

Parish Magazine

The Parish of Sutton
with Seaford

Parish News

Clergy Letter

Book Review

Mission News

Prayer Diary



At the heart of Christmas



December 2021-January 2022

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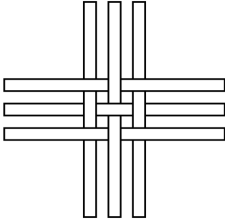
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Parish Magazine

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

December 2021-January 2022

Contents

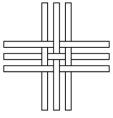
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 04. Parish News | 29. When Did You Make Faith Your Own? |
| 07. Christmas Services | 30. Christian Aid |
| 08. I Love Christmas | 33. A Christmas Shopping Story |
| 09. There's a Star Up Above | 34. Mission Update |
| 10. Book Review | 36. Homelink |
| 12. The Order of St. Richard | 38. Getting to Know Me |
| 15. Knitted Nativity | 40. LAMA |
| 16. Children, Families & Youth | 43. Seafriends |
| 19. Building Project Update | 44. Flower Festival and Artwave |
| 20. Finance News | 46. The Oxen |
| 22. Advent Book Club | 48. Calendar and Lectionary |
| 25. Prayer Diary | 50. Parish Directory |

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At the heart of Christmas



At the Heart of Christmas is the Church of England's theme for Advent and Christmas 2021 and will consist of 12 Stories and Meditations from Justin Welby, Stephen Cottrell and guests where they will share personal stories exploring themes close to the heart of Christmas. For more details visit www.churchofengland.org.

Revd. Lucy Hollingsworth



Revd Lucy Hollingsworth has accepted Bishop Martin's invitation to become Bishop's Advisor for Self-Supporting Ministry (SSM)

in the Diocese of Chichester.

Lucy will be taking over this area of responsibility from Canon Julia Peaty, who was so diligent in her commitment to self-supporting ministers in the diocese. Lucy will be part of the Apostolic Life team, serving as an advocate for SSM ministry from the beginning of the discernment process through to deployment and ongoing ministerial development. She will also be offering support and facilitating learning events for SSMs in the diocese.

This is a voluntary role, which Lucy will undertake alongside her work as a solicitor four days a week in a local firm specialising in Wills and Probate. Lucy's vocation was discerned and nurtured in the diocese, and she served her curacy in Ringmer and then Scaynes Hill. Lucy is now licensed as an SSM to the Deanery of Lewes and Seaford.

Lucy says: 'I am excited to have accepted Bishop Martin's invitation to serve the life of the Diocese as Bishop's Advisor for Self-Supporting Ministry and am looking forward to encouraging and supporting Self-Supporting Ministry in the diocese. I will be contacting all the SSMs soon and asking for their ideas.'

Seaford Parish Men's Meal

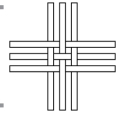
Progress is being made in arrangements for our meeting in January but no definite date is available yet. Once settled, details will be in the News Sheet. Also, I shall circulate regular members as usual.

Men come to the meetings from a range of backgrounds. There are lively conversations! After the meal we have a speaker who may keep us informed about some aspect of his work in the church or of his own background. It is always a stimulating talk. Do join us!

Keith Carlisle

Parish Lunch

It is hoped to have a Parish Lunch on Wednesday 5th January. Please see the News Sheet nearer the time for details.



ChurchSuite

ChurchSuite Roll Out

As you'll be aware, this year the Church database system has been switched to ChurchSuite. This ensures that the data we have for you is held even more securely and enables you to make changes very quickly to your contact details.

In January 2022, you will be given access to ChurchSuite which additionally allows us to manage rotas, make bookings, give online, see what events are coming up and which groups are available to join.

ChurchSuite will also enable new members to get an insight into what is going on in our Church.

In December and January we will be having two 10-minute sessions to explain further what ChurchSuite is and how to get started.

ChurchSuite is accessible to those who have Android or Apple devices connected to the internet using a free ChurchSuite App. Using a browser on a computer, you will also be able to access ChurchSuite and login to view what is going on. It is a tool that will take a bit of time to get used to, but the more you use it the more you will understand how it works.

Stefan Bracher

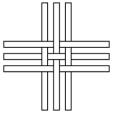
Shoebox Appeal 2021

Well! That is another year where the supporters have put all their love and generosity into providing shoe boxes and knitted blankets etc. David and myself delivered 60 boxes of smiles to Link to Hope's new premises in Ferring, near Worthing. Also in the car were two large boxes of knitted hats, scarves and gloves at least six large bin liners full of knitted and crocheted lap blankets and some beautifully knitted children's jumpers. Plus some fabric and knitted toys and toiletry items. The back of our car was so packed there wasn't any space left to fit a sheet of paper in!

Thank you to our knitters who have been working hard throughout the year and have also started knitting for next year. You are brilliant. If anyone has any knitting yarn they would like liberating, contact me and I can get it collected and shared with our knitters to help them continue their work.

Finally, those who have access to the internet check out the Link to Hope website www.linktohope.co.uk where you will find details of the many projects which they support, photos of the shoeboxes as they arrive in Ferring and videos featuring some of the areas in Eastern Europe where your boxes of smiles are taken.

Thank you for your continued support.
Hazel Bramley 01323 892883/07890 726957 or email
bramleyd620@btinternet.com



Parish News

The Inter What?

Unfortunately (or fortunately depending on your perspective) the world is moving more and more to digital communication and use of the internet. With the closure of banks on the high street, grocery shopping moving online, etc. we feel it is right and important to help those who would like to learn a little more about the internet.

In January and February we will be running a course aimed at helping those who would like to learn about the internet, how to make use of it and what it all means. No question is going to be too silly, we all start somewhere!

We will talk about different internet packages that are currently available, what array of different terms and phrases actually mean and consider which type of device might best meet your needs. We'll also look at how to get started, set up and use an email address, how to look out for suspicious emails and scams, how to make online purchases safely (including groceries) and how to use internet banking.

We will give a more formal structure nearer the time, but this will give you a great start to finding out more.

If you are interested in this, please put your name on the form at the back of church or speak with Stefan Bracher on 07506 143476.

Seaford Parish Women's Group

SPWG started up again on 6th September at St Luke's. We have had a varied programme of cheese & wine on our first meeting welcoming old and new members. On the 20th September we enjoyed a quiz night led by Phil Armstrong a board games evening on the 4th October and an enlightening talk on 18th October by Rev. Lucy on Probate, Prayers and Pulpit. During November we enjoyed a soup & sausages night and getting ahead for Christmas craft evening. In December we will be holding our Stopover Service on 6th December in St. Leonard's Church at 2.00pm to hand over all our gifts collected for the young women. Please join us for the service and bring along new wrapped gifts such as toiletries, socks, scarves, jewellery for us to donate. The charity is a unique set up giving the girls safety and counselling in a caring safe environment. On the 20th December we will have our Carols singalong in St. Luke's followed by mince pies. Our AGM will be on the 17th January when we will discuss our future programme. At present meetings are held at St Luke's at 7.30pm venue and times may vary. We look forward to welcoming you and especially at our Stopover Service. This service is open to members and nonmembers.

From the Registers

Funerals

Margaret Darwall-Smith 90

Betty Landrock 91

Christmas Services

A Service of Lessons and Carols

St. Leonard's Church on Sunday 19th December at 6.00pm

Community Carols

St. Luke's Church on Sunday 19th December at 6.00pm

Messy Christingle

St. Leonard's Church on Monday 20th December at 4.00pm

Crib Service

St. Luke's Church on Christmas Eve at 3.00pm

Nativity

St. Leonard's Church on Christmas Eve at 5.00pm, repeated at 7.00pm

First Communion of Christmas

St. Leonard's on Christmas Eve at 11.00pm

Christmas Holy Communion

St. Leonard's on Christmas Day at 8.00am (said service) and 9.30am

Christmas Holy Communion

St. Luke's on Christmas Day 9.30am



At the heart
of Christmas





I am keen on early Christmases, it starts by getting the tree down from the loft on the first Sunday of Advent. I love writing Christmas cards, and putting the twinkly lights out and I have four or five crib sets, including a knitted one!

I love Christmas perhaps because of the nostalgia and warm memories that it stirs up in me. The comfort of the Carols, and candlelit church, the bells... I could keep this list going.

I love Christmas because it is one of the kinder more gentler heralds of change in my life. Each year Christmas is the same. It has always been the same since I was small. We have always had the same Christmas, and yet, actually no. Like the philosopher's broomstick, I have never had two Christmases that were the same.

Our children are now adults, yes they still want a stocking full of presents but we fill them differently. There will be some people that we won't see this year because they are on shift work, because they are being extra cautious or because they have gone to be with the Lord. Christmas is not the same. It is never the same. I have never had the same Christmas, but I think I have

because each year the change happens in small slow increments.

For some of you this Christmas will be a loud herald of a sharp and painful change. Perhaps someone close to you has died over this year and so you should look out for references to a Blue Christmas (with thanks to Elvis Presley). This phrase is an accepted way of summing up a Christmas that is not trying hard to be all false jingly and happy.

I was disappointed to read, in the Church Times, that the CoE is not especially associated with spiritual encounters. A survey says that whilst lots of people see the CoE in a kind, benign way they don't especially associate Church or worship with a spiritual encounter. For myself, I find the nostalgic element of Christmas to be a secret bomb that goes off at a deeper level and I find myself singing how the Hopes and Fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

And we need that. We have had a lot of fears of late, we could do with a fresh renewal of hope. And so I sing.

Apparently the same survey concludes that we Anglicans are also better at talking ourselves down, at airing what is wrong with our church rather than what

is right. Please do not let that be you. It is too easy, too cheap. Instead count your blessings, see how the light shines in the darkness and the darkness....(can you finish the sentence?)

I am grateful to one of you who last year asked me about a carol that I did not much care for: O Holy Night. Not one of my favourites. Not sure why. Perhaps because of the tweeness of the first couple of lines – “O holy night, the stars are brightly shining, It is the night of our dear Saviour’s birth”. But the challenge to look harder, to hear the next lines “long lay the world in sin and ever pining” – well yes, there has been good reasons for that this year, its been a rough year in so many ways. And then comes that wonderful line “Til he appeared and the soul felt its worth”.

Where do you go to to rekindle your faith, for your soul to feel again that you matter that you’re loved? “A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,” starts

the next verse. You can tell that I have changed my view on this carol! If you can read some more of it because it goes on to sing about liberty for slaves. It was originally a song of challenge to the presumption that the Transatlantic Slave Trade was okay. This song is dangerous and it is nostalgic.

And that for me is what makes for a good Christmas and strengthens me for the New Year. May you find a moment when again your soul might feel it is worth, when you might feel again the call of God to be an answer to other’s prayers, because you have paused at the manger, and remembered, and received again the One in whom all our hopes and fears are met.

Happy Christmas

James & Lucy

There’s a Star up Above

Linda Parsons

*There’s a star up above
Lighting the night sky
With God’s love.*

*Glory streams across the earth
At the news of Christ’s birth
Sending with it love and hope
For within the manager, below the sky
Lays our Saviour who came this day
To lead us and show the way
We should live from day to day.*

*So within all the laughter and fun,
Take time to think of the One
Whom we celebrate on this day
Sing praises and say
‘Alleluia’ Jesus is born today.
Let my heart shine, shine as the star.
May it glow bright within my soul,
Let the world know
Jesus lives in me and makes me whole.*

Book Review

James Hollingsworth

The book that was almost our book for the Advent Book Club

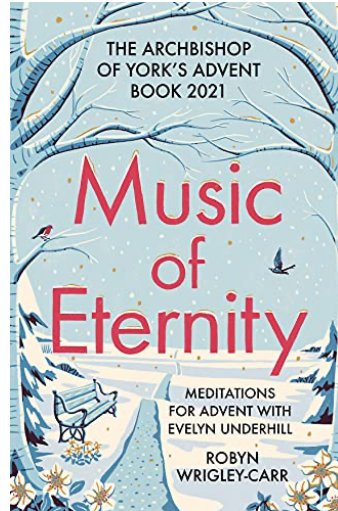
This is an amazing book, you should absolutely get it and read it. It is not an easy read, it is not full of pithy easy to drop into a book review sort of quotes, it is a pilgrimage.

The Archbishop of York's Advent book 2021. *Music of Eternity, Meditations for advent with Evelyn Underhill*, by Robyn Wrigley-Carr.

Evelyn Underhill was a British mystic who died in 1942. This book takes some of her writings and with some scripture and some commentary from Wrigley-Carr leads us in our preparations over Advent.

I could not choose it for our book club because it is just a bit intense and the idea of reading about six pages, each day, and then discussing this at book club would be too much for me. Even now I am only half way through it.

It starts with reminding us that God is the first mover. Prevenient Grace we call it. So that our progress in prayer is most safely measured by our increasing recognition of God's prevenient presence, acting with power and gentleness in the soul's growth (p24). Adoration is our essential response to God (p1) and through worship, self-interest dries up,



and we are guarded against the poison of spiritual egoism (p29). The real Christian will always be a revolutionary (p34) but alas God is less impressed with large projects and more with redemptive acts (p38). The Church is to be a tool of God, not a comfortable religious club (p46). So whilst it is easy to enjoy the clean straw and nice furry animals of a Nativity, real redemption is worked out among the ruck of the sinful, sick, maimed, stupid and self-interested. Redemption is accomplished through sharing the suffering and injustice of life (p50). So God comes to us in the humble manger not in the palace, but from God's perspective, is it that different? (p75).



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The Order of Saint Richard

Bob Carrington



On the 9th of October 2021 in Chichester Cathedral, John Baker and Kate Steer received the Order of Saint Richard at Sung Evensong.

The Order was presented by the Bishop of Chichester, Bishop Martin.

It is with great pleasure that I report that John and Kate were among 39 people from parishes across the Diocese who received the Order of Saint Richard. This is indeed a much deserved privilege. Each person has given invaluable service to their parish and community in a variety of ways.

John Baker

John as we know was appointed Organist and Choirmaster at St. Leonard's over 30 years ago. His exemplary service has ensured a very high standard and much appreciated level of music. He has offered a varied choral contribution for regular and special Festivals throughout the church year.

He has over the years been a great encourager to many of us to sing in the choir and enjoy music for worship. So many Hymns, Songs, Anthems and Canticles are now part of our repertoire.

John has organised with Stephanie an amazing monthly Saturday lunchtime Concert programme. He has secured a

wide variety of professional musicians from around the world. This has been an important part of our Christian witness to the local community as well. The Concerts have raised significant funds for the parish, Christian Aid and Organ maintenance.

John has a working knowledge of the organ in St. Leonard's and takes great care to make sure a very valuable instrument is regularly and well maintained.

We are very fortunate to have John's fantastic contribution to encourage us to worship in this parish and no doubt lift our spirits to praise our heavenly Father.



Kate Steer

Kate served initially as Organist, but then more widely as musical lead for St. Luke's Church, for over 30 years.

Her worship leadership and gifting has provided a wealth of varied music. Kate has engaged with all ages in regular, traditional services and contemporary worship settings. She has introduced the latest songs into congregational worship.

Kate's creativity with projected images, meditations and reflections at St. Luke's at 7 each month is particularly appreciated.

She is enthusiastic in her work with children in her professional life and brings them into church at times as well as involving them in the local community. A number of children and young people have been taught to play

a musical instrument by Kate and appreciate her great teaching abilities in singing as witnessed at school Christmas Concerts in church.

We are very fortunate to have Kate's fantastic contribution to encourage us to worship in this parish and she brings a wealth of knowledge and experience which is highly regarded both in the parish and also across the Diocese.



The Order of St. Richard was launched in 2019 as an annual award for lay people within the Diocese who have made exceptional contributions to the parish, the local community, or the Diocese. In October 2019 some 40 people received the Order of St. Richard in the Cathedral. However, the pandemic meant that plans for the 2020 award ceremony were postponed until October 2021.

Don't think that you're going to play that in here!



Kate Steer

Thank you so much for your messages of support and congratulations when John and I received our awards. It was a lovely service in the cathedral and, despite the A27 closure on the day with plenty of long queues, we managed to arrive with 5 minutes to spare!

Receiving this award has made me think back on my journey and remember some fantastic experiences on the way.

I remember the first time that I took my guitar into church (age 15) and being told firmly "Don't think that you're going to play that in here!" When I moved to Seaford 13 years later, I left a music group (guitar included) that had been running for at least a decade. I wasn't a rebellious teenager, honestly!

Highlights for me included leading worship at several Diocesan Youth camps which was where I met Capt. Bob Carrington. The 1988 camp saw me with baby (Ben) on my back and my guitar on my front. At least I was balanced! Youth camps were where I first met Pauline and Stephen.

Whilst sitting in the cathedral, it suddenly came to me that I was sitting just next to where I had sung at an All Night Diocesan Youth Event. I used to take my youth club from Worthing to

these camps/events but I certainly couldn't manage an all-night event now (not without snoring anyway!).

I have had the privilege of playing/singing all over the Diocese from Chichester to St. Mary's, Rye and many churches in between. In the early 1990s I used to play at regular healing services at St. Nicholas' in Brighton lead by Bishop Lindsay Urwin (Diocesan Missioner at the time) and at the Chapel Royal (North Street, Brighton) on Wednesday lunchtimes, where Andy and my paths apparently crossed! I worked for NatWest in the Chapel Royal days.

I started playing at St. Luke's on 19th November 1989 with a 22 month old toddler who sat on the organ stool next to me. He never tried to add any extra notes, much to my surprise.

When the organ overheated (its final swan song), melting some of the valves inside, I can still remember the burning smell as the pitch gradually sank lower and lower. Everyone kept singing as I dashed around to the old piano that backed on to the organ. The organ eventually found a new home and was refurbished.

It is a real privilege to have all these and many more wonderful memories and I thank God for them and all the friends that I've made on the way.

Knitted Nativity



Hazel Bramley

Following the achievement of 5 nativity sets last year. I had the thought that as there were 4 nursing homes who missed out last year perhaps we could knit a set for them, but not so many figures.

The request was made for knitters and the response was positive.

Four previous knitters were willing to have another attempt and a further three came forward saying they were willing to try but could only manage basic stitches or straightforward knitting without shaping. Another person rang to say she was used to knitting a variety of items and was keen to help with anything needed. So with myself that made 9 of us.

From thinking only to provide a small number of figures we have managed to produce 4 complete sets. A huge thank you to Rosemary, Ann, Lindsay, Diana, Maureen, Margaret, Valerie and Ruth.

Again we have used Alan Dart's The Nativity Collection , permission granted by Sirdar last year, with minor

adaptions to enable the head to be knitted as part of the body and reduce the number of tiny pieces of knitting. Looking for a tiny hand ceases to be funny after a few times!!!

The sets will be blessed in both St. Leonard's and St. Luke's on Sunday 28th November prior to going into isolation before being delivered to Threeways, Abundant Grace, Clifden House and Blatchington Manor 2nd week in December.

I must also thank Malcolm for taking the photos and Wendy for the idea last year . She is now thinking about year 3 (the jury is out on that though)!



CHILDREN
FAMILIES
YOUTH

Stefan Bracher



What a way to be ending a year and looking ahead to 2022 with more excitement.

We had a fantastic week at the October half term holiday club where we met with 70 children across the week. We had activities from making door hangers, face masks, pencil pots, junk modelling robots, cookies and jitter bugs (you will have to ask the children what they are). We also had 32 people who came along in the week to help lead activities and a great sum came in to help with the cost of the holiday club too.



Thank you to all those that came along and helped out and for those who gave prayer support and financial support. The week would not have been such a success had it not been for that type of support, so thank you!

As part of the success of the holiday club and from just one promotional

event our numbers in Sparks have gone through the roof. In our last edition of the magazine, I wrote about the big increase in numbers and the need to split the Sparks group (children's group for ages 4-11). Our numbers have risen again from having 22 in September to 52. We average 30 children an evening and we are now approaching the time when we will need to be creating a waiting list for children.

This is something that I personally find difficult, to tell a parent that we do not have enough space for their child to hear of the amazing things that God has done and is doing for them. We really need to split the groups into more age-appropriate sessions, as we have some children who do not want to come every week because of the types of activities that we have to do to cater to all the ages in the group.

The good thing is we have an excellent team of volunteers able to help on a Friday evening. What that means is we can create a rota for additional volunteers in the group (i.e. twice a month or every other week). If you think you could do that on a Friday please let me know, using the details below, as it will mean that we will be

able to develop what we can offer and split the group in to those more age appropriate settings.



Ignite, our youth group is slowly growing we now have 8 that attend on a regular evening. This is also a group where we can see the potential for growth. This would enable us to launch a separate evening, which would be just based on fun and games with an invitation to attend a group session. This second evening would be based on learning more about Jesus, for example through watching *The Chosen* (available for free online and really good if you haven't seen it yet). But it is the same issue as the children's group, we need some additional volunteers to help lead the groups alongside me.

Our toddler group has had great success since coming back from the summer. We have developed what we offer at St. Leonard's and St. Luke's Tots' Treats and have also introduced more Christian stories. In the New Year we will be looking to introduce a prayer time, just a 30 second prayer to God about a specific issue. Following that we will be looking to also develop a 1-minute message for parents to think about throughout their day.

I do ask that you please still remember that at both toddler sessions (and of course Sparks and Ignite) we still need to think about safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. Therefore, it is still important in that setting to ensure that we do not have any additional church members or members of the

public coming in and out of church whilst the groups meet. With love we will have to turn you around and not allow additional people in until after the group has finished.

Messy Church had a break in November, due to having our Holiday Club. But we will be back with plenty of Messy Christmas events and then in January too (but this time on the second Saturday of January). Messy Church continues to grow in numbers and we always have a good turn out to our Messy Church events and services.



Although Messy Church didn't run in November, Lucy and Kate did put together a service for families for Remembrance Day where we had one family come along and join us, which was great! We will be looking at how we can develop our more informal services so that we can welcome and encourage children and families into church. After all we are meant to be one big family.

Inevitably change does not always sit comfortably with everyone. It means whilst some developments might not be quite up your street we hope and pray that they might grow on you or you might just love them straight away. All age worship (what I like to call

worship for everyone) is one of the hardest types of services to create – and get right, however we do need to look at this and take it seriously. Messy Church is of course still church, just as much as a 9.30am or 11.15am service is, however we want to see a church family not church segments. There is a time for all different services, but we need something where we can all come together and worship as one.

We are currently in contact with approximately 120 families a week, imagine if half of those came to church regularly! It starts with us looking at developing a service that works for everyone and being committed in doing so, not falling down because it does not work within a few months. Instead, we need to look at what is going on and asking people to be honest with us, so we can develop how we share the message of Jesus with everyone.

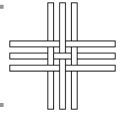
There is much more work to be done to continue to build children, youth and family links within our community (including young adults). We are making progress and it really is an exciting time to be part of the church. God is great and will continue to help us through the tough times by speaking to us and guiding us in the right way. I ask you therefore to keep praying and keep asking for God to work in each of our hearts to find the best way to develop what we all do.

God bless.

Stefan Bracher
(Children, Youth and Family Missioner)
cyfw@seafordparish.org.uk
07506143476



The Building project – a brief update



Sale of the hall

You may remember that in order to maximise the value of the hall we need to be in a position to sell it with planning permission. Currently we have two alternative schemes from our architect. The preferred one depends on obtaining permission from the adjacent land owner for limited pedestrian access to the rear of the development. This is not unreasonable as it is currently used as a car park. This is taking time and contact is not easy.

Use of the hall meantime

At the moment it is not possible for us to continue to use the hall. To do so would be costly and in reality further investment in repairs would be required to make it fit for purpose.

The place of St. Luke's in our parish

We have already moved the parish office to St. Luke's and made it our centre for hall hire. The building is a flexible space doubling as both a church and hall, it is well insulated so easily heated and it has accessible facilities. Next we plan to upgrade the kitchen there.

St. Leonard's Church

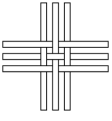
After consulting with our architects and gaining an understanding of our needs they are working on possible layouts for a reimagined and re-centred accessible church community building in the heart of town. We hope to be able to share some of the initial ideas in the coming months so that you will be able to feedback your thoughts and ideas.

We need a name

Both James and I together with the standing committee, feel we need a creative name to focus on. The building project is about enabling us to reimagine how St. Leonard's Church is used. As the oldest building in the heart of our town we envisage making it accessible to all and re-centring it in our community of faith. Suggestions for a project name so far include Re-imagine and Re-Centring but alternatives are most welcome. So think of a name and let us know your thoughts.

Other Building News

A faculty was prepared for repairs to St Leonard's tower, clock and windows. We currently have authority to replace the Ascension window that has been rattling so badly. As this is an extremely urgent requirement, we need to do this in cement which will last for some 2-3 years. We do intend, at a later date, to do this in stone, however this is a much more time consuming process, due to the need to match the stone. Pre-Covid costs were estimated at £35,000, but these are very likely to increase to around £38,000 to £40,000.



Finance News

New Treasurer

Paul Waller is to take over from Stephen Gauntlett as Parish treasurer from January 2022. Our thanks are extended to Stephen for his many years of unstinting work in overseeing this important area of parish life. Paul has much financial experience having worked for Barclays Bank for over thirty years and in his previous parish he was both Treasurer and Church Warden.

The last few years have placed a strain on the parish and so it is important as we face another difficult year that we regularly review our giving. It is this that enables us to meet our commitments to the Diocesan Parish Share together with our ongoing building maintenance and general running costs. The Ministry Action Plan, being put together by our Parish and the Deanery, will be the structure around which to build our church fellowship with mission, children and families at its core.

Parish Giving Scheme

Over recent months those able to do so have been encouraged to transfer the method of giving to the church to the Parish Giving Scheme. The parish joined this Gloucester Diocesan run scheme five years ago. If you are a member you will know what an efficient and friendly organisation the PGS is. Joining is straight forward via their website www.paritygiving.org.uk where you can find the membership form. Our parish number 103050466.

You decide the amount you will give payments are taken on the 1st of the month by Direct Debit. If you wish you can remain anonymous to the parish. As a taxpayer you can Gift Aid your donation and we will receive an additional 25% from the Government. Increasing your giving in line with inflation is possible. You ask to be advised annually of the new amount you could give to meet inflation and decide if you want to pay that additional sum.

If you do not have online access there are paper forms available in both churches. These can be completed and posted to PGS who will confirm your membership details including your membership reference number and the details of your giving.

There is no restriction to joining all you need is a bank account. Any amount is acceptable and if you are not a tax payer you can opt out of Gift Aid. Do please join this scheme as it will make your gifting easy and ensure the church receives your gift on the 10th of every month.

As you read the budget plan for 2022 (p.21) please do prayerfully consider how you could increase your giving to help us continue God's work across the parish.

If you would like to discuss PGS further please talk to James Hollingsworth, Derreck Lee-Philpot or call Paul Waller on 01323 872088.

2022 Budget

Paul Waller

The Parochial Church Council recently received a 2022 budget plan for their consideration and approval. Recent years have seen deficit budgets and an overall actual shortfall of income over expenditure. The PCC are working hard in moving towards a balanced budget so that the parish no longer has to call on reserves in order to meet its commitments. Our financial survival through the Covid years of 2020 and 2021 has resulted in the need to draw on reserves to meet the day to day expenses.

Forecast income for 2021 is unlikely to

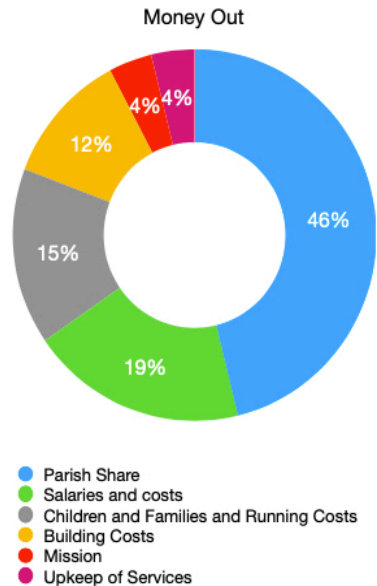
exceed £200k and with expenses over £260k the resulting deficit of £60K will be funded from reserves. The Parish Share was reduced during Covid from £130k to £110k and the PCC would like to return to pre-Covid levels over the next two years, £120k in 2022 and £130k in 2023. As well as meeting our pledge to the Diocese we have additional staff salaries to pay. Added to this are the expenses of running a busy parish, two church buildings and a growing outreach to families and children, mission support and the upkeep of services.

Overall the 2022 budget indicates that we need to increase our total income by approximately £80k in order to cover our anticipated expenditure.

Money In	
Parish Giving	£200,000
HMRC @ 22%	£44,000
Donations	£30,000
Total income	£274,000

Money Out	
Parish Share	£120,000
Salaries and costs	£50,000
Children and Families and Running Costs	£40,000
Building Costs	£30,000
Mission	£10,000
Upkeep of Services	£10,000
Fees/Governance	£10,000
Clergy and Service expenses	£10,000
Total expenses	£280,000

Money Left Over	
Income minus expenses	-£6,000



Hear ye, hear ye, good news...



At the heart
of Christmas



For those devotees of a good read with stimulating chat, whilst sat in a comfy chair with a mug of tea and a favourite biscuit I have good news.....Book Club is back!

Our Advent book we will be journeying with is, 'Into the heart of Advent' by Penelope Wilcock which is reviewed opposite.

The dates will be four Wednesdays in December, 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd. As before we will start on Zoom at 7.30pm and the link to join will be:

[https://zoom.us/j/
94296447321?pwd=N2kwTU5JZ3FFQ
25rekNOVOZONFFvQT09](https://zoom.us/j/94296447321?pwd=N2kwTU5JZ3FFQ25rekNOVOZONFFvQT09)

Alternatively use Meeting ID: 942 9644 7321 and Passcode: Seaford21 to join.

Into the heart of Advent comprises 25 short reflections and is a 'conversation' between the writer and Jesus.

There are copies available at the back of our churches to purchase at £10 each, as well as a bookmark with the reading plan.

Our reading plan for these reflections will be...

1 st December	Chapters 1-6
8 th December	Chapters 7-13
15 th December	Chapters 14-19
22 nd December	Chapters 20-25

As before if you don't get to read them all bring your thoughts upon what you have read, but three (ish) pages per day takes about the same time as drinking a cuppa!

Even if you cannot make the Book Club discussions 'Into the heart of Advent' is a delightful read and highly recommended for this Advent season.

Penelope Wilcock is a former Methodist minister and school and hospice chaplain. She writes a monthly column for *Woman Alive* and her popular blog, *Kindred of the Quiet Way*, receives over 35,000 hits a month. She is author of more than 20 books, including *Spiritual Care of Dying and Bereaved People* (BRF, 2013), *The Wilderness Within You* (Monarch, 2013), *100 Stand-Alone Bible Studies* (Monarch, 2013), *100 More Stand-Alone Bible Studies* (Monarch, 2018) and *Equality is Biblical* (SPCK, 2020).

Book Review

Dereck Lee-Philpot

Into the heart of Advent by Penelope Wilcock

The sub-title to this slim advent volume (101 pages) says it all, "Twenty five conversations with Jesus". The back cover blurb describes the premise, "Imagine meeting up with Jesus for coffee and some heart-to-heart conversation. What would you say to Him? What might He say to you? Penelope invites you to listen in on twenty-five conversations she's had with Jesus about the Christian journey and the meaning of Advent."

Every book claims to be different, especially those which cover such familiar territory, but this one lives up to the billing. In a conversational setting the book is written from Jesus' view of Christmas! Yes, 'Jesus' explains the Christmas story, that journey from Joseph and Mary's engagement through to the wonder and mystery of Messiah's birth.

Together we look at every aspect of the story you could imagine, and more than a few that are unexpected! The daily reflections are written in a gentle, cosy way that is warm, inviting and draws us into the conversation as if we are friends just meeting for an afternoon tea or an evening social glass of wine in front of a roaring open fire. Each of the twenty-five reflections are no more



than four sides (two pages) long so they are easy reading.

There is also a lot of gentle doctrine and theology cleverly woven through the pages and is the finishing touch, like the final seasoning in a festive meal. There is a sense of delight as Penelope Wilcock quietly brings familiar images into a new, sharper focus.

This book is nothing less than pure joy, find yourself five minutes a day to snuggle up with a cup of tea and biscuit, immerse yourself in a couple of pages of delight, twenty-five times over. Enjoy.

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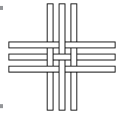
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This prayer diary offers a focus for our personal and corporate prayers and may be incorporated into our own Prayer and Bible Study times. Each month sections highlight prayer pointers for our mission partners.

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)

Pray for Mission Partners during December

Caring and Sharing, My Father's House, Brazil. *Please pray for:*

- Transport - The van, given to My Father's House in 2012 was recently stolen. Whilst insured, only about half of cost of replacement has been met through the insurance.
- Expanding the project into new areas - For guidance and direction for the team.
- Staff training programme - Demands around Covid are changing constantly as well as the needs of the community. Pray for the development of the programme to meet these new demands.
- Continued Covid protection for staff and children - The staff team have continued to be healthy. Please prayer for this protection to continue.
- Ian and Simea Meldrum separated from family in UK as Brazil is still on the red list for travel.

Church Army. *Please pray for:*

- For CEO Peter Rouch getting to know Church Army personnel and their work.
- Give thanks for all those working in the 40 Centres of Mission around UK.
- For the Training College in Sheffield and new students coming through.
- Give thanks for Tim and Cathy (Southampton Centre of Mission), together with Stephen and Andrena (Hackney Centre of Mission) seeking to serve the Young and Elderly. For our continual support of these two Centres of Mission.
- For the Marylebone project working with homeless women in London.
- In Advent and the build up to Christ coming at Christmas, that we may each find ways to serve our neighbour and thus serve Christ, who came among us to teach us how to really serve.

The Mothers' Union. *Please pray the Mothers' Union projects:*

- 16 days of Activism in November to highlight violence towards women Ministry of Cake where MU members visit specific hospital's children's or premature baby units to offer tea and cake to visiting parents.
- Resuming help with childcare during visiting times at Lewes and Ford prisons.
- Praying for and supporting family life.

Sunday- The Church Worldwide. *Please pray for:*

- Praise God that Christians in 170 countries and from 80 different denominations took part in Thy Kingdom Come this year.
- Give thanks for the 125,000 copies of the Family Adventure map distributed in UK and many copies of Novena and Prayer Journals. Pray for their continuing impact on the lives of those using them.
- For Christians with family members who do not yet know Christ, for wisdom and boldness as they share the love of God.
- In 2022, TKC will coincide with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, pray for Churches as they plan to reach out to local communities and to share their faith at Pentecost.
- For a renewed hunger for the Bible and the presence of God in our Churches.

Monday- The UK. *Please pray for:*

- Prime Minister and Houses of Parliament - honesty and integrity in action.
- Wisdom with justice and humanity to cope with increased number of migrants arriving in the United Kingdom.
- NHS and Social Care during the winter months when demand is raised.
- The health of the Queen. For senior members of the Royal Family taking on more of her duties.
- Domestic violence and family relationship tensions over the Christmas season.
- UK government considering the future relationship of Northern Ireland and the European Union.
- Families and the elderly on low incomes facing rising fuel costs.

Tuesday- Our Parish. *Please pray for:*

- James & Lucy, Derreck and Corrinne for strength and energy in Advent and relaxation and rest following the Christmas busyness.
- As we start a New Year, pray for each other that we might go forward together following in Christ's footsteps.
- Stability in the financial health of the parish and wisdom for the PCC in budget setting.
- Those who are sick that they may know God's peace, healing and wholeness.
- Those attending Advent and Christmas services that they might clearly hear the message of the coming of the Christ-child.

Wednesday- Children & Young people. *Please pray for:*

- Stefan as he leads the work, for vision, encouragement and continuing good health.
- More leaders to join the enthusiastic and committed team supporting the growing groups of children.

- The children and young people as they attend Sparks and Ignite each week and as they learn about Jesus, that they come to know more of his love for themselves.
- Their parents and caregivers that they come to a deeper knowledge of the Gospel message for themselves.
- Tots groups, Sparks, Ignite and Messy Church as we approach Christmas, that they will understand more clearly, the true message of Christmas – Emmanuel, God with us.
- Give thanks for a successful holiday club at half term and the blessing received by the children individually.

Thursday- *Please pray for those living in:*

December 2nd Church Lane, Church Street, South Street, Broad Street.
 December 9th Place Lane, Clinton Place, Clinton Lane, Blatchington Road.
 December 16th Richmond Terrace, Saxon Lane, Blatchington Hill.
 December 23rd Sutton Park Road, Avondale Road, Warwick Road.
 December 30th High Street, Crouch Lane, Crooked Lane, East Street.
 January 6th West Street, Green Lane, Dane Road, Dane Close.
 January 13th West View, Pelham Road, West Street, Chatham Place, Richmond Road.
 January 20th Barcombe Close, Barcombe Avenue, Steyning Road, Steyning Close.
 January 27th Findon Close, Lindfield Avenue, Ladycross Close, Rodmell Road.

Friday- Seaford. *Please pray for:*

- Local businesses in the busy Christmas season.
- Local schools – for staff and students engaging in learning and for those learning from home.
- Churches in Seaford - for leaders and people, for fresh vision for the coming year as they seek to serve the community.
- Care Homes – for staff and residents especially as they celebrate Christmas. New opportunities for Christians to visit again and conduct services.

Saturday- The World. *Please pray for:*

- For leaders and governments to implement the agreements reached at the COP 26 conference, that they will make a difference in the world.
- For countries struggling in the pandemic, that others will continue to be generous in sharing their vaccines, reaching those most in need.
- Continue to pray for our Mission partners abroad living under lockdown and separated from their families in UK, especially at Christmas.
- For those who daily live in the midst of war and unrest, that they might know peace.

Pray for Missions Partners during January

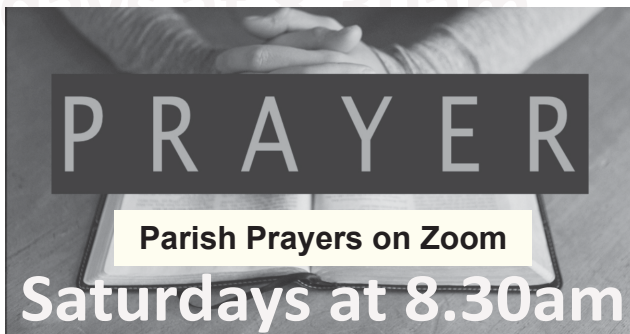
LAMA Ministries. *Please pray:*

- With members of the family having experienced health issues recently, give thanks for healing. Travel restrictions are in place in the region and they rarely leave the house, due to Covid. Pray things will soon be easier.
- LAMA are trying to sort out the complexities of the title for LAMA land, pray for a timely resolution.
- Several former LAMA boys struggle to find work or are in jobs that do not pay enough and often ask for help. Pray that they completely follow Jesus - the pathway to success in life.
- They are still under travel restrictions and plan to take Christmas hampers to many former boys and girls and other needy families soon. Another former boy in Manila and a brother and sister in a nearby town have asked for help. Pray they will be allowed to travel.

Festo and Grace Kanungha. *Please pray for:*

As we as a parish transition from financial support for Festo and Grace, let us continue to pray for them as a family in their ministry in Cornwall

- Praise God for the impact of some of our community-based work such as our recent Light Party and Kids Matter Parents support group.
- For the courage and capacity to follow up on the relationships & connections made through the community-based work.
- For Festo as he continues to find the adjustment to life in the UK challenging, that he would soon feel at home here.
- For theirs and all churches that we would be able to share the light of Christ this Christmas.
- Grace and Festo send thanks for all our support over the past 3 years, in prayer, in friendship and in finance. "Keeping us going when it gets tough in the knowledge that we are held up by the prayers of the saints."



To join Saturday Prayers at 8.30am on Zoom use the following log in:
Meeting ID: **731 3210 2295** Passcode **1UWEx6**

When did you make your faith your own?

Jenny Rolfe

When I was at school, one of my teachers said to me, 'You can either say 'yes' or 'no' to God.'. I said 'yes' and felt that God was close to me from that time, even though I drifted away from attending church when I left school. Some years later I had a conviction that I wanted to return to church again. When I came back I began to realise through the Bible teaching what the Lord Jesus Christ had done for me personally. He had taken all my sin on Himself on the cross and died in my place, taking my punishment on Himself – then He had conquered death by rising again. Someone once said to me, 'If I had been the only person in the world (a sinner), He still would have gone through all that for just me.' I repented of my sin and came to know the Lord Jesus as my Saviour. I feel that He was drawing me to Himself over many years.

Corrinne Lee-Philpot

Derreck and I actually came to faith in the mid-1970s when we were both in our late teens. Through a series of 'God engineered' circumstances and encounters we became Christians at the same moment in a church leader's front room. The change for us was instant. It's wonderful that God deals with different people in different ways, but I am so glad that God brought us into His Kingdom in the way that He did, with a definite moment of change from one state of being to another. Praise God for His engineered circumstances and encounters.



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The logo for Christian Aid, featuring the words "christian aid" in white lowercase letters on a red arrow-shaped background pointing to the right.

When out of poverty is born...

Nicola Ferguson

'When out of poverty is born...'

This is the opening line of a special Christmas carol, with words by Kathy Galloway, published as part of this year's Christian Aid Christmas Appeal, to remember all those facing poverty amidst the escalating climate crisis.

In South Sudan, it took nine years to reach a peaceful settlement in 2020, following its declaration of independence in 2011. It followed decades of on-going conflict, which compounded chronic vulnerabilities: Over seven million people are considered 'food insecure' with malnutrition rates running at approx' 16%. An estimated 360,000 children under the age of five suffer malnutrition and more than two-thirds of its population needed humanitarian assistance. Nearly four million of its peoples remain displaced - 1.5 million inside the country and 2.2 million now refugees in neighbouring countries.

Then a traumatised South Sudan faced the trauma of Covid-19. The young country of South Sudan is also on the frontline of the climate crisis. Most recently, they have suffered a locust infestation.

'..The climate crisis is worsening globally and at home...' said Hon Lily Albino Akol Akol, delivering the South Sudan National Statement at Cop26 in

Glasgow. '... for a third year in a row, nine out of the ten states in South Sudan are flooded. Subsequently, over 1.5 million people lost their livelihoods or are living under dire conditions. Additionally, drought, excessive heat, heatwaves and irregular rain patterns are causing crop failure and further destruction to the already dilapidated livelihoods of our people...' she said.

Christian Aid is helping mothers on the frontline of the climate crisis in South Sudan; mothers who have to face impossible choices every day. One such Mum is Adut Mariu from Biet. Like many female-headed families, she is vulnerable because agriculture is the main way to sustain families and for that, she and other mums need water. Before Christian Aid came to her village she was forced into the decision of giving her children dirty water from the river or no water at all. The river that runs by their village is one used by both people and animals.

'...the water has many diseases, there is cow dung in there, there is donkey dung in there..' says Adut. '...and this was the water we drank.'

The large river is also dangerous and it is children who are often endangered by it. There is a cultural tendency to keep children away from school till a certain age (with frequently only boys attending) to help at home with

domestic chores, digging the gardens and tending the animals. The children would also be sent to fetch water from the river.

'...When we collected river water, we would send our child to do it...' said Adut. '...I would be so worried my son would fall into the river and drown.'

But there is now renewed hope and fresh water for Adut and the families in the area. Thanks to all your donations to Christian Aid, Adut's community has been helped to build a borehole to access underground water.

'...now we get water from the hand pump, we don't need to send our children to the river. The water from the hand pump is very good. We feel there are no diseases in it...Christian Aid saw the challenges in our village and lifted us up; for that I am grateful' says Adut. The pump has given confidence and hope to Adut and her community. Fresh water will ensure seed germination and healthy crops. Agriculture will stand more chances of success.

Training has been given to raise awareness of both safe hygiene and sanitation practices and in order to maintain two boreholes and eighteen rehabilitated boreholes, twenty hand pump mechanics were trained. Adut maintains the pump in her village and sees first hand the difference the water pump makes to all in her community, as well as many who travel long distances to get water from the borehole.

Here at home this Christmas we may have to decide whether to eat turkey or beef, which television program to

watch or when to go for a walk, but we'll turn on our taps to fill our kettles, without a thought. This Christmas, let's think about Adut and her community and let's all listen to the special Christmas carol to remind us to love more and give more, to those who suffer in need.

When out of poverty is born

*When out of poverty is born a dream
that will not die
and landless, weary folk find strength
to stand with heads held high, It's then
we learn from those who wait
to greet the promised day: 'The Lord is
coming; don't lose heart
Be blest: prepare the way!'
When people wander far from
God,
forget to share their bread,
they find their wealth an empty thing
Their spirits are not fed.
For only just and tender love
the hungry soul will stay.
And so God's prophets echo still: 'Be
blest: prepare the way!' When God
took flesh and came to earth,
the world turned upside down, and in
the strength of woman's faith
the Word of Life was born.
She knew that God would raise
the low,
it pleased her to obey.
Rejoice with Mary in the call:
'Be blest: prepare the way!'*

*Words: Kathy Galloway Suggested tune:
Kingsfold*

Musician Kima Otung performs 'When out of Poverty is Born' (inspired by Mark 1:3), written for Christian Aid by Kathy Galloway. Watch on YouTube or on www.christianaid.org in the 'Worship' section of the Christmas appeal page.

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Raffle

A Christmas Shopping Story

‘Wait Rose’, said John, ‘Lewes is a quaint old town for festive shopping, but we mustn’t overspend and run up bills. Don’t forget Mark is the cook on Christmas Day’.

If you buy a new dress Rose, remember pale colours show marks and Spencer the dog has muddy paws. If the weather is wet wear boots, that ‘as da be a good tip. Both of the Morri sons may join us, Ben and Dan. How about inviting the McDonalds round for tea or perhaps that will be virgin on a bit of trouble. They’ve had money problems and we mustn’t pry. Mark my word, as they know h o w to spend the pound, land themselves in debt one day!

If we ask them to come with us to London to see the lights we mustn’t take liberties or make it a habit, at least shopping sprees don’t happen often. We can’t do it all at once, would cost a lot too! Luckily we’ll leave the pets at home on the range, ha, ha! Or end up in paradise. Park space for cars may be limited. Anyway we’ll fix a date and hope for fine weather. What next?



How many shops can you find? The answers (if you need them) Can be found on page 46.



Mission Update... and the way ahead for 2022

From the Mission Support Team

Our Mission Partners have continued to have a difficult time during the last year as work practices have had to change, lockdowns have curtailed much travel and face to face interaction on top of which their income has mostly reduced.

Likewise, we as a parish have faced our own difficulties and had to do much soul searching including facing the deficit budget which amongst other things led to the decision to sell off the hall. In the light of this we as the Mission Support Team have been debating and considering how we continue to support our partners into 2022.

We did not always reach a unanimous decision but did agree that we had to go with the majority. As a result we made the decision to recommend to the PCC that instead of distributing the 10% tithe (of the parish's total income figure for 2021) between our mission partners it would also include a contribution towards mission on our

own doorstep by giving 3% of that total to our Children, Youth and Family Work. We also agreed to discontinue including the Diocesan Schools in our distribution list.

As a result the parish gave in the first distribution of the year £200 to the Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team, £238 each to Bible Society and Diocesan Family Support Work, £317 to MAF, £397 each to CMS, Cambodia Action, Church Army, Homelink, LAMA, Mission Direct (for Chris Chester's Rewired Project), Samara's Aid and Waves. CY&F work received £1830. A similar second distribution will be made at the end of this financial year. For the time being there will be no further support from the parish for the Caring and Sharing Scheme who will in future rely solely on contributions from the individuals members who have joined.

It was agreed that we also needed to reduce the number of partners we support. This was much debated but as a consequence the hard decision has

been made to discontinue financial contributions as from next year to Bible Society (in recent years they have received a relatively low allocation compared with the other partners and there was no specific individual involved), Church Mission Society (Grace is now independently employed by the church in Liskeard so it is only Festo who is being supported by CMS for 16 hours per week: it was felt in the circumstances we should be supporting our own Youth Worker rather than one in another parish), Mission Direct (now that Chris Chester was established in a new parish that could offer him equal support) and Mission Aviation Fellowship (now that Danny had resigned as a pilot). These decisions will be reviewed at the end of next year but in the meanwhile we suggest that if you are disappointed that one of your favourite missions has

been dropped then you might like to continue supporting them as an individual.

Details of how to continue supporting

- Bible Society
 - Caring and Sharing
 - CMS
 - MAF
 - Mission Direct (Re-Wired)
- will appear in the News Sheet or ring Liz Morgan-Jones on 01323 890644 or look at their website – they will look forward to hearing from you!

Please continue to pray for all our Mission Partners, not least those who will no longer receive our financial support and for the Mission Support Team as they continue to review and respond to the unfolding variances of our parish income.


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Terry Howell

Loans

We help homeless people or those threatened with homelessness to rent a home in the private sector. Our clients are people in Lewes District who must be able to live independently but have little or no savings. Our loans, averaging £1400 are interest-free with repayments at an affordable rate even as little as £20 per month. We have made over 72 loans so far this year and expect to make 100 by the end of the year.

Grants

We give grants to those who are moving into housing, (local authority or housing association), with some basic needs they cannot afford. The money pays for white goods; or basic furniture e.g. bed or chair; or even floor covering. Our grants are for a maximum of £400 and average £250. We made over 61 grants so far this year but because the cost is low compared to the cost of loans we have been able to double our budget for grants. A great help has been the excellent repayment rate of loans where we have already received £10,000 more than expected.

Personnel

I reported that Pippa has unexpectedly retired due to ill health. We found a suitable candidate for the Client Manager's Post. Unfortunately, she withdrew shortly after starting training because there was too high a proportion of administration. It was helpful that she decided early but

unfortunately we are left having to advertise again and hope to appoint someone in the New Year. After the retirement of our Treasurer, we have had to reorganise our financial administration. We welcomed Hugh Jones as our Lead Trustee for Finance to overview the work and upgraded Gabrielle to be our Finance Manager.

AGM at St. Luke's Church

Forty-two people, more than usual, made their way through heavy rain and 60mph winds to attend our Annual Meeting. We were pleased to welcome several local Councillors and Mayor reminding us of our cooperation with Lewes District Council. Pippa sent a report of her work for 2019 and 2020. Gary has had to take on all her work and we are very grateful for the excellent job he is doing. He spoke to the meeting about his observations for 2021 with regard to staffing, activity, loans, challenges; and the future. He noted that we had offered loans to 57 clients who were unable to find a home. He highlighted the mismatch between market rates and housing benefit which is most acute in Lewes and Seaford but much less in Newhaven and Peacehaven. He finished with the story that a grant of only £9 led to a man moving from a shed into a home!

Georgina, our administration and development officer, spoke of her role in applications for grants for core costs from charities raising over £10,000 so far. She focussed on individual fund-

raising during lockdown and set up a 'Just Giving' page. She spoke of coming fund-raising events namely Lewes Bonfire Night; The Ashdown Singers Concert; Christmas cards; and a Garden Party in 2022. We expressed our thanks to Pippa for all her work and made a presentation to John Howes our Treasurer for his excellent support and work over eight years. Our Vicar closed the AGM with a prayer.

Prayers

- Give thanks for our financial stability and the dedication of our staff and volunteers.
- Pray for Gary as he helps people and his other responsibilities
- Pray hard for a replacement Client Manager to work with Gary
- Pray for all our staff and volunteers.
- Ask for more and younger trustees.

Newsletter

Our colourful newsletter, produced by Georgina, has just been published and should be available on our website:- www.leweshomelink.org.uk

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

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

HOMELINK's office is rented from Age Concern in the House of Friendship in Lewes. Assessments are currently held by phone.



Lewes, Seaford and District Branch



Please contact: Jean: 01 323 892930

HAVE YOU GOT ROOM FOR A LONELY PUSS WHO'S BEEN LIVING ON THE STREETS?

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Getting to Know me: Part 7

James Hollingsworth continues his story...

This started out as a way of you getting to know a little about me and my life's joys and sorrows, perhaps as a conversation starter for when we do finally have that cuppa, perhaps as a way of helping us get to know each other a little better.

I am grateful to two who took me on a short pub crawl for both the local learning and for the deeper sharing. I am up for some more if anyone else would like to take me out to a pub. Coffee shops are equally acceptable alternatives.

Last time I wrote about aspects of my curacy, this time I thought I might write about what I have learned about interviews. To begin with we can be interviewed quite a lot. Why do you want to become a vicar, a priest, a preacher? This is where it all starts. Then after theological college, I had a conversation with a Bishop who asked what I still consider to be an idiotic question, Where do you see yourself in five years time? I said, 'Sitting in your chair Bishop'. He laughed. I've since learned that it is not as comfy a chair to sit in as it might look. Apparently, there's an art to being interviewed. I've never learned it.

I was interviewed for one job that I really really wanted. The interview went really well, I was pushed on what I would do if I got the job and I nailed it.

I came out feeling good. I didn't get it. But oddly I felt the calm hand of God. Some close friends were very worried



about me, but I thought that I gave it my best shot, I didn't fall flat on my face, I gave it my all. If that wasn't what they wanted then that is fine. The person they chose has been brilliant at that role, and that has helped too.

I went for another job. There is a part on the application form that invites you to say why you'd be good for this job and what you would do in this role and please only write two sides. I wrote eight. I had so many ideas about what could be done, it could be exciting, innovative. I misread the bit about only writing two sides. I only got an interview because one of the short listing people likes me and said trust me it will be worth hearing him. That's kind. But I did not realize that there is an art to being interviewed. I should have known this because as a School Governor I had done my fair share of interviewing deputy heads and heads. The week before the interview I was having cold feet. I do not know why. I got to the interview and it went so very

badly. I left the interview wanting the job less than when I went in. Whereas in the earlier job I had been really pushed hard on all my different ideas for the role, this time I was asked the most boring questions ever and I hadn't prepared myself for dull questions. I answered them as abruptly as possible thinking that this was just the warm up and we'd get to the meat of it but we never did. When I didn't get this job I was relieved. I was also angry. Angry at them – they hadn't asked me the right questions – which just shows how incredibly self-righteous I can be! And angry at myself, how stupid of me

not to realise that it was more than fair and sensible to ask me straightforward questions about leadership styles and safeguarding and so on.

You may have noticed that I have not told you about how I came to be interviewed for vicar here! Perhaps next time. You know how that story ends but today I wanted to point you to some of my failures and failings because I know that its scary applying for a job, scary in the interview, scary processing the rejections and often not easy trying to discern where God is in all of this.

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Life And More Abundant Ministries

LAMA

LESLEY GOMEZ



Thank you so much for your prayers. Mid- September I became suddenly ill with symptoms like food poisoning, when it got worse with sweats, confusion and migraine I had to go to the hospital. I have successfully avoided hospital through the pandemic, thank God! It was Saturday, but I managed to sail through the Emergency Department after a quick Covid test.

Thankful again, it wasn't Covid. I was admitted as tests showed dengue fever. On Sunday Simon joined me also with dengue fever. He had to wait outside Emergency for a long time with Michael and Ana.

Soon, Temmy (LAMA Trustees) joined them outside ER - he could hardly breathe and had chest pain. The nurses gave him a bed, still outside, where a lot of patients waited for a Covid test before they could see a Doctor.

I was up in my room praying Simon would be OK as he has seizure disorder triggered by needles and blood. They were still there when Ana messaged me that Temmy had "coded" - the Dr and nurses were trying to resuscitate him. She called Lucille (Temmy's wife) and the family who hurried to the hospital from church. But Temmy had died, it was a heart attack. This was all very

traumatic for the family and Michael, Ana and Simon who witnessed the whole ordeal. Simon was later admitted and shared my hospital room. We were in shock. Dengue is an awful disease; I've had it several times and it gets worse the more times a patient has it. It didn't progress though and we were allowed home after 3 days, in time to attend the wake for Temmy and to help with funeral costs.



We can hardly believe he is gone. He was 58, a much-loved teacher at the National High School who lived to worship God. He was Secretary of our Board of Trustees in the Philippines.

We had a trustees meeting via Zoom and elected Miss Faith Tarlit as new trustee. She was Ana's teacher in Medical Technology. The daughter of a Pastor in the Full Gospel Church, she is a worship leader and the head of Science Department in Vigan. Pastor Domingo Capias took over Temmy's role as Secretary.

These are indeed 'Difficult times', our city is back in strict lockdown as cases

of Covid are on the rise. There seems no end to it. When in the hospital I could see the Doctors are at the end of their strength, they really need our prayers - all workers in hospitals. Our friend, Dr Nelson was in hospital with Covid for several weeks, and Dr Monis, who saw me through years of illness, almost lost the fight with Covid earlier in the year and recently got it again. He is in charge of the lung centre.



So here at LAMA House: Tony is now 25, but has some learning difficulties. He works for us helping around LAMA House and on the land and lately has joined the team of labourers renovating the house. He has learnt how to mix cement, remove tiled flooring and general construction helper. He loves to be busy. We have ploughed our land, and begun planting vegetables. Most of our former



youngsters are in touch regularly. Some work in San Fernando so we see them often just to wave hello. Today, Asnar asked for help as his mother is sick, he is on another Island. Fidel also needed medicine and recently Raul. We were happy to see Kevin briefly on video chat, it was his birthday, 16yrs old. We hope to visit him if allowed, in Manila. We haven't been back to Manila since December 2019. It is our plan as

Christmas approaches to visit as many of 'Our LAMA Boys' as possible, delivering food parcels and other necessities. In October, we had quite a bad typhoon and flooding. Due to the Govt COVID restrictions we couldn't allow families to evacuate to LAMA House as would be the normal protocol as we are the refuge centre at such times... so we didn't sleep for worrying. Thankfully no lives were lost. This season of Covid-19 has changed a lot of things for a lot of people.

Here at LAMA House we have been stuck for almost 2 years; unable to travel outside the city, we cannot do anything we know to do! Not being productive is frustrating for me, but we do have a plan for the future, for a new adventure, and that gives us hope. Everything is shifting! We can get the job done in a new way. Our work has changed but we hope to be more effective and productive in the future. There was a deep need for prolonged rest to prepare us for what will happen later. We were battle-worn. But we have finally been able to renovate LAMA House and our own home and cultivate the land so it can be more fruitful. That is our goal - to be more fruitful! Before the pandemic hit I remember tentatively submitting to God for Him to prune us, like the vine, so we could be more fruitful! And that is where we are at - the Season we are in! May we ultimately be more fruitful - Until He comes! Christmas Blessings & Happy New Year to all at St Leonard's and St. Luke's. Thank you for prayers and encouraging emails. Please continue to send in your prayer requests, we love to pray for you in our worship times together. Much love and thanks, Lesley, Peter and family.

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Janet Kent and Stephanie Baker are trustees of the relatively new local charity SeaFriends which has been awarded a Lottery grant to fund the development of their services over the next three years.

Here is the latest report from Development Manager Min Stone

SeaFriends has now been supporting residents in Seaford for over a year. We are growing steadily and are now offering phone, face to face befriending and social mornings. We already have some amazing volunteers but we need more. If you think that you would like to help then we have plenty of opportunities for you.

One to one Befrienders

Befrienders are matched to a client and they will call or meet up with their match on a weekly basis. There is a short training session which takes about 40 minutes to complete and you have the support of the volunteer managers. It is up to you and your match how often and how you meet. Some of our volunteers choose to contact by phone and others will meet up for a coffee or a walk. We cover our volunteer expenses and you will be supported by us. If you meet face to face you must have a DBS check which we will provide. One to one befriending can make the world of difference to someone's day.

Coffee morning volunteers

We have a weekly coffee morning at St. James Trust every Wednesday and we need to have a rota of volunteers to support the clients. The volunteers will play card or board games, help serve tea or coffee and chat to the clients.



We also like to help them with any issues that they have such as navigating to services, completing forms or sorting out appointments for them. We are also hoping to take them out for local trips in the New Year and to be able to give them some one to one attention and listen to their concerns. You can commit to one session a month or more depending on your availability. There will be some safeguarding training provided and we will offer first aid training to those that would like it. We will complete a DBS for you as well. We would also welcome support with making cakes for the mornings.

Memory Morning

Working in partnership with St Peter's Church, SeaFriends is going to launch a weekly Memory Cafe on Friday mornings in the New Year. We are seeking volunteers who might wish to offer a couple of Friday mornings a month to help us with serving our community, caring for those who struggle with memory loss, and providing a supportive social space for their careers. Full training will be given and all necessary safeguarding measures will be in place.

If you think that you could help in some way or just want more information please get in touch on 01323 914689 or email hello@seafriends.org.uk

www.seafriends.org.uk



Liz Morgan-Jones & Margaret Smith

Do you remember that warm sunny weather we had in September that encouraged many to be out and about again? We certainly welcomed many visitors to the Art exhibition between 11th to 26th September that depending on services was held either inside St Leonard's or in the churchyard.

Inside visitors enjoyed the atmosphere inherent in this house of prayer and stayed to browse the paintings at leisure whilst outside many commented on the novelty of the location and we caught several passers-by who made spontaneous purchases

This event culminated over the final weekend in the parish Flower Festival when arrangers from both the church

and local flower clubs produced twenty three lovely displays under the title of 'Window on Our World'. More than two hundred had passed through the doors by Saturday when it was good to welcome the Mayor and Mayoress of Seaford, Cllr Rodney Reed and his wife Ann as well as the Deputy Mayor Cllr Jean Cash who took time to look at all the arrangements depicting different countries around the globe from Argentina and Australia to Zambia. The joy of movement being represented by the flowing dress and formal attire of a couple dancing the tango: the natural blooms being much more beautiful than any evening dress. In contrast there was a strong and colourful display showing the many aspects of life in Australia from the indigenous culture to

the more recent cricketing heritage. Animal life was there too, the kangaroo and koala painstakingly depicted in grasses and seeds, which attracted appreciative comments from both children and adults. One of the charities that is supported by the parish exists to install computers and then train the teachers in Zambian schools which they endeavoured to do remotely during the pandemic but proved very difficult. A striking display reminding us of this and the vibrancy found within the African nations.

In contrast there was a display entitled 'The Pandemic' which included a rainbow inspired tribute to the NHS and in the Chapel the opportunity was given to pause in front of the WWII memorial window in 'Remembrance' where the beautiful flowers and man-made poppies enhanced the atmosphere. Other displays included an explosion of colour from the Philippines where we support the Gomez Family and their LAMA Ministries, the importance of football to the Brazilian nation that reminded us of the work of 'My Father's House amongst the street children of Olinda supported by the Caring and Sharing Scheme as well as the Cambodian display which was in the 'shade of the bamboo', literally all seven or eight feet of it, which recalls the name of the organisation M'lup Russey of which Sarah Chhin (that we support as a Mission Partner) is the Strategic / Technical Adviser. Also on display were the exotic flowers of Bali, Cuba and Grenada, English roses and afternoon tea together with a picnic complete



with Champagne from France, a cow from Austria resplendent in grassy meadows with Edelweiss and sheep from New Zealand, a pot of gold amidst the patriotic colours of Ireland and the elegant blooms from Japan alongside original origami and ikebana arrangement. Sweden was represented with a bold statement in a small space and the festival concluded with the sunshine of Spain.

Those who visited expressed their thanks that we were able to put on such an event and expressed their joy at the flower displays and the art, the musicians who performed live and being able to stop and relax over a cup of tea. We continued the rhythm of prayer when we paused on the hour. On Sunday evening we once again welcomed the Mayor and Mayoress as we came

together for a joyous Festival Choral Evensong ably led by John Baker and a fully augmented choir: the anthem being the appropriate, 'Look at the World' by John Rutter.

Finally we want to take this opportunity to record our thanks to all those who played their part in whatever task they undertook that made possible an event which drew in those who had not visited the church before and others who were pleased to return for the first time since being asked to stay at home. Thanks too, to those who donated generously or who purchased the pictures and cards. The Flower Festival fulfils several criteria in the life of our parish so thank you to those who made it happen.

The Oxen

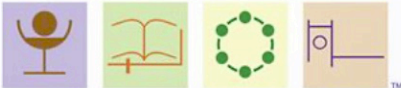
Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock,
'Now they are all on their knees'
An elder said as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures where
They dwelt in their strawy pen,
Nor did it occur to one of us there
To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave
In these years! Yet, I feel,
If someone said on Christmas Eve,
'Come; see the oxen kneel

'In the lonely Barton by yonder coomb
Our childhood used to know'
I should go with him in the gloom,
Hoping it might be so

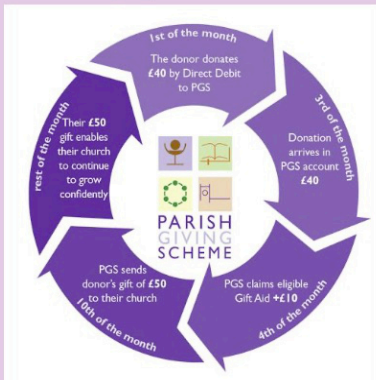
Thomas Hardy 1915



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Parish Magazine Copy Dates

Items for the forthcoming editions
of the Magazine are most welcome
and should be sent to
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February-March: 18th January and
April-May: 15th March

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December Calendar & Lectionary

Saturday 4th	10.00am	Seaford Christmas Magic	St. Leonard's
	3.00pm	Messy Church	St. Leonard's
Sunday 5th	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.15am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
Monday 6th	2.00pm	SPWG Stopover service	St. Leonard's
Wednesday 8th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Friday 10th	2.30pm	Mothers' Union	St. Luke's
Sunday 12th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.15am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
Sunday 19th	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.15am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
	6.00pm	A Service of Lessons & Carols	St. Leonard's
	6.00pm	Community Carols	St. Luke's
Monday 20th	4.00pm	Messy Christingle	St. Leonard's
	7.30pm	Parish Woman's Group	St. Luke's
Wednesday 22nd	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	3.00pm	Crib Service	St. Luke's
Christmas Eve	5.00pm & 7.00pm	Messy Nativity (repeat service)	St. Leonard's
	11.00pm	Midnight Communion	St. Leonard's
Christmas Day	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
Sunday 26th	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
Wednesday 27th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's

5th December: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Reading: Malachi 3.1-4

Gospel: Luke 3.1-6

19th December: 4th Sunday of Advent

Reading: Micah 5.2-4

Gospel: Luke 1.39-45

12th December: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Reading: Zephaniah 3.14-end

Gospel: Luke 3.7-18

26th December: 1st Sunday of Christmas

Reading: Colossians 3.12-17

Gospel: Luke 2.41-end

January Calendar & Lectionary



Sunday 2nd	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.15am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
Wednesday 5th	12.30pm	Parish Lunch	St. Luke's
Saturday 8th	3.30pm	Messy Church	St. Leonard's
Sunday 9th	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	The Meeting Place	St. Luke's
Wednesday 12th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Friday 14th	2.30pm	Mothers' Union	St. Luke's
Sunday 16th	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.15am	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7	St. Luke's
Monday 17th	7.30pm	Parish Women's Group	St. Luke's
Sunday 23rd	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	The Meeting Place	St. Luke's
Wednesday 26th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
Sunday 30th	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.15am	The Meeting Place- see News Sheet for details	

For all the latest news and details of any changes please see the weekly news sheet or subscribe to our news email at www.seafordparish.org.uk/latest

2nd January: Epiphany

Reading: Psalm 72

Gospel: Matthew 2.1-12

23rd January: Epiphany 3

Reading: Genesis 28.10-22

Gospel: Luke 4.14-21

9th January: The Baptism of Christ

Reading: Genesis 22.1-19

Gospel: Luke 3.15-17,21,22

30th January: Epiphany 4

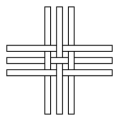
Reading: Genesis 37.1-11

Gospel: Luke 2.22-40

16th January: Epiphany 2

Reading: Genesis 27.1-38

Gospel: John 2.1-11



Parish Directory

Clergy

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

Children, Youth & Family Missioner

Stefan Bracher		cyfw@seafordparish.org.uk
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Parish Office- calls can be taken Monday to Friday 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Charlie Christie	07391 787130	admin@seafordparish.org.uk
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Lay Readers

Kate Ranger	01323 899300	
Wendy Ogilvie	07779 248730	

Alan Thomas

Churchwardens

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

Deputy Wardens

Janet Kent (St. Leonard's)	01323 490050	janet@seafordparish.org.uk
Paul Waller (St. Leonard's)	01323 872088	
Tony Gubbins (St. Luke's)		lukedeputy1@seafordparish.org.uk

Parish Treasurer

Stephen Gauntlett	Contact Parish Office	treasurer@seafordparish.org.uk
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Safeguarding Office

Ruth Saunders		safeguarding@seafordparish.org.uk
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Hall Bookings

Vacancy	07391 787130	hallbookings@seafordparish.org.uk
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Magazine

Distribution	01323 892883	David and Hazel Bramley
Editor: Malcolm Anderson	01323 891252	magazine@seafordparish.org.uk

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