayer Diary

#LIVE LENT



God's Story
Our Story

February-March 2021

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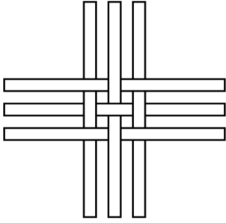
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Parish Magazine

St. Leonard's & St. Luke's Churches

February-March 2021


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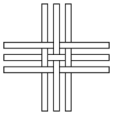
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Parish News

One thing that is certain is that we are living through a time of uncertainty. With that in mind some of the things in this edition of the magazine may be subject to change at fairly short notice. You will be aware that in January the Bishop of Lewes in discussion with the Head of Environmental Health for Rother and Wealden Councils, together with the Director of Public Health and East Sussex County Council, requested that we voluntarily close places of public worship until covid cases decline across all East Sussex districts. So since Christmas Day our church buildings have been closed to public worship and during January also closed to private prayer. Once again we worship online.

The likelihood is that although the number infections is coming down and people are receiving the much welcome vaccine, worship will continue to be online during February and March.

St. Leonard's Church

If the infections continue to decline then St. Leonard's will reopen for private prayer from Monday 1st February from 10.00am to 1.00pm. There will be new safety measures in place most notably your temperature will be taken on entry along with the usual track and trace information. Masks must be worn.

Join James on Facebook

You can join James on Facebook @seafordparishsussex Monday to Friday at 7.30am for a Thought for the Day. At 6.00pm each day there is a service of Evening Prayer.

Online

Links to all our online services together with Zoom meeting IDs and passcodes can be found on our website at

www.seafordparish.org.uk/online

COME AS YOU ARE JOIN US ONLINE

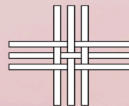
YouTube



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Use smartphone
or tablet camera.



Website

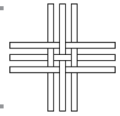


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Parish News



As we progress through Lockdown 3 here are details of some local and national services that may be able to offer support.

Seaford Volunteer Emergency Team helpline is currently closed but they continue to monitor the situation if they are required.
www.svet.proffer.org.uk

NHS Volunteer Responders do offer a similar service for shopping and prescriptions on 0808 196 3646. At times their call lines are busy but they are open 8.00am-8.00pm for support. You can also call Morrisons on 0345 611 6111 option 5. There are many local shops offering delivery services too.
www.nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk

Seafriends is a local organisation providing a one to one befriending service in the town matching a volunteer with someone who may feel the need to have regular contact. Currently this is a regular phone call but in normal times it is anticipated to be a visiting service. They can be contacted on 01323 914689.
www.seafriends.co.uk

The Silver Line is a 24/7 phone service for someone wanting to chat on 0800 4 70 80 90. This is an organisation set up by Esther Rantzen. There is also a text chat service called shout, particularly for those who may have hearing issues text shout to 85258.
www.thesilverline.org.uk

The Samaritans are also available on 116 123. www.samaritans.org

Childline exists to help children who are experiencing difficult times including loneliness and isolation.
www.childline.org.uk

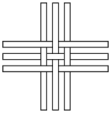
Thrive promotes children's and young people's positive mental health by helping adults to understand and respond. Their work has been adopted by many local schools. There is a section for parents on their website.
www.thriveapproach.com/who-we-work-with/parents-carers

Our Parish

Here at St Leonard's and St. Luke's there is also a ring a round service. We are a strong community and we would like to support you if required. You are not alone. See page 46.
www.seafordparish.org.uk

A Helping Hand: Parenting Blog

Sue Topp is developing a parenting blog on our website with useful help and guidance for those bringing up children.
www.seafordparish.org.uk/a-helping-hand



Parish News

Lent Book Club

During Lent Derreck and James are recommending and reading two books, perhaps three. Book 1 is "Living His Story" by Hannah Steele. Archbishop Justin Welby has suggested this as the Lent book for 2021. The Other book is 'The Art of Lent' with Sister Wendy Beckett.

Join us for a Zoom meeting on Thursdays through Lent (using the same codes as Sunday coffee: 94296447321 Seaford21) from 7.30pm to 8.30pm to talk about what we've been learning in the bits you've got to so far. It doesn't matter if you miss one, just join us later on.

Starting on **18th February** we will talk about chapter 1 of Hannah Steele's book and just the first 3 pictures of the Art of Lent. Then...

- **25th February:** Chapter 2 of Living His Story and 'Week 1' of Art of Lent
- **4th March:** Chapter 3 and 'Week 2'
- **11th March:** Chapter 4 and 'Week 3'
- **18th March:** Chapter 5 and 'Week 4'
- **25th March:** Chapter 6 and 'Week 5'
- **1st April** is Maundy Thursday so a pause
- **8th April:** Chapter 7 and 'Week 6'

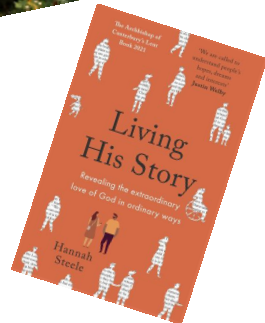
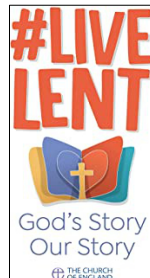
We are getting 20 of each of these books and they will be in the back of

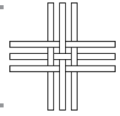


St. Leonard's soon. It would be kind if you could donate £10 for each book.

You do not need to be reading both books to join the Book Club, just one will be fine! It is not a course it is just a natter.

There is also a booklet "Live Lent" which connects to the "Living His Story" but is also a stand alone book of reflections. There will also be some at the back of St. Leonard's Church.





STOPOVER

Dear members of Seaford Parish Women's Group, the Women's Institute, the Vicar and the congregation. Please accept my sincere thanks for your generous Christmas gifts for STOPOVER. The church service giving thanks for the wonderful work of the STOPOVER team, the safety and well-being of the young women was spiritually and practically inviting for all present. The many gifts will be thoroughly enjoyed by the Stopover family members on Christmas Day.

Keep well and safe everyone. Bless you all.

Connie Hughes.

Single Consecrated Life

Due to the lockdown we are in at the moment my service of consecration has been changed. Bishop Martin is coming to St Leonard's on Friday August 6th at 11am, the Feast of The Transfiguration. We are hoping restrictions will be relaxed by then and it can be a service of celebration. Anyone who would like to come will be welcome. Every blessing.

Diana Woodcock

Conference News

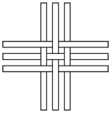
Despite planning to run a slightly reduced **Spring Harvest** at both Minehead and Skegness this year the organisers have now decided that they are unable to proceed as anticipated this Easter. Instead we are promised a bigger, brighter and bolder Spring Harvest Home which starts on Easter Sunday with the same theme Unrivalled God. For details (as they emerge) visit www.springharvest.org

New Wine meanwhile have been able to move the other way. From initially not planning a physical gathering they are now planning to run three smaller events at the end of July and into early August together with an online event. details can be found at www.breaksout.new-wine.org

The Keswick Convention was established in 1875 and from the beginning its aim was to help those wanting to know God better and to live godly Christian lives. The Convention continues to meet in the Lakeland town each summer and has recently bought the former Lakeland Pencil Factory to convert into a conference venue. They are still planning their three week long events in the summer. Details and the latest news can be found at www.keswickministries.org

Coronavirus: Archbishops invite nation to pause, pray and remember 100,000 people 'known to God and cherished by God'

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love. A number of resources will be made available at www.ChurchofEngland.org/PrayerForTheNation.



Parish News

World Day of Prayer

This year due to the Corona Virus restrictions the Seaford World Day of Prayer Annual Service has been postponed from Friday 5th March to Friday September 3rd, venue yet to be confirmed. If you would like to take part and follow the service this year privately on March 5th there will be some service books available for people to pick up from St Leonard's church. The service this year has been written by the women of Vanuatu.



If you would like to follow the service live on March 5th via YouTube or zoom, details of streaming will be on the WDP web site www.wwdp.org.uk (with two 'w's'). It is hoped that many people will log on and follow the service. Any donations may be sent to the WDP head office WDP Office, Commercial Rd., Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2RR to give to the vital work they do throughout the world supporting good causes.

Parish Magazine

Since last March the Parish Magazine has been available as a download on the parish website in addition to being available in print format. The last edition was downloaded over 160 times. Given the circumstances we continue to find ourselves in we are changing the way the magazine is financed. The paper format has several production costs which we do not have on the electronic version, so as a trial we are asking that those who take a paper copy make a suggested donation of £6 per year and those who prefer to just read the electronic version contribute £4 per year.

Ways to pay...

1. Through your magazine distributor
2. In church when they re-open (please mark your envelope Magazine)
3. Online via our give.net page which can be found on our website at www.seafordparish.org.uk/giving/

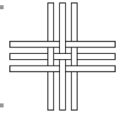
Ash Wednesday

Please do not Ash yourself! If you do, please do be careful and don't mix the ash into a paste using water of any sort, it will result in having a caustic effect on your skin!

From the Registers

Deaths

John Lawrence 90
Gillian Millward 88
Major Michael Constanzo 83
Patricia Heritage 92



Revd. Lucy Hollingsworth

Who am I?

As many of you know I am married to James the vicar and we moved to Seaford in August as James was appointed Vicar of St. Leonards and St. Luke's.

I am also a Wills and Probate solicitor for Mayo Wynne Baxter and although currently working from home, once we are beyond the current restrictions, I will be based in their Seaford office.

I am also mum to three fabulous adult children, Ruth, Abi and Sam, who some of you will have met or spotted in our online services.

I am also a Church of England priest and I am very excited that on Sunday 14th February I am hoping to be licensed to a role in Seaford and the Lewes deanery by Bishop Will. We are not sure exactly what this role will look like at the moment, particularly given the current lockdown, but it will include ministry and leading and preaching both in Seaford and in the wider deanery as the need arises.

I was ordained as a priest in the Church of England in June 2017. I studied for six years with the South East Institute of Theological Education (now called St Augustine's) for my 2:1 Theology and Ministry degree



awarded by Durham University. I am a self-supporting (SSM) priest, which for me means I have another paid job and the time I spend in my priestly role is part time and all voluntary. I served one year of my curacy at St Mary's Ringmer and then moved to St Augustine's Scaynes Hill to complete my curacy and was SSM Associate Vicar there during their interregnum before we moved to Seaford.

I also love doing arty stuff, my garden, walking by the sea, genealogies and history as well as helping people to get to know Jesus better through prayer and teaching and spending time together.

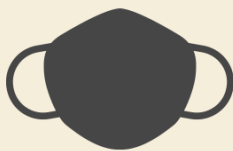
I am also looking forward to getting to know you over the next few years!

Every blessing

Revd Lucy Hollingsworth



**WASH
HANDS**



**COVER
FACE**



**MAKE
SPACE**

Derreck Lee-Philpot

Almost exactly a year ago, on the 17th January 2020, I wrote the corresponding article to this one for the February/March 2020 Magazine. In it I discussed the events that were upon us. Paul Owen had just left, Stefan and Alice had just arrived, the vacancy stretched before us with all the uncertainty, upheaval, and change that such times bring. I remember writing about a Hawk Conservancy near where we used to live that had a meadow that was carefully managed through the autumn, winter and early spring, until late spring and summer when its manicured look changed. The grass grew high, the hedges looked unkempt but there was an explosion of colour. The grass would be 18 inches high but underneath

were colours and plants that were rarely seen, and that would be like us.

I wrote that we could expect new growth, new gifts and talents coming forward, we would see our God work in many different ways whilst we awaited the arrival of the people that turned out to be James and Lucy. Then, as we all know, Covid-19 hit, at the latter end of March churches closed and expressions like 'lockdown', 'self-isolate' and 'R numbers', came into our vocabulary. Many felt (and were) alone, SVET was formed and was a lifeline for the vulnerable providing shopping and support in the dark days of last summer. We learned to worship differently, to relate to Jesus differently, and found diverse ways to encourage and support each

other. More words were added to everyday use, 'Zoom', 'WhatsApp', 'Signal', 'virtual church' and so on.

But what has been amazing is that if we look back thoughtfully and reflectively we will see that we have drawn closer to God, our prayer lives have been stretched and strengthened, as we have missed face-to-face fellowship we have realised how much we depend upon and need each other. Many have returned to old habits, following a reading plan for daily Bible readings, listening and immersing ourselves in worship DVDs, and reading Christian books to broaden and deepen our understanding and spirituality. Covid-19 has not caused a spiritual barrenness among us, indeed for many it has been a time of enlightenment, re-engaging with our God with whom we may have become overly familiar, and maybe (just a teeny bit) taking Him for granted.

But why am I looking back, we all know our recent history? It is so we can look forward with better clarity, especially as Lent is now almost upon us.

Lent is a time when we usually take a long hard look at ourselves, refocussing our lives and preparing ourselves for Holy Week culminating in Jesus' arrest, trial and crucifixion. We do this most often by remembering Jesus who after being baptised went into the desert for forty days of fasting, struggling and defeating Satan. Or considering the

forty-year wilderness wanderings of the Children of Israel following their baptism in the Red Sea and escape from Egypt. Either way this time is most often marked by spiritual deprivation or discipline, usually by some form of fasting.

Might I gently suggest a different way this year. We have been 'fasting' in so many ways this past twelve months. We have been fasting from simple pleasures, of eating and drinking in a restaurant or going to a cinema or theatre. We've been fasting from liberty during multiple lockdowns, for many we have even been deprived of our health, and peace of minds. Most painfully we have been 'fasting' from human contact, from our friends, and even from family. Not to mention a lost Easter and severely curtailed Christmas, almost begrudgingly given by politicians and scientists.

I suggest we have had enough of deprivation and imposed fasting this year.

I would like to encourage you to look at Lent in a different way in 2021. Yes, let us focus upon our lives, re-tune if we have to into God's wavelength, look within if we must, but also to look outward in our engagement with Lent this year. At the First Communion of Christmas we took a different view of the strapline 'Hands-Face-Space' to apply it in a spiritual way.

Hands – Look to see how God's hand has been at work (in our own lives and

others) this year, even through all the pain and difficulty. And where we see Him at work, work with Him.

Face – Rather than cover our faces and hide from God (like Adam and Eve) let's remove any façade we have put up. If we have hidden God's face by covering Him up or building a barrier between Him and us (knowingly or unknowingly), or having priorities that draw us away from Him – then let us change those things. Remove our façade, tear down the things we have built that separate, re-order our lives so that He once again comes first. Let us aim to look Him in the eye without restraint and be transparent before Him.

Space – Instead of putting space between us, let us make space for each other in our lives. Let us find ways to build each other into our lives. With all that is happening it would be easy to lock others out, let's ensure we stay connected to each other, integrated into each other's lives.

At one point we were given the 'Rule of Six'. Let us embrace that, not by limiting ourselves to just six people, but taking this rule as a minimum, and find ways of 'making space' for six people in our lives that we cannot easily see. Maybe you could contact six people to just chat and encourage, that's only one a day.....with Sunday off! If you have the means, you could do a 'WhatsApp' (or similar) video-call, join one of the many church Zoom events each week and re-connect with

others. Of course, there is always the humble land-line telephone.

This year may we engage with Lent by changing the emphasis, a little less self-searching and introspection, and a little more reaching out opening up of our lives.

Remember that at the end of the Lenten season comes Easter morning where all that has gone before comes to an exultant fruition. He is Risen is the cry! More of that next issue no doubt, but let us not forget that through Lent are sown the seeds of hope that are seen Easter morn. Just as over the past difficult months God has been sowing seeds of hope and joy within us all that will surely come to fruition during this Lent and the coming months.





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SEAFORD



James Hollingsworth, Derreck Lee-Philpott and Bob Rice

Why I never get asked to write book reviews... Here are some books I read over Christmas lockdown, some of them I think you should read. If you've seen me on Zoom you'll have seen that I have an impressive back drop of books. Mostly this is for the purpose of intimidating other Clergy. David Attenborough would have a field day if ever he did a documentary on Clergy and their use of book cases for the purposes of appearing cleverer.

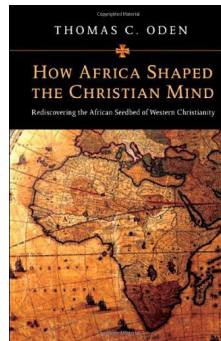
Lucy got given a book token on her birthday (17th July) and proceeded, in a panic, to give it to me on my birthday (30th July), so in the run up to Christmas I spent it, with thanks to Books Alive (01273738818, info@booksalive.co.uk, 86 Elm Drive, Hove, BN3 7JL) who were very helpful with a click and collect order. They also offer to post books and they take book tokens.

Lucy then surprised me by giving me these books for Christmas. If that isn't good recycling ...

I wanted these books because I still teach a little Church History to trainee

Vicars and Readers through St Augustine's Theological College. For a while I taught twenty hours naively covering twenty centuries of Church History, now I teach ten hours simply focusing on 20th Century Church History. Earlier in the year, seeing the BLM protests, it occurred to me that my grasp of Black Church History is really bad. Hence:

Book1: Thomas C Oden, How Africa Shaped the Christian Mind. (IVP 2007)

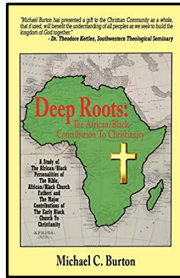


If you only read your bible you might think that St Paul took the gospel to Lydia from whom it just spread to the rest of the known world and onto to England. The Gospel first went via Africa and from Africa it

came to us. So Oden takes us through the great early Church theologians (Origen, Tertullian, Athanasius, Augustine etc). He brilliantly demonstrates that it was Africa that brought to the West the idea of the University, exegesis of Scripture, core doctrine, ecumenical decisions, spiritual formation in monasticism, philosophy and literary skills.

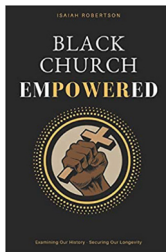
Book2: Michael C Burton Deep Roots, The African/Black contribution to Christianity (iUniverse, 2008).

This overlaps the above book with an overview of Black and African Characters to be found in the Bible and in the development of Christian thought and practice. But what I think is its unique contribution is its exploration of how Christianity continued to develop and struggle and fall rise through to the late medieval period. I've never come across a book that does that. I hadn't thought about it but of course, the Gospel didn't leave Africa when it came to Europe. It continued, thrived and survived so that in the sin of the Slave Trade some of the human cargo were Christians, some were ministers.



Book3: Isaiah Robertson, Black Church Empowered, (BC Empowered, 2020)

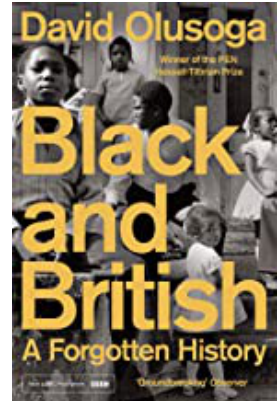
I accidentally bought this because of the strap line 'examining our history' thinking that the book might be about that. In fact this is a book about how to lead a black majority Church in America. Its brilliant, its passionate, prayerful, scriptural. Particularly disturbing is the amount of time it spends (as does Deep Roots) addressing the concern that Christianity is white mans religion and now that you are free from slavery why would you want to be part of a faith that had previously been



used to enslave you. Wow. He explains how the black church in America never felt the need to separate out the Social Gospel from the Spiritual Gospel. That's the gift of the Black Church. He points out that just at the point that Western Theologians were getting all Hegelian, in praise of rationalism and diminishing anything miraculous that "the enslaved Africans in the antebellum south were imbibing a very different faith; a faith rooted in the historicity of Biblical events and the miraculous".

Book4: David Olusoga, Black and British a forgotten history. (Pan, 2017).

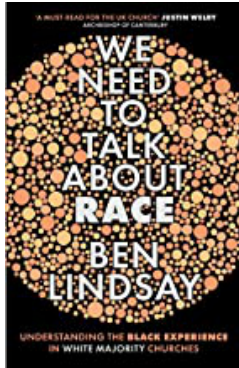
You don't need to buy this book because there's an excellent telly version presented by Olusoga now on iPlayer. You're allowed to say Well the above stuff is all very interesting but not for me but I think that with this book that yes this should be for you. You should be reading / watching this.



Here we find that Black people have been on this island since Roman times, that they were part of Henry 8th's court. Olusoga takes us through the sinful rise of the Slave trade to the shameful racism that came in the aftermath of the arrival of HMS Windrush. The book and TV programme must have been completed before the Windrush scandal. This book should be compulsory reading for you. Also compulsory I think should be.

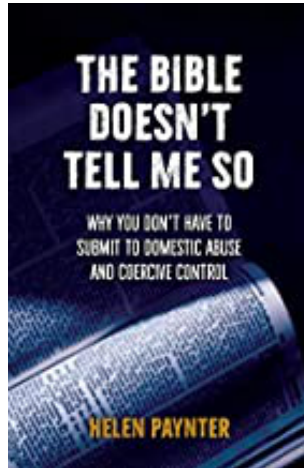
Book5: Ben Lindsay *We need to talk about Race* (SPCK, 2019).

Less about History and more about practice and experience, each chapter ends with a series of questions for a home group or PCC. This isn't a book you just read, it's a book that you must then discuss and allow it to challenge you.



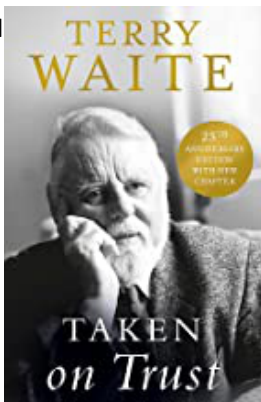
thoroughly biblical approach and its pastoral tone show a God who wants to rescue you, who wants you to not have to repeatedly remain in harm's way. I rather hope you don't need this book. But it might be that reading it will help you in conversations with others. Alas I have already found it useful in pastoral conversations.

James Hollingsworth



Book6: Helen Paynter, *The Bible Doesn't Tell me so. Why you don't have to submit to domestic abuse or coercive control* (BRF 2020)

This book is really rather good. It unpicks the presumptions that have been put upon scripture and the words of Jesus that have fed into the hands of those who would use the bible to support domestic abuse. Its



Terry Waite's 'Taken on Trust'

have recently re-read the autobiography of Terry Waite, written in 1993 following his near five year captivity in Beirut which ended in November 1991. I have found his endurance through faith so inspiring I have read the book umpteen times over the years. It is written in a way that allows the reader to see previous events in his life which formed the man who was then moulded by God and experiences to endure and serve humbly. The overall impression is one of a honest, raw testimony of a warm, likeable man living his life in a way even those who don't agree with him admire.

Bob Rice

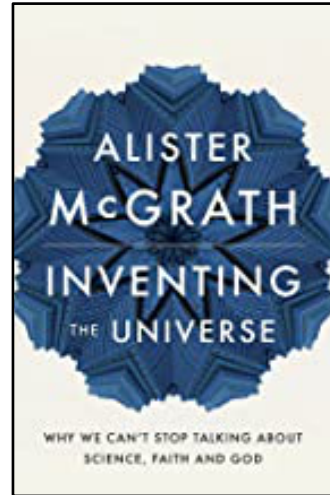
Inventing the Universe by Alister McGrath (ISBN 978-1-444-79846-3 paperback)

For those that have an interest in the ongoing debate around the big questions of science v faith and God, or those who feel their faith threatened by the vociferous angry voices of the 'New Atheists' and want to see a way through a seemingly complex and intellectual discussion, then this is the book for you.

Alister McGrath offers the perspective that science and faith are not opposed to each other, but are complimentary and even enrich one-another. He uses clear and well explained arguments to consider the questions he addresses, yes there are a few 'long words' but they are instantly explained in language you don't need a scientific doctorate to understand. The science is presented with precision and accuracy as is the theology, but in a way which is both enlightening and entertaining.

He looks at theory, evidence and proof, and asks, 'how do we know what is true?' He considers the soul and what it means to be human. He examines the related topics of the quest for meaning and the limits of science, and whether there is such a thing as empirical (oops, I mean practical or experiential) ethics, and if there can be morality in science? The last chapter heading sums it up nicely, 'Science and Faith: Making sense of the world – Making sense of life.'

This is a clear, well explained contribution to the debate, a sound



introduction to a topic that often flies 'over our heads' from someone who has a foot in both the scientific and theological camps.

Short bio:

Dr. Alister E. McGrath is the Andreas Idreos Professor of Science and Religion at the University of Oxford.

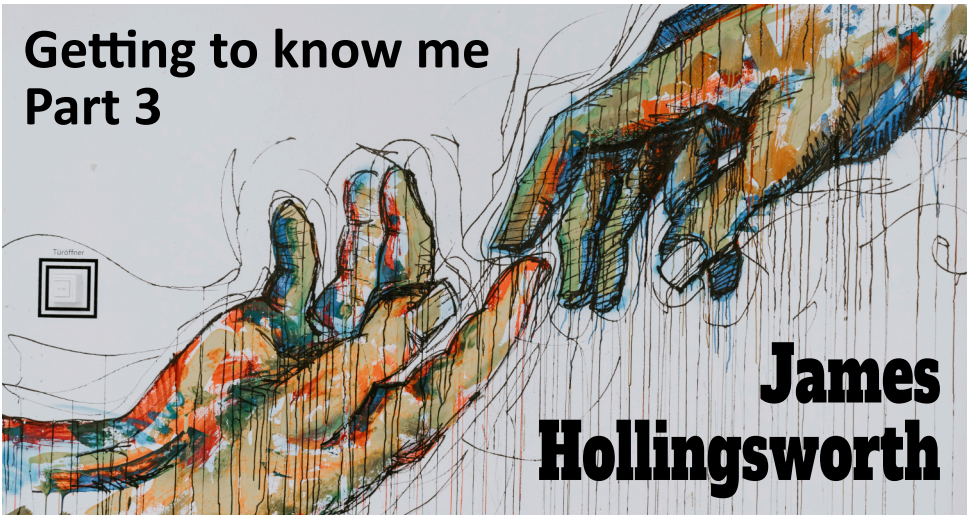
In addition to his work at Oxford, McGrath is Senior Research Fellow at Harris Manchester College, Oxford, President of the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics, and serves as associate priest in a group of Church of England village parishes in the Cotswolds.

After initial academic work in the natural sciences, McGrath turned to the study of theology and intellectual history, while occasionally becoming engaged in broader cultural debates about the rationality and relevance of the Christian faith.

His other books include, 'The Dawkins Delusion', and, 'C.S. Lewis – A Life'.

Derreck Lee-Philpot

Getting to know me Part 3



James Hollingsworth

This is the One in which I tell you about how my mum died.

I was filling the car up with petrol a little while back when I was shocked to notice an advert on the handle for the petrol filling thing that said: “Suicide?” and then underneath was a phone number, I think it was the Samaritans (a free phone 116 123).

My gut thought ‘Ooh that’s a bit in yer face’, and a second later my brain reposted with ‘No, that’s brilliant’.

We don’t talk about these taboos. We barely talk about death, though perhaps this year we have spoken about it more. You can probably guess where some of this is now going. This is my effort to talk about a taboo that’s affected me, perhaps in the hope that you might feel able to talk about a taboo that is affecting you.

I was 17, at boarding school, it was the time of year when A level students were

summoned to the House Masters study with the expectation of being made prefect. You wanted to be prefect, so we were told, because it would look good on our CVs but genuinely, I’ve never met anyone who reads that far into a CV. We wanted to be prefects because it meant that we didn’t have to queue for lunch. Bullies wanted to be prefects because, well you’ve seen the Harry Potter films.

Anyway when I got asked if I would go over and see the House Master I thought hurrah, this is my day! I don’t really remember much of what happened next. Some parts of our history we remember with exact vivacity but other parts blur.

My mother had died.

I was to be picked up and taken home, so to go and pack some things. I walked about in a haze and daze and took myself off to an after-school club to give a talk on scuba diving but

I must have looked so ashen that the teacher in charge sent me back and I waited for my sister to drive by. I told you, memory is odd like that. It was a three-hour drive, we had fish and chips before arriving because we didn't want Dad to have to cook a meal.

Mum had died in the garage. My siblings had arrived and so we got on with the business of crying and hugging and being stunned and confused. I had a sudden desire to go out to see the garage. It was late, cold, no one else wanted to come, everyone thought I shouldn't go, but I did.

It was night. There I was standing in the darkness, numb, utterly alone, and then I felt it, or him, or well ... I always struggled to find the language – it was as if God was holding me. Literally. Actually. As if His little finger was wrapped around my ankles and His thumb over my right shoulder. Genuinely that's what I felt, the hand of God holding me. I don't recall any words.

But I do know that when I returned to the house I had changed. I was held. I knew that mum was held. And both of us by the same God.

It was later that week that I must have been told that it wasn't an accident. Mum had been depressed. She knew what she was doing. The verdict was suicide.

For a while, I thought about taking my own life but whenever I did, there was the hand of God wrapped around me. My grief process was a little different

to my siblings and it took some years for the anger to come out and when it did I had some good chums who just listened, prayed for me, were there for me.

I was wondering why I should write this. The process of writing it has been for me cathartic. Perhaps you should write your stories. I wasn't aiming for pity, though I've never said 'no' to a fig roll. I've written it because it's a taboo. Death. Suicide.

You might well look at me, see my rugged good looks, admire my witty yet profound sermons, note how accomplished my children are and wish you had my faith. So, it's as well then that you should be reminded that everyone is normal until you get to know them. And so, this is my way of you getting to know me. When you're ready, perhaps you would help me get to know you.

But I pray it might also help you when we do get round to talking; to talk about grief and sorrow and your experience of it; to talk about depression and mental health issues; to talk about how it has shaped, helped, hindered your faith.

And for those of you who have paused and thought of taking your own life, to discover that you're not alone, I've thought such thoughts too. And maybe we could talk.

With love and peace

James



Lewes District Churches HOMELINK:

- Is a Rent Deposit Scheme set up in 1998
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- Works in partnership with Lewes District Council who refer the majority of our applicants to us.
- Assists those in difficult circumstances for whom no help is available from the District Council.
- Helps tenants to access accommodation in the private rented sector by providing an interest-free loan

The current situation

The work has grown enormously over the last few years and now over 400 local tenants benefit from interest-free loans repayable in easy stages. These loans, averaging £1500, pay for the first month's rent and damage deposit. This is needed upfront to rent.

Trustees, nominated by Churches Together in Seaford, Lewes, and Newhaven; come from all denominations. Seaford nominates four Trustees who include Diana Dixon and myself from our Parish.

Finance

We are in a satisfactory financial situation because we have had a good

response to loan repayments. This is thanks to the efforts of Fran, our assistant Service Manager, who chases those who have fallen behind but with compassion.

We only made 83 loans costing £122,500 in 2020 due to the renewed Covid restrictions, fewer than the 100 loans we expected and for which we had budgeted.

Workload

One effect of Covid is that Pippa has to interview people by phone not face to face which slows things down, particularly with necessary administration like confirming identity. It also means that she has sole responsibility for the decision whether to offer a loan, although she does consult Trustees. She has had to work overtime to deal with all the applicants for loans and so we are advertising for a second service manager to work two days per week. Please look at our website www.leweshomelink.org.uk for the full details and how to apply. The deadline for applications will have to be extended because of the current lockdown.

Grants

A smaller aspect of HOMELINK's work is that we provide grants to two sets of people. We provide two week's B&B for prisoners who on release have no home and no money so as to help them find a job and accommodation. We also provide grants of up to £400 for those moving into Council accommodation with no white goods, floor covering, or beds because if they have been in emergency accommodation they may have no furniture of their own. In 2020 we gave 65 grants totalling £17,770 , which is higher than the 40 we budgeted for.

www.leweshomelink.org.uk

Fundraising

Pippa Grace and her two daughters, 'The Three Graces', did a New Years Eve song and Danceathon for 24 hours! and raised over £3,000. Pippa gave a brilliantly coherent interview to Radio Sussex near the end which was good PR. Well done Pippa!

Prayers

Please pray for:

- Pippa our Service Manager and those who work with her.
- Our employees: Fran, Gabrielle and Georgina.
- The appointment of an assistant Service Manager.
- All those in danger of eviction from their home.
- All those needing a grant.

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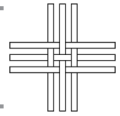


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February-March Prayer Diary



This prayer diary offers a focus for our personal and corporate prayers and may be incorporated into our own Prayer and Bible Study times. The first section for each month focuses on our Mission partners followed by a topic for each day.

"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. Matthew 18: 19

Pray for Missions Partners during February

HOMELINK: Covid has resulted in an increase in the number of people requesting help. Let us pray for:

- all those who are homeless at this difficult time;
- support for HOMELINK's Service Manager to meet the increase in demand and the difficulties caused by having to conduct interviews by phone instead of face to face.

Beachy Head Chaplaincy: Praise God that in 2020, the number of incidents at were down on 2019 levels. Let us pray that this will continue in 2021.

- Thank God for the provision of healthy finances.
- Praise God that the re-development of the Beachy Head building will happen in 2021. This will mean that many agencies can meet together in one building.
- Let us pray that all teams will remain free of Covid-19 infections.
- Pray for an increase in frontline Team members over the next few months and give thanks for four new Chaplain recruits.
- Remember the families who have lost a loved one at Beachy Head.

Samara's Aid: Pray for the work being carried out in Syria by Samara's Aid.

- for discernment to choose people with the heart and vision needed to work on the centres to provide medical care, and help for children and widows;
- a successful harvest on the land that has been bought, cleared and planted with wheat to provide bread, which is in short supply;
- good health and safety for those working on the projects as Covid-19 spreads and there are still threats of terrorist violence.

Daily Prayer in February

1. Parish Homegroups as they seek to support and encourage each other.
2. Staff & students of our schools, coping with the effects of Covid on attendance, lessons, activities and general school life.
3. Diocesan Safeguarding team for wisdom and Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinators.
4. World Cancer Day – pray for those awaiting or undergoing treatment, those awaiting a diagnosis and their loved ones both in the UK and worldwide.

5. Control of the virus with effective measures, and for cases and hospital admissions to reduce greatly.
6. James and Lucy, Derreck and Corrinne, Stefan and Alice as they continue to lead the parish.
7. All living at Esplanade, West View, Steyne Road, St John's Road, Causeway, Mallett Close, College Road, Ringmer Road and The Boundary.
8. For the Barcombe Church family, as they pray and wait for a new vicar
9. A speedy and fair roll-out of Covid vaccines, not just in the UK but worldwide.
10. For the USA and President Joe Biden, to lead with justice and integrity. For healing and reconciliation between their citizens.
11. All involved in our online services in front of and behind the camera.
12. Bless all who donate to Seahaven foodbank and those who deliver food boxes. Pray for those whose heartfelt prayer today is "give us this day our daily bread".
13. Bishops and Archbishops to be bold ambassadors for Christ in the UK.
14. Health workers pushed to the limit caring for Covid patients globally; pray for strength, stamina and resourcefulness to cope. For NHS workers known to you.
15. Good relationships between the nations of the world at this testing time.
16. Those who attend our church groups and are missing fellowship opportunities.
17. Ash Wednesday, pray for each other as we begin Lent unable to meet together.
18. Give thanks for "Christians Against Poverty", praying that many people will be helped to become free of debt, and come to trust God also.
19. The UK following Brexit, for the free flow of essential supplies including vital drugs. Protection for those who transport goods across borders.
20. Tearfund campaigning for environmental issues to protect the poorest people on earth.
21. Messy Church and young people and their families. For Stefan and his team.
22. Fairtrade Fortnight begins helping people across the world earn a living income. For more workers to receive a fair wage to help them provide for their families.
23. All living in Martello Road, Marine Crescent, Cricketfield Road, The Covers, Cliff Road, Cliff Gardens and Cliff Close.
24. Government and the cabinet for wisdom, integrity and resourcefulness at this time.
25. Those recovering from Covid, and those struggling with the effects of Long Covid.
26. Our local businesses coping with the fallout from the virus, to be able to function safely and for jobs to be protected.
27. Give thanks for the beauty of creation and everyone we pass during daily exercise.
28. All who have lost loved ones recently and for the communities in which they lived.

Pray for Mission Partners during March

Schools

- All staff in all schools (Annecy, Bowden House, Chyngton, Cradle Hill, Cuckmere House, Seaford Head School, Seaford Head Sixth Form Centre, Seaford Primary and St John's as they adjust and adapt to the ever changing directives from the government.
- All those affected by the cancellation of this year's exams: that there would be fair and just measures put in their place to assess pupils.
- For adequate support to be provided for children and their families who are struggling with physical and mental health problems, abuse or bereavement.

Bible Society: Covid 19 has greatly reduced their income. A rescue and recovery fund has been created to help pay staff and keep doors open. Please pray that the work will be sustained until restrictions lift.

- UK - pray for prisoners, victims of crime and all those in the criminal justice system.
- China - church services have restarted, bibles back on sale in church bookshops. Pray for pastors travelling increasing distances to serve and support people.
- Syria - for new Sunday school teachers for children affected by war, that they may be helped to heal from emotional scars.
- Malawi - Pray for women who taking part in literacy programmes across Africa.

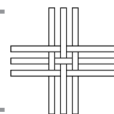
Daily Prayer in March

1. Self Injury Awareness Day – those suffering in silence, feeling alone, and unable to cope with what they are going through. For someone to reach out to them.
2. All living in Fitzgerald Avenue, Lions Place, Fitzgerald Park, The Close, Corsica Road, Gerald Road and Maurice Road.
3. Professor Chris Whitty, The Chief Medical Officer and the Scientific Advisers for wisdom in the Pandemic strategy.
4. Bishops Martin, Will and Ruth for wisdom, vision and clarity as they lead the Diocese.
5. World Day of Prayer – Pray for christians around the world and especially the women of the Republic of Vanuatu who devised the service.
6. Give thanks for God's mercy and grace. Pray for his guidance for each of us.
7. Safety, wellbeing and blessing of the residents and staff of all local care homes.
8. Those guiding our nation and shaping national policies – for wise decisions.
9. James and Derreck as they lead and minister in the parish.
10. Pray for God's blessing on all living alone or in isolation & for those unable to access technology & online services
11. For family and friends who do not know God's love and forgiveness for themselves.
12. Give thanks for our local health services & practitioners. Pray for strength & protection from harm.

13. Churches in Seaford – together we might be lights for Christ in the darkness, sharing his love & bringing his healing to those around us.
14. Mothering Sunday - Give thanks for mothers and those who nurtured us in faith. Pray for those with a sense of loss or disappointment today.
15. Refugees – for safety and a permanent home where they can settle and make new lives.
16. For those who once attended Church or professed faith in Christ, but turned away - that they will seek God's love and forgiveness afresh.
17. All living in Bramber Road, Heathfield Road, Dean Road, Ashurst Road, Steyne Close, Bramber Close, Crooked Lane and Bramber Lane.
18. Young people making decisions about their futures in uncertain days. Give hope where this is in danger of fading.
19. Give thanks for all seeking to take care of and provide for the homeless.
20. Local councillors, for wisdom in their prioritising, and in the use of resources.
21. UK government and politicians – wisdom, integrity and clarity of thought.
22. World Water Day – Give thanks for clean, safe water we enjoy. Pray that around the world all will have access to enough water that is clean and safe.
23. Churchwardens and PCC members, continuing in their roles in changing times.
24. All in the hospitality industry adversely affected by the Covid restrictions.
25. Give thanks for those nations aiming to tackle climate change. Pray that agreements to reduce carbon emissions will be honoured.
26. Those known to you with increasing frailty, struggling with day to day life. Those with memory difficulties and those who care for them.
27. All living in Rother Road, Southdown Road, Chyngton Road, Chyngton Place, Cuckmere Road, Arundel Road, Bracken Road and Links Road.
28. The global Christian Church, as we reflect on the events of Palm Sunday in preparation for Holy Week.
29. Teachers, School Governors and all those involved in planning the way forward for schools and students.
30. Those living in countries where there is fighting, terrorism and unrest.
31. Police and security services maintaining law and order and protecting UK borders.

The next edition of the Prayer Diary will be in the April-May edition of the magazine. It can also be found at the back of both churches and downloaded from www.seafordparish.org.uk/prayers.

Praying for Loved Ones



Lucy Hollingsworth

As we continue to go through a time of not being able to meet and be together we can still pray for each other, for families and friends and for ourselves.



At the moment the churches are shut again for a while and many of us are staying at home to keep safe, so I thought that I would suggest a prayer space or station for you at home.

This one is based on hearts and there is a heart shape below that you could cut out and use or create your own. You could cut hearts out of coloured paper or magazines or plain paper and maybe decorate them yourself. The idea is that you then write the name of the person you would like to pray for on your heart and put it or stick it somewhere you can see, by your mirror or your kettle or on a window. Or maybe make more than one and create your own prayer tree. Then when you see these hearts you can pray for that person as you go about your day.

'Love is patient, love is kind.'
'Love never fails.'
(1 Corinthians 13)



Let us pray:

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can
separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for those affected by Coronavirus.
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Life in

LOCKDOWN

Colin Pritchard writes...

Well, people have been doing all sorts of projects, taken up new hobbies, read masses of books in these extraordinary times, but I fear I have very little to show for all the time spent at home. Our garden is much the same as ever, not particularly beautiful but functional for us as we use it. The house, too, is much the same as ever.

I suppose the most I can show for time spent in lockdown is that I am reasonably competent on using and even hosting Zoom. It started right at the beginning of the outbreak. 15 of my college contemporaries had booked the guest suite at the Wantage Sisters for a retreat in October. When it looked as if we would not be able to have our retreat, I foolishly suggested to my colleagues that we might be able to have our retreat on Zoom - so guess who was required to set it up? I then suggested that in order for us to

be used to Zoom that we met monthly for Morning prayer. Since June we have met each month with a variable number of participants. One of the 15 has died, one is too busy looking after his wife full time, one has no computer or mobile and one has joined us. We were all ordained in 1963, so we are all over 80, with some somewhat over 80. At last, for our January meeting, the final member has got his act [and broadband] together and we had all 13 of us. I had spent a not inconsiderable amount of time with him on the phone over the months to get him there.

I have also been able to set up Zoom for Lindsey to "meet" her college contemporaries. And I have hosted a meeting of the Eastbourne Retired Clergy Association. The most hilarious use of Zoom was on our daughter's birthday when we had a family Beetle drive. We were able to include our son

at work in Nova Scotia as a radiographer, where luckily no-one needed an X-ray. Only missing was our North London daughter-in-law who was at work as an A & E consultant. Our ages ranged from 20 months to 82.

In the first lockdown I managed to raise a couple of hundred pounds each for our Bell tower, the parish finances and Christian Aid from plants that I had raised in the greenhouse. At the turn of the year I had planted seeds and taken cuttings ready for the Parish plant sale. I now need to get out and plug in my propagator to raise seedlings for sale in the spring - watch the newsletter in a month's time or so. We have been able to practice bell-ringing on Zoom and a programme called Ringing Room. It's nothing like the real thing, really, but it keeps the little grey cells active and teaches us to count where we are in a method. The Seaford Natural History Society has continued, publishing the route of walks that would have been led in the summer and Zooming the lecture meetings in winter. Seaford Choral Society has continued intermittently on Zoom - fortunately we are muted so no-one can hear us at practices.

Our daughter, Emma, describes me as a "people person" so I really do miss meeting people, especially our church open mornings. I miss the occasions when I am privileged to take services

in other churches, especially in the surrounding villages with sometimes only a handful of people present. I miss actually seeing our children and grandchildren, though Skype, Zoom and the telephone go some way to help. I really miss my twice weekly volunteering with the education department of the Sussex Wildlife Trust at Exceat.

I very much regret that I have not been able to do anything much for Christian Aid; I've been involved in one way or another with Christian Aid (or Inter-Church Aid and World Refugee Service as it was first called) ever since childhood, and I chair the Seaford Committee. I regret that I never set myself to reading more, an activity that I never enjoy as I read so very slowly. I regret that I have not set myself or succeeded in being more spiritual or prayerful.

We count ourselves lucky that we have a house and garden that are ours, that we have each other, and that we have secure and adequate pensions and that we have computers, smart phones and some ability to use them even if not to their full ability.





Dear all,

I'm looking forward to starting a new year here in Juba in the usual hot dry season. I was grateful to get down to Kenya for a week RnR as well as my yearly license renewals. This includes an instrument renewal flight test, medicals and paperwork to have a valid license for the next year.

I quite enjoy having my license due for renewal at the start of the year, as it does give you a feel for starting off a new year on a fresh leaf. As well as the reminder from the word "renewal", being a great reminder of God's constant work in our hearts and lives.

Last year was definitely a challenging one for all. It brought new scenarios and challenges that many of us haven't imagined before. For me I was struck by how even in the west with technology and infrastructure people were left in isolation through difficult times.

The vision of MAF is to see isolated people physically and spiritually transformed in Christ name. Here in South Sudan isolation can feel more tangible, due to lack of roads, vast plains of wilderness, impenetrable marshlands. However no matter what

the obstacle isolation still feels the same.

The time left me with a new understanding of what it means to turn to God, to seek rest in God's presence. With a realisation of the importance of community with believers and our Loving provider. I hope you have found new depths in your faith too.

My flying was a bit quieter in November, but thankfully that was due to 3 Pilot's managing to return to programme after they had been stuck in Europe since March. I had time to create some safety training courses in my role as safety manager. I even filled in for the operations manager again for the week before Christmas. It's still not a role I want.

Now I am ready to get back to sweating under the South Sudanese sun, serving isolated people. I have my 6 monthly base "skills and emergency" test over the next week which I appreciate your prayers for. Please continue to pray for peace and health in South Sudan. The pandemic is just one issue to worry about amongst the other realities of life here.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers, Danny.



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In January Samara was going to give a talk at St Leonard's to tell us about the work being done in Syria. As her visit had to be cancelled because of the church closures I would like to give an update on the situation there and the progress made with the different projects.

Background

The situation in Syria remains volatile and dangerous as terrorist groups are still carrying out attacks in some areas. UN authorities estimate that the war has caused destruction amounting to US\$400 billion. Added to this, the economic collapse caused by the war and exacerbated by Covid and sanctions, has led to the worst economic situation in living memory, badly affecting the middle classes as well as the poor.

This has led to a steep increase in the cost of food. Bread has become very expensive as the country does not grow enough wheat to meet the nation's needs. The amount of bread from government subsidised bakeries, which provide cheap bread, has been reduced drastically in the past few months and is now heavily rationed, while bread from private bakeries can cost up to ten times as much.

Fuel is also scarce leading to long queues at garages and affecting all

members of society. Doctors are having to cancel visits and limit the number of times they can go to hospitals; businesses are unable to deliver goods and many are finding it difficult to get to work.

The good news

The problems described above have also affected Samara's Aid projects but despite the difficulties, progress is being made and a new project has been added. In 2020 land was purchased to grow wheat, to provide flour, to make bread, to provide food for those attending the Outreach Centre for Widows and Orphans, and hopefully others badly in need of food. The land has been cleared, the seed sown and the wheat is growing well. The first crop is expected in early summer.

Another benefit arising from this project is that the land that was bought was littered with large stones and rocks that had to be cleared. This turned out to be a blessing in disguise as they can be used in construction. Buildings made from these rocks, over 1,500 years ago, can still be found in Syria. They are also of high value if sold, contributing to the cost of ongoing work at the Medical Centre and eventually saving money on construction costs at Grace Hospital.

The work that needed doing on the Medical Centre is nearing completion. When it opens it will provide much needed life-saving treatments, from emergency services to providing dialysis machines, endoscopic surgical procedures and X-rays.



For a short time the Outreach Centre closed due to Covid but the opportunity was taken to make further improvements by replacing the plumbing and adding air conditioning and heating systems. During the holidays the Centre reopened for children and two teachers have been recruited to help run the Centre. Very soon the Centre will be fully operational providing play areas for children, help with schooling, psychosocial and therapeutic activities when needed, as well as training and support for widows, to help them find work and provide for their children.



Samara, and all those involved in the projects in Syria, feel strongly that their mission is to rebuild hope through:

- educating and empowering the next generation to enable them to rebuild their country and their communities;
- rebuilding the medical infrastructure severely damaged by war, to give everyone dependable access to medical care;
- supporting livelihoods to enable widows and the poor to retain their dignity instead of depending on handouts;
- farming and producing essential foods to assist the poor while encouraging and supporting others to focus on good and productive farming practices.



Of course, Samara's Aid can only play a small part in this, but with God's help it can contribute to sowing the seeds of hope in Syria.

If you would like to receive updates on the project please sign up on the contacts page at: samarasaidappeal.org





Christmas

Stefan Bracher

Messy Christmas saw 26 families come along and take part in the Messy Church services. From dancing, crafts, puppet crib service, shooting Christmas figures to a sketch based around Jesus coming to earth, it was brilliant. For a good few days people were able to relax and enjoy the feeling of Christmas over that period of time, all be it in some strict social distancing, bubbled groups and hand sanitiser galore.

However reality came knocking shortly after once we had received notification that Covid also decided to come along for the celebrations. A good few people had to self-isolate, including myself, whilst a few people had to fight the virus. One family in particular had been severely hit by the virus, leaving one member of the family fighting for their life in hospital. During this time someone also decided to attack the family's cars, causing hundreds of pounds worth of damage to each car and adding further unnecessary strain on the family.

This sparked a ton more prayer, which all helped that person in hospital and the family to literally feel God's presence and God's

healing hand hold them. The family is a new family to Messy Church, Christmas had been one of the first things they had been to where they had been back in a church for a long time. I'm glad to say that the person in hospital is now out of the woods and on the way to making a great recovery. The family is taking things day by day, however they still need your thoughts and prayers to get back to full health and for the member of family to feel well enough to come out of hospital.

Messy Church over Christmas was brilliantly amazing, it was no one's fault this happened, we took all of the precautions for everything to run in a very tight Covid-Secure way. We all know the risks of the virus, but there is also no real way of knowing where it comes from, who has it, who doesn't know they have it, where it is actually contracted, etc. So I pray for all of the families and ask you to do the same, to help them enjoy the activities we have online in a really safe manner. We also pray for inspiration as ideas start to run dry and pray that whatever we do God will be there guiding the families and us forward.

Looking forward to a time where it is safe for us to meet back together in person, once again.



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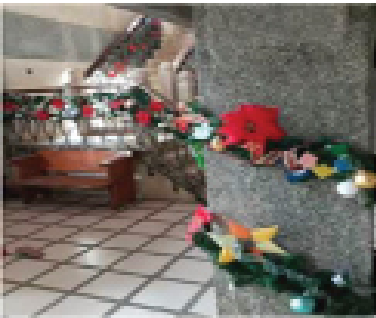
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At LAMA House the changes made during 2020 continue as we begin 2021 - we have decided to close completely until further notice. The Covid pandemic restricts our work preventing home visits, follow-up, street outreach, church or anything very much.



Our Christmas was very different without all the children and staff around our long table at LAMA House. We made up Christmas hampers of rice, groceries and gifts to give to former boys/girls and families who are struggling & who live nearby where we are allowed to travel - and we sent money to those who are further away. Thankfully, the children who were discharged in June are all doing well with relatives, in work or home schooling.

The mother of the other two girls in our care is now in a better place to provide for them, she has a regular job and place to live rent-free.

They went home for Christmas and New Year and if all goes well will stay with her. It looks promising, and our Social Worker will continue to follow up every week. We also have been able to visit weekly and give money for groceries. Their Uncle and his wife are strong Christians, please pray they will get more involved in caring for the girls. Peter was able to get a travel pass to visit Wowie - whose family house LAMA still plans to renovate when back to normal, we can re-use some of the old LAMA House windows for his house. Wowie is doing well with his Aunt. Pray that his brothers and sister will also help.

Sadly, we also decided to let go of all our staff for now, except our Social Worker and Johndel (former LAMA boy) who cooks and does the grocery shopping for us. Only Tony remains, as we cannot find a place for him - he is in his twenties but has learning difficulties.

It is difficult to plan ahead, with no end to the restrictions in sight. Since 1986 we have served boys aged 9-19 who have been orphaned, abandoned, neglected or abused. In recent years we

have had very few referrals, maybe due to President Duterte's campaign to arrest (or eradicate) parents and syndicates who exploit children. There is still so much need in the country, we are researching future possibilities and wait (on the edge of our seats) to see what God will do.

I feel like we haven't accomplished anything much in 2020. But God has a plan for LAMA House and as long as we keep looking to Him our lives will be fruitful. "Jesus said, Abide in Me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine - neither can you unless you abide in Me." John 15:4. This has been the lesson of 2020 for me -

Stay safe - Stay at Home - Abide in Me.

So it is time to rest for the Gomez family, I am so thankful for good health (better with rest). Now we realize how tired we really are! It has been a strain on our family: the intense, futile battle with the judicial system to end child sex trafficking in the city, then Ana had to give up her dream of studying medicine, then came lockdown, then letting go of staff who are close friends. Ana and Simon are also without income, while Michael and Jeli's work continues. We are so thankful for God's Presence, and for safety and provision.

Our staff were salaried even when they had to stay home, and we gave each full redundancy pay - most have been with us many years! Pray they can find work in this difficult time.

Sadly also our outreach to the Regional Rehabilitation Centre for Youth has also

been suspended during the Covid pandemic. Over the previous months we have been so blessed to be able to minister there. Prior to 2020 restrictions, each Sunday, Simon, Michael and our worship team went to the RRYC to have church with 125 boys. We always left the chapel service every Sunday teary-eyed, not because we felt sad for the young detainees, but mostly because we see God at work in them in such an awesome way through our worship and God's Word...and because we are amazed how he uses us to minister to them.

One boy told us that Sunday is the BEST day of their week because its church. So please continue to remember these boys in your prayers, hopefully these



visits can resume soon.

Meanwhile, our team of hard-working builders, Arnold, Judy and Erwin, have finished repairing the entire roof and gutters, the bat colony has been safely evicted. The team are now working to replace our many broken windows with new aluminium ones, quite a big job, Arnold and Judy were part of the team from Pugo who built LAMA House in the 1990's, excellent workers!

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WAVES

Supporting Seaford Families



During the pandemic WAVES has been giving support to many families remotely, with their Family Worker, Jill supporting clients over the phone and in some cases with 1-1 visits taking place on Seaford Beach.

Back in April, Morrison's delivered food to WAVES so they could reach 36 families with food parcels. Later in the summer they pooled resources with Seahaven food bank and were able to continue to deliver to 36 families with more substantial food parcels, along with the crafts from the Towner Gallery. This continued throughout the summer with a handful of families continuing to receive food parcels to date.

In early June Waves was contacted by Donna Wilson from 3VA Eastbourne, to see if art and craft activities for primary age children would benefit our families and if it were possible to distribute them. Donna was liaising with Towner Gallery who were putting

these packs together. The first delivery of 35 packs commenced on 2nd July 2020. This initial project was over an 8-week period, with art and craft materials and instructions for fortnightly drops. The families we delivered to were very grateful as it helped greatly with home learning and creative activity. These packs reached 54 school age children. Since then another two craft activities have been distributed.

In October and December WAVES ran a takeaway service for families in need. The food was cooked in the kitchen at St. Leonard's Hall and then volunteers delivered the hot food to families. They reached 11 families (19 adults and 27 children) on both occasions. As well as cooked food they were able to deliver extra store cupboard food received from St. Luke's Harvest Festival. A huge thank you to Sainsbury's, Towner Gallery, St. Luke's and St. Leonard's churches who have contributed towards Munch Lunch. The hope is that this can be expanded in 2021.



At Christmas, after receiving a generous donation, WAVES were able to give 23 children from families in need a substantial toy each. The families were very grateful. One parent said that her children would not have received very much this year due to family circumstances changing.

Poetry Corner

St. Leonard's Mouse

M= Merciful Father

E= Everlasting Love

R= Redemption

F= Faithful God

I= In heavenly love abiding

I move unseen
Quietly behind a screen
Sometimes I hide up high
On a pillar that almost reaches the sky.

I watch humans come in and out
They now wear muzzles,
It really is a puzzle,
I wonder, what's all that about?

Have they all fallen out
As they have to sit spread about?
No longer do they sing,
Now that really is a thing.

The candles often give out light,
Making the darkness bright.
I dodge from row to row,
They don't see me though.

Sometimes I take a nap
When I squeeze into a gap
In floor boards or a cupboard among books
I always find somewhere that no one looks.

Whatever I see day by day
When humans come along my way,
I remain cosy in God's house
MERFI, St Leonard's Church mouse.

Linda S Parsons

Leisure

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?-
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows:
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass:
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night:
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance:
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began?
A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

W.H. Davies

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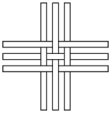
I watch the News

I watch the news, I see the faces of the people in a focus all too clear,
And then closer than a shadow I see the good Lord standing oh so near.
If the camera lens could see the trickle of the tears being mopped up by his hand,
Then many more would turn to faith in the things they say they simply don't understand.

In days such as these we walk a path that none of us would've wanted or even planned.

But we carry forward a banner declaring triumph over whatever comes our way.
For we bear the word of God in our hearts and on our lips every time we pray.
Raise up the sword above your head and stride onto the goal,
And crash it on the shield, tell out our faith in Christ is whole,
For the Lord is oh so close and though I hear my heart miss a beat,
When the victory is finally won, I will bow down at his feet.

Bob Rice



February Calendar and Lectionary

Wednesday 3rd	3.00pm	Meet the Vicar	On Zoom
Saturday 6th	4.00pm	Messy Church	Online
Sunday 7th	9.30am	Sunday Worship with Parish Communion	Online
	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7	On Zoom
Wednesday 10th	3.00pm	Meet the Vicar	On Zoom
Sunday 14th	9.30am	Sunday Worship with Parish Communion	Online
	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7: Christmas Praise	On Zoom
Tuesday 16th	4.30pm*	Messy Church Pancake Party	Online
Wednesday 17th	8.00am	A service for Ash Wednesday	Online
	3.00pm	Meet the Vicar	On Zoom
Thursday 18th	7.30pm	Lent Book Club	On Zoom
Sunday 21st	9.30am	Sunday Worship with Parish Communion	Online
	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7	On Zoom
Wednesday 24th	3.00pm	Meet the Vicar	On Zoom
Thursday 25th	7.30pm	Lent Book Club	On Zoom
Sunday 28th	9.30am	Sunday Worship with Parish Communion	Online
	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7	On Zoom

*Time to be confirmed. All events and services are subject to late amendment in response to the ongoing changing situation.

Meet the Vicar on Zoom: Meeting ID 936 9852 1227 and passcode Seaford21
St.Luke's@7 on Zoom: Meeting ID 853 4604 0118 and passcode SL@7

Lectionary for February

***Year C**

7th February: 2nd Sunday before Lent

Reading: 2Corinthians 4:3-6*
 Gospel: John 1:1-14*

21st February: 1st Sunday of Lent

Reading: 1Peter 3:18-22*
 Gospel: Mark 1:9-15*

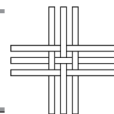
14th February: Next before Lent

Reading: 2Kings 2:1-12*
 Gospel: Mark 9:2-9*

28th February: 2nd Sunday of Lent

Reading: Romans 4:13-25*
 Gospel: Mark 8:31-38*

March Calendar and Lectionary



Wednesday 3rd	3.00pm	Meet the Vicar	On Zoom
Thursday 4th	7.30pm	Lent Book Club	On Zoom
Saturday 6th	4.00pm	Messy Church	Online
Sunday 7th	9.30am	Sunday Worship with Parish Communion	Online
	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7	On Zoom
Wednesday 10th	3.00pm	Meet the Vicar	On Zoom
Thursday 11th	7.30pm	Lent Book Club	On Zoom
	9.30am	Sunday Worship with Parish Communion	Online
Sunday 14th	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7	On Zoom
	3.00pm	Meet the Vicar	On Zoom
Wednesday 17th	3.00pm	Meet the Vicar	On Zoom
Thursday 18th	7.30pm	Lent Book Club	On Zoom
	9.30am	Sunday Worship with Parish Communion	Online
Sunday 21st	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7	On Zoom
	3.00pm	Meet the Vicar	On Zoom
Wednesday 24th	3.00pm	Meet the Vicar	On Zoom
Thursday 25th	7.30pm	Lent Book Club	On Zoom
	9.30am	Sunday Worship with Parish Communion	Online
Sunday 28th	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7	On Zoom
	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7	On Zoom

Parish Magazine

Items for the forthcoming editions of the Magazine are most welcome and should be sent to magazine@seafordparish.org.uk

April-May edition by Tuesday 15th March 2021

June-July edition by Tuesday 18th May 2021

Lectionary for March

***Year C**

7th March: 3rd Sunday of Lent

Reading: 1Corinthians 1:18-25*

Gospel: John 2:13-22*

21st March: 5th Sunday of Lent

Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34*

Gospel: John 12:20-33*

14th March: Mothering Sunday

Reading: Colossians 3:12-17*

Gospel: Luke 2:33-35*

28th March: Palm Sunday

Reading: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29*

Gospel: Mark 11:1-11*

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Calling all Historians

The book to the left follows the History of St. Leonard's Church up to 1990, in fact up to its 'assumed' 900th year.

Wouldn't it be great to update it to the current day, and with it raise much needed money for our coffers.

The re-ordering that took place in 2006 changed the interior style and look of the building considerably, somewhere near possibly, to what it would have looked like prior to the pews being installed. So much was changed at that time, and not subsequently recorded for all to read.

I have been taking photographs of various aspects of the church for fabric and insurance purposes, and have often thought of making a pictorial and written record for future generations to look back on. We are after all the present custodians of the building, and owe it to past and future congregations to retain and record its history and splendour.

Could you put your time and passion into updating our history, or do you have old photographic records of the interior features of this fine building? Postcards were often available depicting the exterior, but not much is recorded of the interior. Do you have any material or images from past years that could be borrowed, for scanning or photographing?

If more images could be made available, and a willing historian were to come forward, a new updated and informative volume could be produced, and sold in aid of Church funds.

Tony Willer

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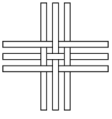
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Children, Youth & Family Missioner

Stefan Bracher		cyfw@seafordparish.org.uk
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Parish Office

Charlie Christie	01323 894216	admin@seafordparish.org.uk
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Bob Geering	01323 894216	bob@seafordparish.org.uk
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Lay Readers

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Churchwardens

Fred Bass	01323 893054	fred@seafordparish.org.uk
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Lisa Hazle	07889 183435	lisah@seafordparish.org.uk
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Deputy Wardens

Janet Kent (St. Leonard's)	01323 490050	janet@seafordparish.org.uk
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Tony Gubbins(St. Luke's)		lukedeputy1@seafordparish.org.uk
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