



THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST LEONARD, LEXDEN

ORDINARY PEOPLE. EXTRAORDINARY GOD.



PARISH MAGAZINE

MARCH-APRIL 2025 £1.00



Hearing God in Lent - Hearing God in Poetry

Lent is the season when we try to strip back some of the distractions of our lives so that we might be freer to listen to God. Each Lent, St Leonard's runs a course to assist us in this task. This year, our course is called "Hearing God in Poetry".

Whether or not you enjoy written poetry, we're all exposed to it in songs and rhymes – and even adverts. We know poetry through our services, our prayers and the Bible too.

Roughly a third of the Bible was written as poetry or song. This can sometimes be forgotten as translations don't always make it easy to pick up on the 'music' that these poems had in their original tongues.

In the great canticles (a word that means 'songs') like the Benedictus, the Magnificat and the Nunc Dimittis in Luke's Gospel, we have been gifted carefully crafted and beautiful expressions of the truth of God and the hope of Christian life:

*In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in the darkness and the shadow of
death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

The Psalms (a word that means, ‘hymns’, which means ‘songs’!) consist entirely of poetry. They explore the depths and troubles of human experience with a devastating realism – just as they portray praise, joy, hope and even boredom with incredible colour and authenticity. In the days when I used to teach composition and songwriting, some students suspected I was joking when I said that those who thought gritty songwriting started with Johnny Cash or Woody Guthrie, or that emotion in song came first from Monteverdi and Purcell, should get to know the Psalms. I remain unshaken in my belief that the Book of Psalms is the greatest collection of songs ever compiled!

For those who do like written poetry, some of the greatest poets in our language were Anglican priests: John Donne, George Herbert, and the Wesleys to name but three. These and many other Christian poets have shaped our world with their poems’ ability to share their faith – people like John of the Cross, Christina Rossetti and Gerard Manley Hopkins.

Many books have attempted to explain exactly what a poem is. For me, (often) a poem uses heightened and/or carefully selected language put together with intention, a sense of rhythm or broken rhythm, and (usually) some sense a sense of discernment and economy.

The best poets can sometimes spend years putting something together and then end up with just 6 lines of text. This is Lenten work! This way of cherishing expression and language – and shaping it with love and intention - is why one Christian writer has suggested that ‘poems are prayers.’

Our local papers are full of poems people have written, or selected, in order to honour somebody after their death. When something really important happens in our lives, we still often reach for poetry. But why so rarely the wonderful poetry of the Bible?

This process of carefully selecting and combining special words and cutting back the things that get in the way of their deepest meaning may be a really useful picture for how we might approach Lent.

Lent doesn't need to be a dour and boring time; clearing away distractions can leave room for the important things to be truly appreciated. The poetic rhythms and language of the church year – and especially Lent and Holy Week – draw us into a healthy prayer routine and encourage us to listen to God.

So, throughout our Lent course we will be using poetry to shape our reflections: some of it may be taken from the Bible, and some from beyond. Please Join us for “Hearing God in Poetry” on Wednesdays during Lent, beginning on 12th March at 7.00pm (or after the 10am morning Eucharist).

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a long tail on the 't'.

P.S. If you are looking for a book to accompany you through Lent then Richard Harries, *Hearing God in Poetry*, would make an excellent companion. We shall make some reference to it from time to time during the course, but the course is not based on this book!



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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the March /April edition of the magazine, it seems Spring is upon us, and it is wonderful to see the new growth in the Churchyard with the snowdrops, Crocus and Daffodils. We are fast approaching Lent and Easter, details of all we have planned are detailed in the future events section.

Also included are reports on things that happened over the last two months all of which shows how vibrant our church is, we welcome our new advertisers and thank them for their support.

Thank you for your continuing support

Mike.

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Final day for items for the MAY-JUNE edition:

SUNDAY 13TH APRIL

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.

MARCH-APRIL DIARY

Saturday 1st March

8:30am Men's Breakfast

SUNDAY 2nd March – Sunday next before Lent

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am ALL-AGE EUCHARIST

3:00pm Messy Pancakes

Tuesday 4th March

11:30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

Wednesday 5th March – Ash Wednesday

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes followed by coffee

10:45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

7:30pm Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

Thursday 6th March

8.00am Eucharist

Friday 7th March

11:00am Funeral of Pauline Jarvis RIP

Saturday 8th March

12:00pm Friendship Lunch

SUNDAY 9th March – 1st Sunday of Lent

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

5.30pm Evensong & Sermon

Monday 10th March

7:00pm Eucharist

7:45pm PCC Meeting

Wednesday 12th March

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall
10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee
11:00am Lent Course in the Nicholls Room
11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall
7:00pm Lent Course in the Nicholls Room

Thursday 13th March

8.00am Eucharist

Friday 14th March

11:00am Funeral of Carole Durrant RIP

Saturday 15th March

8:30am Women's Breakfast

SUNDAY 16th March – 2nd Sunday of Lent

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

Wednesday 19th March

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall
10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee
11:00am Lent Course in the Nicholls Room
11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall
7:00pm Lent Course in the Nicholls Room

Thursday 20th March

8.00am Eucharist

SUNDAY 23rd March – 3rd Sunday of Lent

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

5.30pm Eucharist for Wholeness & Healing

Wednesday 26th March

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

10:45am Baby & Toddler Group Service for Mothering Sunday

11:00am Lent Course in the Nicholls Room

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

7:00pm Lent Course in the Nicholls Room

Thursday 27th March

8:00am Eucharist

Saturday 29th March

9:30am Church Spring Clean

SUNDAY 30th March – Mothering Sunday

9.45am ALL AGE EUCHARIST for Mothering Sunday

Tuesday 1st April

11:30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

Wednesday 2nd April

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

10:45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

11:00am Lent Course in the Nicholls Room

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

7:00pm Lent Course in the Nicholls Room

Thursday 3rd April

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 5th April

8:30am Men's Breakfast

SUNDAY 6th April – Passion Sunday

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

3:00pm Messy Palm Sunday

Tuesday 8th April

10:00am Brick Club in the Hall

Wednesday 9th April

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Lent Course in the Nicholls Room

7:00pm Lent Course in the Nicholls Room

Thursday 10th April

8.00am Eucharist

SUNDAY 13th April – Palm Sunday

9.45am ALL AGE EUCHARIST with procession of Palms

5.30pm The Journey to the Cross

Monday 14th April

7:00pm Compline for Holy Week

Tuesday 15th April

10:00am Brick Club in the Hall

7:00pm Compline for Holy Week

Wednesday 16th April

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

7:00pm Compline for Holy Week

Thursday 17th April -Maundy Thursday

7:30pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist

Friday 18th April – Good Friday

10:00am All Age Service for Good Friday

2:00pm The Liturgy of Good Friday

Saturday 19th April

8:00pm The Easter Vigil and Blessing of the New Fire

Incense will be used at this service

SUNDAY 20th April – Easter Sunday

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church and Blessing of the Easter Garden followed by Bonnet Parade and Egg Rolling

Wednesday 23rd April

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Saturday 26th April

8:30am Women's Breakfast

SUNDAY 27th April – 2nd Sunday of Easter

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

5:30pm Eucharist for Wholeness & Healing

Monday 28th April

7:00pm Eucharist

7:45pm PCC Meeting

Wednesday 30th April

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

HAVE ANY SPARE BRICKS?

Due to the success of Brick Club (over 50 children attended in half-term) we are looking for donations of any spare building bricks you may have. If you can help please speak to Mike or Linda

APCM - SUNDAY 18TH MAY 2025

All are welcome to attend our Annual Parochial Church Meeting which will take place in church at 11:30am on Sunday 18th May 2025

The financial statements and the parish reports relate to the calendar year 2024. Once completed and agreed, paperwork will be posted on the APCM area of our website by Sunday 11th May. There you will find the notice of Annual Parochial Church Meeting, nomination forms for election to the Parochial Church Council, nomination form for election to the Deanery Synod, and a nomination form for Churchwardens.

Notice of the meeting will also be displayed in church from Sunday 4th May, when hardcopies of the forms will also be available at the back of the nave.

The 2024 financial statement and report is required to be available for at least 7 days before the meeting. By Sunday 11th May, hardcopies will be available at the back of church, and digital copies posted at <http://www.stleonardslexden.org.uk/apcm/>

We strongly encourage you to use the digital versions if you are able to.



MOUSE TAILS

After the dull days of January and February the mouse community started looking forward to and planning for Easter celebrations. All the different groups, Church, Halls, Woods, and Outsiders were planning to go to their special Easter Service which would be led by Grandad, which was traditional and gathering for a feast afterwards which would be, as usual, in the Hall.



The Balcony twins, Rupert and Molly, wanted to do something different and special for Easter and decided to have a 'brainstorm' with their Hall cousins. After several hours amidst laughter at some of the most ridiculous suggestions and a few arguments when one mouse wouldn't let go of his ridiculous suggestion of having a bonfire and fireworks! The youngsters decided to create a large (for them) Easter Tree. After all, said Rupert, we always have a Christmas tree, and I know that quite a few humans have an Easter Tree.

It was decided that the first thing they needed to do was pool their treasures of ribbon, coloured paper, crayons etc. They would also work in groups to collect discarded eggshells. Now that Spring was here many baby birds were hatching, and the bits of eggshell were chucked out of the nests. Some were really pretty and the ones which were plain in colour could be decorated with crayons, paint, and



ribbons from which they could hang the eggshells in the same way as they hung decorations on a Christmas tree.

The lads elected themselves as scavengers for shells and anything suitable to hang on a tree.

Molly and her friends decided to be chief decorators and, those that could, would knit little coloured balls. They thought they could also make tiny Easter cards which would also hang on the tree. They all agreed that the actual tree would need to be Broom or Gorse

so that it had yellow flowers on it so looked pretty to start with and all agreed that the tree would need to be made up of small branches and tied together on the day before Easter. One of the mice said he had a flowerpot which they could fill with earth and plant the tree in it.



Molly suggested that it would be a nice idea to make up tiny bouquets of wildflowers and greenery, tied with string or ribbon or wool, to give to all the Mums who would be working hard putting enough food together for the traditional Easter feast which would be held on Easter Monday when the Church, Hall and grounds would be quiet.

The young mouse "committee" were feeling very grown up and pleased with themselves and Rupert, putting on his most grown-up voice, reminded everyone that their ideas must be kept SECRET until Easter weekend.

CT



Crossword Clues

Across

- [1] Forbid (8)
- [6] Health Resort (3)
- [9] Furious (5)
- [10] European Language (7)
- [11] Deserved (7)
- [13] Bread Maker (5)
- [14] Dismal (6)
- [15] Important Person (4, 2)
- [19] Money Bag (5)
- [21] Mythical Winged Horse (7)
- [22] Lottery (7)
- [23] South American Country (5)
- [24] No (3)
- [25] Erasing (8)

Down

- [2] Drive Backwards (7)
- [3] Possessed (3)
- [4] Next to (6)
- [5] Quivering (9)
- [6] Adhere (5)
- [7] Detest (5)
- [8] Held Responsible (6)
- [12] Triple (9)
- [16] Cloth made of Jute (7)
- [17] Went By (6)
- [18] Lie with Limbs Spread out (6)
- [19] Donned (3,2)
- [20] Card Game (5)
- [23] Puss (3)

Crossword

(Solution next time)

PCC Charities for 2024-25

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 £925.

- 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's Next Chapter.

Next Chapter 

Next Chapter (formerly known as Colchester & Tendring Women's Refuge) is a domestic abuse charity working across the areas of Braintree,

Chelmsford, Colchester, Maldon, Tendring & Uttlesford. They provide free and confidential services to support people who are currently experiencing or have previously experienced domestic abuse.

As well as refuge accommodation for those fleeing domestic abuse, Next Chapter offers a range of services to support people in the community to help them stay safe, manage, and escape from domestic abuse and recover from their experiences to live the next chapter of their life free from domestic abuse.

They also provide support for children and young people affected by domestic abuse, including emotional support, parenting support, family work, group work and 1:1's. They provide training in schools for both staff and pupils to ensure staff can respond appropriately and effectively to children and young people who have experienced abuse and to access support available.



Christingle Service

It was wonderful to see so many people in Church at our annual Christingle Celebration service which took place on Sunday 2nd February. Thanks to everyone who came to the service and donated to the Children's Society; we raised over £250.

Julie would also like to thank her wonderful team of Christingle makers who worked so hard to create our Christingles – thank you ladies!



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A TRIBUTE TO BRIAN CROCKETT

Wendy has kindly given us permission to reproduce the tribute given at Brian's funeral.

In all the many beautiful cards and messages I have received since Brian died, the one common thread is his sense of humour. You could be sure of a witty quip for every occasion! He was a strong character, never swayed by popular opinion... or indeed, time! He did things his way.

He had a strong Christian faith. He loved his family, was kind, generous and non-judgemental. He loved classical music. He enjoyed rugby and cricket. He was also an animal lover and liked trips to the zoo.

He was very practical and had an incredible mind for maths and problem solving. Indeed, he put in an entire central heating system at 3, Oaklands Avenue with the help of a book, (no Mr Google in those days) having never done anything like that before.

Brian was full of 'sayings' and had one for every occasion, not always polite though, especially those learnt in the Army! He could learn easily by listening, and apparently annoyed school teachers and those at Eynsham Police College by never making notes. He always did well in exams, just by listening.

Brian was a pre-war child and lived in Ilford for much of the war. One day, his mother left him and his baby brother Martyn in the care of a neighbour, while she went shopping. Brian realised a V1 was approaching and called to the neighbour, who got under the kitchen table with Martyn, while Brian went into the cupboard under the stairs. He vividly remembered thinking,

'If I die, will it hurt?' but the bomb turned just beyond the house and flattened a barrage balloon base, killing all the workers, who were women.

For a brief period in 1944, his mother took him to Newcastle to stay with an aunt, where it was safer. Brian used to go up to the railway track, allegedly to watch the steam trains go past. However, he purposely got too close to the track, which annoyed the train drivers, who lobbed pieces of coal at him to try and make him move. Mission accomplished! He gathered up the coal and took it home to Aunty Dot for the fire!

Among Brian's wartime memories was one of his next-door neighbours coming home from Dunkirk bringing a box of chocolate liqueurs which they all shared. He walked to and from school with his tin hat, gas mask and a sealed box of barley sugar. There was often shrapnel falling all around, but he said he was never frightened.

He remembered walking home on VE day thinking, 'Well, that's finished now, what will we do next?!' He remembered a huge street party. He often asked his dad to go out and collect tail fins and bits of debris as war souvenirs.

In 1951 he served in the Army, in the Royal Corps of Signals as a radio mechanic, until 1954. He served in Kenya and refused to speak about any conflict situations but had fond and amusing memories of the native local village people. He had huge respect for their customs, traditions and way of life.

From 1959 to 1965 he served as a police officer all over Essex, including here in Colchester. He told stories of some interesting characters, including one chap who had relieved the local Post Office of its safe, and was pushing it up the High Street on Canvey Island, in a handcart!

In more recent years, Brian stayed home to bring up Richard and was a rarity then as the only Dad at the school gate. He was often invited in to help with various things such as Key Stage 2 Technology, making a huge

quantity of electrical circuit boards. He was then drafted in to cover some caretaking duties and loved being part of the school team. He often went to other schools as a 'supply caretaker' and two headteachers recently told me how much they could rely on Brian to get things done. He came for a while to Alderman Blaxill, where I worked. He spotted a flagpole near the front of the school. He was a real traditionalist and enquired of one headteacher if he might hoist the union flag daily. It became a real tradition, and apparently when he lowered it at night, from the headteacher's office often came the sound of the Last Post being sung!

Brian loved St Leonard's, and amongst other jobs, acted as a server and regularly wound the clock. He enjoyed our holidays, especially camping in France, and also trips to Malta, Gibraltar and Italy. I have Brian to thank for my successful career, as he always believed in me when I had no confidence, and he gently pushed me to achieve.

Thankyou's go to family, friends and neighbours for all their love and support, especially Richard and Frankie, Christine and Stuart who were there, day in and day out, and without whom I could not have coped. The wonderful angels from Home Instead: daily laughter from them and Brian coming from upstairs was heartwarming. He loved their visits and said it was like a big family. He looked forward to seeing them, and his schedule of who was coming was a treasured possession. Their support to me too was the best. Special thanks to Jodie, Jo, Sally, Lisa and Lisa.

My heartfelt thanks go to so many St Leonard's friends for their love and support, but especially to Matt and Viv. Nothing has been too much trouble for them and their help in preparing this service has been outstanding. We were so very grateful that Matt was able to come to the hospital at the end to pray with us and anoint Brian. That special memory lives on in my mind.

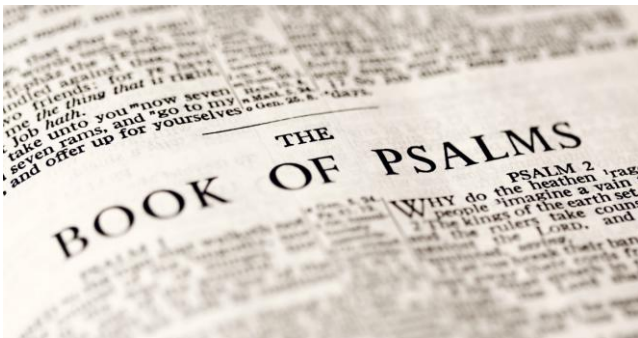
God bless, Brian – Rest in peace.



SAVE THE DATE

Ash Wednesday – 5th March

There will be two services with Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday, 5th March, at 10:00am and 7:30pm.



Lent Course Hearing God in Poetry

During our Lent course this year we will be using poetry to shape our reflections: some of it may be taken from the Bible, and some from beyond. Please Join us for “Hearing God in Poetry” on Wednesdays during Lent, beginning on 12th March at 7.00pm (or after the 10am morning Eucharist).

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS Sunday 13th April 5:30pm



Please come and join the choir to enjoy reflective music and readings for the start of Holy Week. All are welcome.



Christian Aid week takes place from 11th – 17th May.

Every May, churches, and individuals across the UK, Republic of Ireland and the world host a huge range of fundraising events, making Christian Aid Week one of the biggest acts of Christian witness in the British Isles.

ST LEONARD'S LEXDEN

SUMMER FAYRE

SATURDAY 28TH JUNE

11:00AM TO 2:00PM

VARIETY OF STALLS PLUS REFRESHMENTS &
ENTERTAINMENT

**ANY ENQUIRIES PLEASE SPEAK TO NICK OR EMAIL
NICK@STLEONARDSLEXDEN.ORG.UK**

Messy moments at the Baby and Toddler Group!

Being messy is one of the many joys of St Leonard's Baby and Toddler Group. We have a lovely big hall with an easy to clean floor, so we often indulge in messy play. The grown-ups like it too because some activities are just too messy to do at home.

Unfortunately, the children often end up pretty messy too! Activities with paint are obviously very popular. This term we introduced welly boot walking. This might not sound very messy, but the children stood in a tray of paint first. This was very satisfying, and no one was cross when the children overbalanced and sat in it!



The sand tray is always popular and this time we made dinosaur footprints in it. Amazingly our water play tray activities were mostly confined to the area directly around the tray. Probably the messiest so far this year has been shaving foam

play, obviously linked to our snow theme. This had the unplanned outcome of leaving the tray super clean, although I'm unsure it worked on the children!

Sometimes the grown-ups like to join in with the play and the play dough is pretty irresistible. When we were snowmen building with the dough the children found it very difficult to get a look in! This is one of the less messy activities and we thought you might like to have a go yourselves at making some. It's a great thing to have in the cupboard if you have children visiting and it keeps for a long time in an airtight container.



Happy play dough play!

Playdough Recipe

1 cup salt

6 tsp cream of tartare

2 cups plain flour

Food colouring

2 cups water

2 tbsp oil

Blend together in a pan and bring gradually to a thickened dough. Then remove from heat and leave to cool.

Knead well.



Messy Baptism!

Our Messy Church started in the new year with a baptismal theme. It was wonderful to see so many families turning up on a dismal wet and windy day. It was slightly wet inside but mostly all under control! We found out about Jesus' own baptism and the amazing moment when God affirms His love for His Son. The children were fascinated when Matt baptised a rather hairy soft toy with the help of the children acting as parents and God parents. The water sprinkling went down particularly well!



The meaning of the symbolic elements and actions was carefully woven into the worship and were reinforced through the supporting activities. The children made beautiful baptismal candles set in a clay holder decorated with beads so that the children took the light of Jesus away with them. The paper dove had wings made from a map, showing our journey alongside Jesus. Total immersion was experienced by dunking marshmallows in melted chocolate and a jelly



baby was baptised in a cupcake River Jordan! We used old candles to write and draw the symbols, revealing them by painting with a blue water wash. And of course, the younger ones had the opportunity to play at baptising the dolls in the play tray.

We are fortunate to have such a creative and dedicated team of leaders to facilitate this worship and we look forward to continuing the story with Messy Pancakes on 2nd March as we move into Lent.

Messy Pancakes!



Sunday 2nd March
3-5pm at St Leonard's, Lexden
Free games, crafts, stories, songs
- and pancakes!

Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Please let us know if you're coming: juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk

JUST TURN UP AND BUILD

ST LEONARD'S

BRICK CLUB

- Tuesday 8th and 15th April, 10am-12noon
- St Leonard's Church, Lexden
- Free of Charge. All Welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult



MARCH-APRIL 2025

<p>2nd March Plus-Messy Pancakes 3-5pm in the church</p>	<p>All Age Service</p>
<p>9th March Junior Church</p>	<p>Tools to survive and thrive Jesus is tempted in the desert</p>
<p>16th March Junior Church Plus - SLYC youth group 3-5pm</p>	<p>Now and not yet God's promise to Abram</p>
<p>23rd March Junior Church</p>	<p>Card making for those no longer able to make it to church</p>
<p>30th March Mothering Sunday All Age Service</p>	
<p>6th April Junior Church Plus - Messy Church 3-5pm in the church</p>	<p>What's your passion? The story of Martha and Mary</p>
<p>Tuesday 8th April Brick Club in the hall 10am - 12 noon</p>	<p>Just turn up and build!</p>
<p>13th April Palm Sunday Junior Church</p>	<p>Palm Sunday Palm Sunday procession from the hall followed by Junior Church Palm Sunday theme</p>
<p>Tuesday 15th April Brick Club in the hall 10am - 12 noon</p>	<p>Just turn up and build!</p>
<p>Friday 18th April Good Friday All Age Service 10:00am</p>	<p>Followed by Hot-Cross Buns!</p>
<p>20th April Easter Sunday with Junior Church</p>	<p>All children welcome to join in with Junior Church Easter activities during the service followed by egg rolling and Easter Bonnet parade immediately after the service</p>
<p>27th April Junior Church</p>	<p>Locking and unlocking The story of doubting Thomas</p>

REVISION OF THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL 2025

Our Electoral Roll is to be completely revised before this year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 18th May.

If you are baptised, attend St Leonard's Church*, and are aged sixteen or above, you are encouraged to enter your name on the new roll by completing and signing an application form.

If your name is on the existing roll you will still need to re-apply; this is a full revision.

Forms and a collecting box will be available in church from 23rd February. If you would like some help with obtaining, completing or returning your form, please contact Esther Heptonstall (electoralroll@stleonardslexden.org.uk), or ask one of our Church Wardens or a member of the Ministry or Pastoral Teams.

Please ensure that all forms are returned by **Sunday 20th April**.

You should be aware that information entered on your application form will be held on a computer database. It will be used only for the purposes of St Leonard's Church and will not be made available to outside organisations. We are required to display lists in church, which include names only.

*If you are baptised and aged 16 or above, you are entitled to have your name on the roll if you either (a) live in the parish and are a member of Church of England or of a Church in communion with the Church of England, (b) live outside the parish but are such a member and have attended worship at St Leonard's regularly for six months, or (c) live outside the parish, are a member in good standing of a Church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity but which is not in communion with the Church of England, and are prepared to declare yourself a member of the Church of England having regularly attend public worship at St Leonard's for six months.



The Church of England
in Essex and East London

Diocese of Chelmsford

The Bishop of Chelmsford's Lent Appeal 2025

Supporting the Christian charity Housing Justice in their work across England and Wales to alleviate homelessness.

Housing Justice is a Christian charity that works in partnership with churches, community and faith groups across England and Wales to help provide those experiencing homelessness with a safe and stable home.

The work of Housing Justice is channelled through four main projects that aim to tackle homelessness in various ways at a grassroots level. These projects are:

Citadel

Citadel is a volunteer-led homelessness prevention project run by Housing Justice which supports people experiencing, or at risk of homelessness, to find and/or sustain their tenancies and establish a home. This project began in Wales in 2020 and was expanded in 2024 to include five areas in England including London.

Refugee Hosting and Lodgings Programmes

Housing Justice work with a pool of volunteer hosts in London and Wales who welcome vulnerable individuals into their homes. The Hosting project offers a lifeline to people seeking sanctuary and vulnerable migrants who have no safe housing options.

Housing Justice also operates a Lodgings Programme for newly granted refugees while they find a job and more permanent accommodation.

Faith in Affordable Housing

Housing Justice works with churches of all denominations to release surplus land and redundant buildings for the creation of new truly affordable housing.

The Winter Night Shelter Network

Housing Justice has helped over 1,000 churches to respond to homelessness in their local area by supporting them to set up and operate a winter night shelter for people who would otherwise be rough sleeping.

With an estimated 3,898 people sleeping rough each night in England and homelessness and rough sleeping on the rise, the work of faith and community projects like those run by Housing Justice are vital. Without this work, it's estimated the rough sleeper count would be 22% higher. Speaking about this year's Bishop's Lent Appeal, The Right Reverend Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, The Bishop of Chelmsford said:

“The funds raised through the 2025 Bishop's Lent Appeal will help support the Christian charity Housing Justice and their work providing a community-driven and innovative response to homelessness and those in housing need. Their approach gives individuals the opportunity not only to find suitable accommodation, but to create a home and a sense of belonging. I'm pleased that through this year's Lent Appeal, we will contribute to the variety of projects run by Housing Justice, some of which are happening in areas of our Diocese.”

If you would like to support this year's Bishop's Lent Appeal there are a number of ways you can do so:

Help us spread the word

Resources to help you share details of the 2025 Bishop's Appeal are available on the Diocese of Chelmsford website.

Making a donation

We welcome donations from individuals and churches as well as other groups and organisations.

Donations can be made online or by bank transfer. If you would like to make a donation to The Bishop of Chelmsford's Lent Appeal by bank transfer, please use the following details:

Chelmsford Diocese Board of Finance

Barclays Bank

Sort Code: 20-20-35

Account Number: 60269603

Reference: Lent Appeal 25

Donations will be accepted until 1 July 2025.

To donate online and to access the resources visit:

www.chelmsford.anglican.org/lent-appeal or scan the QR code.



THE FRIENDSHIP LINE

St Leonard's **FRIENDSHIP LINE** is now just over one year old, and as a church family we should celebrate the way that the work of the Holy Spirit has been able to show Christ's love and support to members of our family.

Our work is centred around telephone calls with occasional visits. From the feedback we have received these have been much appreciated and some wonderful relationships have developed.

We want to thank Suzette Brown, (who has now moved to Holt), for all the work she did in helping to set up the group; she is continuing with her phone calls to one of our parishioners - thank you Suzette.

If you have any comments, know of anyone who might welcome a call, or you want to join the team then please do get in touch.

Take care & God bless,

Maggie

maggiew234@gmail.com

Please pray for this project.

Lord,

For those who are caregivers to friends and family, may they feel your love and your sustaining power. May they feel less frustrated and experience less guilt for the very human feelings they may have about wanting to escape their tasks. May they find us eager to support them during their difficult times.

Amen

HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2025

PASSION SUNDAY (6th April)

8:00am HOLY COMMUNION (Book of Common Prayer)

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

3:00pm MESSY HOLY WEEK

Mess! Fun! Food! Free kids' crafts, activities, games, stories

& songs. Children must be accompanied by an adult. No need to

book, but - if you can - email juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk



PALM SUNDAY (13th April)

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST & PROCESSION OF PALMS

5:30pm THE JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

MONDAY (14th April)

7:00pm COMPLINE BY CANDLELIGHT with address

A simple talk and reflective service to end the day in peace

TUESDAY (15th April)

7:00pm COMPLINE BY CANDLELIGHT with address

A simple talk and reflective service to end the day in peace

WEDNESDAY (16th April)

10:00am EUCHARIST followed by coffee

7:00pm COMPLINE BY CANDLELIGHT with address

A simple talk and reflective service to end the day in peace

MAUNDY THURSDAY (17th April)

7:30pm EUCHARIST OF THE LAST SUPPER with foot washing

followed by the 'Watch,' a vigil of silent prayer until midnight

GOOD FRIDAY (18th April)

10:00am ALL-AGE WORSHIP, a service suitable for children and those of any age, followed by hot cross buns

Noon-2:00pm GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATION

A time of reflection– drop in and out as suits you

2:00pm THE LITURGY OF GOOD FRIDAY

& Veneration of the Cross, with the Liturgy of the Sacrament

HOLY SATURDAY (19th April)

8:00pm THE EASTER VIGIL & BLESSING OF THE NEW FIRE

A beautiful service of readings and symbols of new life

Incense will be used at this service

EASTER DAY (20th April)

8:00am HOLY COMMUNION (Book of Common Prayer)

9:45am EASTER EUCHARIST & BLESSING OF THE EASTER GARDEN,

with Junior Church, and followed by egg rolling and an Easter bonnet parade

Especially suitable for Children:

MESSY HOLY WEEK (6th April 3-5pm)

ALL-AGE GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE (18th April, 10am)

EASTER DAY EUCHARIST with Junior Church (Easter Day, 9.45am)

Children are welcome at all our worship – got a question?

Email juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk

•Cards•
•Framing•
•Gallery•

SEBASTIAN WARNER *Framing*

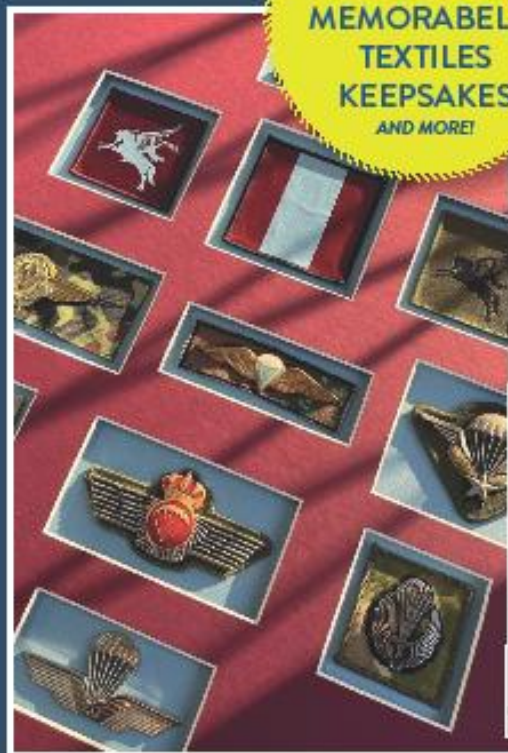
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CHURCH SPRING CLEAN

We are holding a Spring Clean of the Church on Saturday 29th March starting at 9:30am.

Many hands make light work so if you can help either on the day or on Friday 28th March to do the high-level dusting please speak to Julie.

Let's get our beautiful Church ready to celebrate Easter!

Crossword Solution (from last magazine)



From the Archives

How the Papillons became Lords of the Manor of Lexden

In last month's Magazine I attempted to explain how the Papillon family became the owners of Crowhurst Place in Sussex.

To understand how the Papillons became Lords of the Manor of Lexden we must go back to the early eighteenth century when Samual Rawston purchased the Manor from Isaac Selfe. Isacc Self had obtained the right to be called Lord of the Manor of Lexden when his wife, Penelope Lucus inherited the Manor from her father Charles Lucus who was also the 2nd Baron Shenfield. Sadly, Penelope predeceased Isaac which resulted in him selling the manor and all its lands etc to Samual Rawston.

The Rawston's, I believe, were involved in the textile industry, however more research is needed on this subject. Yet there is already a link to the Papillons which becomes important later in the story as Samual Rawston was married to a Sarah Papillon.

Samual was Lord of the Manor from the early eighteenth Century until his death in 1740. His wife Sarah would live a further twenty years, they had a son Thomas Rawston who was married twice. His first wife, Anne Fawler, died in 1746 which coincides with the birth of their second daughter Sarah Rawston. Sadly, it was quite common in those times for women to die as a result of childbirth, at this time I cannot confirm that Annes death was a result of Childbirth. It is also sad to say that the daughter Sarah dies young in 1761.

Thomas eldest daughter Anne was born in 1740 and would inherit the Manor upon the death of Thomas in 1769. Anne never marries and dies in 1816 at the age of 75/6. With no heir of her own the manor is bequeathed to her Godson the Revd John Rawston Papillon. Revd John Rawston Papillon was the brother of Thomas Papillon who had married Anne Cressett Pelham who by marriage had inherited Crowhurst Place.

The Revd John Rawston Papillon did not marry instead his sister Elizabeth Papillon moved to Lexden with him and ultimately upon his death became Lord of the Manor. The Revd John Rawston Papillon is an interesting character as it is widely reported that he knew Jane Austen. When he obtained the Manor, he did not become the Rector of St Leonards or take up the living. It is during this period that George Preston is made Rector. It is during George Preston's Rectorship that the present St Leonards was constructed.

When Elizabeth Papillon inherited the manor, she was able to appoint a new rector following the death of George Preston she kept it in the family and appointed her brother Thomas's second son, her nephew, as the new Rector. As I said in last month's archive the Papillons quite often used the same names for their children the nephews name was John Papillon. He would be Rector for almost fifty years and his memorial is displayed in the church.

On the graves of both Anne Rawston and Elizabeth Papillon they are classed as Mrs. This is not unusual during these times as most married women were classed as Mistress. Mrs therefore was often used to denote an older woman in the same way the term Miss was reserved for unmarried young women or girls.



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

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

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

13th January
Brian Crockett



'Rest in peace and rise in glory.'

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.

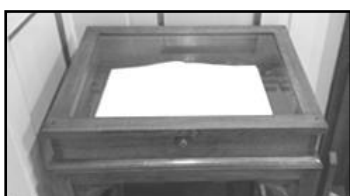
It is open to people of all faiths and backgrounds and is usually run on Thursday afternoons fortnightly.

If you would like to attend – or to find out more - please telephone Margaret on 01206 547803 or email **bereavement@stleonardslexden.org.uk**

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

MARCH

Jenkinson, Edith Charlotte	26 th March 1880 – 27 th March 1882
Geernaert, Joseph John	12 th May 1828 – 28 th March 1885
Ferrett, John Sydney (Jack)	21 st June 1919 – 16 th March 1993
Pugh, James	25 th February 1922 – 21 st March 1993
Smith, Alan	17 th July 1926 – 21 st March 1987
Pudney, Norman Allan	28 th August 1926 – 7 th March 2005
Potter, Janet Mary	28 th March 1920 – 29 th March 2005
Henderson, Bryan William	7 th June 1934 – 16 th March 2006
Green, Frances Marjorie Lois	22 nd January 1914 – 24 th March 2004
Lomas, Olive Mary Elizabeth	26 th October 1914 – 31 st March 2008
Wiffen, Douglas Charles	18 th April 1928 – 16 th March 2010
Epsom, Doris Eileen	30 th September 1916 – 12 th March 2013
Taylor, Ida (Elsie)	1 st January 1916 – 17 th March 2016
Gregory, Thomas Arthur	20 th January 1950 – 3 rd March 2016
Cooper, Paul Desmond	20 th December 1950 – 25 th March 2013
Potter, Robert	20 th December 1922 – 24 th March 2020
Crockett, Brian	19 th March 1934- 3 rd December 2024



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

APRIL

Epsom, Gordon John	13 th January 1919 – 19 th April 1985
London, Stanley Arthur James	4 th September 1910 – 6 th April 2003
Wright, Paul Middleton	25 th December 1940 – 6 th April 2003
Twydell, Horace Walter	13 th April 1922 – 27 th April 2004
Wellsted, Rod Edward	27 th March 1937 – 20 th April 2005
Gaunt, Rober George Armstrong	28 th June 1922 – 20 th April 2005
Moxon, George	13 th May 1916 – 24 th April 2006
Van Shaik, Paul Nicholas	27 th July 1951 – 26 th April 2006
Arkininstall, Betty	16 th January 1924 – 7 th April 2006
Baker, Mary	3 rd December 1909 – 7 th April 2007
Ireland, Paul Giuseppe	19 th December 1965 – 17 th April 2007
Pudney, Jean	31 st January 1924 – 21 st April 2010
Parker, Jenny	23 rd December 1953 – 29 th April 2011
Bradley, Michael	26 th May 1931 – 10 th April 2013
Cole, Mark Richard Morris	27 th December 1940 – 24 th April 2014
Burrage, Ruby	19 th August 1921 – 11 th April 2002
Kitson, Joan Rose	28 th August 1931 – 6 th April 2016
Isherwood, Dr. Michael Colin	16 th June 1945 – 14 th April 2012

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday	8.00am 1662 BCP Holy Communion (1st & 3rd Sundays) 9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church Or All Age Eucharist (1 st Sunday of 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

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

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION

We offer a magazine subscription service.

If you wish to subscribe please pick up a form from the back of the Church and return to the parish administrator.