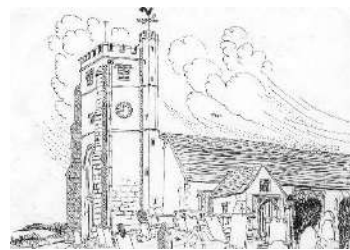


St Peter & St Paul, Seal

October 2024



Church Services (as at start of the month – may change, see website)

October 6 Trinity 19

10 am: Holy Communion
Rev Adie McCall
6.30: Evensong

October 13 Trinity 20

10am: Harvest Festival
Babs and Wivine
6.30: Breathing Space Holy Communion

October 20 Trinity 21

10am: Holy Communion

TBA

6.30: Evensong

Welcome to any who are visiting us today

October 27 (Last After) Trinity 22

10 am: Holy Communion
Rev Penny Stephens
6.30 Evensong

Receiving Communion Everyone who comes up to receive communion will be given a wafer dipped briefly in wine by the priest. If you would like to drink from the shared chalice as well, please indicate this when you are given the wafer and remain at the altar rail. The priest will also be happy to bring communion to people where they are sitting if they can't come up to the front of the church. Please let us know if you need this.

After each service Refreshments will be served at the back of the church after the 10 am service. Please stay to chat. Children are always welcome at Seal. Children are also welcome to make use of the children's corner with you, or to take a "pew bag" to their seat with them to play with. Please return pew bags after the service.

Events in October

Regular weekly events

- Mon 9.30 to 11.30 Seal Tiddlers (Mums/Dads/Carers/Babies/Toddlers Group) Church Hall, Every Monday during term time, Contact is Stephanie Darcy 07827 737482 or stephanie_barnes1990@outlook.com
- Mon: 2.00-3.30pm Talking Village at Deniz Café, Seal High Street
- Fri: 10.30 -12.00 Friday Group Talking Village in the hall
- Fri: 9am Morning Prayer (~1/2 hour) in the Lady Chapel. All warmly welcome.

Other events for October

- **2nd October** the Good Book Club will be starting again. We plan to meet at 10am in the church hall and on the first Wednesday of each month) for about an hour. We will have a bible passage reading and discussion to follow. Please bring your own bible if you can. Refreshments will be provided. For more information and to let us know you would like to come, please contact: Lise Michaelides 07570 125115 or Gesiena Van Setten 07773 414453
- **Until 4th Oct** "Season of Creation": please see the Eco Church display, with scripture readings, poems and reflections, as well as a link to prayers and commentaries concerning this special time of Christian stewardship for our natural world.
- **5th October 10.15-11.15am** Saturday Talking Village in the library (free refreshments provided) This is held regularly on the first Saturday of every month. With Jenni and Babs.
- **13th October** After the service - the Events Team are organising Harvest Lunch. From 11.30 to eat at midday in the Church Hall. Tickets £2 per head and savoury contributions to a shared lunch (salads, cheeses, cold meats, breads, pickles, quiche, etc). Bring your own drinks and you will be served apple pie and custard or cream which is included in the ticket price. All welcome so please invite family, friends and neighbours. Tickets from Marion 07909 905975 or mariongilchrist@gmail.com
- **16th Oct 10.30am** Holy Communion at Lavender Fields led by Alison Bull.
- **20th Oct 3-4.30pm** Messy Church – Seal Church Hall

Other news

Ride and Stride (which was 14 Sept) Seal church was open all day on Saturday 14th September as were many other churches and chapels right across Kent, taking part in the annual Ride & Stride event. We managed to lay on a good spread of refreshments (big thanks to Jenny and Jenni) and I was touched at the end of the day to read the many comments of appreciation. Three of us also enjoyed a really lovely day walking from Borough Green to West Malling visiting six churches on the way. Lise Michaelides.

Church Clock – we're hoping it will be dismantled 2nd/ 3rd week of October and taken for repairs – back late October/early November.

Church Choir - Adult and junior choirs looking for new members - practice Wednesday evenings -sealpandp@gmail.com

Church Bell Ringers Have you ever had the urge to ring the church bells? If you are interested, we are always looking for new ringers, so please contact Paul Thompson paul.h.thompson@hotmail.co.uk

Eco Church News Thank you to all those involved in the installation of our new planted up bike rack. This is now safely in place, in the churchyard, quite near the lychgate. You can't miss it and it is looking quite beautiful, so please do use this when cycling around the village or cycling to church, and have a good look around the stunning churchyard whilst leaving your bike safely stowed.

Lightning conductor We have been made aware that the current lightening conductor in the tower does not meet new standards. We have Diocesan approval for an upgrade and hope to arrange soon for this to be remediated.

GIVING TO SEAL CHURCH

IN CASH in the plate at the back of church.

ONLINE: by scanning the QR code on the right

TEXT SEALCHURCH to 70085 to donate £5. Other amounts can be donated up to £20 by adding the number of pounds after the word. (5% commission charged)

DIRECTLY FROM YOUR BANK: Ac name: Seal PCC, Sort code: 30-97-49 Ac no: 01377463

BY CARD using the contactless device at the back of church, available during services (1.69 % commission charged)

STANDING ORDER search for Seal Church by entering the postcode TN15 0AT at <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/home/>

WHO'S WHO

Vicar: Vacant *While we have no vicar, enquiries will be dealt with by church volunteers.*

Contact: sealpandp@gmail.com 07510 522292

Reader: Kevin Bright 01732 458849

Churchwardens: vacant

Finance Team: financesealpandp@gmail.com

Parish Safeguarding officer: Marshall Kent:
safeguardingsealpandp@gmail.com

PCC secretary: Babs Bartholomew



All New Church website: www.sealpeterandpaul.com. All feedback and suggestions for items welcome

Services details may change as we have no vicar. For the latest please see the Services – Dates page on the Website

PCC Update 19 Sept 2024

Last Thursday there was a PCC meeting at the Church Hall. The Associate Archdeacon, Nick Cornell, Tonbridge Archdeanery, attended as well and explained some next steps now that Anne has retired.

Nick explained that it is likely that the start of the process of appointing a replacement vicar will be paused for a few months – the CofE technical term for this is “suspension”. All options are on the table at this stage – a vacancy for a part time vicar (like Anne) or a shared vicar across more than one parish. We had a good discussion over what this means in reality. This period is likely to go on for a year or so as the pause will take (at a guess) say 6 months while the Diocese decides (in conjunction with the PCC) its preferences and then a further 3-6 months to fill any vacancy.

In the meantime we are endeavouring to maintain our schedule of services as normal. However, we are reliant on finding clergy to cover our services, particularly our Eucharist services. The large number of vacancies in our area is making it extremely hard for all churches in the area to find clergy to cover services at the moment. We are all reliant on a small pool of retired clergy, who are in great demand. We’re doing all we can to find people who can cover for us in the meantime but know that there are and will be a significant number of weeks when this is not possible. We appreciate your continuing prayers and support during this period and hope you can forgive us when things don’t go quite to plan.

On a positive note, we are very fortunate to have the following people to lead our public worship services:

- Rev Adie McCall who, whilst retired, is committed to helping us and can lead our Eucharist services. Adie is, though, very much in demand and we can’t secure her time as much as we would like;
- Kevin, as Reader, who can lead non-Eucharist services;
- Babs and Wivine, who have undertaken relevant training and been approved by the Bishop, to lead restricted services of the Word. Babs and Wivine have had to get through DBS Checks, as well as Safeguarding and other training in order to be able to do this.

We’ll keep you posted.

Please do let us know any questions via the Church email main address, sealpandp@gmail.com.

Seal St Peter and St Paul PCC

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