



A Passion for Jesus - A Love for Others

**A Growing Community**

We're on facebook

[www.seafordbaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.seafordbaptistchurch.org.uk)

**MINISTER**

**Andy Machin**

Tel. 01323 896009

[minister@seafordbaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:minister@seafordbaptistchurch.org.uk)

**TRUST SECRETARY**

**Sheila White**

Tel. 01323 913036

[trustsec@seafordbaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:trustsec@seafordbaptistchurch.org.uk)

**TREASURER**

**Honorary Assistant**

**Derek Mills**

[treasurer@seafordbaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@seafordbaptistchurch.org.uk)

**CHURCH OFFICE**

Tel. 01323 896009

**Monday to Friday**

**9am to 12 noon**

[office@seafordbaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@seafordbaptistchurch.org.uk)

**Trustees**

**Angela Ayres, Jim Howell,  
Rosemary Kemp, Linda Lord,  
Andy Lowe, Andy Machin,  
Rodney Reed, Sheila White**

**YOUTH & CHILDREN'S WORK**

**Alex Drury-Gorham**

07828974278

[youth@seafordbaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:youth@seafordbaptistchurch.org.uk)

**PRAYER CHAIN**

**Wendy Muller**

Prayerchain

[@seafordbaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:@seafordbaptistchurch.org.uk)

**EARLY BIRDS Pre-school**

Tel:07974835978

[earlybirds@](mailto:earlybirds@seafordbaptistchurch.org.uk)

[seafordbaptistchurch.org.uk](http://seafordbaptistchurch.org.uk)

**Wifi pass code for public use**

01323896009

# A Passion for Jesus - A Love for Others

**Sunday 3rd November 2024**

**Today's Speaker: Sheila White**

**Leading Worship: Amy Tucker & Sally-Ann Fatkin**

**The Armour of God 7 : Sword of the Spirit Hebrews 4:12**

**There will be no refreshments after the service today**

## Culture Wars

Culture: the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society.

A story of our times.

There is a fish living in one of our rivers, drawing its nutrients and oxygen from the water, its natural environment. It knows nothing else. What it does not know is that the river is becoming increasingly polluted and de-oxygenated from farming run-off and sewage discharges all of which are slowly killing it.

Culture can be a like that, hidden, insidious, negative and highly toxic whilst being claimed as the way we do things as if that's OK.

It's often hidden as we are blinded to it by familiarity. We know nothing else.

It is insidious. It is all pervasive getting in everywhere, in every area of our nation's life and relationships and especially but not exclusively in the political arena.

It is generally negative as it's as much about what it is against, generally other cultures and those who disagree with us, than what it is for.

Its hallmarks include Pride running into hubris, exclusive patriotism, partisanship and destructive nationalism amongst other unsavoury manifestations.

It is therefore highly toxic. It kills all of the qualities that we prize and that enrich life: love, joy, compassion, mercy, kindness, self-giving, humility and in fact the whole fruit of the Holy Spirit set out in Galatians 5:22-23.

No culture is exempt, especially our own.

Although we are called to be a counter-culture even church life can bear some of the toxicity. We often resort to doing things the world's way to gain approval, deflect potential criticism or get our own way. One particularly pernicious feature is a political mindset that sees difference as a threat that needs to be put down using worldly political means. It makes enemies of brothers and sisters in defiance of every teaching of Jesus and Biblical writers. Rather than embracing difference and diversity we seek to impose uniformity as if the only way to unity is if everyone sees things our way.

There are some positive characteristics in every culture, including our own, as we are all made in God's image however marred by sin. We do need however to submit ourselves to a rigorous examination by the Holy Spirit to have our eyes opened to the negative and toxic elements of our particular culture or sub-culture so that it can be redeemed by the Grace of God. This is the call on the Ekklesia of Jesus to show the world what heavenly culture and government looks like. Let's go for it.

Roger Case

**Our duty Leadership Team member today is Roger Case**

**Family Focus:** Margaret Baldwin, Martin & Marion Baldwin, Tom & Rosemary Batts, Leah Beal, Martin & Stephanie Beal, Nigel & Carole Bentley, Jim & Barbara Billington, Peter & Zita Bishop, Gordon & Julia Booth, Gillian Buchanan, John & Janet Butler.

If you want to make a direct payment/donation/standing order to the church the church account details are **sort code: 20-49-76 Acct no: 00143618**

Andy is on holiday for a few days until Tuesday 5th November. Any urgent pastoral issues, please contact Angela Ayres.

#### ELDER NOMINATIONS - **LAST OPPORTUNITY**

Thank you to those who have submitted nominations. Please continue to pray. If members would like to nominate someone please give their name to one of the trustees **before 5th November**.

Details of the Elders' Roles and responsibilities have been sent to Members and are available from the office.

#### Gaps in the Wall

Please continue to pray for the positions of Treasurer and Trust Secretary to be filled.

THANK  
YOU

Roy would like to thank everyone for their prayers, letters, cards and phone calls of condolence since the loss of dear Edith.

The thanksgiving service for Edith Garrod will be at Seaford Baptist Church on Wednesday 20th November at 12 noon, followed by refreshments at Blatchington Golf club, 111 Firle Road Seaford.

#### Church Diary

Tuesday 5th November

Oasis Choir @ 1:30pm  
Oasis @ 2.15pm - Etherton Hall  
Speaker - Sue Cunningham  
Trustee Meeting @ 7.30pm - Lounge

Thursday 7th November

Held @ 9:45am - Lounge

Friday 8th November

Scallywags @ 9.30am - Hall  
Youth Groups @ 5pm-9pm

Sunday 10th November

Prayer Changes Things @ 4pm  
Etherton Hall

#### **Advent Break - 'Presents and Presence' in the winter beauty of Ashburnham Place.**

19th – 22nd November (until 8th November listed price is reduced by 15%)



Join us for a time of worship, teaching, rest and refreshment as we journey through Advent towards the Christmas celebrations. Led by Rosie Morgan with worship led by Sally-Ann Fatkin. (see me for details)

TO BOOK: please call the Bookings Team on 01424 894201 or book online: [bookings@Ash-burnham.org.uk](mailto:bookings@Ash-burnham.org.uk) 15% off Listed Price £276.00 - £321.00 this includes all meals, refreshments and conference notes.

#### **CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2024**

Angel tree Lewes

Presents for the children of dads in Lewes Prison. Donations in marked envelope to church office or via offering boxes. Cash or cheque payable to J. Saunders. Ring or text 07426570039 for information.

Closing date 1st December.



Care and Share

Needed - A child proof gate

Available -2 single three foot beds available for collection.

Contact Patricia on 01323 891158 (Please note you will now need to ring the area code to get through)



**Church Flowers**  
**David & Audrey Mulholland**

**Extra Members Meeting 12th November @ 7.30pm**  
**to elect Elders.**