

Welcome to St Leonard's. If you're here for the first time or visiting, please say hello.

The nave will usually be open for private prayer & reflection on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday mornings, and Sunday afternoons.

Please note that this may be subject to change at short notice.

THIS SUNDAY'S SERVICES

8:00am **BCP Holy Communion**

9:45am **Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

(145, 124, 116, 703, 429, Lent Prose, 806, Addington)

3:00pm **SLYC in the Hall**

PRAYER DIARY & EVENTS

SUNDAY 16th - we pray for the parishes of Lexden & Shrub End.

MONDAY – in the Anglican Communion we pray for The Diocese of Malek Rup: Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

8:45am Morning Prayer.

TUESDAY - we pray for staff and residents at Hargood Close.

8:45am Morning Prayer.

WEDNESDAY – in the Colchester Deanery we pray for all Hospital Chaplains Revd Linda Peall, Head of Chaplaincy, Mrs Sarah Amos, Revd Dennis Mahon, Revd Keith Ponsford.

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall.

10.00am Eucharist with followed by coffee.

11:00am Lent Course – Hearing God in Poetry.

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall.

7:00pm Lent Course – Hearing God in Poetry.

THURSDAY - we pray for the Pentecostal Church.

8:00am Eucharist.

FRIDAY - we pray for all who work in the building trade.

SATURDAY - we pray for the residents of Clairmont Road and Richardson Walk.

Services next Sunday:

23rd March – 3rd Sunday of Lent

9:45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

5:30pm Eucharist for Wholeness and Healing

NEWS AND EVENTS

Our **Lent Course** this year is called **Hearing God in Poetry**. Sessions continue in the Nicholls Room at 11:00am and 7:00pm on Wednesday's 19th & 26th March and 2nd & 9th April. We look forward to welcoming you.

SLYC is back! Fun for Year 4 children and above featuring the return of the popular Tuck Shop! This afternoon, from 3-5pm in the church hall. Email to let us know that you are coming to: juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org

The **Parish Office** will be closed on Thursday and Friday this week as I have some time off. I am back in the office on Monday 24th March. Thanks, Esther

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 get our beautiful building ready to celebrate Easter, please speak to Julie.

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. Forms and a collecting box are available in church or from the website

<https://www.stleonardslexden.org.uk/APCM/>. If your name is on the existing roll you will still need to re-apply, please; this is a full revision. There are further details in the March/April Magazine. Please ensure that all forms are returned by Sunday 20th April.

Summer Fayre – this year's summer fayre will take place on Saturday 28th June, please save the date in your diaries. Please speak to Nick if you are able to help in any way.

Our 9.45am service is live-streamed each Sunday to include those who are unable to join with us in person. If you prefer not to be on camera, please sit behind the front five rows of the nave. We are happy to provide Holy Communion to you in your pew, just let a steward or warden know.

Among those for whom we pray are:

Angela Sargent, Jean Holden, Father David Armstrong, Dick Verrier, Richard, Derek Cowie, Johanne Bresch, Lionel Simpkins, Brian Root, Katrina Light, Joseph, David Moxon, Kim Harding, Graham Tyler, Jenny and Peter Hazlewood, Frances Bonner, Maureen Watkins, Antonia Loxley, Janice, Kim Kite, Hugh and Mary Beavan, Michael Eavery, Freddie Woolard, Jacquie, Ashley Hanmer, Jan Buckley, Tony Gurney, Shirley Everitt, Stella Llewellyn, Pat Hughes, Doreen Mayes, Holly Donovan, Win Kenway, Freda and Ernest Jenkins, Ellen Whalley, Nick Leaning, Pam Hatherly, Owen Shepherd, Frances Dowson, Joan Collis, and those others known to us.

Those who have died & those who mourn them: Carole Durrant

The Church has a card reader available for contactless payments. Please ask if you need help using it and also Gift Aid your donation if you are able to. Donations can also be made online via our website <http://www.stleonardslexden.org.uk/>

COLLECT & READINGS (2nd Sunday of Lent)

Collect

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things
that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Genesis 15.1–12, 17–18 (Old Testament, p12)

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking firepot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

Psalms 27 (Old Testament, p533)

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold[a] of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?
When evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes—
they shall stumble and fall.
Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,

yet I will be confident.
One thing I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in his temple.
For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.
Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.
Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!
'Come,' my heart says, 'seek his face!'
Your face, Lord, do I seek.
Do not hide your face from me.
Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,
O God of my salvation!
If my father and mother forsake me,
the Lord will take me up.
Teach me your way, O Lord,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.
Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they are breathing out violence.
I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!.

Philippians 3.17 – 4.1 (New Testament p212)

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Luke 13.31-35 (New Testament p82)

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."'