

# Parish Magazine

The Parish of Sutton  
with Seaford

Parish News

Clergy Letter

Mission News

Prayer Diary

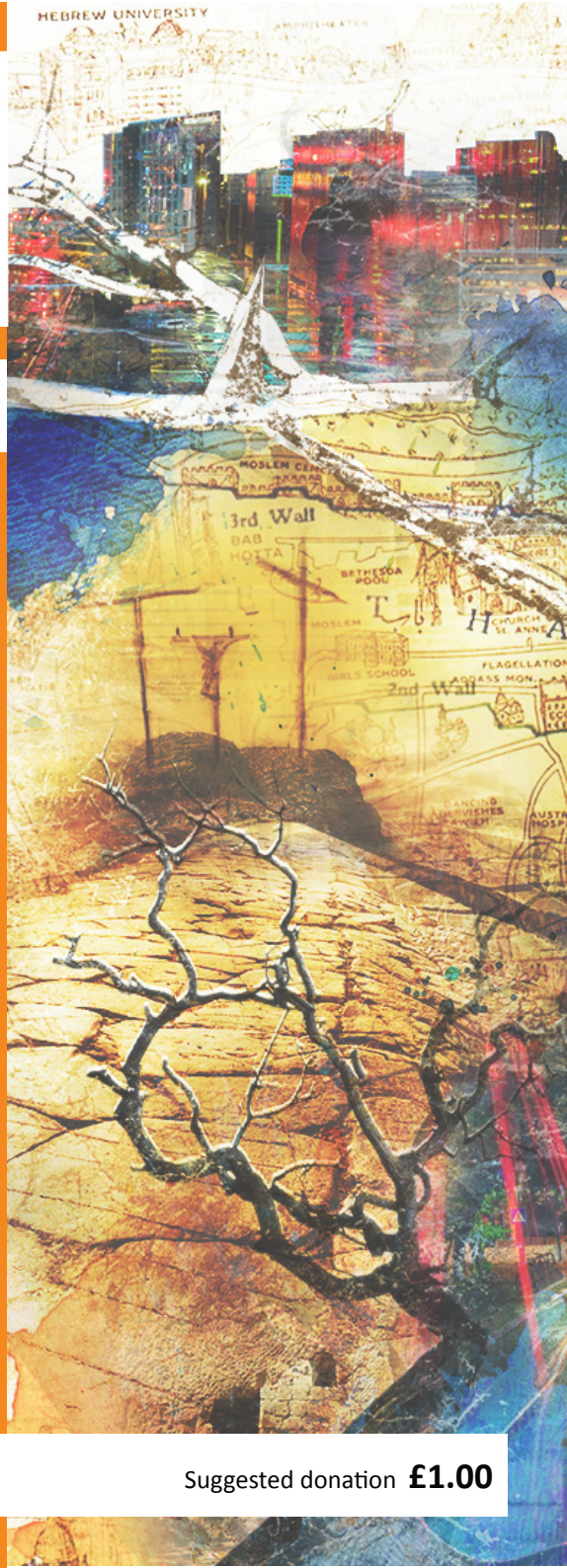
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Come

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Concert

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April-May 2022

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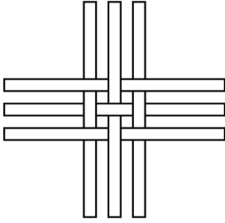
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# Parish Magazine

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

April-May 2022

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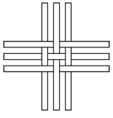
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# Parish News

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

Seaford Parish Women's Group meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday evening in St Luke's Church Walmer Road at 7.30pm. See the calendar on pages 44-45 for dates in April and May. Please contact Julia Lawson for more details on 01323 895073 or email [jawslawson4@aol.com](mailto:jawslawson4@aol.com)

## **Mother's Union**

The Mothers' Union is an international Christian charity that seeks to support families worldwide. Its members are not all mothers or even all women, as there are many parents, men, widows, singles and grandparents involved in its work. Our branch of the Mothers' Union meet on the 2nd Friday of the month from 2.30pm at St. Luke's. See pages 44-45.

## **Parish Lunch**

The next parish lunches will take place at St. Luke's on Wednesdays, April 6th and May 4th. Come at 12.30 for lunch at 12.45. Tickets are available from Sue Saunders at St. Leonard's and from Janet Fairchild at St. Luke's. Good food and good company is assured! If you have any queries or food intolerances please contact Ann Fenwick on 01323 893318.

## **Plant Sale**

A selection of plants, flower, vegetables and shrubs will be for sale outside the St. Leonard's Church at the Open Church Cafe, on Saturday 23rd April from 10.00am. If you have any plants that you are happy to give to the

church to sell please bring them along on the day before 10.00am. Kate Ranger is also looking for volunteers who would be happy to lend a hand in looking after the stall.

## **Mission Coffee Morning**

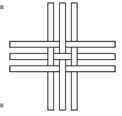
There will be a Mission Coffee Morning with stalls in St. Leonard's Church on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June from 10.00am to 12.30pm. The purpose is to raise awareness of and funding for the missions we support. For further details please contact Sue Topp.

## **Festival of Flowers 2022**

Chichester Cathedral's Festival of Flowers is a four day spectacular, taking place from 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Visitors will have the opportunity to experience 60 spectacular flower arrangements, displayed within the 900 year old Cathedral, created using over 50,000 blooms. The arrangements will respond to the theme of 'Life In All Its Fullness', exploring the benefits of art, nature and music in healing, and will be portrayed as picturesque tableaux, gardens and pedestal arrangements. Tickets cost £15 (plus booking fee) and can be obtained by calling 0333 666 3366 or visiting: [www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/events/festival-flowers-2022](http://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/events/festival-flowers-2022)

## **Parish Magazine Copy Date**

Items for the forthcoming June-July edition of the magazine should be sent by Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May to [magazine@seafordparish.org.uk](mailto:magazine@seafordparish.org.uk)



# Easter

## **Monday 11th April**

7.30pm A Service of Compline in St. Leonard's Church

## **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April**

11.00am Holy Communion in St. Leonard's

## **Thursday 14th April: Maundy Thursday**

7.00pm Holy Communion and Tenebrae  
in St. Leonard's

## **Friday 15th April: Good Friday**

10.00am Messy Good Friday at St. Luke's  
10.00am Walk of Witness begins at St. Leonard's  
12noon Good Friday Meditations at St. Luke's (until 1.30pm)

## **Saturday 16th April**

7.00pm Easter Vigil in St. Leonard's

## **Sunday 17th April: Easter Day**

8.00am Holy Communion in St. Leonard's  
9.30am Parish Communion in St. Leonard's (also live streamed)  
9.30am Parish Communion in St. Luke's  
11.30am The Meeting Place in St. Leonard's (also live streamed)  
7.00pm St. Luke's@7 at St. Luke's



## James Hollingsworth writes...

### **Covid**

Each time I come to write something for the magazine, I dread how appallingly out of date it will be even by the time it goes to print and certainly in the weeks before the next edition comes out. I type this as at last I have a first clear LFT. Whilst the rules on this are relaxed, its not been much fun these last few days and by all accounts I've had it mildly.

The rhythm of evening prayer on our Church Facebook account has meant that I've felt held daily in prayer as I've been reading Mark's gospel to you and we've been praying about some of what I write about below.

We brought back intinction at a Sunday eucharists and I am still mulling over whether we might again offer the common cup towards the end of April but feeling the way I do at the moment I'm not as keen as I was a week ago. You don't need to wear a mask in Church anymore but knowing that quite a few of us caught it recently might make you think more cautiously again.

### **Grill a Vicar**

Stefan and I had the joys of going into Cradle Hill School to talk to year 3s about the Jewish festival of Passover. These pupils (aged 7 to 8) told us all about the plagues and the death of the first born. We actually went to some effort to make this last plague more general and bland

but there was always a few in each class who were quick to remind us of this gory plague. We went on to talk about the glorious liberation of God and how it would have been enough for us if God had only... (see a song called the Dayenu).

Then we went into the year 4s (8-9s) to talk about Lent. I got ashed twice. I asked them what they made of the Devil tempting Jesus in the wilderness, offering him all the armies of the world, and one said 'It's a scam'. I rather like that answer. I think temptations are scams, a cheap quick fix which turns out to be a trap if we go too far down this route.

I was reminded of the child who told me that for Lent he was giving up giving up. Read that again. It took me a while to understand what he had said. It turned out he was tired of being afraid to try things, afraid of failure, and so he wanted to be brave and bold and throw himself into new adventures.

The Year 5s (9-10s) grilled us with questions ranging from ancient Egyptians through to the war in Ukraine. We were exhausted after that.

### **APCM**

Sunday 24th April 3.00pm for 3.30pm we will be having our Annual Parochial Church Meeting, APCM. It is sort of an AGM. Do get a hold of the reports of our activities and the financial report. I'm always

bowled over by the prayers and the love and the generosity of those who give in time and money and care. Thank you so much. You'll read of another year of over £45,000 deficit. We couldn't keep going without your giving so thank you and if you'd like to know more about giving do pop into St Leonard's or St Luke's and ask about the Parish Giving Scheme. It has been a life saver.

And thank you to those of you who help in the Church in different rotas and roles. Church sitting so that St. Leonard's can be open to the public 10.00-1.00pm each day, or helping with the toddler group on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please Pray about whether you might be able to join your PCC, be a Deanery Rep, be a Churchwarden. We need folk who can help us stay true as a Church, true to Jesus and true to His vocation to welcome everyone. In part that will mean exploring how to build into St. Leonard's a kitchen and some toilets and just generally make the place available to the town as a place to come and be.

### **Book Club**

What have you been doing to grow your faith and to connect to others? I've been enjoying our Church book club. Others go to various Home Groups that share about hope and faith and doubts and prayers together. We started this year looking at Ruth Valerio's Saying Yes to Life. For more on this see the last issue! And then onto Clare Hayn's Unveiled looking at 40 women from the Old Testament. I've a degree in theology and I've been preaching for 20 plus years and still I found myself whispering quietly to myself: I did not know that woman, I did not know that about her, and how could I have missed that.

Consider how the book of Esther is the only book in the bible that doesn't

mention God, or prayer or worship or anything remotely religious or spiritual. There's no angels, no prophets, no 'thus saith the Lord'. I think it's a deliberate tease to make the reader ponder: Where is God in all this mess? A little close reading and you can catch glimpses of God but there are days when we wake up to the news and no we cannot see where God has been at work over night. So we must pray for the gift of faith.

We zoom together on Thursday evenings and this book will keep us busy until early May so do come and join us. Email me for more information on [vicar@seafordparish.org.uk](mailto:vicar@seafordparish.org.uk). I don't know what our next book will be just yet but I suspect we will do another one and most likely it will be by zoom.

### **Confirmation**

Monday 9th May 7.00pm Bishop Ruth is coming to confirm a handful of folk from around this area in their faith. Some have been christened as children and now feel ready to take their vows for themselves, others were baptised in another denomination and are ready to say that this is their spiritual home.

If you would like to know more about baptism or confirmation do get in touch, come along to an Alpha course, we will be doing one in September this year.

### **Jubilee**

This is going to be fabulous and fantastic. We pray. There will be lots of events going on all over town. In St Leonard's we will be having a Choral Evensong on Thursday 2nd June at 7.00pm not least because we know that her majesty likes a bit of evensong. On Saturday 4th June the Church will be open from 10.00am for teas and cake and we will wrap that up with a Messy Church service at 3.30-5.00pm. Sunday 5th June afternoon

it wouldn't surprise me if you were to invite your neighbours over for a lunch, perhaps a street or garden party so at 6.00pm St Leonard's will host a civic service of Songs of Praise.

### Ukraine

As I type this, mid March, the situation is appalling. By the time you're reading this, certainly it will be worse. There's an opportunity for us to show our quality by the way that we welcome refugees. The Government have just opened up a way for us to register our help.

It looks as if hosting a refugee will be more complicated than simply offering a spare room. At the moment refugees can travel by train for free but if they are to fly then the host might need to pay for that. And when they do arrive we should be aware of the space and kindness they will need to process the horror have seen and grief that they are enduring.

St. Peter's, East Blatchington have a page on their website where you can let us know if you're hosting a refugee family, or if you can help in other ways. We have just started a fund so that you can give to support hosts and refugees in the Seaford area. As with SVET before, this money will

come through St Leonard's Church account and be set aside for this fund. Any monies left over will be given to the DEC.

Lots of these updates will be found on facebook, so do look there for regular updates.

[www.ebbchurches.org.uk/seaford4ukraine](http://www.ebbchurches.org.uk/seaford4ukraine)

Here's a prayer that we have been using:

***God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine,  
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.***

***We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.***

***Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.***

***We pray in the name of Jesus the prince of Peace.***

***Amen.***

## Peace

My soul, there is a country  
Far beyond the stars,  
Where stands a winged sentry  
All skilful in the wars:  
There above noise and danger  
Sweet Peace sits crowned with smiles,  
And one born in a manger  
Commands the beautiful files.  
He is thy gracious friend  
And - O my soul, awake! -  
Did in pure love descend

To die here for thy sake.  
If thou canst get but thither,  
There grows the flower of Peace,  
The Rose that cannot wither,  
Thy fortress, and thy ease,  
Leave then thy foolish ranges  
For none can thee secure,  
But one who never changes,  
Thy God, thy life, thy cure.

*Henry Vaughan*



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### Lucy Hollingworth's story: Part 2

Hello, my name is Rev'd Lucy Holingsworth and I am married to James the Vicar. In the last magazine I told you a bit about me and my journey from growing up, marrying James and moving to Cambridge for him to train as a Vicar and the different hats or roles that I have had. So this is the next part of my story, something about family life and vocation, and I hope there will also be something in what I say that will serve as food for reflection.

#### **Becoming a Mother**

James completed his three years at theological college in Cambridge and another move arrived with James beginning his curacy training back in Suffolk and the arrival of our daughter Ruth. Our home was on an estate next to the runway of the Mildenhall American air base, so night feeds were accompanied by the noisy buzz of airplane engines and the whoosh bang as they 'went ballistic' over the town. A bit of maternity leave and I went to work for a different large accountancy firm, but part time this time with the juggle of childcare

into the mixture. Then Abigail arrived and we were on the move again, this time down to East Sussex.

We arrived to look at the Rectory and church in Barcombe a small village just north of Lewes in November 2000, just post flood. Barcombe, like Lewes, had been badly flooded and can still in theory be cut off by flood water. James was appointed Rector of the church and we moved down to Sussex at the beginning of March 2001. Another new baby, Samuel, another new part time job in tax with a local accountant and the whole ordination question went right onto the back burner for me.

Barcombe was a fabulous place to bring up children, with a big recreation ground, lots of space to walk and play, toddler group and playgroup and a village school, cubs and scouts and a thriving church. Ever getting involved I sat on committees and taught Sunday school groups and became a Cub Scout leader in the local cub pack as well as working completing tax returns for a local accountant.

But as my children got bigger I began to push at certain doors to see what might happen, to see what the future might hold as they went on to secondary school and beyond.

### **Becoming a Lawyer (again)**

The first door to open was the opportunity to go back to being a solicitor, part time with Mayo Wynne Baxter in their Probate, Trusts and Wills department. So with some trepidation in 2008 I stepped back into a role that I had stepped out of to follow James to theological college some thirteen years, three children and three house moves ago. The learning curve was steep, but lots of encouragement and support from lovely colleagues and late night reading meant I was soon up to speed again with my years in tax administration also being a good additional tool.

So my day, paid job continues now four days a week. On Monday and Wednesday, Thursday and Friday I am a Probate solicitor. I work with a great team, we draft Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney and administer trusts and estates. It is an enormous privilege and responsibility to sit with clients and talk about their affairs, their hopes and their fears, their worries, as you take instructions for their Wills or assist them on the death of a family member or friend. It involves careful listening and sensitive questioning to get to the right result the right way for each individual.

As I reflect on this I can see that this is a hat that although has its frustrating moments, is one that I love and appreciate the opportunity to wear. It has been a tough one to wear

too. In March 2020 we were told, along with many others, to take home what we needed and not come back into the office for 3 weeks. As you know 3 weeks became 6 weeks and then 6 months and more, we are now however mostly back in the offices working, with the flexibility to work from home, which seems to be a good new pattern.

### **Becoming an Ordinand**

The next door to swing ajar was my renewal of the exploration of ordination and in many ways this has actually been a much tougher door. The whispers had never really ceased over the years but I had successfully subdued them. One summer however we were at a Christian Conference and the whisper became more audible and more insistent and did not go away when we returned home.

So I read stuff and talked to people and prayed a lot, and slowly the Church of England wheels began to move. I met with the Diocesan Director of Ordinands, a number of times. He is the person who organises those who want to train as a Church of England deacon or priest. He then sent me to talk to a Vocations consultant for a couple of hours a month, for six months, where we talked about vocations and historical crime novels. Then more interviews including with a bishop and I was recommended to attend a national selection panel called a Bishops Advisory Panel or BAP for short.

A Church of England priest is expected to be 'missional, adaptable and collaborative'. There are nine criteria that they look at before you are



So my BAP said yes to training as a Self-Supporting Minister (which basically means I don't get paid by the church) and the Bishop said yes, so I began at theological college part time and put on my ordinand and student hat for three years. An ordinand is what you are called between being accepted to train and your ordination as a deacon. So I followed three years of lectures and essays and placements in different churches. Three years of great friendship and lots of giggles and lots of tears. Three years of juggling all my hats, of lots of prayer and lots more prayer.

And in June 2016 in Chichester Cathedral

selected to train as a priest. You are assessed in depth on the depth of your commitment and knowledge of the Church of England, your 'faith, vocation, spirituality, personality and character, leadership and collaboration, mission and evangelism, relationships, and quality of mind. It's not easy! And it doesn't stop once you are accepted to train, each year of training we were assessed again on these criteria.

I was ordained a Deacon in the Church of England and began my training as a Curate.

Next time I will share about being a curate and our move to Seaford.

With love and prayer

Lucy



# Elm Tree Replacements



The elm trees that were planted some time back in St. Leonard's Churchyard sadly did not survive.

Keith Oldham through *Trees for Seaford* has helped to source two disease resistant elm trees and these have now replaced the two that were there before.



# Prayer Ministry in the parish

## *Sue Griffiths*

One of the privileges we have as God's family is to pray for one another. In life we encounter challenges which disturb our peace and affect our ability to live life in all its fullness. Prayer is about sharing things with God, listening to hear what he might say to us and inviting him into the midst of a situation to transform it. The prayer ministry team receive training and have experience in praying with and for people and inviting the Holy Spirit into a situation. Scripture reminds us to cast our cares upon the Lord because he cares for us. The prayer ministry teams listen, talk and pray with folk in confidence that God will meet with them in their situation and bless them.

The range of services within the parish is expanding. To offer opportunities for more to access ministry, there is now an opportunity to review who would like to continue to be involved in this ministry, to regroup and to expand and develop the team.

- Are you currently involved in the prayer ministry teams here?
- Have you done prayer ministry training elsewhere (perhaps at New Wine) and are not currently ministering here on the team?
- Have you been involved in prayer ministry at a previous church?
- Would you be interested to explore the possibility of learning more and getting involved?

In order to plan the way forward, if any of the above applies to you, please come to one of these meetings:

- Saturday 7th May at 10.30am in the Holy Spirit Chapel, St Leonard's Church or
- Sunday 8th May at St. Luke's Church at 11.00am after The Meeting place.

Each meeting will last approximately 1 hour. During these meetings, we will discuss initial, ongoing training and support on offer.

Any enquiries please contact Sue Griffiths by email at [prayerpastor@seafordparish.org.uk](mailto:prayerpastor@seafordparish.org.uk) (01323 872163) or Kate Ranger (01323 899300).

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### **Are you a retired social worker, teacher or children's worker? Would you like to:**

*Make changes in a child's life  
Give back to the community*

*Put your skills to use  
Be part of a supportive team*

We need listeners in Seaford primary schools to spend a weekly half an hour with children who need an opportunity to talk. Could this be you?

For more information call Vicki on 01323 873797 or Jane on 07592387194

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# Thy Kingdom Come

26th May to 5th June 2022

Thy Kingdom Come takes place in the period from Ascension to Pentecost. An invitation initially from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England in 2016, it has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. Through the centuries Christians have gathered at that time to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Thy Kingdom Come picks up this tradition. As a parish, we join along with churches from over 80 different denominations in 172 countries around the world.

We are currently planning our contribution this year. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations coincide with Pentecost so we will focus on providing a variety of prayer stations at St. Leonard's Church throughout this time.

During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ
- Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus
- Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness
- 

If you would like to be involved in planning and constructing the prayer stations, there will be a short meeting on Saturday 9th April at 10.30am in the Holy Spirit Chapel, St Leonard's Church. All welcome. For further information please contact Sue Griffiths (01323 872163) or by email: [prayerpastor@seafordparish.org.uk](mailto:prayerpastor@seafordparish.org.uk)

Thy Kingdom Come are also partnering with Cheeky Panda to present a variety of free resources that seek to get children excited about Jesus, the Bible and prayer, and ultimately, help each child build a beautiful life-long relationship with Him... with some panda fun along the way!

There is a fun filled, bible-based TV series featuring songs, animated stories, prayer and interviews with special guests. Alongside this, are activity packs, a prayer book, a children's app, and Prayer Bears - each with an illustrated prayer book in their bag

# CHILDREN FAMILIES YOUTH



## Stefan Bracher

We have had a fantastic few months over all of the groups.

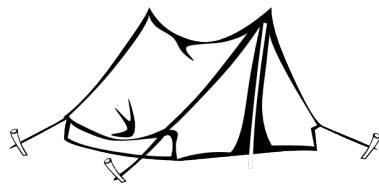


In Tots' Treats for example, we have been reading more Bible stories and connecting with prayer and have seen more and more parents come to join us for our toddler sessions. St. Leonard's opening times have now extended so we meet between 9.30am to 11.30am, St Luke's remain as they were at 9.30am to 11.00am.

In Sparks, we have now got a good, regular number of children coming to the group and new members coming along every week. We continue to look at Bible stories throughout the evenings as the children develop their understanding of what it is to be a Christian. As we look ahead to the



summer term and summer in general, we are currently in the process of planning to attend a Christian camp with the Sparks group. The camp is organised by Generations Christian Camps and will be held in Chiddingly, East Sussex. This will cost around £150 per child for a weeks of activities, trips to various places, food and camping from Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July to Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July (first week of school holidays). All leaders who are attending will have been DBS checked.



If you feel you would be able to sponsor part or all of a child's time at this camp or if you have a child who would like to come along to this camp, please register your interest by emailing [cyfw@seafordparish.org.uk](mailto:cyfw@seafordparish.org.uk) or call 07506143476.



Ignite has been slowly building some new members and we have been working with Seaford Baptist Church and St Michael's Church (Newhaven) with joint youth services once a month as young people get to meet more and more young people who are in very similar places with their faith.



Messy Church started off slightly slow this year, due to several reasons. Recently this has started to grow again with some more fantastic crafts being developed. Keep an eye out for our Messy Good Friday Service at 9.30am in St. Luke's Church. It will be a great way for you to get to grips with Easter. Also keep an eye out for our Easter Sunday Service at The Meeting Place in St. Leonard's Church from 11.30am (pastries from 11.00am) with a fantastic Easter Egg hunt!



The Meeting Place services have been developing well over the past few months that we have been working the new style. It still is not exactly where we want it, but it has been showing promising signs. We are constantly reviewing the sessions, but one thing that has proven to be a hit are the fantastic pastries and bacon rolls that we have on offer (thanks team).

James and myself have also had great fun at Cradle Hill School and Seaford Head as we work with classes as they continue their studies in religious education/humanities.

Please continue to pray for the Children, Youth and Family team as we continue to develop what we do to ensure everyone is able to hear the word of God, from creating new groups, to developing what we have already.

## Easter Hymns...

**Can you unscramble these popular easter hymns?**

*See page 37 for the answers*

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. lla oyrlg audl and orouhn             | 11. i oknw taht ym rdemree eilsv     |
| 2. lla nveaeh arlsdcee                   | 12. amke wya, amek awy               |
| 3. nda acn ti eb                         | 13. onrmnig ahs eonkrb               |
| 4. eb lstli nda nkwo hatt i ma ogd       | 14. deri no, ider no ni mateysj      |
| 5. eb tllsi fro teh erscnepe fo eht rdol | 15. kroc fo gsae                     |
| 6. earebht no em tabahr fo gdo           | 16. eth dol rgdeug srcos             |
| 7. hrsict het rlod si eisnr ydaot        | 17. heter si a negre illh raf awya   |
| 8. ofmr anehev ouy ocme                  | 18. tnihe eb teh lgoyr               |
| 9. eh si rdol                            | 19. eerw ouy heter                   |
| 10. i ecandd ni eht grnnimo              | 20. enwh i rsevyu the dunroswo ocscr |



## Christian Aid *Colin Pritchard*



This year the week is from Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup> to Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>. This is the best chance we have of raising money for the work with the most deprived people of the world. Christian Aid started immediately post world war two, specifically for refugees and to help to rebuild Europe. No surprise, then, that they are in those neighbouring countries to Ukraine with work for the refugees, together with the other Disasters Aid Committee. If you have been feeling helpless as to how to help the desperate people of Ukraine, this is your chance. As well as this critical work for Ukrainian refugees the work continues with the most deprived in Afghanistan - they are not forgotten, nor are the other parts of the world and the on-going need for help. Christian Aid works in 29 countries worldwide.

What we need most of all are church members from our churches, or other well-wishers, to put envelopes through the letter boxes of our designated roads, and then to go back to those

houses again asking for the envelopes back with money in; this is the most profitable action that we can take, and most satisfying for the collectors, it really is quite easy and time very well spent. Not quite so profitable, but still worthwhile will be to deliver envelopes through the doors together with a slip of paper telling people where they can take their filled envelopes, if you are really incapable of collecting.

One of the places to deposit filled envelopes which are not being collected will be at St Leonard's porch on the Wednesday to Saturday of the week where there will be a half-sized old fashioned milk churn ready to receive envelopes from 10am to 4pm. Most of the churches take part in sitting by the churn, so there will be a form at the back of St Leonard's for people to fill in their names to sit for a half-hour stint. We need two people there all the time. St Leonard's usual day is the Friday of the week.

There will be a 'Churches Together in Seaford' Christian Aid service at the

beginning of the week - on Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup> at a venue to be decided by the Seaford Ministers' Group. The parish is organising its annual lunch, this year at St Luke's, not on the usual Saturday before the week begins but on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May. Tickets will be available from Janet Fairchild at St Luke's and Nicola Ferguson at St Leonard's from the beginning of May, I'm sure that Liz Morgan-Jones will appreciate any help you can give.

If you have never collected for Christian Aid previously please do consider it, we really need a few more collectors. Come and talk to me or ring me on 894899 and I can explain just what is needed. Please also pray for our collectors, deliverers and churn-sitters, and of course for the work of Christian in its 29 countries.

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The advertisement for Swindells Chartered Accountants features a black and white photograph of three people in an office setting. A man in a checkered shirt is leaning over a desk, looking at a laptop. A woman with glasses is looking at the laptop. Another man is smiling in the background. The text is overlaid on the image.

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# The Woodcutter

The story of the woodcutter recounted below is only a story, a Polish folktale. However, it does prompt us to consider how we receive and respond to the ups and downs of life. So much has happened in the last few years that it is easy to jump to the wrong conclusion, usually a negative one. Maybe this little folktale might help us to adjust our thinking just a little.

Once there was an old man who lived in a tiny village. Although poor, he was envied by all, for he owned a beautiful white horse. Even the king coveted his treasure. A horse like this had never been seen before, such was its splendour, its majesty, its strength.

People offered fabulous prices for the steed, but the old man always refused. "This horse is not a horse to me," he would tell them. "It is a person. How

could you sell a person? He is a friend, not a possession. How could you sell a friend?" The man was poor and the temptation was great. But he never sold the horse.

One morning he found that the horse was not in the stable. All the village came to see him. "You old fool," they scoffed, "we told you that someone would steal your horse. We warned you that you would be robbed. You are so poor. How could you ever hope to protect such a valuable animal? It would have been better to have sold him. You could have gotten whatever price you wanted. No amount would have been too high. Now the horse is gone, and you've been cursed with misfortune."

The old man responded, "Don't speak too quickly. Say only that the horse is not in the stable. That is all we know;

the rest is judgment. If I've been cursed or not, how can you know? How can you judge?"

The people contested, "Don't make us out to be fools! We may not be philosophers, but great philosophy is not needed. The simple fact that your horse is gone is a curse."

The old man spoke again. "All I know is that the stable is empty, and the horse is gone. The rest I don't know. Whether it be a curse or a blessing, I can't say. All we can see is a fragment. Who can say what will come next?"

The people of the village laughed. They thought that the man was crazy. They had always thought he was fool; if he wasn't, he would have sold the horse and lived off the money. But instead, he was a poor woodcutter, an old man still cutting firewood and dragging it out of the forest and selling it. He lived hand to mouth in the misery of poverty. Now he had proven that he was, indeed, a fool.

After fifteen days, the horse returned. He hadn't been stolen; he had run away into the forest. Not only had he returned, he had brought a dozen wild horses with him. Once again the village people gathered around the woodcutter and spoke. "Old man, you were right and we were wrong. What we thought was a curse was a blessing. Please forgive us."

The man responded, "Once again, you go too far. Say only that the horse is back. State only that a dozen horses returned with him, but don't judge. How do you know if this is a blessing or not? You see only a fragment. Unless you know the whole story, how can you judge? You read only one page of a

book. Can you judge the whole book? You read only one word of a phrase. Can you understand the entire phrase?

"Life is so vast, yet you judge all of life with one page or one word. All you have is a fragment! Don't say that this is a blessing. No one knows. I am content with what I know. I am not perturbed by what I don't."

"Maybe the old man is right," they said to one another. So they said little. But down deep, they knew he was wrong. They knew it was a blessing. Twelve wild horses had returned with one horse. With a little bit of work, the animals could be broken and trained and sold for much money.

The old man had a son, an only son. The young man began to break the wild horses. After a few days, he fell from one of the horses and broke both legs. Once again the villagers gathered around the old man and cast their judgments.

"You were right," they said. "You proved you were right. The dozen horses were not a blessing. They were a curse. Your only son has broken his legs, and now in your old age you have no one to help you. Now you are poorer than ever."

The old man spoke again. "You people are obsessed with judging. Don't go so far. Say only that my son broke his legs. Who knows if it is a blessing or a curse? No one knows. We only have a fragment. Life comes in fragments."

It so happened that a few weeks later the country engaged in war against a neighbouring country. All the young men of the village were required to join the army. Only the son of the old man was excluded, because he was injured.

Once again the people gathered around the old man, crying and screaming because their sons had been taken. There was little chance that they would return. The enemy was strong, and the war would be a losing struggle. They would never see their sons again.

“You were right, old man,” they wept. “God knows you were right. This proves it. Your son’s accident was a blessing. His legs may be broken, but at least he is with you. Our sons are gone forever.”

The old man spoke again. “It is impossible to talk with you. You always draw conclusions. No one knows. Say only this: Your sons had to go to war, and mine did not. No one knows if it is a blessing or a curse. No one is wise enough to know. Only God knows.”

The old man was right. We only have a fragment. Life’s mishaps and horrors are only a page out of a grand book. We

must be slow about drawing conclusions. We must reserve judgment on life’s storms until we know the whole story.

I don’t know where the woodcutter learned his patience. Perhaps from another woodcutter in Galilee.

For it was the Carpenter who said it best:

*“Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.”*

He should know. He is the author of our story.

And he has already written the final chapter.

- Ecclesiastes 7:8
- Romans 12:12
- Matthew 6:34

*Author unknown*

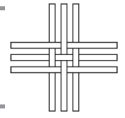


Due to popular demand, Spring Harvest Home is back for 2022.

Taking place at the same time as Spring Harvest in Minehead (April 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>), the live-stream website will bring incredible worship, fun kids sessions and insightful teaching directly to you in your living room.

Featuring a combination of live sessions and pre-recorded videos, you'll experience the essence of Spring Harvest from home.

For details and to book go to [www.springharvest.org](http://www.springharvest.org)



## Paul Waller



How does it work?

Here's an example of £40 a month

Find out more about the Parish Giving Scheme at  
[www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk](http://www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk)

Everyone will be acutely aware that the rising cost of living and the energy price crisis will be having a profound impact across all our communities, indeed each of us will feel this in differing ways. The Parish Giving Scheme allows givers to adjust their donations annually in line with inflation. PGS report that many givers who use the option actually increase their giving above inflation when informed of the increase annually.

This year, the inflation value published in January 2022 is 7.8%. The PGS inflation process means that this

increase will take effect from May onwards, and those who are scheduled to increase from May will receive notification of the new amount, giving a period of time to reflect prayerfully as to how they wish to respond.

We see the critical importance of the annual uplift for the Church as a whole, but also recognise that, in this season, it will be a key part of personal discipleship to choose to increasingly give sacrificially.

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

*1 Peter 4:10-11*

Be encouraged by the hope that Peter brings to life, hope of God's provision in strength as we serve God in using our gifts that we receive. It's this immeasurable strength that enables us to further the work of the Kingdom of God. The strength that keeps us all going in the work of serving our churches and communities. Such vital work that is greatly needed and deeply valued.

# Lunchtime Concerts

## 2022 Season

### St. Leonard's Church

**Saturday May 21st**  
**Gerard Brooks (organ)**

Gerard Brooks first studied the organ with John Webster, and was elected Organ Scholar at Lincoln College, Oxford. After further studies with Susi Jeans, he was the first organist to win the Stephen Arlen Memorial Award; this together with further grants from the Martin Musical Foundation amongst others enabled him to study for two years with Daniel Roth at Strasbourg Conservatoire in France, where he was awarded the Première Médaille in organ. On his return to the UK he spent a further postgraduate year in Cambridge, studying with Nicolas Kynaston. In 1987 he was appointed Associate Director of Music at All Souls Langham Place. During his time at All Souls he played regularly for BBC Radio 4's Daily Service and Songs of Praise, and toured with the All Souls Orchestra, playing in many concert halls, including the Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall and Moscow Conservatoire. His other musical work has included playing in West End Musicals, and musical arranging and composition: his school cantata Nativity News is published by Boosey and Hawkes. [www.gerardbrooks.org.uk](http://www.gerardbrooks.org.uk)



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

**June 18th:** Abi Heath (clarinet)

**July 16th:** Clare Beesley (historical flute) and Rosemary Kemp (piano)

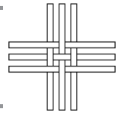
**August 20th:** D'Arcy Trinkwon (organ)

**September 17th:** Mehreen Shah (soprano)

**October 15th:** Adam Heron (piano)

**November 19th:** Lips Wind Quintet

**All concerts begin at 1.00pm.**  
**Admission is free with a retiring collection.**



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.

There is a theme for every day of the week with suggested current topics for prayer. Feel free to use as many as you wish.

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 April**

### **MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP**

- MAF pilots carry Bible boxes on their flights, so people can receive God's Word. Pray that those who receive a Bible will experience the Holy Spirit and God's love.
- Thank God that MAF has been able to support communities in South Sudan over the last 70 years. Praise God for MAF's 47 dedicated staff there. Pray that the Holy Spirit will transform lives and that a country born out of civil war will find longed for peace and prosperity.
- Safety is an essential part of what MAF does. Safety for staff and those they serve. This is a job Daniel did in South Sudan. Pray for him as he studies for his UK pilot's license, and to keep the vision for serving again.

### **WAVES – Supporting Seaford Families**

- Pray for centre co-ordinator Vicki and key workers Jane and Jill as they continue to support families in Seaford, emotionally and practically), and to develop WAVES as a welcoming and supportive space for families.
- For more volunteers to come forward to enable WAVES to further develop and extend its services. Especially, to provide a listening service for individual children within all primary schools, but also to help within the centre .
- For financial provision to enable continued and extended support for families in Seaford who would benefit from counselling/family support.

### **MISSION DIRECT**

- Pray for strength and healing for Simone who oversees the work in Africa for Mission Direct and who has an aggressive cancer of the lungs.
- For the teams planning to travel in 2022. (These will be reduced due to continuing high levels of Covid especially in southern Africa).
- The rewired team as they look to travel to both Zimbabwe and Zambia in early July.

## **SUNDAY - The Church Worldwide**

- Pray for our Christian brothers and sisters who live under the threat of persecution, imprisonment, or death for following Jesus.
- As churches pray together, “Thy Kingdom Come” (26<sup>th</sup> May – 5<sup>th</sup> June), let us pray for those who do not yet know God’s love for themselves.
- For Christians with family members who do not yet know Christ, for wisdom and boldness as they share the love of God.
- For generosity of heart as churches reach out to the displaced and those in need.
- As God’s people worship today, whether in large congregations or alone, pray that they might know his presence, hear his voice and receive his blessing.

## **MONDAY – The UK**

- Pray for wisdom for the health secretary, those in the Department of Health, striving to deal with the backlog and ongoing demand for health service.
- For a fair agreement re: the Northern Ireland protocol and trade issues. For elections for devolved government at Stormont.
- Wisdom for the Prime Minister, ministers and parliament as they handle the UK response to the war in Ukraine.
- For those facilitating the safe arrival of refugees from Ukraine. Not forgetting the plight of other refugees, including unaccompanied children from Syria, South Sudan and other places.
- For the appointment of the new head of Metropolitan Police. Someone with wisdom, integrity, excellent leadership and the ability to restore faith and trust in police force. The East Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, Katy Bourne, seeking to enact measures to make streets safer.

## **TUESDAY - Parish**

- James, Derreck, Stefan and all leaders for continuing vision and wisdom as they serve the Church.
- That those who visit the prayer stations at St .Leonard’s during “Thy Kingdom Come” will find something to help their walk with God.
- All who are sick that they might know God’s peace, healing and wholeness
- For PCC exploring feasible and effective options for use of our buildings
- Give thanks for all who regularly support and pray for the parish and its members.

## **WEDNESDAY – Children & Young people**

- Give thanks for Stefan and those who help at Tots, Sparks and Ignite seeking to help the youngsters get to know Jesus. That God will raise up more helpers.
- For families coming to worship together in the parish that they will discover all that God has for them.
- Pray for a generous and secure funding stream for the young people’s ministry to enable them to make long term forward plans.
- Give thanks for the steady start in the redevelopment of The Meeting Place

- and for those embracing the changes.
- For safety and protection from infection as groups gather together

#### **THURSDAY – For those living in**

April 7th: Chyngton Way, South Way, Mark Close, Newick Close, Hamsey Lane,

April 14th: Fairways Road, Poynings Close, Fairways Close, Lullington Close

April 21st: Field Close, Green Walk, St Wilfrid's Close, Kingston Green, Kingston Close

April 28th: Kingston Way, May Avenue, Buckthorn Close, Rowan Close

May 5th: Badgers Copse, Ash Drive, Sycamore Close, Elm Close, Willow Drive, Juniper Close.

May 12th: Eastbourne Road Headland Avenue, Downsview Road,

May 19th: Bainbridge Close, Sutton Avenue, Links Close, Darwall Drive, Hazeldene,

May 26th: Hartfield Road, Wenthill Park, Wellington Park, Aquila Park, Downs Road

#### **FRIDAY: Seaford**

- Pray for provision of health services locally, GP surgeries and their staff
- For mental health of children, especially those struggling and their families.
- For students preparing for GCSE, A level and B Tec exams and their teachers
- For Care homes balancing management of Covid restrictions with welfare and safety of residents.
- Those for whom increased cost of living and fuel cost rises will cause severe anxiety and hardship. Support, wise advice and practical solutions.

#### **SATURDAY: TheWorld**

- Pray for wisdom for world leaders as they grapple with the actual and potential threats of our world
- For those living in the midst of war and unrest, that they might know protection, peace and an end to the conflict.
- That Covid vaccine will get safely to remote areas where people are in need.
- Those trying to rebuild lives in a new country. For refugees & asylum seekers.
- Give thanks for the natural world around us. Pray for nations to commit to effective means of minimising damage for future generations.

#### **Pray for Missions Partners during May**

**CHRISTIAN AID:** Working with global faith-based coalition, ACT Alliance and DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

- Pray for Ukraine. For an immediate ceasefire and for the UK government to support humanitarian efforts and welcome vulnerable people fleeing the conflict.
- For the Christian Aid Afghanistan Crisis appeal. More than 8 million people are 'on the brink of famine'

- The Christian Aid week 15-21st May calling for climate justice. Pray to restore Justice to our world.

### **CAMBODIA ACTION – SARAH & POLA**

- Pray for members of M'lup Russey Organisation needing to seek new employment due to funding reduction. That they can take and share all the skills, experiences and love gained from being part of M'lup Russey Team.
- The need for at least four new Board Members at M'lup Russey who are qualified in social work, HR, finances or organizational development.
- Give thanks that after 10 years the Guidelines on Reintegration, and Transition and Closure of Residential Care Institutions has now been signed off by Government and is now launched. Pray it is well implemented so that vulnerable children in Cambodia will be able to live in loving, nurturing families.

### **DIOCESAN FAMILY SUPPORT**

- Pray for further volunteers to support the work of the recently expanded team of practitioners: needed to work with individual families or at group events, to sort and prepare food at the foodbank in Brighton and to help with fundraising.
- Give thanks that opportunities for fund raising events have resumed.
- Give thanks for the ongoing donations to the foodbank.

## **Prayers on ZoomParish**

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



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It is wedding season in our local area, and no doubt, around the country. It seems we have an invite to attend a "mehndi" and a "wallima" every weekend! It's not just half a day event...

Thursday night the men gather along the street from the groom's house and parade to meet in his garden to dance and festoon him with garlands, money gifts and congratulations. Fairy Lights are up, traditional music is blaring out the portable speakers; all while the bride prepares herself with her family. Both have been chosen for each other by their parents.

Ali attends the Mehndi on Friday, when the bride celebrates with her friends, all female. Henna, dancing and support for the bride wishing her well, good health and prosperity. Saturday, the groom goes to the bride's house, the barat, and brings her to his house and Sunday hosts the Wallima, the coming together - yet when friends come together, the men stay together in one room, or a tent in the garden and the ladies in another room or tent.

Food is always on the go at each event, large pots of biryani, large as in 3-4 feet diameter! The men are fed first, then the ladies in this patriarchal world. Some families have their own traditions like the groom giving the bride a vase of milk to drink, with some grass in it, then having to negotiate a price with his new wife's sisters. A veil is placed over the bride's head to protect her beauty and modesty. The veil is mentioned 9 times in the old testament and while it remains common today in many countries, I wonder why and when this ancient practice was not carried over to Western type cultures?

Then, the Dulaha and Dulaan are off together to his house and so life continues.

We have seen the fun and laughter of families coming together, tears of the bride leaving her home and also of parents letting go. The preparations, generosity, celebrations and community inclusion seem to follow this familiar pattern for all faiths. I wonder if the wedding Jesus went to lasted 4 days?

# This part of the journey is drawing to a close, but...

## *Damien Brennan*

So I woke up one morning, with a mild feeling of anxiety or excitement,. It dawned on me that three years has sailed by in a way that now seems very quickly. But of course it has not always been like that. I've spent most of the last three years studying theology and ministry at St. Mellitus College in London, balancing this with work, family and life in general has at times felt like it was never ending. It has been a soul shaping privilege to be able to do so.

The journey towards ordination of course has been going on over a much longer time but gathered pace in August 2019 when I started formally training. For the two or so years before that I had been actively exploring this possibility and for many years before this I had been aware that it was on the cards.

I want to say thank you to everyone at St. Luke's and St. Leonard's who has been very supportive in encouragement in challenging and in prayer.

My time for ordination has been set for July 2 and I will be ordained in the parish church of St. Mary's in Brighton.

My first thought was why not the cathedral ? A Cathedral seems to be the right sort of place to get ordained however, the more I thought about this the more I am glad that such an event is not taking place in a remarkable and phenomenal building because I think for me ordination is about being set aside to serve people in unremarkable ways and in unremarkable places and it feels to me as if there is something suitably humble about a regular parish church. As we are still in the shadow of restrictions places will be limited but I am hoping that the event will be live streamed if you were interested in seeing what happens during an ordination service.

After being ordained I shall set sail for the benefice of the Cuckmere Valley churches where I serve my curacy. the closer I get to this the more Earthy it feels to be. One of the really interesting things is that I don't yet have a very clear sense of what it is I am actually going to do when I arrive but I know that these things will all come out in the wash.

My time being part of the Seaford parish community has been wonderful and I shall miss it very much. Over the last two very odd years you have been subjected to my sermons and other things and what amazing growth and diversity we have seen, not, I hasten to add, as a result of my sermons, maybe in spite of them. All the same it has been my privilege and joy to be part of it. But for now we all have the next two years to look forward to encountering Gods Grace and direction in new and hopefully continually odd ways.

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## **Ruth Saunders reflects on the Fairtrade Fortnight which was held from 21<sup>st</sup> February to 6<sup>th</sup> March**

We are a Fairtrade Church, and people will remember that we worked hard to ensure that we use Fairtrade products for all church events. We had regular Fairtrade stalls in the church hall, a Fairtrade market in March and a quiz in November. However, since the Pandemic, we have had other things on our minds. Sadly, the Seaford Fairtrade Association closed in 2019, mostly due to the difficulty of engaging with younger people, many of whom have so many issues to battle with, and the Fairtrade brand finding it difficult to compete with the growing power of the big supermarkets. How can families struggling to make ends meet, not choose to pay the lower prices at the supermarket. With Fairtrade Fortnight at the beginning of March, it feels like a good moment to remind ourselves of what we still can do to promote fairness and justice for the poorest people on our planet.

Fairtrade Foundation is working closely with small farmers across the world, giving them access to training and extra income to take on the climate crisis. They are being enabled to plant trees and introduce eco-friendly methods to protect their land. They are facing up to a climate crisis which is not of their making, but which, combined with unfair trade, threatens their future.

In order for this work to continue, it is vital that we still look for that familiar label, and buy Fairtrade when we can. The Co-op continues to be a great supporter, and chocolate, coffee, tea and wine are regularly available. Lidl too does well, and it is good to ask in other supermarkets where their Fairtrade produce is or why is there so little. You might have celebrated Red Nose Day with the chari-tees, T-shirts made with Fairtrade cotton from India and Uganda. And if clothes seem impossibly cheap, then someone somewhere will not have been paid fairly for their work.

We can write to our MP to ensure that the government deliver on the funding promises made to small-scale farmers in low income countries at COP26. And to ensure that the new trade agreements being drawn up in the wake of Brexit, keep the poorest producers in mind.

As we think about justice for everyone during Lent, it is timely for us to make an extra effort to shop with the poorest people in our world in mind. There is lots of information on the Fairtrade Foundation web-site about how we can help – and just remember all those easter eggs we shall be buying.



**Dear Friends,**

After a busy half term in February we are back to our usual routines. We are very excited to be able to plan our usual family activities this year, and are currently planning our residential visit to Dalesdown in April. We are also preparing for the arrival of new family support practitioners following our recent round of recruitment, and will be giving you all the information about them as soon as we can. We were also delighted to be involved with Archbishop of Canterbury's recent visit to the Diocese, when we attended an event in Lewes discussing the role of the church within communities, it was a very interesting and thought-provoking evening.

With Easter approaching, we are still open to registrations for our Easter Walk on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April and would love you to join us. All the information can be found on the Events page of our website or by contacting Jo in the office [jo@familysupportwork.org.uk](mailto:jo@familysupportwork.org.uk).

Some of you may be following Peter Gayler's progress on his fundraising pilgrimage to every English cathedral this year. If you aren't yet aware, it's a fascinating challenge and Peter is updating his page regularly with very interesting information and photos

about every cathedral he has seen. You can find this at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cathedralpilgrimage>.

We are sending out more food parcels each week as the impact of the rising cost of living hits home. Our foodbank still has healthy levels of most items, but if you are collecting donations for the foodbank, we would be particularly grateful for coffee, tinned fruit, biscuits and multipack/family packs of crisps or other savoury snacks.

Thank you as always for your kind support.

#### **February's work in numbers**

- 240 individual visits and 475 calls with families supporting 333 adults and 325 children
- 25 supported meetings with other agencies
- 18 group sessions held supporting 382 parents and 269 children
- 193 food deliveries made

#### **Prayer points**

- Give thanks for a successful recruitment process which will mean 7 new staff joining us in May subject to relevant checks
- Pray for a positive outcome on a significant funding application which we are waiting to receive in the next couple of weeks
- Pray for a family in East Sussex who have just been referred to us after a terrible incident of domestic violence which has traumatised the young children

**Nikki Kerr,**

*FSW Director of Fundraising & Marketing*

# FOOD BANK

We would currently welcome donations of:  
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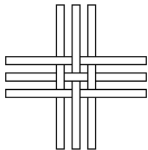
We **do not** currently need:  
PASTA, CEREAL OR SOUP



*Thank you!*



**Collections points at both St Leonard's and St Luke's  
Many thanks for all the recent donations**



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

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 3.30pm

St. Leonard's Church

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

# Chocolatey Easter Celebrations



*The anticipation of all those chocolate Easter eggs can be almost too much! When the big day finally arrives, these are some sweet ways you can help children understand why they have received Easter eggs, and explain the Easter story while enjoying the chocolate too.*

An Easter Egg story... for anyone old enough to eat chocolate.

Here's a fun way to connect chocolate Easter eggs with the story of Easter from the Bible.

Sit down together and enjoy peeling the foil wrapping off a hollow chocolate egg. Hold the egg in your hand.

Jesus' tomb was a bit like this egg – with the big stone rolled against the tomb entrance, inside it must have been dark and cramped. It's as if the darkness makes it still Good Friday, the day that Jesus died.

But on the first Easter day, Jesus came alive again, and burst out of the tomb. Good Friday is broken once and for all, and new life is set free.

At this point, feel free to smash the egg and start eating the pieces. While you eat, keep going with thinking through the story.

But the trouble was, that nobody saw it happen. The soldiers who were guarding the tomb had fainted in fear, and the next thing we know, Mary arrives at Jesus' tomb and finds that it's empty. The actual moment of the resurrection happened in private. All that excitement and joy and nobody to share it...

On Easter Sunday we focus on Mary's story. There in the garden, the resurrection had already happened, but she was trapped in her own Good Friday – her grief and sadness kept her in the dark.

If you have another chocolate egg, peel off the wrapping together and hold it in your hand.

Just like the first egg, it's like Good Friday is still happening. It still felt like Good Friday to Mary.

When we read Mary's story we can tell the exact moment when the resurrection happened for her – it's when Jesus calls her name and she recognises him. Suddenly all her sadness is turned to joy. Mary's Good Friday is gone once and for all, the new life is set free in her.

You can smash and eat your second egg now.

Over the next few weeks, churches all over the world read more stories of how Jesus' friends discovered that he was alive again: their own Good Fridays turned to Easter, all in different ways.

If you have lots of chocolate eggs, you could use these stories to help you eat them:-

- Jesus' closest friends were trapped in a Good Friday because they were afraid, but Jesus came to them and said: 'Peace be with you', and all their fear disappeared.
- Thomas's Good Friday was all about doubt, but his doubt turned to new faith and confidence when he saw Jesus for himself.
- Some friends of Jesus were on a journey when Jesus met them on the road, and helped them understand what had happened; he stayed with them for supper and as he broke the bread to share, they recognised him. Their Good Friday confusion turned to Easter recognition.
- Peter was Jesus' best friend, but he was stuck in Good Friday because he'd betrayed Jesus just when he needed his friendship the most. Peter's Easter moment came when Jesus gave him three chances to say 'I love you' to make up the three times that he had turned his back.
- Sometimes we can get stuck in Good Friday too – you could use this prayer (perhaps as you eat a little bit more chocolate) to help you enjoy the new life of Easter – or pray it for people you know who are having a hard time at the moment.

**Dear Jesus,  
Be with us in our Good Fridays,  
and lead us into the new life of  
Easter. Amen.**

*Article taken from  
[www.churchofenglandchristenings.org](http://www.churchofenglandchristenings.org)  
with permission.*

### Easter Hymns

1. All Glory Laud and Honour
2. All Heaven Declares
3. And can it be
4. Be still and know that I am God
5. Be still for the presence of the lord
6. Breathe on me breath of God
7. Christ the lord is risen today
8. From Heaven you came
9. He is lord
10. I danced in the morning
11. I know that my redeemer lives
12. Make way, make way
13. Morning has broken
14. Ride on, ride on in majesty
15. Rock of ages
16. The old rugged cross
17. There is a green hill far away
18. Thine be the glory
19. Were you there
20. When I survey the wondrous cross



## Terry Howell

### 'Helping people into Housing'

#### Loans

We give loans averaging £1450 for the damage deposit and first month's rent so that our clients, often desperately in need of a home or homeless, can access private accommodation. Last year finished unhappily because the eleven clients offered loans were all unable to find somewhere to live! However this January eight tenancies were obtained which is near normal. Nevertheless the situation remains very difficult with too many people chasing too few places to let. Indications are that fewer tenancies were obtained in February and March. The silver lining to this is that with fewer loans and a high rate of repayments our finances are healthy. In addition, Lewes District Council have awarded us a grant of £12,000 p.a. for three years.

#### Grants

We give small grants to those who are moving into housing (local authority or housing association) with basic needs they cannot afford. The grant pays for white goods; or basic furniture e.g. bed or chair; or floor covering. Our grants are for a maximum of £300 and average £250. We often offer tenants only one item which they consider the most important e.g. a cooker at £190, or £220 with fitting. Floor covering is a major problem because the cost is high, one needs to find the size and shape, and someone willing to fit it has to be arranged, all with a tight budget

of £300. We find it difficult to understand why the District Council does not provide basic floor covering which is clearly needed to keep down the noise for neighbours and especially for small children and autistic children. Lack of floor covering also leads to increased heating bills.

We have made nine grants up to the end of February totalling £2,260. This is higher than budgeted for but we can afford it as we have made fewer loans.

#### Tributes

Here are two examples from a large number of tributes praising HOMELINK staff.

*Homelink made moving into my new home so easy and effortless. I didn't have the funds for a deposit or the first month's rent and could see how easily someone could end up on the streets. This charity was a god send. They were so lovely and so kind, it was so nice to speak to someone that I felt was not judging my situation and only had my best interest at heart. Everything went through very swiftly and made my move very easy. This charity is invaluable and I am deeply grateful for their help and support. LM*

*I was in a very difficult situation. I was a disabled single mum, served with a no-fault Section 21, let down by the Council and facing homelessness. Without support from Homelink, I would have had no choice but to stay where I was until I was evicted by bailiffs and then put in emergency*

accommodation. But because of Homelink, I am going to be moving to a safe, secure flat and my son won't ever have to know how close we came to losing everything, HW

### The Best News at last

We have appointed a new Client Manager, Jackie Wilkes, who could not be better qualified as Manager of CAB in Lewes. This is great news after we lost two candidates who did not take up the post after being offered the job. We were also saved the effort and cost of re-advertising the job by being able to

treat this application as a late one from the previous advertisement.

### Prayer

- Continue to pray for Gary as he bears sole responsibility until Jackie is trained.
- Pray for our new Client Manager Jackie as she takes up the post.
- Pray for all who are homeless or seeking a home in difficult circumstances.

**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; a Repayments Officer; 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 made 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?**

### Neutering

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

Please phone 01273 813111 (Option 3)

and leave a message including your phone number so that we may contact you.



**DO YOU HAVE ROOM FOR A FURRY FRIEND?**

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



# News from Sarah Chhin in Cambodia

Laurie and Alice have both been back to in-person school since before Christmas, and are thoroughly enjoying themselves, their new subjects and teachers, and have made some really good friends too. Last week, one student tested positive, so the school went back to virtual lessons for two days so they could deep clean the building. It definitely says something about their overall sense of wellbeing when they said they'd prefer to get up at 5am to get to in-person school for 7.30am, rather than have a lie-in and start online at 8am! Praise God for their happiness in this new school, their improved sense of well-being, and that they have made some good friends.

It has been getting difficult for me to understand what was being said in meetings, or when there was a background noise for a few years, but it wasn't until Covid forced us all to wear masks that I realised how much I relied on lip-reading to know what was going on! In January, I finally admitted that I needed help hearing, and went to see a French-trained, Cambodian ENT doctor - I now wear a hearing aid! Life and work is now so much easier, not having to strain to understand everyone. Praise God that Cambodians who have studied abroad to very high levels are returning to support the development

of their own country, and offer important services to their people. And praise God that I can hear properly again!

Since the beginning of the year, our new home has been taking shape rapidly – ceilings have been put in, the wiring has been finished, the stairs have bannisters and we have a front door. Praise God for this encouragement – there is still a lot to do until we can move in, and we don't yet know when that will possibly be, but it is exciting to see.

1st January 2022 marked M'lup Russey's 9th birthday, and we celebrated by launching our new Strategic Plan, which will see us co-operating and partnering with Government Authorities, Key People in Communities and local networks, using their existing resources (along with MRO's tried and tested models) to respond directly to the needs of children and youth. We'll also be continuing to offer various services to vulnerable children and their families, Careleavers, and those still living and working in orphanages. Praise God for the vision He has given to the team, for the work He has done through us in the past, and for all He is going to do in the future.

Usually, we would return to the UK every two years or so on 'home assignment', visiting Churches and groups, giving presentations and encouraging people with the great things God is doing through the work He has called us to. Our group of financial supporters are often joined by new people during these times. But Covid has prevented us from returning to the UK and it has been four years since we were able to have home assignment and those opportunities to share. We really want and need to have home assignment this year, around July, but, at the moment, we have enough money to either pay for a home assignment in the UK, or pay for the next instalment of

school fees for Laurie, Alice, Thida and Thideth. We don't have enough to do both. So we are in a vicious circle – we need to return to the UK in order to have opportunities to raise up new financial supporters, but we need new financial supporters to be able to return to the UK. God has always been faithful to us in this, we have always had just what we need, and we have faith that He will provide this time too, so please pray that His timing will be perfect and that we will have the money we need both to go for home assignment and pay the school fees, however He may choose to do that.

**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](http://www.seafordparish.org.uk/latest)**

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Life And More Abundant Ministries

# LAMA



*Dear friends,*

Greetings from LAMA House. Thank you so much for your continued support. We are now able to mail from the Post Office, sorry those not on email have missed our updates. Please let me have your email address if you have one. Things are beginning to open up; we are still required to wear masks and carry vaccination cards but much of the protocol is no longer required.

### **Centre for Young Offenders**

Michael, Simon and I (Lesley) attended a Zoom meeting a couple of weeks ago with the Head of the Detention Centre for boys, she has allowed 3 of us to come in for Chapel Services. During Covid detainees were reduced from 137 to around 60. You may remember we experienced God's Presence in amazing ways just before the pandemic. The Center Head said house-parents have tried to continue 'spiritual services' by reading the Daily Bread booklet, but they looked forward to LAMA House coming back. Michael, Simon and Ana went on the first Tuesday of March, ministering to a group of twenty boys. When Michael stepped out of the car one of the boys exclaimed, "It's LAMA!" It was our custom to invite boys to the front for prayer at the end of the service, but

Michael wasn't sure if that would be permitted so didn't ask, but a new boy asked the house-parent if he could be prayed for - he didn't seem to be from a church background so maybe the others have been talking about how God answers prayer. The following week there were 50 boys allowed and one gave a testimony. It's exciting to be back!

### **A new ministry opportunity**

I was invited by Dolly Capias, wife of Philippine Trustee, Pastor Domie, to an online workshop for ministry to traumatized women. The Zoom host was in India, where Dolly is from, her brother put the training together. Ana and I (Lesley) attended 2 days of training, together we hope to hold courses in LAMA House. In India statistics are 1 in 4 women suffer trauma - I expect the Philippine statistics are higher. It is a course of 9 Bible studies in the book of John using stories of Jesus' ministry to women, testimonies from women in India and artwork. What a great idea!

### **Ukraine**

The news from Ukraine is beyond terrible. LAMA Ministries sent donations via friends Wayne O'Leary with the Slavic Gospel Association and David Flanders in Cornwall. So glad we

are able to do something and we will continue to pray and help where we can. Life And More Abundant Ministries was set up as a UK Charity (1008940) to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ 'in the Philippines and elsewhere', so we are happiest when we can in some way "go into all the world!"

### **LAMA House of Worship**

One constant throughout the pandemic has been legal paperwork! We have made several trips to Baguio to Securities and Exchange Commission to amend LAMA Articles changing the use of LAMA House from 'Residential Centre for Boys' to "Worship Centre'. That is now done. I was advised The Charity Commission, UK will not require any changes. The DSWD here, after a long drawn out process, have now 'de-listed' LAMA House. I (Lesley) completed loads of paperwork to meet DSWD requirements over the years. At the workshop for women in trauma I met a young nurse beginning to set up a home for street-boys in Cebu - so the paperwork won't be wasted as I hope to share my knowledge with her as she steps into formidable DSWD territory, bless her!

### **Tondo, Manila**

We were able, after 3 years, to visit Kevin in Manila (now 16). He left us to live with Granma but was sent back to his Dad, he left and ended up back in Tondo. We had an address in one of the worst slums in Manila, but he wasn't online to call when we arrived around 2pm. Michael went around the streets many times as we prayed for him to make an appearance. Ana found a picture on Facebook, a house with pink walls, so we looked for pink shanty houses. Eventually we found the

matching house and Michael nervously got out of the car to ask if anyone knew Kevin. At first they were suspicious, "Why are you asking?" But when he told them we took care of Kevin before the pandemic suddenly a crowd gathered around Michael asking questions. "It's OK, we don't eat people!" one man joked! Ana, Simon and I watched from the car - soon several street boys gathered around the car peering through the windows! When we caught up with Kevin later he cried and hugged us tight before we left. He has a place to stay and an 'auntie' who takes care of him in poverty. We saw many children, dirty, no clothes, fighting over scraps of food on the road- side. We will be going back. Will try to link up with Missionaries for the Poor (Mother Theresa) who have a Centre nearby. Pray for Kevin. Also Wowie and his Mum - Peter visits Wowie often but they continue to need a lot of help.

*Much love to you all, Peter & Lesley Gomez, Michael, Jeli, Ana and Simon.*



*Kevin at LAMA House*

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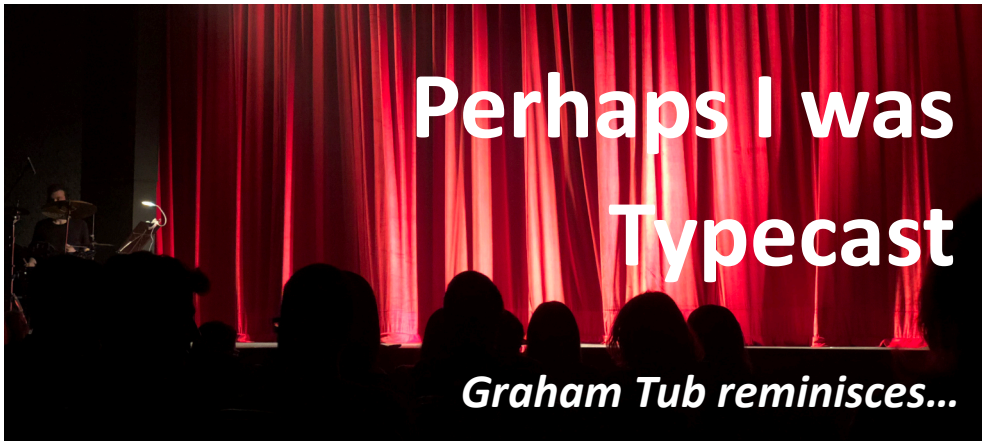
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My parents were married in March 1934 by Rev. Phillips who was said to be a dashing vicar! It was also said that a young bride would say, 'The Rev. Phillips is marrying me.' But most would rather have been marrying him!

I was christened by Rev. Maxwell in 1942 and confirmed on St. Patrick's Day in 1958 by the then Bishop of Lewes when Rev. Michael Nott was the vicar. I used to assist with the Bible Class at the old Simmons Institute, our original church hall, with Evelyn Reed and Evelyn Edwards.

In 1963 I left Seaford to work in London, but was often back at weekends and holidays attending St. Leonard's and was one of the the first servers at St. Luke's. Michael Nott wanted me to go into the ministry, but I was very un-worldly and had been offered a part in a revival of *Guys and Dolls* in the West End. That part was as Calvin who was in the Salvation Army Band. After that I often played vicars in shows such as *Wedding in Paris* at the Ashcroft in Croydon and the vicar in *Dad's Army* sketches!

Attending All Saints, East Finchley I was again a server, have sung in a service at Westminster Abbey and featured in BBC *Songs of Praise* from St. George's Cathedral, Southwark in 1979. Back in Seaford I joined the choir at St. Leonard's in 2004 and in 2019 played the part of The Pope in *Sister Act* at the Barn Theatre. Being type cast seems to have been something of a regular occurrence!

*Editor's Note:*

*In 2016 Graham was awarded the National Operatic and Dramatic Association Diamond Bar in recognition of over 60 years in theatre. Graham began acting in 1948 as a junior member of the then Seaford Operatic Society. Working largely in musicals Graham has taken part in many charity events including here in Seaford at the Barn Theatre.*



## April-May Lectionary

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

Philippians 3:4b-14  
John 12.1-8

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Exodus 14:10-31  
John 10:22-30

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April: Palm Sunday**

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29  
Luke 19.29-40

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Numbers 20:1-13  
John 13:31-35

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April: Easter Day**

Acts 10:34-43  
John 20:1-18

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May: 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Acts 16:9-15  
John 14:23-29

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Acts 5:27-32  
John 20:19-end

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May: Ascension Day**

Acts 1:1-11  
Luke 24:44-53

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Exodus 3.1-17  
John 21:1-19

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May: 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Acts 16:16-34  
John 17:20-end

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# April Calendar

<b>Saturday 2nd</b>	3.15pm	Messy Church	St. Leonard's
<b>Sunday 3rd</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.30am**	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
<b>Monday 4th</b>	7.30pm	Parish Women's Group	St. Luke's
<b>Wednesday 6th</b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	12.30pm	Parish Lunch	St. Luke's
<b>Friday 8th</b>	2.30pm	Mothers' Union	St. Luke's
<b>Sunday 10th Palm Sunday</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am*	The Meeting Place	St. Luke's
	7.00pm	Prayer@7	St. Luke's
<b>Monday 11th</b>	7.30pm	Compline	St. Leonard's
<b>Tuesday 12th</b>	11.00am	Prayer Ministry service with refreshments from 10.00am	St. Luke's
<b>Wednesday 13th</b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Thursday 14th</b>	7.00pm	Holy Communion with Tenebrae	St. Leonard's
<b>Friday 15th Good Friday</b>	10.00am	Churches Together Walk	St. Leonard's
	10.00am	Messy Good Friday	St. Luke's
	12.00noon	Good Friday Meditations	St. Luke's
<b>Saturday 16th</b>	7.00pm	Easter Vigil	St. Leonard's
<b>Sunday 17th Easter Day</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.30am**	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7	St. Luke's
<b>Wednesday 20th</b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Saturday 23rd</b>	10.00am	Open Church Cafe/Plant Sale	St. Leonard's
<b>Sunday 24th</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am*	The Meeting Place	St. Luke's
	3.30pm	APCM	St. Leonard's
<b>Monday 25th</b>	7.30pm	SPWG Annual Dinner	Seaford Golf Club
<b>Tuesday 26th</b>	11.00am	Prayer Ministry service with refreshments from 10.00am	St. Luke's

# May Calendar

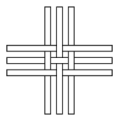


<b>Sunday 1st</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.30am**	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
<b>Wednesday 4th</b>	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	12.30pm	Parish Lunch	St. Luke's
<b>Friday 6th</b>	2.00pm	Mothers' Union	St. Luke's
<b>Saturday 7th</b>	3.15pm	Messy Church	St. Leonard's
<b>Sunday 8th</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am*	The Meeting Place	St. Luke's
<b>Monday 9th</b>	7.00pm	Confirmation service	St. Leonard's
<b>Tuesday 10th</b>	11.00am	Prayer Ministry service with refreshments from 10.00am	St. Luke's
<b>Friday 13th</b>	2.30pm	Mothers' Union	St. Luke's
<b>Sunday 15th</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.30am**	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's
	7.00pm	St. Luke's@7	St. Luke's
<b>Monday 16th</b>	7.30pm	Parish Women's Group	St. Luke's
<b>Wednesday 18th</b>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
<b>Saturday 21st</b>	1.00pm	Lunchtime Concert	St. Leonard's
<b>Sunday 22nd</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Leonard's
	9.30am*	The Meeting Place	St. Luke's
<b>Tuesday 24th</b>	11.00am	Prayer Ministry service with refreshments from 10.00am	St. Luke's
<b>Thursday 26th</b>	7.00pm	Holy Communion for Ascension Day	St. Leonard's
<b>Sunday 29th</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	Both churches
	11.30am**	The Meeting Place	St. Leonard's

## The Meeting Place

\*Bacon sandwiches 9.00am, service starts at 9.30am.

\*\*Pastries from 11.00am, service starts at 11.30am.



# 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	
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Wendy Ogilvie	07779 248730	
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Alan Thomas

## 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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Paul Waller (St. Leonard's)	01323 872088	
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Tony Gubbins (St. Luke's)		lukedeputy1@seafordparish.org.uk
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## Parish Treasurer

Paul Waller	Contact Parish Office	atreasurer@seafordparish.org.uk
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## Safeguarding Officer

Ruth Saunders		safeguarding@seafordparish.org.uk
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<b>Hall Bookings</b>	07425 936674	bookings@seafordparish.org.uk
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## Magazine

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