

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

9:45am **All-Age Parish Eucharist for Mothering Sunday**

(394, 489, 451, 313, 664, 721)

PRAYER DIARY & EVENTS

SUNDAY 30th - we pray for the parishes of Lexden & Shrub End.

MONDAY – in the Anglican Communion we pray for The Diocese of Mape: Episcopal Church of South Sudan.
8:45am Morning Prayer.

TUESDAY - we pray for staff and residents at Woodland Drive Care Home.
8:45am Morning Prayer.
11:30am Holy Communion at Cheviot.

WEDNESDAY – in the Colchester Deanery we pray for the University of Essex (Colchester Campus) Chaplain Revd Dr Sarah Batts-Neale.
9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall.
10.00am Eucharist with followed by coffee.
10:45am Holy Communion at Woodlands.
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 Moravian Church.
8:00am Eucharist.

FRIDAY - we pray for all who work in the probation service.

SATURDAY - we pray for the residents of Colvin Close and Sanders Drive.
8:30am Men's Breakfast.

Services next Sunday 6th April – Passion Sunday

8:00am BCP Holy Communion

9:45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

3:00pm Messy Last Supper

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 and again on 9th April. We look forward to welcoming you.

Men's Breakfast is on Saturday April 5th in the Nicholls Room. Contact David Watkins davidw@stleonardslexden.org.uk

Messy Last Supper takes place on Sunday 6th April at 3:00pm. Free activities and crafts, food and fun! All children must be accompanied by an adult. Email to let us know that you are coming to: juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk

Brick Club is back! Tuesdays 8th and 15th April in the Hall. 10am – 12 noon. Just turn up and build! Free of charge. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Journey to the Cross – Please join us at 5:30pm on Palm Sunday, 13th April, to enjoy readings from the Gospels with music reflecting on Jesus's journey to the cross.

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:

Jane Scott-Thompson, 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: Douglas Garland, Margaret Harris

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 (Mothering Sunday)

Collect

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to
himself:

strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion Prayer

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Exodus 2.1–10 (Old Testament, p52)

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

Psalm 34.11–20 (Old Testament, p538)

Come, O children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
Which of you desires life,
and covets many days to enjoy good?
Keep your tongue from evil,
and your lips from speaking deceit.
Depart from evil, and do good;
seek peace, and pursue it.

The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their cry.
The face of the Lord is against evildoers,
to cut off the remembrance of them from the
earth.
When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears,
and rescues them from all their troubles.
The Lord is near to the broken-hearted,
and saves the crushed in spirit.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the Lord rescues them from them all.
He keeps all their bones;
not one of them will be broken.

2 Corinthians 1.3–7 (New Testament p191)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

Luke 2.33–35 (New Testament p63)

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'