



Leiston and Saxmundham United Church

TOGETHER

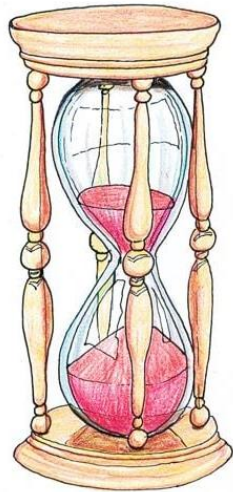
Quarterly Newsletter

August, September, October 2025

Minister's Letter

To everything there is a season...

In 1959 the singer, songwriter Pete Seeger wrote the song, "Turn, Turn, Turn". It became an international hit in 1965 when performed and recorded by "The Byrds". The words are based on the passage from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 as found in the King James Bible – words often attributed to King Solomon, renowned of course for his wisdom.



The words are a statement of reality - a reality which is sometimes positive and sometimes negative. They recognise that life is not a bed of roses but neither is it a veil of tears. Each action, emotion, experience takes its place in the big picture. The timing of the good and the bad, the joyful and the sorrowful in each of our life journeys may be very different. The balance of the elements is also different. It is true that for some the scales seem very much tipped in favour of the good things whilst

others seem to gain more than their fair share of struggle.

The words are open to interpretation. Seeger presented them as protest song - a plea for peace. The line "a time for peace" receives the addition of "I swear it's not too late."

We might look at the words and draw from them a sense of inevitability. Perhaps if all these things are going to happen – if they are all part of the plan, then we might as well just steel ourselves to these things and get on with life, making the best we can of the cards we are dealt. But the Christian faith is not one to give up and abandon ourselves or others to fate.

Fate is not a Christian concept. The idea that life is beyond our control and whatever we do we cannot influence its pattern or path is alien to Christ's way. Many of the decisions and choices we make in life impact on our experience and the path of our life – we are free to choose. But our Christian faith reminds us that, rather than being abandoned to fate, we have the privilege to lean into the love and mercy of God.

Prayer is a powerful and vital part of our faith journey and our relationship with God. Coming to God in times of sorrow and in times of Joy, breaking open our heart's

desire and allowing God to work in us and through us is a gift of grace which God gives us all. God promises to hear and to answer our prayers.

However, there is risk in prayer. In bringing our concerns, our fears and our hopes to God we must do so with the understanding that God's answer may not be the one we want or expect. Faith demands that we pray in faith that God will answer, in the manner that He knows to be right.

We need to come to God with the open faith of a child, trusting that God knows what is best in every situation. We can be assured that whatever we face, God is working through it all for our ultimate good. As Paul reminds us, in his letter to the Romans (8:28):

"We know that in all things God works for good with those who love him, those whom he has called according to his purpose."

God is with us – whatever we face – we are not abandoned to fate – we are held in God's love now, and for ever.

Rev'd Adam Earle

News

LSUC Worship Pattern

As we have continued to work as one church with two locations we agreed, at the Annual General Meeting, to only hold one service each Sunday, either at Leiston or Saxmundham. Each month these services will include worship with Holy Communion, an Afternoon Service and normally one service (known as a hybrid service) led by



elders and members of the congregation, and including a recorded address provided by one of our two ministers.

On months which include a fifth Sunday, we are working with our local Methodist friends to join for a united service at one of the churches either at Leiston, Saxmundham, Peasenhall or Knodishall. The next such service is on Sunday 31st August, beginning at 11:00 at Peasenhall Methodist Church.

For details of worship over the next three months please see the new (and simplified) Worship Programme provided on a separate sheet. Please hold on to your copy and use it to check where we are and what are doing by way of Sunday Worship each week.

Building for the Future

Our church buildings can be a blessing and a challenge – you've heard it said before and no doubt we will say it again.



As many of you will already be aware we had a problem, back in May, with flooding at Leiston Church. The hot water heater under the sink in the upstairs kitchen sprung a leak, releasing a significant amount of water and damaging the hall ceiling and floor. Thanks to everyone who helped with the clear up, and to emergency plumber who

came out to disconnect, remove and seal off the pipework.

Marion has been working hard with the insurance company to sort replacement flooring and repairs as necessary. We hope to get these problems sorted as soon as possible.

In addition to repairs caused by flooding we are working on a development project for the Leiston Church Building, seeking support and grant funding from different sources to help develop and improve the facilities. We will be progressing with plans over the next couple of months. The ideas we have in mind will improve accessibility and upgrade the toilets and kitchen for wider church and community use.

In early June we were able to get the vestry cleared of a great deal of clutter and unwanted furniture. This will provide a more useful space to be used as a church office and base for the Town Pastors.

A Grand Day Out



As the old song goes, "Oh I do like to be beside the seaside!" well, that is exactly where we went for our annual church outing on Wednesday 16th July. First we enjoyed tea at the Aldringham Tea Room – always a good location for something refreshing and

something good to eat. When fully replete we made our way to Thorpeness. David Sillett ventured, not just onto the beach, but even had a paddle in the sea. Thanks to a passerby for taking our picture so we all could be part of it. Say cheese everybody!

Events

Lunch & Film Afternoon @ Saxmundham Chapel

13:00 Saturday 16th August



Enjoy a tasty lunch (with an Irish theme) followed by our film which will be a marvellous mixture of music and magic with a generous addition of blarney and shenanigans. Open to everyone. There is no charge although donations are welcome.

There will be a film lunch and afternoon in October as well so keep your eyes and ears out for details.

Saxmundham Chapel 175th Anniversary



Celebration Tea Party

14:00 Saturday 6th September

Join us as we share memories, explore some of the photographs, take a self-guided tour of the chapel, play games, music (on the organ and piano) and, of course, a tasty tea and refreshments.



Service of Praise & Thanksgiving

14:00 Sunday 7th September

We gather for a Celebration and Praise service in the chapel, with hymns, readings, prayers, reflections and thanksgiving for the years of mission and ministry. Our music will be “live” on the organ. After the service, in true chapel tradition, there will be more tea and refreshments.



Start the Week with a Cuppa

10:00 Monday 8th September

In addition to our regular monthly “Start the Week” gathering we will be holding an extra session to round off our week of celebrations. We will enjoy our usual coffee (or tea) and biscuits and something a little creative.



Come and Join the Celebration!

Harvest Festival Celebrations 2025

Although there is still much of the Summer ahead of us, looking ahead to September and October we find ourselves, again, in the Season of Creation and the time to celebrate the Harvest. We have a number of opportunities to celebrate this year:



Leiston & Saxmundham Christians Together Community Harvest Celebration

15:00 All Saints RC Church

We gather at All Saints Church in Seaward Avenue to celebrate the Harvest with our friends from the other local churches and fellowships. This year the service is being coordinated by our Catholic friends with folk from different churches invited to

participate in various ways. There will be a collection in support of a local charity.

Harvest Songs of Praise

10:45 Sunday 28th September

@ LSUC Saxmundham Chapel

Our worship will focus on the various themes of harvest through traditional hymns, Bible and reflective readings. We give thanks for creation and pray for the world as we look to the future.

Harvest Communion

10:30 Sunday 5th October

@ LSUC Leiston Church

A service of worship and celebration led jointly by Sue Liddell and David Sillett - including Communion. Gifts of food (we will circulate a list of suitable items nearer the time) or money towards the work of Leiston Foodbank are welcome.

Start the Week @ Saxmundham Chapel

With the addition of our special celebration meeting in September, the dates for Start the Week (10:00 until 11:30ish) at Saxmundham are as follows:

Mon 25th August (Bank Holiday)

Mon 8th September (Anniversary Special)

Mon 22nd September

Mon 27th October

Pop the dates in your diary and we look forward to seeing you. All are welcome. Why not invite a friend?

The next edition of the “LSUC Together” Quarterly Newsletter will be available in November. The Pastorate “Connect” Magazine will be available in September.