



THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST LEONARD, LEXDEN

ORDINARY PEOPLE. EXTRAORDINARY GOD.



PARISH MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2024 £1.00



Joining the Dots

As a kid, I spent many hours completing dot to dot puzzles.

I used to think this had been an (entertaining) waste of time, but I realise now it was great preparation for a central part of our job as disciples of Christ.

Everything we do as a parish church has something to do with bringing people together - and bringing them closer to God.

Bringing together is something that is increasingly hard to do because there are so many other distractions in the world and online. Tellingly, it's not just churches, but also pubs and voluntary organisations that find it hard work to bring people together these days. (As a child, I used to marvel at just how many pubs there were within a couple of streets in our house – they are all closed now).

So it's time to revive the art of joining the dots, and claim it as a Christian duty!

Over the past years, despite new people joining us, our 9.45am Sunday morning service numbers have dropped (though if everyone came every week we would have remarkable numbers– and I encourage you to do this if you're able - it's good for you!). This is partly because changes in people's health and personal circumstances make it difficult for them to attend. For those unable to be with us on Sunday morning, we seek to join up the dots by including them through our pastoral ministry, home communions and friendship line service. We also want to make sure we keep our worship space as accessible as possible, and the church council (PCC) is about to consider this carefully soon.

Other activities and services, however, are increasing in their either reach or in size – or both - through the extraordinary hard work of many St Leonard's people. There are numerous examples: Messy Church, Friendship Lunch, Brick Club, Baby & Toddler groups, and our support for our friends in Shrub End to name just a few!

Though we each have our favourite services and activities, we must remember that St Leonard's is all of this – not individual things. When God looks down on St Leonard's, Lexden, God's attention is not just on Sunday mornings in the church building! God looks down on the whole parish all the time, on all the connections and relationships and worship and activities.

So it's important we do everything we can to join up the dots, by keeping informed of all this activity, and experiencing these things where appropriate and possible.

When Brick Club and Baby Group people start coming to Messy Church – dots are joined.

When someone is phoned or visited in their home – dots are joined.

When someone is prayed for – dots are joined.

When funeral or baptism families come to a Eucharist or our Commemoration of the Departed – dots are joined.

When someone comes to the Fete or Christmas Market or walks through the door to the friendship lunch – dots are joined.

It's our job to keep joining up all these dots by welcoming sincerely (as I think we do). Joining all these dots will build our congregation too.

If we judge it by mere numbers, then Christmas is the best time for dot-joining. As we approach Christmas, let's join dots by inviting our friends, keeping our eyes on what's on and making sure we welcome all as if we are welcoming Jesus himself!

Below is a dot to dot to get you in the mood!

Yours,

Matt



FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the November/December magazine.

The past two months have been very hectic and the next two months will be equally so. This magazine contains reports about Harvest, the quiz night, Messy Church, friendship lunches and the McMillian coffee morning. We also highlight what is happening during the next two months. We have a service to remember family and friends who are no longer with us, our annual Remembrance Day service, a concert to remember the time of two world wars, The Christmas market, Advent service, Carols and the Crown, service of Nine lessons and carols, then finally all our Christmas services.

It will be a busy time but a time we can look forward to, during this time we must thank our hard-working clergy team, who bring everything together. Yet we must also thank our volunteers, those behind the scenes who ensure that things run smoothly throughout the year.

It maybe a little premature, but I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year and thank you for your support.

Mike.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS FROM SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER DIARY

Saturday 2nd November

8:30am Men's Breakfast

10:30am Children's Society Box Opening & Coffee Morning

SUNDAY 3rd November 4th Sunday before Advent

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am ALL AGE EUCHARIST

5:30pm Memorial Service

Tuesday 5th November

11.30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

7.30pm 'Medley' house group (Rosemary 515245)

Wednesday 6th November

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 7th November

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 9th November

12:00pm Friendship Lunch

SUNDAY 10th November Remembrance Sunday

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

10:55am Act of Remembrance at War Memorial

5.30pm Evensong and Sermon

Wednesday 13th November

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 14th November

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 16th November

8.30am Women's Breakfast

7:00pm Memorial Concert

SUNDAY 17th November 2nd Sunday before Advent

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

3:00pm OMG in the Hall

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

Monday 18th November

7:00pm Eucharist

7:45pm PCC Meeting

Wednesday 20th November

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall
10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee
11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall
7:00pm Bible Study Group

Thursday 21st November

8.00am Eucharist

SUNDAY 24th November Christ the King

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

5:30pm Eucharist for Wholeness & Healing

Wednesday 27th November

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall
10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee
11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 28th November

8:00am Eucharist

Friday 29th November

10:00am Hall open to receive contributions to Christmas Market

Saturday 30th November

11:00am Christmas Market

SUNDAY 1st December Advent Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am ALL AGE EUCHARIST

5:30pm Advent Carol Service

Tuesday 3rd December

11:30am Holy Communion at Cheviot
7.30pm 'Medley' house group (Rosemary 515245)

Wednesday 4th December

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall
10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee
11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall
10:45am Holy Communion at Woodlands
7:00pm Compline and Reflection

Thursday 5th December

8.00am Eucharist

Friday 6th December

1:30pm Lexden Primary School Carol Concert

Saturday 7th December

8:30am Men's Breakfast

SUNDAY 8th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

3:00pm Messy Nativity

Wednesday 11th December

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

7:00pm Compline and Reflection

Thursday 12th December

8.00am Eucharist

Friday 13th December

12:00pm Women's Breakfast Eucharist followed by Christmas Celebration

Saturday 14th December

12:00pm Friendship Lunch

SUNDAY 15th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

6.30pm Carols at the Crown

Monday 16th December

9:30am & 11:00am Home Farm School Carol Concerts

Wednesday 18th December

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Christmas Service followed by party in the hall

7:00pm Compline and Reflection

Thursday 19th December

10:30am Kingswode Hoe School Carol Concert

SUNDAY 22nd December 4th Sunday of Advent

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

5.30pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Monday 23rd December

11:30am Carol Service at Cheviot

TUESDAY 24th December Christmas Eve

2:30pm Crib Service

4:30pm Service of Light

6:30pm Service of Light

11:15pm Midnight Mass

Monday 25th December Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST

Sunday 29th December 1st Sunday of Christmas

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST



MOUSE TAILS

Harvest Festival was always one of the St Leonard's mice families' favourite events, not least for the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful floral arrangements but also to collect such goodies as grapes, ears of corn and a little fruit. Everyone agreed that their Harvest Service had been wonderful, saying prayers of thanks to God for all the blessings they enjoyed. The mouse choir excelled themselves singing an old favourite - 'All things bright and beautiful', accompanied by little Tommy Organ on his harmonica.

Of course, the next big event was Christmas. Whilst all the families were together for Harvest, it was an ideal opportunity to make plans and swap ideas for Christmas. The youngest mice got really excited listening in to the suggestions and chipped in with impossible wishes of their own.

Usually, before Christmas, came the Christmas Market which was always great for scavenging bits of tinsel, coloured paper, crayons (from the children's area) ribbons and all sorts.

It was decided when their special Service would be, and Tommy and the choir got approval for the carols they would sing and offered entertainment for the traditional feast in the Hall. The Mums started to plan who would do what catering, giving a long list of things that the Dads would need to scavenge. The Wood cousins could give their ideas of food input straight away, different berries, wild greens and, of course, watercress plus beers, wines and cordials made by the Woods fathers. The rest of the feast could only be assembled nearer the time from what had been scavenged, hopefully enough cake crumbs to make up a big cake, some cheese, and if possible, chocolate for the little ones.

Just thinking about Christmas festivities got all the mice excited and in planning mode.

The Balcony twins had their heads together trying to come up with ideas of gifts for their parents and secretly thought up ideas for gifts for each other.

Most of the mice headed up to the Hall for their usual Harvest feast still talking about Christmas plans. After a good feast they all went home to their own nests to dream pleasant dreams of what was to come.

CT



Crossword



My Friend Pauline ...

Many of you will know that Pauline has not been well over the last two and a half years so much so that, eventually her daughter, Louise, decided to move her to a residential home close to where she lives in Loughborough. This has been the best thing that could happen as Pauline is now safe and well looked after and close to her daughter; as you can see from the picture of them both.

I have known Pauline since the early 1980s when she first joined the Lexden Parish Players. She was a talented actress, meticulous about learning her words and paid attention to every detail of her performance including her costumes. As we know Pauline loved clothes; although nowadays she is content just to be comfortable!

When my son, Dan, was born in 1990 Pauline readily agreed to look after him when I returned to work. Unfortunately this arrangement had to come to an end when Pauline's life changed quite dramatically but out of adversity come wonderful things - Pauline started the Lexden Baby & Toddler Group and the rest as they say is history ...

In 1996 Pauline & I travelled together, literally and metaphorically as we completed the Christian Studies Course in Elmstead Market. As a result of this Pauline then trained as a Lay Reader and committed herself to serving St Leonard's in many ways.

Pauline had little confidence in her abilities and yet she had so many talents; her natural affinity with children, flower arranging, cooking, her ability to communicate through visual aids and puppets at All Age Services, writing poetry and meditations and the delivery of great sermons.

Certainly a talented lady - may God bless her and keep her safe.

If anyone would like to write to Pauline please contact me for her address.

Maggie



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

Take care & God bless.

Maggie



St Leonard's Christmas Market

with visit from Santa at 11:15am

- Gifts
- Books
- Cakes
- Jigsaws
- Toys & Games
- Tombola
- Cafe
- Raffle



St Leonard's Church, Lexden
e-mail mike@stleonardslexden.org.uk



SAVE THE DATE!



**CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOX
OPENING AND COFFEE
MORNING**

The Children's Society Box Opening and Coffee Morning takes place on Saturday November 2nd in the Church starting at 10:30am. All monies raised will help towards the Society's work to protect hopes of children threatened by abuse, exploitation and neglect. If you would like to know about the work of the Children's Society or would like a donations box please speak to Julie, Linda or Rachel.

Wednesday, 20th November 2024

Our monthly Bible Study Group will be held in the Nicholls Room @ 7:00 pm

Please contact Maggie for further details.



Carols at the Crown

Join St. Leonard's Carol Singers from 6:30pm on Sunday December 15th at The Lexden Crown in the marquee and sing along to some great traditional carols. All welcome.





Here we come A-Wassailing

The Comrie Singers and Jubilant Brass invite you to join us for a Wassail on 30th November at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.

We will be raising funds for Lexden Church and its charities; entry on the door will be £8 for adults and £4 for anyone still at school. Cash only please. The hall will be arranged with chairs around tables, and audience participation in the well-known carols will be greatly encouraged! We will supply plenty of mince pies, but otherwise people should bring their own refreshments.



You are warmly invited to come and prepare for Christmas with a candle-lit service of Compline and simple reflection at 7.00pm every Wednesday during Advent.



SAVE THE DATE!

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 English for Women.



English for Women is an exciting and vibrant project that makes a real difference to those in our communities who encounter language barriers in their everyday lives.

The first sessions took place in 2015 and were started by Heike Prentice, an Ordinand at Chelmsford Cathedral, with just three Afghan Women. The project has now grown to support women, and men, from all over the world who now live in our communities.

English for Women's sessions provide a friendly and welcoming environment for women who speak little or no English where they can improve their communication skills, make friends, learn about British culture, integrate into their local communities and feel less isolated. All sessions are free, are supported by volunteers and a play area is provided for pre-school children. Learning is topic-based so learners can come to as many or as few sessions as they are able, without feeling that they have missed something.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

9th September
David Hudson
16th September
Iris Birkin



'Rest in peace and rise in glory.'

WEDDINGS



7th September
Ronald Scrimgeour and Alison Goning

'Those whom God has joined together.'



Tips for Readers **(from a very old lady who used** **to teach Speech and Drama)**

1. Practice your reading at home – aloud. That way you will discover words you are likely to trip up over.
2. Announce your reading to someone in the back pew.
3. Eyes down on the Bible and read. After one sentence look up at that person in the back pew. Read to them. Pause. Read. Pause, look up.

The congregation (and you) will enjoy the reading.

Joy Harman

Harvest 2024



Thank you so much to Peter and his team for the wonderful display of flowers we were treated to for our Harvest Festival recently.





What a talented lot you all are!



St Leonard's, Lexden

for supporting Colchester Foodbank.

**We are extremely grateful for your
amazing and generous
Harvest 2024 donation
Of 180 kgs.**

This will make a **BIG difference to
local individuals, children and
families who face food and financial
crisis at this time and will be of great
help in the forthcoming months.**

**Colchester Foodbank is part of the Trussell
Trust's UK wide foodbank network.**

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Thank you so much to my team of helpers and to everyone who attended our recent coffee morning. It was lovely to see so many people in Church supporting a wonderful cause. The running total is an incredible £600 from cash and on-line donations, and we expect to receive a further contribution in Gift Aid. **Julie.**

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



CHURCH AUTUMN QUIZ

Thank you to Steve and his team for the fun and fellowship we enjoyed at the recent Church Quiz. 8 teams enjoyed a fun packed evening and a lovely supper. A total of £490 was raised for Church funds.

Course in Christian Studies 2025

Since 1987, more than 3,000 people have taken the Chelmsford Diocese Course in Christian Studies (CCS) and a series of courses will be starting in January 2025.

The course takes place in a variety of locations across our diocese and consists of two years of study. The first is a foundational year in theology and the second a foundational year in ministry.

This approach gives students the opportunity to explore a variety of vocations and ministries within the church. Completion of the course leads to the Bishop's Certificate.

There are two ways you can take part in the CCS: in local face to face groups and via the Zoom platform with weekly online meetings.

The groups are led by ordained and lay tutors and include people from all church traditions. The group learns from the tutors, the Bible, the reading material provided, and from each other.

Talking about the CCS course, The Right Reverend Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, the Bishop of Chelmsford said: "I'm delighted to celebrate our Course in Christian Studies. Many people have completed this course and have gone on to make significant contributions to the life of our diocese, serving in our parishes, schools, hospitals, prisons, and many other settings."

"Some participants have also progressed to further training as lay or ordained ministers. It's always a great joy to present those who've completed the course with their certificates when we celebrate their achievements at the annual service held in the Cathedral."

"I very much hope that as people explore the possibility of enrolling on our CCS course, they'll also discover a clearer sense of how God may be calling them to serve in the future."



Would you like to share in a journey of discovery?

The *COURSE IN* *CHRISTIAN STUDIES*

is an opportunity to explore the Christian faith with others. The course runs over two years, is open to anyone over the age of 16 and is based on weekly meetings in groups.

We are able to offer the CCS course as Face to Face sessions at various locations throughout the Diocese, as well as Zoom sessions.

Taster events will be held throughout the Diocese during October and November, check the website for more details.

JOIN OUR INFORMATION DAY
on Saturday 2nd November at 10.00am
At THE CHAPTER HOUSE, CATHEDRAL WALK,
CHELMSFORD

For more information email
Diane Hardy dhardy@chelmsford.anglican.org
or call her on 01245 294449

Diane Hardy, CCS Administrator
Chelmsford Diocesan Office, 53 New Street, Chelmsford CM1 1AT

Further details available at
www.chelmsford.anglican.org/ccs

Litany of Reconciliation seen in Coventry Cathedral

The Litany of Reconciliation, was written by Canon Joseph Poole in 1958, and continues to be prayed in the Cathedral every weekday at noon, and throughout the world by partners in the Community of the Cross of Nails. The phrase “Father Forgive” was inscribed on the wall of the ruined Cathedral by Provost Dick Howard after the Blitz, where it can still be seen today. The words echo the prayer of Jesus as He hung dying on the cross: ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing’. This simple prayer, Father forgive, acknowledges our need to receive forgiveness from God for ourselves, as well as ask it for others and seems so appropriate in the world we are living in.

Litany of Reconciliation

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class, **Father forgive.**

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own, **Father, forgive.**

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth, **Father, forgive.**

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others, **Father, forgive.**

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee, **Father, forgive.**

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children, **Father, forgive.**

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God, **Father, forgive.**

*Be kind to one another, tender-hearted,
forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

St Leonard's Church, Lexden
presents
A Memorial Concert
to honour those who fell

Saturday
16th November
7pm

Tickets £10 (£5 under 16)
Includes light meal

Enquiries stevewhiteman211@gmail.com

WE WILL
REMEMBER
THEM





The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford

An invitation to explore what God has in store for you



Welcome to **Colchester Episcopal Area Vocations Morning!** Join us at **St Mary's Church** for a morning filled with inspiration and guidance on exploring your calling. This in-person event is a fantastic opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals and discover more about how your unique gifts and talents can be used in God's service. Whether you are considering ordained ministry or simply curious about the many lay vocational paths, this event is for you. Come ready to engage in discussions, workshops, and reflection. We can't wait to see you there.

The morning is open to anyone over the age of 16.

Saturday 23rd November 2024, 9.30am – 2pm. Venue: St Mary's Church, New Church Road, West Bergholt, CO6 3JE.

Coffee will be available from 9.00am ready for a prompt 9.30am start. Please bring a packed lunch.

Book your free place through Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/colchester-episcopal-area-vocations-morning-tickets-1036625343307>

Women's Breakfast



3rd Saturday of the month in Church.
All Welcome, we look forward to seeing you there...
If you have any questions please contact
maggie@stleonardslexden.org.uk

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 2nd
Saturday from **September to
March** at 12pm

Please book by emailing
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.



What's on for Children and Families in November and December

The Baby and Toddler Group runs in the hall every Wednesday in term time at 9.30am or 11.00am. These sessions are identical. The last session is 18th December. Just turn up!

3rd November	All Age Service
10th November Junior Church (Remembrance Sunday)	Giving generously The story of Ruth
17th November Junior Church Plus - OMG meet in the hall at 3pm For children in Year 4 and above	What song shall we sing? The story of Hannah
24th November Junior Church	Christ the King King Jesus - Pictured and promised in Daniel's vision
30th November 11am - 2pm Christmas Market in the hall	Children's corner and a visit from Father Christmas!
1st December	All Age Service Advent Sunday
8th December Junior Church Plus - Messy Brick Nativity 3pm in the church - Messy Church meets Brick Club for Lego themed Christmas fun!	A Loving Plan Zechariah's story 
15th December Junior Church	Card making for those unable to come to church
22nd December Junior Church	Peace, actually Mary's song
24th December Crib Service 2.30pm	Children are welcome to come dressed as an angel, shepherd or a king
29th December Junior Church takes a break	



MESSY DAVID AND GOLIATH!

If you have visited the church in the last few weeks you may have spotted the disembodied head of a very fierce Goliath and even a full set of armour in the lift! Don't worry. You didn't imagine it as they were both fun ways of helping the children to learn more about the gripping story of David and Goliath. All those who attended now understand how daunting it must have been to face a soldier in armour and one of such great stature – six cubits and a span. So, our cardboard head is at just the right height -scary enough without the body! We also marvelled at David's bravery rooted in his trust and faith in God. With God on his side he knew he could do anything! We followed the story up with our usual creative activities – making icing sugar armour for gingerbread Goliaths, choosing five small, smooth stones and decorating one, making our own personal armour showing our trust in God, improving our sling shot throwing and perhaps best of all the opportunity to aim ping pong balls at our fully armour protected adults! Don't worry, no one was injured in this activity! We rounded it all off with an energy restoring meal of meatballs and pasta.

Watch out for our next Messy Brick Nativity on the 8th December at 3pm in the church -Messy Church meets Brick Club for Lego themed Christmas fun!

Messy Church Team





From the Archives

In the passageway behind the church organ, attached to the wall are two display boards that give the names of all those who have either been the Rector or Priest in charge of St Leonard's Lexden.

These boards are quite informative to anyone interested in the history of our church; however, things are not always as they seem. During research into those who have been Rector or Priest in charge I found a significant anomaly. This anomaly occurs during the period when the country was ruled solely by Parliament and Oliver Cromwell.

During that period a group called puritans controlled the religion of the country and woe betide anyone who did not conform to their rules. One such person was the Revd. Stephen Nettles, he was also known as Sir Stephanus Nettles. He was Rector of St. Leonards between 1610 and 1647. Stephen Nettles was a royalist, like the then Lord of the Manor Sir Thomas Lucas, whose brother was the Sir Charles Lucas who would go on to be executed by order of General Fairfax in the grounds of Colchester castle.

Revd Nettles found himself at odds with the Parliament and refused to sign the Solemn League of Covenant in 1643. He was accused of being a frequenter of taverns, not a thing a Puritan minister would do, also the following.

That after sermon he went home to dinner; that often-suffered bowling and football in his yard on fast days.

The covenant was an agreement between the Scottish Parliament and the English Parliament to curb the risk of Irish Catholics joining with Royalists to overthrow Parliament and to reform the religion in England. All clergy in England were expected to sign up to the agreement, many didn't, including Revd Stephen Nettles.

Attempts were made to replace Stephen Nettles with someone more amenable to the will of Parliament. He was accused of many things including the following

That he had given ill language and sworn by his faith; that he was an unprofitable preacher; that he never gave notice of keeping the fast, and when the day came taught them but little edification.

He was also accused of gross immorality by some women, he was finally removed in 1647 and died shortly afterwards.

He was replaced by Gabriel Wrysdale who was Rector up until 1650. During this period many forms of enjoyment were banned including Christmas, the Maypole and dancing, I mention dancing as we know Cromwell danced at one his children's weddings. One rule for one and one rule for others. Morant mentions Wrysdale by name in his Liberties of Colchester, Section 1 on Lexden. Wrysdale was disliked by the parishioners and was forced to leave.

Wrysdale was replaced by Parliament in 1653 by John Whiting. He was chosen by the inhabitants of Lexden as Registrar in accordance with the Act of Parliament 13th November 1653.

We the inhabitants of Lexden within the liberties of Colchester have chosen John Whiting our minister to be the Registrar of our Parish according to an Act of

*Parliament lately made requiring us appoint said.
Witness thereof we have subscribed.
James Deeplake, Thomas Cook, Churchwardens*

This was confirmed the following day.

*Nov 14th, 1653, the parish of Lexden having made the
choice of one John Whiting for their Registrar, he has
this day given his oath for the careful execution of that office.*

It is reported that John Whiting was not liked within the Parish. Strange when they chose him. Whiting was replaced in 1660 following the Restoration by John Nettles who it is believed was the son of Stephen Nettles.

So, to conclude, the board showing who had been Rectors of St Leonard's during the 17th century is missing two names.



JOHN JACKSON.	1499
PETER KELSHAM.	1505
JOHN COLLINGS. D.B.	1524
WILLIAM GRANT.	1537
ROGER GORSTELOWE.	1567
JOHN PRICE.	1576
ROBERT SEARLE.	1610
STEPHEN NETTLES.	1657
JOHN NETTLES.M.A.	1669
NATHANIEL CUFFLEY.	1706
RICHARD SKINGLE.	1729
JAMES KILNER.M.A.	1770
SAMUEL SANDYS.L.L.B.	1804
GEORGE PRESTON.M.A.	1841
JOHN PAPILLON.M.A.	1890
J.H.LESTER.M.A.(CANON)	1908
J.M.EVANS.	1914
T.S.RAFFLES.M.A.	1926
S.L.DOLPH.B.D.	1959
D.R.TASSELL.M.A.	1966
P.A.MARSHALL. A.K.C.	

Think it would cost a lot to correct the boards.

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

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Final day for items for the JANUARY-FEBRUARY edition:

SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER

Please submit items to the Editor
email: 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.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

NOVEMBER

Crook, Mills William	15th February 1918 - 14th November 1998
Frost, Alan John True	22nd July 1927 - 20th November 1996
Cooke, Nancy Irene	18th January 1908 - 13th November 2003
Hunt, Derrick Edward	24th November 1930 - 15th November 1995
Shepherd, Raymond Hubert	12th May 1926 - 25th November 1989
Ellis, Jennifer Mary	14th July 1935 - 24th November 2004
Bedford, Janet Iris	1st January 1939 - 28th November 2004
Gilham, Gwendoline	19th October 1908 - 7th November 1995
Gilham, Albert Henry	17th July 1917 - 18th November 2005
Nicholls, Betty	11th September 1927 - 25th November 2005
Carter, Alfred Richard (Dick)	9th April 1927 - 5th November 2006
Large, Charles Arthur	18th January 1918 - 19th November 1986
Jarvis, Robin Lloyd	27th August 1941 - 4th November 2007
Kite, Graham John	17th September 1943 - 20th November 2007
Gosling, Elsie Leonora	12th January 1926 – 18th November 2008
Leggett, Jean Mary Helen	4th May 1931 – 2nd November 2009
Marchington, Phyllis May	11th November 1922 – 14th November 2010
Dean, Christine Mary	15th September 1921 – 29th November 2010
Claydon, Margaret Joan	4th November 1912 – 4th November 2013
Pike, Rosemary Ann	20th April 1941 – 22nd November 2012
Calvert, Vera	29th March 1914 – 26th November 2012
Hudson, Jean	18th May 1946 – 4th November 2017
Hoult, Joan Holly	23rd January 1918 – 22nd November 1991
Hallett, John Edward George	11th July 1937 – 8th November 2014
Loxley, Jean	10th January 1928 – 28th November 2019
Benko, Borbola (Bori)	12 th January 1997 – 21 st November 2021

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE DECEMBER

Long, Ernest Walter	6 th June 1894 – 12 th December 1961
Scrimgeour, David Iain Cameron	8 th June 1969 – 1 st December 1989
Birbeck, Florence	13 th October 1934 – 20 th December 1996
Farren, Frank William Campbell	9 th November 1911 – 30 th December 1999
Beck, Margaret Neal	29 th December 1921 – 1 st December 2003
Marshall, Laurence Geoffrey Walrond	8 th August 1913 – 14 th December 2001
Partner, George Cecil	23 rd August 1913 – 14 th December 2004
Drake, Kenneth	18 th March 1922 – 20 th December 2005
Baker, Jack	8 th July 1905 – 12 th December 1997
Breens, Anne	25 th March 1912 – 25 th December 2009
Burrage, Eric David	15 th April 1917 – 10 th December 2014
Reed, Richard 'Ba'	29 th August 1940 – 17 th December 2015
Newton, Keith Henry	8 th June 1929 – 26 th December 2020



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

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

CHRISTMAS 2024

SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER

5:30pm Advent Carol Service

SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER

3.00pm Messy NATIVITY

Mess! Fun! Food! FREE Kids crafts, activities, games, stories, & songs! Children must be accompanied by an adult. This event is free, please email to let us know you're coming: juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk



SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER

6:30pm Carols at the Crown

SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER

5:30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

- a service of traditional carols and readings

TUESDAY 24th DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS EVE

2:30pm Crib Service – especially for small children

(Children are invited to come dressed as shepherds or angels)

4:30pm* The Service of Light - a candlelit carol service for all ages

6:30pm* The Service of Light - a candlelit carol service for all ages

***These two services are identical**

11:15pm Midnight Mass, with the blessing of the crib

WEDNESDAY 25th DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9:45am Christmas Eucharist