



THE VILLAGER

A Monthly Church & Community Newsletter

www.seatonchurches.co.uk

The Parish of Camerton and Seaton with West Seaton – March 2023 – Issue 374

The cost of loving...

How are your levels of concentration? Do you find it easy to focus on one thing? I have to admit that, at the moment, with so much going on around us – the war in Ukraine, the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria, strikes and the ongoing cost of living crisis in our own country, together with other global and local issues, church and non-church, keeping focused on just one thing is proving quite difficult. But there is good news on the horizon in this respect over the coming weeks.

By the time you receive this edition of The Villager we will have entered the season of Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday and covering the six-week period up to Easter, a time which we can use to help us focus and concentrate on a particular thing. For some people this will involve the tradition of 'giving something up', while others chose to do something different or 'take something on'. It can often be a difficult time, and a time of struggle for some people, but, however you observe Lent it is important to have a focus and not one that is just about yourself.

Thinking of the 'cost of living crisis' which is a focus for many people I suddenly found myself thinking of '**the cost of loving**'. By that I don't mean how much it may have cost

you recently as you perhaps observed Valentine's Day, but the '**cost of loving**' shown by God that we will celebrate with joy at the end of Lent when we arrive at Easter.

Lent is one of the most important times of year for many Christians around the world, held at a similar level of importance to Advent – the build up to Christmas. Throughout the forty days and nights of Lent we are reminded of the trials and temptations of Jesus in the desert right through to the events of Holy Week and Good Friday. It is seen, and observed, as a time of solemn observance and preparation for the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter, and, just as we carefully prepare for events in our personal lives such as a wedding or a birthday, so Lent invites us to make our hearts and minds ready for remembering Jesus life, death and resurrection – to have a focus, something to concentrate on.

Lent focusses on the '**cost of loving**' because it reminds us how far God, through Jesus, was prepared to go for us. As one of the most famous and often quoted verses in the New Testament says, '**God so loved that world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life**' (John 3:16),

the cost to God was huge. Lent helps to show us that when we choose to 'give something up' for Lent, and usually for ourselves – giving up chocolate and sweet things to help us lose weight for example – it doesn't compare with what God chose to give up for us.

It may seem that it doesn't matter now because that happened so long ago, but the truth is that God continues to still love us just as much today and continually gives of himself that we might live. He pours out his love continually at a huge cost to himself and at no cost to us. His gift of love is far greater than we can imagine, and no matter what else is going on in the world and in our lives, it is, and should be, the only constant we should focus on.

As I encourage you to have a focus for not only Lent, but every day of your life, and invite you to join us on our Lenten journey, I would like to leave you with some words from one of my favourite hymns, often sung in Lent, which speaks of the '**cost of loving**', by God, for us: **My song is love unknown, my Saviour's love for me, love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be. Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord, should take frail flesh and die?**

— Rev. Ian Grainger

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH SEATON (C OF E)

9.30am Sunday Parish Communion & Children's Church and Crèche.

9.30am Thursday morning Communion Service.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH CAMERTON (C OF E)

11am Holy Communion

Every 1st Sunday monthly

There is car parking available at the church but due to its location there are no toilet facilities.



Our next Messy Church will be on **Friday 24th March at 4pm**. Messy Church is a different way of 'being church' for families.

Come along and join in on the fun. All children are welcome, just remember to bring an adult! We also have our usual activities after the Family Service on Good Friday morning, **7th April**.

VICAR - Rev. Ian Grainger

Email: stpaulsseaton@gmail.com

Tel: 01900 602162

ASSOCIATE PRIEST - Rev. Irene Fearon

Tel: 01900 813108

ST. PAUL'S SEATON WIVES & MOTHERS

This month's Wives & Mothers will be on **Tuesday 14th March**, we will be hosting a Irish Night, with Irish food, games and music. Meeting starts at **7.30pm**.

ST. PAUL'S MOTHERS' UNION

March's Mothers' Union meeting will be on **Wednesday 15th March at 2pm in the Church Hall**. This month is an illustrated talk by Hospice at Home West Cumbria. There will also be a Deanery Lady Day Service on **Monday 27th March** held at 7pm at St. Michael's in Workington. **Everyone welcome.**

LOAVES & FISHES LUNCHESES

Loaves and Fishes lunch will be on **Friday 17th March**, held at **12 noon** in the Church Hall. **All welcome.**

EASTER BREAKFAST

Following on from the success of Breakfast with Santa we are looking to hold an Easter Breakfast (with the Easter Bunny) on **Saturday 8th April**. Tickets need to be booked for this, priced £5. Please contact Rev. Ian if you would like tickets.

PARKING ON ST. PAUL'S AVENUE

Parking outside the Church Hall is strictly for users of the Church and Hall only. St. Paul's Avenue is a Private Road, and, whilst we understand parking is difficult in the area, we would request that the polite **'No Parking'** notices are observed at all times, particularly in the area of the disabled ramp access. Thank you.

PARISH PRAYERS

Members of the community are invited to submit concerns/issues for prayer. In March, our focus is on Year 1 Rise to Derwent Avenue (Year 1 Rise, Coronation Avenue, Princess Avenue, Queen's Avenue, Kings Avenue,

Seaton Road, and Main Road). If you do have any concerns or items for prayer, please do let us know. This is especially the case if you have family or friends who are ill, and we can ensure that they are included in our prayers and visits arranged if required.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

We will be holding our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on **Wednesday 8th March at 6.30pm**, in the Church Hall. This meeting sees us elect church wardens for the coming year, elect members to the parochial church council and publish annual accounts. It also gives an opportunity to receive reports from the various groups linked to our churches and hear plans for the coming year. **Members of the community are welcome to attend.**

COMMUNITY LUNCHESES

Seaton St. Paul's C of E Junior School will be holding community lunches **every Thursday at 1.30pm**. Lunch will cost £5 & this includes a main meal (roast dinner), dessert & tea/coffee. To book a place for this lunch, please contact Mrs Magill in the school kitchen on 01900 844651. Everyone is welcome & we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible!

GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

We respectfully ask that when family members are placing flowers on the Garden of Remembrance that they are fresh and removed from their plastic wrappings.

On removing dead flowers and greenery these should be placed in the green compost bin, all other waste (oasis, wrappings, artificial embellishments, plastic holders etc.) must go in the black general waste bin. Thank you for helping our environment and being an Eco-Church.

SEATON'S PCSO DROP-IN

Seaton has a new PCSO, Luke King, who will be available in Seaton Library this month (date and time to be confirmed). Please contact Seaton Library Customer Service Desk (01900 68441) for further details. If you have any concerns or issues you wish to discuss with him, please come along.

SCRABBLE CLUB

Are you interested in playing Scrabble? Our sessions held in the Library at 2pm - 4pm. Meetings are fortnightly. All welcome. For March dates and further information ask Seaton Library Customer Service Desk on 01900 68441.

SEATON BABY & TODDLER GROUP

The Seaton Baby & Toddler group meets in the Village Hall on **Thursdays** (term time only) **10am - 11.30am. £2 per Child.**

Including Tea/Coffee, Juice & Snack Children 0 - 4 years welcome. Walk ins welcome.

SEATON CHILDRENS CARNIVAL

Would you like to advertise your business in our souvenir brochure? We are looking for businesses to either sponsor our floats or put an advertisement in the souvenir brochure. If you have any queries please contact our Facebook page, a committee member or Lauren on 07595245620. We also currently have a fundraising page live to raise funds for the continuation of this village tradition, any donations are welcome. Please visit "gofundme.com" and search "Seaton Children's Carnival". Thank you for your continued support.

CLOCKS GO FORWARD

A reminder that on the **26th March** British Summer Time begins, remember to put your clocks forward one hour.

CAMERTON VILLAGE HALL

Coffee Morning will be held on **Saturday 18th March 11am - 1pm**. Call in for a coffee, cake, savouries and a natter. We will also have boxes of cakes and pies for sale to takeaway. **All welcome**

FIT 4 LIFE

A gentle exercise class for over 50s held in Seaton Village Hall every **Friday from 1pm - 2pm, £3.50 per session**. Suitable for all abilities. Contact Fit4Life on 01900 814782.

SEATON VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall balcony is well into its first stage of being built with the groundwork being done and the steelwork about to be ordered and when measured and treated will be ready to be put into place.

We will be celebrating the King's Coronation at the Village Hall for the whole community on **Saturday 6th May 2023** with lots to do for the whole family. Final details are still being arranged and will be published as soon as finalised.

The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall will be held on **Monday 6th March** in the Parish Rooms if anyone wants to attend please get in touch with Mike on 07513167955.

A date for your diary, our very own Logan Murphy will be appearing at the Village Hall in a charity concert on **Saturday 15th April**.

Tickets are £8 can be obtained from Top Kutz hairdressers. There will be a bar and also a raffle.

USED STAMP APPEAL

Friends of Samaritans West Cumbria are appealing for used Stamps in order to raise some money for the local branch. This will be a long term project, beginning January 2023, and ending 31st December 2023. If you would like to participate, when cutting the Stamp from an envelope, please leave about a half inch border around the perforations of the stamp. Any queries, or stamp donations, please ring , 01900 68678. Thank you.

YOGA FOR SENIORS

Why not give it a try? You are welcome in Seaton Village Hall on Wednesdays 2:00pm - 3:30pm. Please bring a mat or a blanket to lie on. Loose fitting clothes is advisable (jeans not suitable). £3.50 per session. Contact jo Hodgson on 01900 602898 for more information.

EASYFUNDRAISING

Easyfundraising is a simple way of helping to raise funds for a chosen cause when shopping online. Many major retailers have signed up and make a donation to your chosen cause every time you shop with them through the Easyfundraising site. St. Paul's and St. Peter's are registered as a cause, so you could make a difference by signing up. There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, the Trainline and Sainsbury's - it doesn't cost you a penny extra! Visit www.seatonchurches.co.uk, click 'more' then Easyfundraising to help out Seaton Churches.



ALLERDALE AND LAKELAND LOTTERY

You may or may not be aware of the recently launched Allerdale and Lakeland Lottery. This has been set up as a way of helping to support local good causes and a number of organisations including St. Paul's and St. Peter's, Seaton St. Paul's C of E Junior School and Seaton Scouts have been accepted and registered as good causes. If you would like to support any of them, please visit the website www.allerdalelottery.com and sign up.

THE VILLAGER

The April issue of 'The Villager' will be in church on **Sunday 26th March 2023**.

Please send items for inclusion to seatonvillager@outlook.com by **19th March 2023**.

There are currently 9 advertising spaces available on the back of 'The Villager'. If you have a local business and would be interested in taking a space or would like more information please contact us.

FUNERALS

"I am the resurrection and the life"

14th February

Judith Hodgson (76)

Braeside



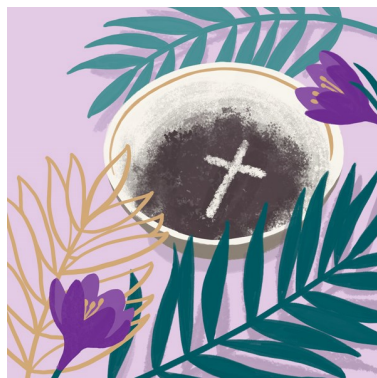
17th February

Robert William Brown (81)

Kelsick Park

Penance and Promise




As the weeks of Lent progress let us not tire of doing our good works and penance, but continue with the enthusiasm of the prayers on the way to Easter and Baptism. May our Lenten observance be a joyful journey.



Let us pray

God our Father, in your love and goodness you have taught us to come close to you in penitence with prayer, fasting and generosity; accept our Lenten discipline, and when we fall by our weakness, raise us up by your unfailing mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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