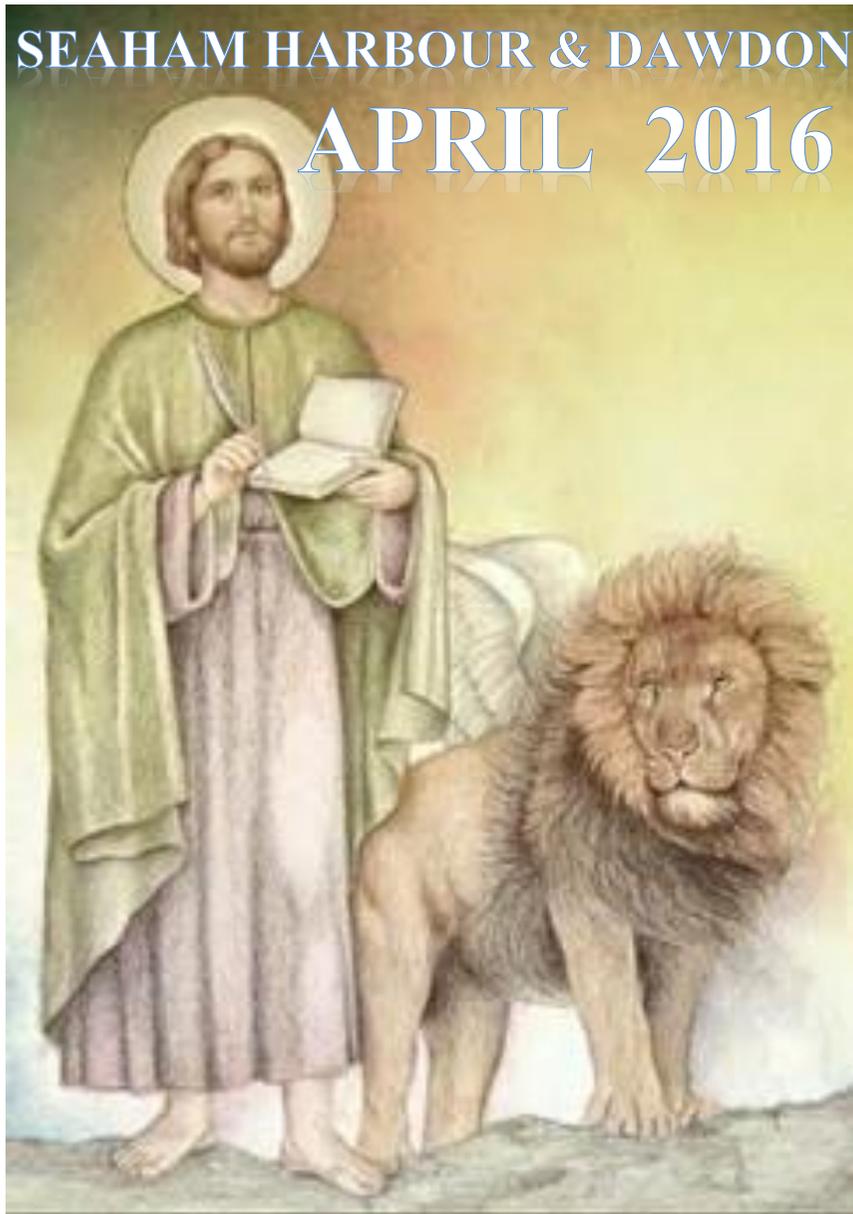


SEAHAM MESSENGER

SEAHAM HARBOUR & DAWDON

APRIL 2016



THE MISSION PRAYER

Please God,
Grant us the grace to speak out your message to our existing and future parish family. May our actions call our brothers and sisters to develop their faith in Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, may we grow in our faith through our community and prayer.
To the glory of your name. Amen.

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ST. JOHN'S SEAHAM HARBOUR

ALL SAINTS DENESIDE

SUNDAY & WEEKDAY SERVICES

SAINT JOHN'S SEAHAM HARBOUR

SUNDAY

11.00 a.m. PARISH EUCHARIST

BAPTISMS

Sundays – by arrangement

WED, & SAT.

9.30a.m. EUCHARIST

ALL SAINTS CHURCH DENESIDE

SUNDAY 9.30 a.m. EUCHARIST

THURSDAY 9.30 a.m. EUCHARIST

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR BAPTISMS WEDDINGS; BANNS ETC.
CAN BE MADE ON SATURDAY MORNINGS BETWEEN
10 A.M. AND 11 A.M. IN ST. JOHN'S CHURCH**

DIARY FOR APRIL 2016

SATURDAY 2ND APRIL 9.30 a.m. St John's Eucharist

SUNDAY 3RD APRIL 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER 10.30AM COMBINED PARISH EUCHARIST , ALL SAINTS

WEDNESDAY 6TH APRIL 9.30 a.m. St John's Eucharist

THURSDAY 7TH APRIL 9.30 a.m All Saints Eucharist

SATURDAY 9TH APRIL 9.30 a.m. St John's Eucharist

SUNDAY 10TH APRIL 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER All Saints 9.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist St John's 11am Parish Eucharist

WEDNESDAY 13TH APRIL 9.30 a.m. St John's Eucharist

THURSDAY 14TH APRIL 9.30 a.m All Saints Eucharist

SATURDAY 16TH APRIL 9.30 a.m. St John's Eucharist

SUNDAY 17TH APRIL 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER All Saints 9.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist St John's 11am Parish Eucharist

WEDNESDAY 20TH APRIL 9.30 a.m. St John's Eucharist

THURSDAY 21ST APRIL 9.30 a.m All Saints Eucharist

SATURDAY 23RD APRIL 9.30 a.m. St John's Eucharist

SUNDAY 24TH APRIL 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER All Saints 9.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist St John's 11am Parish Eucharist

WEDNESDAY 27TH APRIL 9.30 a.m. St John's Eucharist

THURSDAY 28TH APRIL 9.30 a.m All Saints Eucharist

SATURDAY 30TH APRIL 9.30 a.m. St John's Eucharist

Fr Collins writes:

I sometimes wonder what it was the first disciples thought they were joining when they responded with alacrity to Jesus' invitation to 'follow me.' There was no job description nor person description as there is now with any invitation to apply for a job. As magnetic a personality as Jesus' certainly was, there was really no good reason for the disciples simply to up-stumps and tag on behind the itinerant preacher with no further thought.

Even when, as at first, Jesus was making great waves with many people seeking him out, and with all that wonderful healing energy so freely dispensed by Jesus, the disciples must just now and again have wondered what they had let themselves in for. Once the hard times came, after that strange experience of the Transfiguration, the question must have been ever present in their minds. And after such a promising start to his work, the events of passion-tide were undoubtedly a bitter disappointment. And as to the day Jesus died—well their lives simply came to an end.

We who know the final scene of the story all too easily assume that the disciples lived with the same knowledge, and it was that which kept them going to the bitter end. But just a moment's thought proves that not to have been the case. As the clouds of opposition gathered around Jesus in those final days, it took every ounce of loyalty from the disciples to keep them from throwing in the towel.

They did, as reported in the gospels, at one point all desert him and flee, but it was only a temporary abandonment. For perhaps more surprising than anything else was the fact that very soon they were gathered back together again, as though Jesus from his cross or from his tomb had called them once again as he had in Galilee.

Once called to follow Jesus, they found they were called also to be together, and though the worst was to happen, it was as a group that they came back together and faced the misery of bereavement and the challenge of a corporate shared life now empty of their leader. And it was to the gathered disciples that Jesus when risen from the dead

appeared. He may have taught them much about God and the world, he may have encouraged them in the development of their own apostolic skills, but there was an even more important gift that he had bestowed upon them, and that was a life in community.

As we work our way through the Acts of the Apostles during Easter-tide we will see constant reminders of this truth that the early Church was not a gathering of like-minded people, a convenient grouping which helped spread the message of Christianity. Rather, the basic element in this new faith was shared existence, a common life which bound together individuals of differing characters and skills. They were formed to be a model of how humanity should be in the plans of God, a kind of prototype of redeemed mankind. Just look at the history of the Church and see how important and vital this togetherness has been. Or, to put it another way, the Church has been at its least effective when its communal aspect has been weakened by individualism or over-powerful leadership.

Even the Sacraments of the Church which seem at first sight to be simply gifts to individuals, have as their direct object the building up of the whole Body of the Church. Togetherness and unity are the foundation stones of the Church, and more importantly, Christ's gifts to his people. The binding together of the people of God is the pure gift of the Holy Spirit poured out into the world as a result of Jesus' death and resurrection.

What was true in the beginning of the Church is no less true now. During this Easter season I believe we are called to think again about the unity of the faith which binds us together. We are challenged to recognise that we have all been called—maybe called in the first place as individuals—but now called to be together united as a body. As we listen to the story of the expansion of the early Church as recorded by Luke in the Acts of the Apostles, let us note how important the community of believers was.

It seems to me that the challenge of our Christian faith is not so much in how much we achieve in our personal lives nor how holy we may

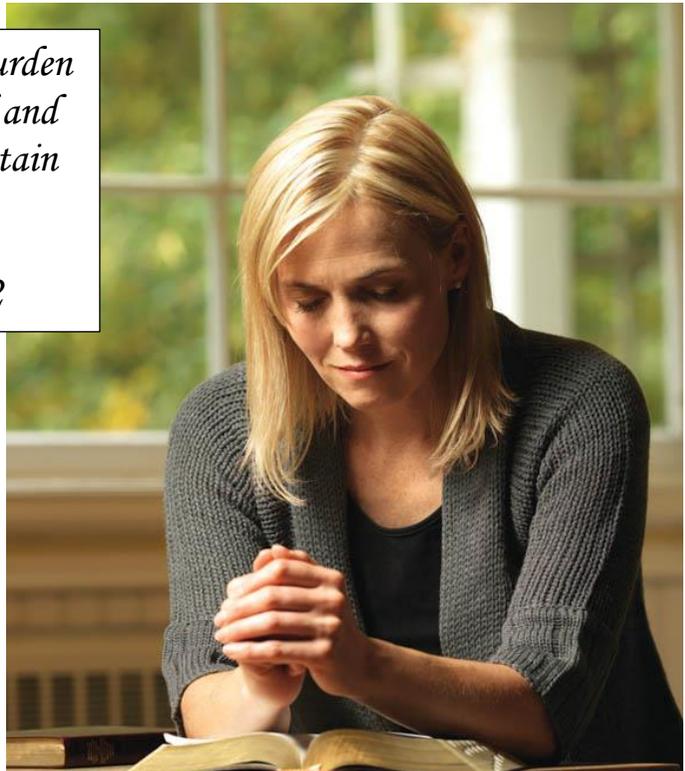
become; it is not a matter of notching up great successes in mission or pastoral care. These are all worthy by-products. The real test is how united we are one with another.

So may it be that through this holy season of Easter we hear again the call of Christ to 'follow me', and in responding anew to that call realise our commitment one to another. The call is from the Holy Spirit who unites us into the one Body, and then distributes gifts and tasks for the building up of that Body. Every work done within the Church is a direct response to this call, and is an opportunity to build up the togetherness of the whole congregation. Even appeals for readers and cleaners can be calls to 'follow me' and chances to help build up the Body of Christ in
Seaham

Fr. Collins

*Cast your burden
on the Lord and
He shall sustain
you.*

Psalm 55:22



Friends

THE RESULTS OF THE
ELECTION AT THE ANNUAL
PAROCHIAL MEETING
WERE AS FOLLOWS:

CHURCHWARDENS
Susan Webster, Alan Whitwell

DEP. CHURCH WARDENS
ALL SAINTS
Peggy Green, Sheila Savage

P.C.C.
Linda Baker, Bill Baker,
Catherine Blakelock,
Anne Hoare, Alma Readman,
Jacqueline Trotter, Joan Trotter

DEANERY SYNOD
(3rd of 3 years)
Susan Webster, Alan Whitwell.

SIDESMAN/WOMAN
Murial Conkie, Margaret Hay,
Nancy Haugstad,
Cecelia Murley, Alma Readman,
Norman Reay, Brenda Ross,
Ellen Shepherd,
Emma Shepherd, Derek Sparey,
Audrey Wharton, Judith Young.

APRIL 27TH

Fish 'n' Chip Supper
In Parish Room

MONTHLY CAKE STALL

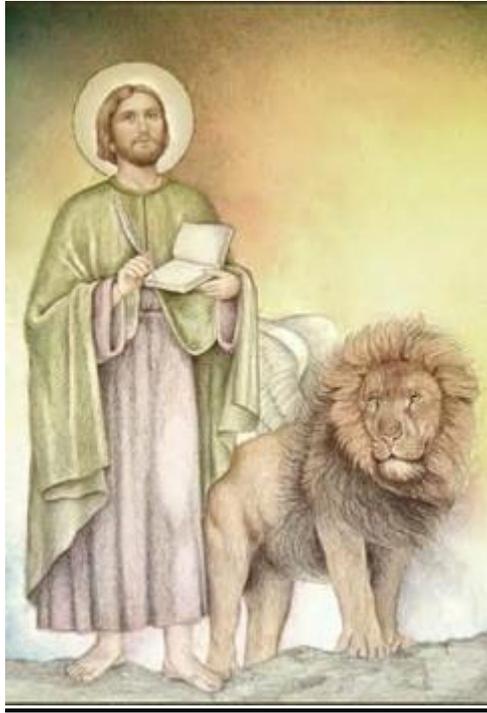
Donations of cakes for the
stall are always greatly
appreciated.
Next cake stall will be the
Combined Service at All
Saints in April
See Norma Reay for
further details

MOTHERS UNION MEETINGS

4TH APRIL – LADY DAY
EASINGTON VILLAGE
12 NOON, BANNERS &
FAITH LUNCH
12TH APRIL – I.M.P.C.
SERVICE, DURHAM
CATHEDRAL
18TH APRIL, ALL SAINTS
THE SOUND OF MUSIC



ON THE COVER THIS MONTH



St Mark the Evangelist is most often depicted writing or holding his gospel. In Christian tradition, Mark the Evangelist, the author of the second gospel is symbolized by a lion – a figure of courage and monarchy.

Some Christian legends refer to Saint Mark as "Saint Mark The Lionhearted". These legends say that he was thrown to the Lions and the animals refused to attack or eat him. Instead the Lions slept at his feet while he petted them. When the Romans saw this, they released him, impressed by this sight.

Mark the Evangelist attributes are the Lion in the desert; he can be depicted as a bishop on a throne decorated with lions; as a man helping Venetian sailors. We celebrate him on April 25th.



HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY YOUR MAJESTY,

APRIL 21ST

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS
THOSE WHO ARE SICK & IN SPECIAL NEED
IN OUR PARISH**

DORIS FERGUSON,
BABY LILA, LEIGH McARDLE,
MARGARET DOBSON, ELLA SHEPHERD,
LILIAN HOOD, AUDREY LOUGHLIN,
LAURA RAFTER,
SUE LLOYD, ALAN SHAW
ELSIE CONCETT
PAUL PATTINSON, AVA BLACK



PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

IAN JOHNSON
LINDA WILLIAMS
ARTHUR PHILLIPS
JOHN FOREMAN
BRIAN CARR
ROBERT SHORT





GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

1. Which is the world's largest desert?
2. What lies at the centre of the Lebanese flag?
3. What is the largest administrative building in the world?
4. From which plant do morphine and pethidine, powerful pain-killers come?
5. How long is a year on Mars in earth terms?
6. What poet and writer said, 'a woman is only a woman but a good cigar is a smoke'?
7. What was special about the horse 'Arion'?
8. Where does the poncho originate?
9. Is soap made from oil, fat or wood?
10. What are the thongs called which hold a falcon's feet?



Brenda Ross
Sheila Savage



ST JOHN 'S BUILDING FUND

FEBRUARY 2016 DONATIONS
BRIAN CORKHILL, IN
MEMORY OF HIS DEAR
WIFE, AUDREY.

MADGE & GEORGE DEFTY
IN MEMORY OF ALL LOVED
ONES

500 CLUB

COFFEE MORNINGS

HAPPY ST. GEORGE'S DAY
23RD APRIL



1971-1981 F. HAWK

CHURCHWARDENS REMARKS

ANNUAL PARISH GENERAL MEETING

11th MARCH 2016

When Fr. Peter told me last Holy Monday that he was retiring in November it came sooner than expected, but an opportunity arose in a clergy retirement home, and he took it. Having been through an interregnum, I knew the road ahead, but this time a slightly different scenario. I have known Fr. Chris for a number of years, and knew we were in safe hands .BUT we must remember Fr. Chris is retired and has a wife and family who rightly so demand of his time. Our spiritual needs are well catered for, and that is his main purpose in this parish, and for this we are truly grateful.

The day to day running and any problems we encounter are down to the Churchwardens and the P.C.C. and it is vital we remember this.

It is also vital that we remember, if we want a priest for this parish we need to make the move as attractive as possible by making sure, we have a congregation, decent church buildings, fundraising programme, money in the bank, and committed parishioners.

We must offer each other genuine support and encouragement, throughout this interregnum, and pray, with God's help we will soon be welcoming the new Incumbent. Be assured that Alan and I as Churchwardens, (and with your support) , will fulfil our duties to the best of our ability.
Susan Webster.

**THE PARISH OF SEAHAM HARBOUR
& DAWDON
MEETING OF
PARISHIONERS
&
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**FRIDAY
11th MARCH 2016**

REPORTS

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Meetings this year have been chaired by Father Peter and all well attended. Church business has been greatly discussed and agreed upon and any repairs have been dealt with when necessary.

In November Father Peter retired from his position of Parish Priest and so we are now in interregnum. A farewell party was held in his honour and Father Peter was thanked for the work he has done in the parish and community.

We are grateful thanks to Fr. Chris for all the work he does in the Parish and for being there for our worship.

Fund raising events have been held such as Summer and Christmas Fayres; Snowdrop Tea, Strawberry Tea, Afternoon Teas and also Lunches with various raffles during the year to help with the upkeep of the two churches. Thanks to all who have worked so hard on these occasions and to those who have come to support them.

Our monthly Parish Magazine continues to be published by Linda Baker and she gives us interesting and informative topics, our thanks for all her work.

Both churches and parish room continue to be used by the community and we thank all the volunteers who turn up weekly to keep the churches clean. We thank all the P.C.C. members for their hard work and all who have supported our churches this year.

Alma Readman (P.C.C. Secretary)

TREASURERS REPORT

As you will see from the accounts, this has been a rather disastrous year financially. Unfortunately the giving has dropped and we are still getting one or two people giving 50p or £1.

I would appeal to you to think more realistically but there are a number of people who are very generous in their giving for which we are very grateful and gift aiding is a tremendous help.

We have been able to support charity 'Let the Children Live' thanks to all for your generosity.

The afternoon teas at St John's and All Saints have been very successful and a pleasant social gathering, also Strawberry Teas at the Vicarage and Breakfast at All Saints.

We need to start thinking of ways to raise funds so please if you have any ideas pass them on to any member of the P.C.C.

Thank you for your time and financial support to keep our church as we would want it to be.

Joan Trotter (Parish Treasurer)

GIFT AIDING

This last year has been a very challenging year. Pur members at All Saints have dropped from 25 in the previous year to 20.5 of which are Gift Aiders.

At St John's our members have again dropped from 37 in the previous year to 34.23 of which are Gift Aiders. This annual drop in numbers is mainly due to the death or illness of some of our members without any new members coming along. I would like to again thank those who have continued to support our worship and stewardship scheme and if you know of anyone who may wish to join the scheme please let me know.

The Gift Aid donation envelopes have continued to make a difference to this claim so please continue to use the blue Gift Aid envelopes when you make a donation if you pay tax. This year (July 2014-June 2015) the amount claimed increased slightly, we claimed £2995.28 from H.M. Revenue & Customs as compared to £2930.27 from the previous year. The slight increase was due to the additional use of the gift aid envelopes for donations as there had been a drop in pledged giving. We really need to think about giving a realistic amount in our envelopes each week, as for the first time we have dropped into the red at the end of the Financial Year. Although we have some generous givers, no longer can our churches survive on £1 per week (it barely covers the cost of the envelope) so please think again as there are more and more churches closing.

May I appeal to you if you pay income tax and would like to Gift Aid your giving, please let me know and I can give you a simple form (all you complete is your full name, address and signature). Also if you make a donation you can increase your giving by 25% by completing a blue Gift Aid envelope.

One more thing, again last year there were quite a few Renewal of Promises forms not completed fully, a couple even without names and addresses) this creates a lot of problems, so please, please when you complete the Renewal of Promises form to be handed in on Renewal Sunday, it is important that you complete all the form in particular the question 'I wish to Covenant this sum of money YES/NO' as I will then know whether you want to Gift Aid your giving bearing in mind you need to pay Income Tax to do so).

Thank you.

Jacqueline Trotter (Stewardship Recorder & Gift Aid Sec.)

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

We will continue to raise funds for the church upkeep.

We have had a lot of work done outside to the roof and new glass windows put in on the altar.

Ellen Shepherd has kindly donated a lovely Hoover and two electric floor washers.

Our grateful thanks go to Father Chris for leading us in prayer and worship, also to Alan, Choir and ladies who turn up to keep our church clean.

Peggy and Sheila

MOTHERS UNION REPORT

We have two branches, St. Johns with 12 members and All Saints with 6, members from both branches regularly attend each other's meetings. Unfortunately I have to start with obituaries as two of our members from St. Johns have died during the last year – Doris Taylor and Muriel Earhart and Emily Milburn who for many years was a member of All Saints' all have been sadly missed as they were good members and friends.

Members from both branches attended each other's meetings regularly and this year we have had a varied and interesting programme.

Talks have been given by myself, Catherine Blakelock, Jean Mayhew and other members helping, my grateful thanks to these volunteers.

All Diocesan & Deanery services, meetings and events have been well attended and we have joined with other local churches for the Women's World Day of Prayer and services.

Easter and Christmas Cards have been sent to our link Branch in Australia. We still try to support MENCAP and Let the Children Live, Mothers Union Charities at home and overseas, and our local Seafarers Centre, as well as Peggy Temple knitting baby clothes and Enid Willis making up the toilet bags for the hospital, our thanks to them.

I would like to thank Fr. Peter for his support to Mothers' Union and wish him well in his retirement. Thanks to Fr Chris who is also there for our spiritual guidance.

Thanks to Jean for looking after the finances, playing the piano and for the other support she gives me. Many thanks to all who help at our events. But thanks to all who come to the meetings, those who help with readings, refreshments etc., it makes things so much better knowing you are all there.

Thanks to Bertha for her reports on Mothers Union for the Parish Magazine. This concludes my report, Best Wishes and God's Blessing for a healthy and peaceful year.

St. John's on the first Monday in every month.

All Saints' on the third Monday in every month.

Alma Readman (Branch Leader)

FRIENDS

2015 was another interesting and successful year for Friends.

We had Speakers and outings on a variety of subjects always followed by a welcome cuppa and a chat. Thanks to all who have helped in any way from speakers to tea makers and washer upper's to anyone who provided raffle prizes, which are always welcome.

Special thanks to Alma for her support, and always being available.

2016 looks like being just as busy with new ideas in the pipeline, and new members are always welcome to come along on the last Wednesday of each month at 7pm in the Parish room.

Linda Baker

RAISING FUNDS

We can now recycle many more items including jewellery, old/new, foreign and UK banknotes & coins, gadgets as well as used inkjets. There is a re-cycle box in church or ask any member of the PCC to take the items from you for recycling. All monies raised go to church funds. Many thanks for your support.

Why not speak to Ann Hoare about the 500 Club. All money raised goes directly to church funds and new members are urgently needed.

HOME MADE PRESERVES are Available in the parish room at £1.00 per jar, All Proceeds Are In Aid Of Church Funds

Please donate your old clothes, household fabrics, shoes, bags etc. for church funds, see notice board for dates of collections. No bric a brac.

If you pay tax then you can increase the value of your church giving by 25% without costing you a penny! Speak to Jacqueline Trotter for further details about Gift Aid.

Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk **and** Choose from over 600 shops & the church receives up to 15% every time you shop. It doesn't cost you a penny extra to shop and raise funds for the church using this site, in fact many retailers now give extra discounts when you buy online, you could even **save yourself some money!** If you have a computer, please check it out and register, selecting St. John's Church as your selected charity.

ST JOHN'S WEBSITE

www.stjohns-seaham.org.uk

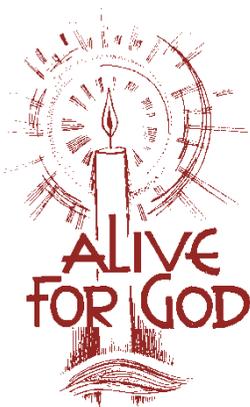
and also on Facebook

HOME COMMUNIONS

If you know anyone who is elderly, sick, disabled or housebound and who would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please give their names and addresses to churchwardens

CONFIRMATION

If you would like to prepare for confirmation please ask churchwardens for further information



WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGES

For information on tours and excursions Contact Barbara Varley at Horden, tel 5868887

PARISH LAY OFFICERS
SAINT JOHN'S SEAHAM HARBOUR & ALL SAINTS

PRIEST

FTHR. C.COLLINS
15 Lynthorpe Ave. Seaham. SR7 7JW (0191 5817186)

CHURCH WARDENS

SUSAN WEBSTER: 145 Watling Ave, Westlea, Seaham SR7 8JG (5131559)
ALAN WHITWELL: 98 Heathway, Seaham. SR7 7UU (5810474)

CHURCHWARDEN EMERITUS

DORIS FERGUSON, 20 Woodlands, Seaham SR7 0EP

DEPUTY CHURCHWARDENS : ALL SAINTS

PEGGY GREEN: 46 Grantham Ave, Seaham. SR7 8LY (5815694)
SHEILA SAVAGE: 15 Fox Street, Seaham SR7 7LL (5812263)

P.C.C. SECRETARY

ALMA READMAN: 12 Vincent Street, Seaham. SR7 7QL (5819254)

PARISH TREASURER

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ASSISTANT TREASURER & COVENANT SECRETARY

JACQUELINE TROTTER : 6 Dene House Road, Seaham SR7 7BE(5812382)

VERGER:

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ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER

ALAN WHITWELL: 98 Heathway, Seaham. SR7 7UU (5810474)

MAGAZINE EDITOR

LINDA BAKER: 103 Princess Road,Seaham SR7 7TD (5817120)

PARISH ORGANISATIONS

MOTHERS UNION

ST JOHN'S 1ST Monday in the month: 2pm in the Parish Room
ALL SAINTS 3RD Monday in the month: 2pm in All Saints Church
ALMA READMAN : 12 Vincent Street, Seaham. SR7 7QL (5819254)

FRIENDS

Last Wednesday in the month in the Parish Room
LINDA BAKER: 103 Princess Road,Seaham SR7 7TD (5817120)
ALMA READMAN : 12 Vincent Street, Seaham. SR7 7QL (5819254)

CHURCH VESTRY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

ST. JOHNS: 0191 5819921
ALL SAINTS: 0191 5814733

ANSWERS TO GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

1. The Sahara
2. The Cedar Tree of Lebanon
3. The Pentagon
4. The unripe seedpods of the opium poppy.
5. Nearly 2 years, each season is about 6 months
6. Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)
7. Two of its feet were human, it had the power of speech and was incredibly fast
8. South America
9. Fat
10. Jesses



Please submit items of interest for the Parish Magazine by 12th of the month

PRAAYER FOR APRIL

May The sunlight and the rain be reminders that You are at work renewing the earth. As a God of renewal, You are ever at work in our lives too.

Open our eyes and lives to the needed changes in our lives this Spring. Awaken us to new life and perspective, for we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.



