



# THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST LEONARD, LEXDEN

**ORDINARY PEOPLE. EXTRAORDINARY GOD.**



**PARISH MAGAZINE**

**JULY-AUGUST 2024 £1.00**



## Once the polls close

*‘Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others.’ Philippians 2.3-4*

When the polls close our work as Christians and citizens continues. Paul’s teaching to the Christians in Philippi gives a challenging framework for approaching politics and our everyday lives as citizens: can we truly look to the interests of others; can we imagine treating others as better than ourselves?

By definition, every vote cast is a compromise: no political manifesto should ever completely align with our every opinion and belief, because God has gifted us a world full of difference, which is reflected in the diversity of our nation and politics. A government that governs a *whole* nation, cannot merely be an expression of the most powerful individual interests.

So, I heartily embrace this compromise, and I embrace my responsibility as a citizen: a responsibility which is particularly important in the first days of a new government. This is a responsibility to consider and listen to those who are radically different from me just as carefully as I consider my own values and needs and the values and needs of the groups and communities I know first-hand. This is a responsibility to actively support my elected representatives through prayer, and through good communication – holding them to account, yes, but also respectfully offering views and ideas, encouraging politicians and parties towards a virtuous approach to governing and electioneering.

I'm often struck that we seem to think we can blame the "state of the nation" on politicians. This is buck-passing and a failure to recognise our own responsibilities and influence – individually and collectively. It's treating the inevitable compromise of voting as though it absolves us of responsibility to contribute to the state of our nation. Whether you voted for the present government or not, your hands are not washed of responsibility as a citizen. Every time I hear someone utter things like "politicians are all the same" or "they are all in it for themselves" – I have to challenge this obvious mistruth. The variety of character and background of our politicians should be as broad as those shown in our nation. For this reason, whatever our political views, we need a democracy that gives adequate expression to *other* political views too. If difference is not expressed in open conversation, it may become expressed in violence or through seeking power through shadowy means.

If we fail to consider the other citizens of our nation (and our international responsibilities) when we vote – and instead focus only on things that directly affect us – we are straightforwardly committing a sin of omission, as Paul would remind us. We've heard an awful lot about pensions and tax in this campaign – why not more about how to approach the mental health crisis for children, the horrific social effects of the two-child cap on universal credit, and the ongoing violence in Gaza?

My direct experience of the NHS and welfare systems has left me yearning to hear from politicians who are willing to put tax up. Why is that suggestion something that cannot even be spoken of? However, I refuse to blame the politicians – instead, I'm going to tell them this and encourage them to consider this. It is the electorate and its behaviour that really sets the tone of our elections – so I have an obligation to make this case to my fellow citizens too.

Each of us has responsibility for the tone and content of the political debate, not just politicians. We need to tell them – *and* convince our fellow citizens - that we want to make decisions on the basis of the whole nation, rather than being treated as though self-interest is our only motivation.

Truth, long-term planning, respect, bravery and compassion have framed the greatest moments in our nation's history, and I believe they should perpetually influence the character of our nation as well as the content and tone of our politics. As citizens, each of us must embrace our responsibility to work towards this by who we are, how we behave and express ourselves, and how we support and interact with our elected representatives and our fellow citizens.

Matt

## **FROM THE EDITOR**

Welcome to the latest edition of the magazine, hopefully with summer now with us we can look forward to better weather. As you have seen we are pleased to say that our Priest in charge is back and made the opening comments. The past two months have been busy within the parish with weddings, baptisms and sadly several funerals. Sadly, it means we have lost some of those who have supported the church over the years. Messy church on Father's Day was a great success, our thanks go to all who were involved. We also saw the celebration of D Day and finally the summer Fete. Regarding the Fete our thanks must go to Robin for all his hard work ensuring that the event was a success, but we must not forget all those who work behind the scenes or serve on stalls. Enjoy the summer.

# JULY-AUGUST DIARY

## Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

11:30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

7:30pm 'Medley' house group (Rosemary 515245)

## Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

10:45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

## Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July

8:00am Eucharist

## Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July

8:30am Men's Breakfast

## **SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> July – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9:45am ALL AGE EUCHARIST**

**12:00pm Baptism of Beatrix Board**

## Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

## Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July

8:00am Eucharist

## Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July

10:30am Royal Marsden Coffee Morning

## **SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> July - 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church**

**12:00pm Parish Picnic in Spring Lane Park**

**5:30pm Evensong and Sermon**

## Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July

7:00pm Eucharist

7:45pm PCC Meeting

## Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July

8:00am Eucharist

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July

8:30am Women's Breakfast in the Church

**SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> July – 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST**

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July

8:00am Eucharist

**SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> July – 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Baptism of Otilie Moore**

**5:30pm Eucharist for Wholeness & Healing**

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July

10:00am Brick Club

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August

8:00am Eucharist

1:00pm Wedding of Mark Tuxford & Brogan Simpson

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August

8:30am Men's Breakfast

10:00am Parish Away Day at Pleshey led by Father David Armstrong

**SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> August - 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9:45am ALL AGE EUCHARIST**

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August

10:00am Brick Club

11:30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

7:30pm 'Medley' house group (Rosemary 515245)

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

10:45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August

8:00am Eucharist

**SUNDAY 11th August - 11th Sunday after Trinity**

**9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST**

**5:30pm Evensong and Sermon**

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August

10:00am Brick Club

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August

8:00am Eucharist

**SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> August - 12th Sunday after Trinity**

**8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST**

**12:00pm Baptism of Albert George McCarthy**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August

10:00am Brick Club

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August

8:00am Eucharist

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August

3:30pm Wedding of Gemma Tyler & Christopher White

**SUNDAY 25th August - 13th Sunday after Trinity**

**9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST**

**5:30pm Eucharist for Wholeness & Healing**

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August

10:00am Brick Club

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

Thursday 29th August

8:00am Eucharist



# MOUSE TAILS

The Church and Woods mouse families travelled through the tunnel leading to the Church grounds 2 nights before the Fete; they went in convoy with Dad leading the way. The Woods family had grown considerably over the years so there were 5 sledges making their way to the Church Hall. They carried not only their clothes and bedding but also contributions to the 'after Fete feast' which included several bunches of watercress, wild herbs, Mr. Woods' blackberry & strawberry cordials and wheat beer; all of which were great favourites of the mice. Excitement abounded as the mice were reunited with their family and friends, Mrs. Hall had put on a splendid lunch buffet which was enjoyed by all. By the time they'd eaten and caught up with their news, cleared away, made their nests and hidden the sledges from view, they were all exhausted and agreed on an early night.

On the day before the Fete the mice ventured out very early, just after daybreak, and made their way to the Fete site to see what was happening and to look for any scavenging opportunities. Mum and Mrs. Woods decided to sneak into the extension toilets to stock up on tissue paper for extra bedding material. They had just about gathered as much tissue as they could carry



when a man entered the toilet, so they squashed themselves into a hidey hole and waited for him to leave. As he went to leave, they could hear him struggling with the door handle and could hear other humans outside the door offering advice and discussing what options there were. Someone thought getting the Fire Brigade out might be a good idea, but the man decided he would try to get out of the window. With much puffing and muttering he eventually managed to heave himself out, much to the relief of



his family! The 2 mice were giggling but as there seemed to be a lot of people about they scurried carefully back.

On the way through the kitchen, they noticed a mouse nest that was soaking wet and looking around saw that the dishwasher pipe had been chewed right through. Once back in the Hall they relayed their adventure to the others and they all giggled about the toilet escape! Many more mice had arrived during their absence, one family piped up that they were from the kitchen nest and had come to take shelter in the Hall. Someone said they hoped the mice didn't get the blame for damaged pipe; the Kitchen mice said that they'd seen the culprit, a horrible big rat!



A portly, elderly mouse shuffled up to Dad, and said "I don't expect you remember me?" Mum and Dad looked bemused and agreed they didn't know him. "I'm your Uncle Bert, your Dad's brother". The Balcony family gathered round welcoming him with hugs, he entertained them with tales of his history for a time and kept the twins in hysterics. Mum and Dad exchanged amused looks, knowing that Uncle Bert had embroidered his stories somewhat!

At last, it was the day of the Fete, the mice were very excited and were out and about early. Even so, there were humans around, so they investigated carefully, always on the lookout for any scavenging opportunities and enjoying the music. As more people arrived the mice crept back to the Hall with their 'treasure' and hid away until only a few folks were around. This was the best time to start scavenging! Scurrying first to the nearest and unoccupied tents, they gathered up some plastic cups (the Mums always found those useful) using one of the cups they gathered up the scraps of burgers, bread, sausage, onions and ferried them up to the Hall. Meanwhile, the Mums had gathered up cake and sandwich crumbs. Dad was really chuffed to find cups with some beer left in the bottom, he and his friends quickly swept up more dregs of beers and whizzed them back to the Hall where they would combine all the dregs and add some of Mr. Woods'

homemade acorn beer. They were surprised how much there was, they'd also gathered up dregs of wine which, when added to their home-made cordial, would make an excellent drink for the Mums.

Once all the humans had left the mice began their feast. The Mums had excelled themselves, on a bed of fresh watercress was the little pieces of burger and sausages, accompanied by a plate of bread chunks. For pudding there was assorted cake cut into small cubes and a variety of fresh berries.



Everyone was full of food and full of praise for the wonderful feast! Whilst the youngsters ran around the Hall working off their excess energy the elders enjoyed chatting and getting up to date with everyone's news. At one point Dad looked around and asked if anyone had seen Uncle Bert? Nobody had and being somewhat concerned Dad instigated a search. Eventually they found him, fast asleep and 'snoring for England' on a huge chunk of cheddar cheese! Uncle Bert was rudely awakened and asked why he hadn't shared his find? He said he was going to share but he couldn't resist a few bites of cheese, " just to check it was edible", he'd tried to lift the chunk but found it too heavy and then must have dropped off. Mum said they'd all look forward to it being the main attraction in that day's meal!

Many events had been planned for the next day - 'pin the tail on the cat', 'hide and seek', relay races, tug of war and many more games. Once the games were over, they scampered back to the Hall for a hearty meal (Uncle Bert's cheese was much enjoyed). When everyone was full the Church mice choir entertained with favourite songs and hymns accompanied by the Church band. Some of the mice found the energy to dance and sing along (to you and I it sounded like a lot of squeaking!)

Grandad ended the day with a prayer of thanks for their lovely day and for all the blessings they'd received. Everyone went to their nests and enjoyed a wonderful night's sleep.

**CT**





# Friendship Lunches

**St Leonard's Church  
Lexden** welcomes you to its  
**Friendship Lunches**

Join us for delicious  
homemade soup and cake.

Every month on the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Saturday from **September to  
March** at 12pm

Please book by emailing  
[admin@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:admin@stleonardslexden.org.uk)  
or phoning the Parish Office on **01206  
575565** or use the sign up sheet in  
Church.

**Donations welcome on the day.**

## Friendship Lunch returns on 14<sup>th</sup> September

Our Friendship Lunches are open to everyone, whether you are a church member or not. It is a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and to have time to chat to old ones. We run every second Saturday in the month up until March, starting at 12 noon. Just ring Esther in the parish office on 01206 575565 or email [admin@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:admin@stleonardslexden.org.uk) if you would like to come – There is also a signup sheet in church.

It would be lovely to see you so please give us a try. There is no charge, but donations are welcome on the day.

**The Friendship Lunches Team**



## FRIENDSHIP LINE

(Formerly known as Carer's Call)

You may have noticed a couple of posters in church or even received a letter about our **Friendship Line**, which is now up and running after several months of careful planning, deliberation and, of course, many prayers.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Anyone who feels that they need someone with whom they can have a friendly chat, someone who will listen to any concerns they might have. Our aim is not to solve their worries but to help them feel more positive, after sharing things that are playing on their minds.

### HOW IT WORKS?

Just phone the **Parish Office on 01206 575565** during the day and leave your contact details. These will then be passed to one of the **Friendship Line** team who will call you back.

Everything is treated with the utmost confidentiality.

We believe that the work we have started is being led by the Holy Spirit. It is our mission to reach out to all members of our Parish community and to show the love and support we can offer.

If you would like to know more, please contact me on:  
[maggiew234@gmail.com](mailto:maggiew234@gmail.com)

Take care & God bless.

**Maggie**

# PCC Charities for 2023-24

At the November PCC meeting it was agreed that the following charities should receive our support this year. Each charity will receive a donation of £1000.

- Colchester Foodbank
- Korban (helps homeless young adults in Colchester)
- OMF (overseas mission)
- CYO (Christian Youth Outreach)
- Youth Enquiry Service (Adolescent mental health charity)
- English for Women (Educational charity for female refugees)
- Next Chapter (Women's refuge)
- Colchester Debt Centre (new name for CAP)

I thought it would be helpful to give you a bit of information about each of these charities, this month it is CYO.



CYO serves schools across the Colchester area with projects that help children and young people to grow in life, hope and faith.

What they do in a nutshell

- Chaplaincy - helping secondary schools and colleges with the spiritual and pastoral care of pupils and staff, inspiring and supporting spiritual life and creating space to explore the Christian faith.
- Mentoring - Working with school pastoral staff, we offer a caring, listening ear to young people who need a little extra support when life is difficult.
- Projects - Their projects are designed to support the pastoral, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students in expressive, creative and interactive ways.
- Partnership - Equipping, empowering, and enabling churches and Christians to engage with primary and secondary schools through Chaplaincy.

## The Highs and Lows of a Priest's Life.

June was a month where there were definite highs and lows. The low point was taking the funeral for a dear friend, Jill Farley. Although it was an honour, as always, to take her funeral it was still sad as we remembered her life and learnt so much about her that we hadn't known whilst she was alive, unfortunately. Jill had planned much of her funeral with myself and Jenny Heaps before she died which made it all the more poignant as we put her wishes into practice. The hymns that she had chosen; all of which meant something to her. Then the eulogy put together and read wonderfully by Jenny but much of which was composed from notes given by Jill whilst she was in hospital. It was one of those times when, as I put my hand on the coffin for the commendation, I had to take a very deep breath. It was a beautiful, personal service, for two reasons. The first because I knew Jill (which is often not the case with funerals) and the second because Jill had put so much of herself into it as well. I was pleased that she was with our Lord and out of pain, but sad that she will no longer be at our Wednesday services.



The high point of this particular month was being able to baptise my great-granddaughter, Amelia. I knew it wasn't going to be straight forward as she is a boisterous two-year old. She played with the toys at the back of the church for most of the service and when she was told that I needed her she came hurtling down the aisle and I had just enough time to put a cross on her forehead before she hurtled back again to the toys. When it came to the water, well! She decided that it tasted rather nice and kept dipping her hand into the water and sucking it off. I think she ended up with more Holy Water in her than on her. She found that it splashed rather well, and I ended up reading the end of the service with water dripping from my glasses. It sounds like mayhem, but it was a truly joyous, family occasion. Memories made that will stay with me for ever.

Two occasions, so different, so wonderful that it makes me feel very humble and so glad that I listened to God's calling.

**Reverend Jacquie Messinger.**



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**WORLD'S BIGGEST  
COFFEE  
MORNING**

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**

**MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING**

We will be holding our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October in Church. Please come along to support a great cause and have a look at the beautiful Harvest decorations.

**CHURCH AUTUMN QUIZ**

Come and test your knowledge at a fun packed evening!!!

**Venue:** St Leonard's Church Hall, Lexden

**Date:** Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024

More details to follow nearer the date.

**ROYAL MARSDEN  
COFFEE MORNING**



*The* **ROYAL  
MARSDEN**  
*Cancer Charity*

We will be holding a Coffee Morning in aid of the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July from 10:30am. This charity does fantastic work supporting patients and their families through some really difficult times and I know many of you will have 1st hand experience of the wonderful work they do.

Please come along and support if you can.

## Saturday, 3rd August 2024

AWAY DAY AT PLESHEY LED BY  
*FATHER DAVID ARMSTRONG*

“Mission in our everyday lives”

From: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

- Tea & Coffee on arrival
- Lunch @ 12:30 pm
- Eucharist @ 3:30 pm



**Only 20 spaces available so please only book if you are certain you can attend.**

## Wednesday, 18th September 2024

A new monthly Bible Study Group will be starting in the Nicholls Room @ 7:30 pm

Please contact Maggie for further details.



## Remembrance Concert

Come and join us in singing some of your favourite wartime songs!!!

**Venue:** St Leonard's Church

**Date:** Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm.

More details to follow nearer the date.





# SUMMER

A  
marvellous  
Summer  
Fete was  
enjoyed by  
many on  
29th June.



We were  
blessed with  
beautiful  
weather and  
the visitors  
came out in  
their droves.

# FETE



We had all the usual stalls, books, a smoothie bike, BBQ, plants, cakes, a bar, tombola, a maypole, bric-a-brac, the cafe as well as lots of silly games. We even had bees!



Sincere thanks to all those involved in planning, setting up, running, and taking down. We raised over £3,500!!

**Especial thanks to Robin, of course.**



# Messy Church!

It was lovely to welcome everyone to **Messy Father's Day!** recently. We talked about the story of the prodigal son and how his father welcomed him home with open arms despite everything he had done.



Our activities included lots of pig related fun. We made pig puppets, iced piggy biscuits and had a go at feeding the pigs by throwing beanbags. The best pig feeder managed to throw 18 into the pig pen! That would certainly have fattened the pigs up! The little ones enjoyed playing with the farm and Super Dad badges and cards were made too. We finished up with a celebration tea in keeping with the story and the children went home with their party balloons bobbing along behind them!

Our next **Messy Church** is just around the corner so look out for the posters and flyers and take this opportunity to join us and have some fun whilst learning about the amazing love our heavenly Father has for us, no matter what.



**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September 3pm - 5pm**

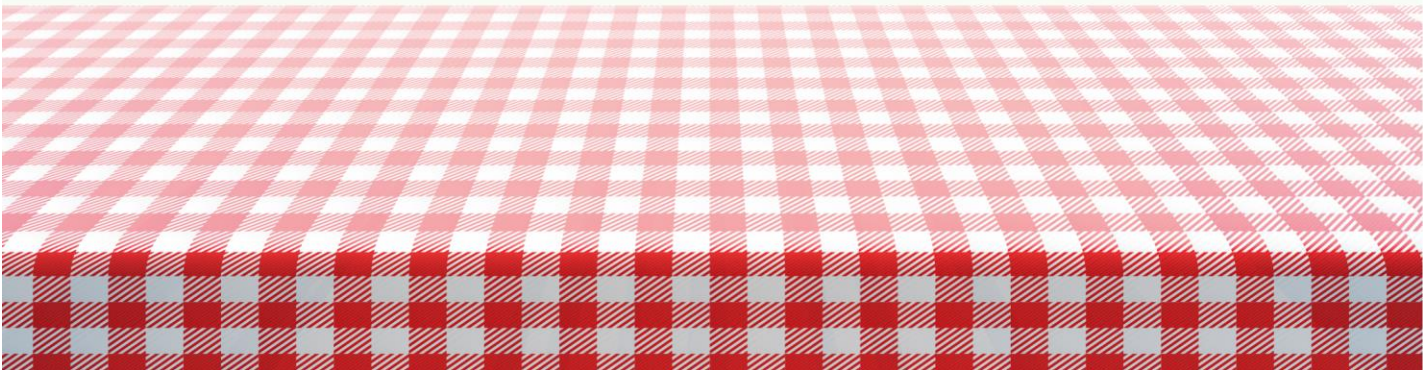


Sunday 14th July

*Parish*  
**PICNIC**

12:00 Noon - 2:30pm

Bring your food and friends and enjoy a relaxing picnic at the Spring Lane Park. Fun activities for children.



# Families and Children at St Leonard's

## What's on in July and August?

3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> and 17 <sup>th</sup> July Baby and Toddler Group In the hall	Session 1 - 9:30am to 10:30am Session 2 - 11:00am to 12 noon
<b>7<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>All Age Service 9:45am</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> July Junior Church (Junior Church is taking its summer break after this session)	A great celebration - David brings the Ark to Jerusalem 
<b>14<sup>th</sup> July</b> <b>Parish Picnic</b> <b>12 noon to 2:30pm</b>	<b>Bring your food and friends and enjoy a relaxing picnic at the Spring Lane Park. Fun activities for children.</b>
Tuesdays 10am - 12noon during summer school holidays Brick Club	Turn up and build! Free sessions with refreshments. Check website for dates.
<b>4<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>All Age Service 9:45am</b>
<b>More dates for your diary</b>	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> September</b>	<b>All Age Service 9:45am</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> September</b> <b>Baby and Toddler Group</b>	<b>Wednesdays in term time</b>
<b>29<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Messy Church 3pm-5pm</b> 

# JUST TURN UP AND BUILD

ST LEONARD'S

## BRICK CLUB

- Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July and 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August
- 10am-12noon
- St Leonard's Church, Lexden
- Free of Charge. All Welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult

# Baby and Toddler Group



Every Wednesday during term-time  
in the Church Hall

Session Times – 9:30am and 11:00am



Find us at [www.facebook.com/stleonardsbabyandtoddlergroup](https://www.facebook.com/stleonardsbabyandtoddlergroup)



## Christian Aid Update.

Christian Aid exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. This involves working in partnership with local organisations, as well as with governments and the private sector.

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to our activities for Christian Aid week.

- All those who completed the “Count Your Blessings” challenge.
- The Pot-Luck Lunch team
- Lexden Ladies
- All who helped at the coffee morning.

and anyone who made a personal contribution.

The grand total raised was a fantastic £1967 including gift aid which will make a real difference to people’s lives. Your gift will ensure more people in places like Burundi get the skills and knowledge they need to push back against the inhumanity of poverty. You'll help them fulfil their hopes and ambitions.



Thank you.





## Health update from Matt

I am delighted to be beginning a slowly phased return to work. Initially, I will be working for four or five irregular hours each week on things that are not “public-facing”. You may see me from time-to-time, but not regularly. I am not yet fit to resume my leadership role, so please treat this period as though nothing has changed and continue to bring queries and issues to those to whom you are presently going.

The news that, for now, there is no cancer in my body is truly astonishing and wonderful, but it is only the treatment and its unexpected and extremely rare side-effects that have kept me from working. These continue though they are slowly subsiding. I remain dependent upon a cocktail of steroids and other potent drugs (which themselves bring significant side-effects) in order to avoid further bouts of meningitis. This means that I am sometimes unable to cope with light, sound and crowds, that I can often find cognition and communication difficult, that using screens and computers can be challenging, and that I suffer from extreme fatigue. These side-effects occur unpredictably and vary in severity – sometimes I am very much myself again. It is likely that I will remain dependent upon drugs for another year, and I continue to require hospital appointments in London every two weeks. I feel no frustration nor self-pity about this, and I seek no sympathy, but I think it is important to share this with you in order to explain why my return to work must be carefully paced and why you may not notice much difference in the coming weeks.

I thank you again for your prayers, concern and love for me and the family.

Matt





## From the Archives

This time we complete our dealings with the Revd. Preston.

Yet before we go into details, I would like to point out that the Vestry committee was run completely differently to a Parish PCC. At the start of each PCC meeting all members must declare if they have any outside interests that could affect the running of the Church. In other words, no pecuniary interest. As we will see as the story unfolds, this was not the case in the 1820's!

### 24<sup>th</sup> May 1820

Tender from Henry Hayward jnr. on behalf of himself and James Nelson to build said church for the sum of £2200. As stated previously Henry Haywood Jnr was the son of the Churchwarden Henry Hayward who as we showed ran a building company Haywood and Son.

### 21<sup>st</sup> June 1820

The first stone of the new St Leonards was laid.

### 30th March 1821

Church fencing had to be altered in line with the new church at a cost of £41. 19 shillings.

### 2nd December 1821

The church was opened for Divine Service by the Bishop of London. Morning service was taken by the Revd. Preston and in the afternoon a service was taken by the Revd. Edward Crosse MA, Master of the Free Grammer School Colchester. A collection was made after the Sermons and a sum of £4.12 shillings was given to the church wardens to cover expenses. The church was built in little over eighteen months, very

quick even for those times and the results of that quick build can still be seen today as the church is always in need of some repair or other.

### 14th July 1822

The Bishop of London assisted by the Chancellor Sir Christopher Robinson Knt. and the Archdeacon of Colchester, Dr Bloomfield, consecrate the new building together with additional burial ground in the church yard. Sermons was conducted in the morning by the Revd Preston and in the afternoon by the Bishop of London. A collection was taken at the door and the sum of £6.13 shillings was collected. A donation of £50 was made on behalf of the Bishop and a further £5 by Sir Christopher Robinson.

### 25th October 1822

It was moved by J.F.Mills Esq and seconded by G. Round Esq. that the balance of £1245.7.10 agreeably to the surveyors account be admitted to Henry Hayward Jnr. (cost of rebuilding the Church). This was carried after an amendment put by Thomas Tracy and Thomas Baker that a second surveyor should be consulted was lost by one vote.

### 1<sup>st</sup> November 1822

It was agreed that a further £250 (£1000 had already been borrowed on 26th April 1820) be borrowed to defray the balance for the new church. Henry Hayward Snr agreed to loan the church a total of £1250 at 5% interest.

### 31st March 1823

£1250 (balance for the church building) to be repaid to Henry Hayward by annual instalments of £50.

This brings to an end the building of the new St Leonards but leaves unanswered questions. The finance for the building had been agreed in

1820 so where had the money gone? In theory they should only had to borrow £800; instead, it had risen to £1250. Next, why had Thomas Tracy and Thomas Baker asked for a new surveyor? Who were the surveyors who condemned the old church, where is the report? And it is strange that Revd Preston was driving this from the beginning.

So going back to the beginning of this Archive, certainly no declaration of interest as Churchwarden Henry Harward and Son seem to have done nicely out of building the new Church!

## Men's Breakfast



1st Saturday of the month in Church.  
All Welcome, we look forward to seeing you there...  
If you have any questions please contact  
[davidw@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:davidw@stleonardslexden.org.uk)

# D DAY 80

## D Day Remembered

Although as a church we didn't do much to remember D Day I thought as editor to include an item specifically linked to our church and Parish about D Day.

At the rear of the church is a walled off area which is the Columbarium or as others might call it 'the Garden of rest'. The land for this was donated by the last Lord of the Manor David Papillon in memory of his brother Phillip Warner Ganier Papillon. In fact, if you look at the arch above the gate you will see a coat of arms and the initials P.W.G.P and inside a plaque in memory of Philip Warner Garnier Papillon. Phillip died of his wounds following the D Day landings. He was a Major in the 1st Battalion the Suffolk Regiment and was part of the second wave landing on Sword Beach one hour after the initial assault. The Suffolk Regiment's job was to get off the beach and attack two enemy strongholds just inshore. These strongholds were taken after severe fighting resulting in a number of casualties to the Suffolks. Sadly, Phillip was one of those casualties and he succumbed to his wounds on the 28th of June 1944. He is buried in the Hermonville cemetery in France.



His family mourned his loss and there are two memorials to his memory, one in St Mary's Church Bury St Edmunds (which contains the Suffolk regiments chapel), by means of a window which was dedicated by the then Rector of St Leonard's, the Revd Dolph, and a second window in the Lady Chapel of St Leonard's donated by his mother.

We thank Philip for his service and sacrifice so that we can live free. R I P

# FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

## BAPTISMS



26<sup>th</sup> May

**Jax William King**

2<sup>nd</sup> June

**Noah Reuben Stewart**

9<sup>th</sup> June

**Etta Chiedza Torongo**

**Otis Zuva Torongo**

23<sup>rd</sup> June

**Amelia Ivy Carlowe-Wright**

*'One Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all.'*

## FUNERALS

16<sup>th</sup> May

**Margaret Leaning**

31<sup>st</sup> May

**Maureen Hall**

26<sup>th</sup> June

**Jill Farley**



*'Rest in peace, and rise in glory.'*

## WEDDINGS



18<sup>th</sup> May

**Nicholas Carter and Hannah Coe**

*'Those whom God has joined together.'*

## MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Final day for items for the OCTOBER-NOVEMBER edition:

SUNDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER

Please submit items to the Editor  
email: [magazine@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stleonardslexden.org.uk)

Please include your name with any submission  
and limit text to 500-600 words maximum.  
Longer articles may be edited. Thank you.

## **St Leonards Church Lexden** **CHRISTMAS MARKET** **2024**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**  
**In the Church Hall**  
**11:00am to 2:00pm**

**Come and join us for our Annual Market**  
**All the usual stalls plus some new stalls. including**  
**Refreshments, Gifts, Christmas Fare**  
**Kiddies Corner, Tombola and Father Christmas**

# BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE JULY

Nickolls, Edith Emily	7 <sup>th</sup> August 1915 – 8 <sup>th</sup> July 1979
Coomber, Gordon Raleigh	25 <sup>th</sup> March 1928 – 19 <sup>th</sup> July 1997
Williams, Julia Vera	2 <sup>nd</sup> November 1903 – 1 <sup>st</sup> July 1999
Game, Jeanne	10 <sup>th</sup> July 1924 – 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2003
Rhodes, Barbara Eileen	9 <sup>th</sup> December 1911 – 17 <sup>th</sup> July 1998
Whitehouse, Peter Jason	16 <sup>th</sup> May 1944 – 11 <sup>th</sup> July 1988
Blake, Rosemary Forrestt	28 <sup>th</sup> February 1928 – 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2004
Davis, Leslie	23 <sup>rd</sup> October 1916 – 27 <sup>th</sup> July 1996
Cant, Edgar John William	22 <sup>nd</sup> January 1934 – 11 <sup>th</sup> July 2006
Harrison, Ruby Elsie	21 <sup>st</sup> January 1922 – 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2006
Morgan, Ivor Harold	20 <sup>th</sup> March 1930 – 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2008
Godden, David Roger James	10 <sup>th</sup> July 1930 – 30 <sup>th</sup> July 2011
Elden, Colin Richard	25 <sup>th</sup> June 1946 – 28 <sup>th</sup> July 1998
Raymer, Patricia Daphne	5 <sup>th</sup> February 1933 – 29 <sup>th</sup> July 2011
Goodyear, Leslie Archibald	25 <sup>th</sup> February 1921 – 27 <sup>th</sup> July 2010
Kirsten, Berill Maud	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 1942 – 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
Cole, Barbara Joan	27 <sup>th</sup> May 1942 – 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2022



*If you would like the name of a relative added to the Book of Remembrance, you will find forms with instructions on the bookcase beside the north door.*

# BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

## AUGUST

Spurrier, Rose Hilda	1 <sup>st</sup> October 1906 – 5 <sup>th</sup> August 1975
Blake, Michael David	27 <sup>th</sup> November 1927 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> August 1997
Buckley, Elsa	28 <sup>th</sup> December 1916 – 19 <sup>th</sup> August 2002
Dalton, George Harold	1 <sup>st</sup> March 1919 – 17 <sup>th</sup> August 1999
Beard, Paul	18 <sup>th</sup> March 1979 – 14 <sup>th</sup> August 2004
Wiggins, Mary Grace	21 <sup>st</sup> March 1923 – 9 <sup>th</sup> August 2005
Walden, Arthur William James	14 <sup>th</sup> May 1915 – 6 <sup>th</sup> August 1966
Keeble, Jessie Birtles	20 <sup>th</sup> August 1933 – 24 <sup>th</sup> August 2007
Claxton, Betty Louise	2 <sup>nd</sup> January 1920 – 15 <sup>th</sup> August 2003
Keble, Doris Ellen	28 <sup>th</sup> May 1909 – 24 <sup>th</sup> August 2008
Bridge, John Henry Ayden	4 <sup>th</sup> November 1923 – 12 <sup>th</sup> August 2010
Harrison, Sydney	3 <sup>rd</sup> December 1922 – 22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2010
Teggin, Edward 'Ted'	23 <sup>rd</sup> July 1926 – 7 <sup>th</sup> August 2012

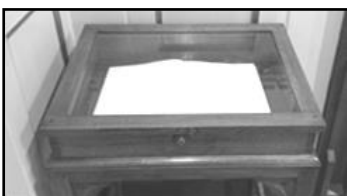
### ***Have You been Bereaved?***

Losing a loved one can leave you feeling adrift; talking and meeting with others in a similar situation may help.

Lexden Bereavement Support Group offers the opportunity to chat over a cup of tea. The group is informal and relaxed, and led by trained volunteers.

It is open to people of all faiths and backgrounds and is usually run on Thursday afternoons fortnightly.

If you would like to attend – or to find out more - please telephone Margaret on 01206 547803 or email [bereavement@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:bereavement@stleonardslexden.org.uk)



*If you would like the name of a relative added to the Book of Remembrance, you will find forms with instructions on the bookcase beside the north door.*



# REGULAR SERVICES

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8.00am 1662 BCP Holy Communion (1st &amp; 3rd Sundays)</b>  <b>9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church</b> <b>Or All Age Eucharist (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month)</b>  <b>5.30pm Evensong and Sermon (2nd Sunday)</b>  <b>5.30pm Eucharist for Wholeness &amp; Healing (4th Sunday)</b>
<b>Monday</b>	8:45am Morning Prayer
<b>Tuesday</b>	8:45am Morning Prayer
<b>Wednesday</b>	10.00am Eucharist
<b>Thursday</b>	8.00am Eucharist

During August there are a number of changes to the usual pattern; please check the weekly notices or the diary in this magazine for occasional variations.