



St Leonard's

Ordinary People, Extraordinary God



Parish Magazine

March 2014

Diary for March

Saturday 1st

9.30am -3pm Day of Guided Prayer for 'Inside Out' (mission week)

SUNDAY 2nd: Sunday Next before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion (1662 rite)

9.45am Fifth Event

6.30pm Parish Eucharist

Monday 3rd

7.45pm PCC meeting in the Nicholls Room

Tuesday 4th

10.00am Holy Communion at Wren House

2.30pm Holy Communion at the Old Rectory

2.30pm Lexden Ladies meet in the Nicholls Room

Wednesday 5th Ash Wednesday

10.00am Eucharist with ashing followed by Open Church

10.45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

11.30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

7.30pm Eucharist with ashing

Thursday 6th

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 8th

10.30am Coffee morning at 18 Scott Drive

SUNDAY 9th: Lent I

8.00am Holy Communion (1662 rite)

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church: Guest Preacher,
Revd Canon Edward Carter (Canon Theologian)**

**11.30am Teaching session on the Lord's Prayer by the Canon
Theologian in church**

12.15pm Parish Lunch

6.30pm Evensong and sermon

Monday 10th

5pm Contemplative Prayer in the Lady Chapel

Tuesday 11th

2.30pm Mothers' Union service in church

Wednesday 12th

10.00am Eucharist with prayers for healing

11.15am Lent Course in church 'Pilgrim' - The Lord's Prayer

7.30pm Lent Course in church 'Pilgrim' - The Lord's Prayer

Thursday 13th

8.00am Eucharist

SUNDAY 16th: Lent II

8.00am Holy Communion (1662 rite)

9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

6.30pm Evensong and sermon

Monday 17th

11.00 Holy Communion at Hill House

5pm Contemplative Prayer in the Lady Chapel

Wednesday 19th St Joseph

10.00am Eucharist with prayers for healing

11.15am Lent Course in church 'Pilgrim' - The Lord's Prayer

11.30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

12.30pm Lent Lunch in church (proceeds to go to Colchester Food Bank)

7.30pm Lent Course in church 'Pilgrim' - The Lord's Prayer

Thursday 20th

8.00am Eucharist

8.15pm 'Harmony' house group at 'Harmony' 145 High Road, Layer
(Alison 734246)

SUNDAY 23rd: Lent III

8.00am Holy Communion (1662 rite)

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church: Guest Preacher, Revd
Canon Philip Need (Diocesan Director of Ordinands)**

6.30pm Evensong and sermon

Monday 24th

5pm Contemplative Prayer in the Lady Chapel

Cont'd...

Wednesday 26th The Annunciation (*transferred from 25th*)

10.00am Eucharist with prayers for healing

11.15am Lent Course in church 'Pilgrim' - The Lord's Prayer

7.30pm Lent Course in church 'Pilgrim' - The Lord's Prayer

Thursday 27th

8.00am Eucharist

SUNDAY 30th: Lent IV (Mothering Sunday)

8.00am Holy Communion ****COMMON WORSHIP****

9.45am All Age Worship

6.30pm **Parish Eucharist **

Monday 31st

5pm Contemplative Prayer in the Lady Chapel

Wednesday 2nd April

10.00am Eucharist with prayers for healing

11.15am Lent Course in church 'Pilgrim' - The Lord's Prayer

7.30pm Lent Course in church 'Pilgrim' - The Lord's Prayer

Thursday 3rd April

8.00am Eucharist

Friday 4th

10am Lexden Springs School Easter Service in church

Sunday 6th April: Lent V - Passiontide begins

8.00am Holy Communion (1662 rite)

9.45am **Parish Eucharist**

6.30pm Evensong

7.30pm 'Talking about Faith for the Terrified' – a session to learn how to take the fear out of talking to people about our faith.

An Apology from the Editor

In the last months (February) magazine **Gill Young** had submitted a lovely article entitled '**The Sound of Music**'

Your ham-fisted Editor somehow left her name off the article.

Many apologies Gill, Ed

From the Rectory



Well, I don't know about you, but I've had enough of the general 'miserableness' of winter this year – and we have been fortunate here, whereas so many people are struggling with floodwater. But we look towards the spring coming to bring us more light and colour and warmth because it gives us hope and a sense that life can only get better.

As we look forwards to spring we are reminded that in the church calendar Lent is coming. Lent, after all means 'spring'. And although it is a time of penitence and self-examination which we sometimes find difficult, we should try to be fully aware of, and engaged in it. Lent begins on the 5th March with two services for Ash Wednesday (see the Diary for details) and I would urge you to try to come to one of them - this is one of the most significant days in our calendar; it is a principal feast – every Anglican benefice has to have a Eucharist on this day. Ashing will take place at both services – and this is a poignant reminder of both our mortality and our sinfulness, when you hear the words *'Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return; turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ'* as you are ashed with ash made from the previous year's palm crosses and holy oil.

But how are you going to keep Lent? Lent shouldn't be a time of being miserable...it is a time for concentration on fundamental values and priorities, and is not a time for self punishment. There is an old saying, which I have used before, reminding us what we should do in Lent:

*'Prayer for the good of your soul,
fasting for the good of your body,
almsgiving for the good of your neighbour'*

Things you might like to consider:

- Our Lent course this year is one of the Pilgrim units (The Lord's Prayer), which were co-written by Bishop Stephen. When he came in November he encouraged us to look at and study certain 'core texts' which included the Beatitudes and the Lord's Prayer. And to kick this

off we have the Canon Theologian taking a teaching session on the Lord's Prayer on the Sunday before Lent begins, followed by the Pilgrim course - which takes something which is so familiar and challenges us to think again about the words which we use every Sunday. The Lent courses will be in church on Wednesdays at 11.00am (after the Eucharist) and repeated again in the evening at 7.30pm. So do come and try it – bring a friend!

- There will be contemplative prayer in the Lady Chapel on Mondays in Lent from 5-5.30pm
- There will be a Lent Lunch on the 19th March after the Lent Course (about 12.30) - a simple lunch of soup and rolls and fruit etc – but we ask that you give what you would pay for a pub lunch (or thereabouts) and the proceeds will be given to Colchester Food Bank. We would like to have numbers so we can cater accurately and there will be a list at the back of church in the few weeks preceding it.
- Read a good book – have a look in the library at church. Good titles include 'Lent for Everyone' Tom Wright, any books by Stephen Cottrell but especially 'How to Pray', also 'How to Pray' or 'Living Faithfully' by John Pritchard or the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book for 2014 'Looking Through the Cross' by the Revd Dr Graham Tomlin, Dean of St Mellitus College.

It is also traditional to make your confession in Lent – you may or may not realise that this is available in the Church of England. The Anglican teaching with regard to private confession is, "All may, some should, none must". It is a gentle, peaceful yet powerful experience, as I have said before, which will be available for any who would wish to do so. Contact any of the clergy if you wish to explore this possibility; information and instruction is available if needed. There are booklets at the back of church explaining the process.

There will also be a full Holy Week programme of services (details in next month's magazine).

How we get from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday is different for everyone – but it is a journey of 40 days that we should make - after all, Our Lord gave so much for us that a little extra time in prayer or study and a little less coffee, chocolate or biscuits is a small price for us to pay isn't it? And in doing these things we will come closer to him. Don't forget,

though, that every Sunday in Lent is a feast day, as we celebrate the Resurrection – so within the thoughtful reflection of Lent there is still joy!
May you keep a Holy Lent.

Teresa



OMG

Sunday, 9th March: 4:30-6pm

Sunday, 23rd March: 4:30-6pm

Sunday, 6th April: 5-7:30pm (in church with pizza afterwards...)

Some Forthcoming Dates

Stainer's Crucifixion Palm Sunday, 13th April at 6.30pm

APCM 28th April

Tea Party for all House Groups 1st June

Parish Retreat 18th to 20th July

PCC Meetings 3rd March, 12th May, 23rd June

WOW Factor: Making a difference, one woman at a time

Working women? Hate that Monday morning what-do-I-wear feeling? What would it be like if you had no choices to make, or nothing to wear to an interview?

A new charity is being launched in Colchester to help vulnerable women on low incomes return to work - or start at work for the first time - by providing them with a complete outfit to wear to their interview. Women who will be referred to the charity when they have an interview scheduled. Each client will work with a volunteer who helps choose an outfit that will work for her and the profession she hopes to enter. If the client is successful at interview she returns to collect a second free outfit to help kick-start her professional wardrobe.

Clothes, shoes and accessories will be obtained by donation or by sponsoring companies. Women will be referred to us by non-profit organisations including the CAP Job Club. (Sara has been approached as one of the Colchester CAP Debt Centre trustees to see if any St Leonard's women would like to be involved – or have suitable clothes they could donate).

How you can help:

Pass it on: Clients come to us by referral from a wide range of non-profit organisations; please feel free to pass our details on and let people know about our service

Donate clothes: Somewhere in your wardrobe is something utterly gorgeous that you don't wear any more but another woman needs. Dig it out and call Loraine, Bolaji or Hope to arrange collection. We need good quality business-appropriate suits, dresses, jackets, blouses, skirts, shirts, trousers, shoes and accessories for women

Volunteer: We need collectors; dressers; intercessors; befrienders; fundraisers we definitely have a role for you. Call Loraine to find out how you can help

Get in touch: We'd love to talk more about the charity and its work. **Call Loraine on 07711 824874 , Bolaji on 07752 025225 or Hope on 07933 994351 and join the WoWFactor community on Facebook to find out more.**

So come Spring Cleaning time, when you're tidying up your wardrobe – what do you have you no longer need that would boost someone's confidence and help them take that first step back to work?

How to make a lasting difference to the work of our church.

The extension is a real blessing to St Leonard's isn't it? It has transformed our fellowship and our mission opportunities; it's made our building, which was already very beautiful, also more user-friendly. But it was only made possible because of two very generous legacies.

Everyone wants to provide for their loved ones, and make sure their future is secure when they write their will, which is absolutely right and proper, but we are asking that you consider remembering St Leonard's as well. A gift in your will can help keep our church alive in our community and transform its future. And it is the future we are talking about. To that end we have produced a legacy leaflet, which explains how to leave a legacy and what we might want to use it for.

St. Leonard's welcomes any legacies or gifts, however large or small. We do not intend to put gifts towards paying our parish share or day to day running costs - as the policy of the PCC is to use legacies to help fund significant development projects in the parish, whether buildings, equipment or staff.

Teresa

Women's World Day of Prayer- Streams in the Desert

The Women's World Day of Prayer this year will be on **Friday 7 March**. The service has been prepared by the **Christian Women of Egypt** and the theme is '**Streams in the Desert**'. There will be no service in Colchester Town Centre but services will be taking place at the following local churches:

West Bergholt Methodist Church at 1.30 pm preceded by Soup Lunch at 12.30 pm.

Mile End Methodist Church at 2.00pm.

Wivenhoe Methodist Church at 2.30 pm.

I am sure that people will be really welcome at any of the services. For those without cars and able to use public transport, Wivenhoe Methodist Church is very close to the Co-op bus stop and there are frequent buses, 62/62A from the bus stop outside The George in Colchester High St.

Jenny Heaps 01206 542949

Mission Week and Beyond!

We have a great year for God coming up! I am both excited and terrified of it at the same time.

I'm excited because from May 14th until May 18th we have **Inside Out** - A week of community events at St Leonard's with several things planned to really try and show that being a Christian can be fun, uplifting and informative. We will be asking the local community to join us in several outreach initiatives as in the poster on the previous page.

Following on from these great events we will run an Alpha course starting on the 4th June.

With all these wonderful things going on why am I terrified – because unless we get enough people to help, by July when Alpha finishes, some of us will be on our knees and not in a good way!

Bishop Stephen asked the churches in his Diocese to make time for mission this year. He asked – God doesn't ask us He *tells* us to get on with it. In Jeremiah 23:1-4 God points out what a bad job the leaders had done and how His people had fallen away and how He was going to gather them back in. Then there is the Great Commission in Matthew 28: 18-20 which quite clearly tells us to spread The Word and so many more instances in the New Testament, too many to list here.

So let's join together, don't be a by-stander and make this a special year for St. Leonard's as well as the Cathedral. There are lots of little jobs to do – not least praying for the events and the people involved, or hosting (attending events and welcoming visitors). If you can help with any of the above in any way – serving teas, making cakes, clearing up after events, setting up, singing, praying etc. please let me know.

Please don't let a few carry this burden, God's message is too precious.

Jacquie Messinger

CARDS

Handmade cards of various sorts are on sale in the Nicholls room after all services. Also, I can make cards to order.

Proceeds to church funds

Owen Shepherd

“Inside Out” our Mission for Lexden – May 14th – 18th 2014

Our recently announced Mission in response to Bishop Stephen +, calls for us to engage in outreach during this Centenary year of our diocese and requires Prayer Partners.

Your prayers are needed now as the planning and all necessary contacts for the events are made for what we hope will be a successful event.

Can you spare some time either during the day or evening each week as we lead up to the start of the Mission, during it and beyond as we follow up on those who have expressed an interest to know about faith in God.

Prayers will be offered during our weekly services and our own Mission prayer will appear in the notice sheet each week. But, from time to time specific requests from the organisers and others will need our prayers. So, a regular weekly meeting for prayer to offer these requests to God would be appropriate. These requests will also be circulated to Patsi Morgans for inclusion in the church’s Prayer Net scheme.

Please let me know of your interest in helping in this way and being part of the event for the furtherance of St. Leonard’s outreach into the community.

Philip Kershaw - Mission Prayer Co-ordinator.

Telephone 01206 577044 or email: philk7@btinternet.com

Mission Week Prayer

As we hold 'Inside Out', our mission week, in our prayers we pray for all those who will be taking part in it and those with whom we will come into contact:

You made us for friendship, let us show friendship

You made us for gentleness, let us be gentle

You made us for kindness, let us be kind

You made us for caring, let us care

You made us for accepting, let us accept

For when we as ordinary people work as one,

You can achieve the extraordinary

2014 Colchester Deanery Synod Elections

The Diocese of Chelmsford have asked us to publicise the 2014 Deanery Election Process and the Diocesan guidance on electing Parish Representatives to Colchester Deanery Synod at the APCM in April

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2014 Deanery Elections

Elections of lay representatives to the Deanery Synod happen every three years and the next election for St Leonard's four representatives will take place at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in the Church on Monday 28th April 2014 at 7.45 pm. Each person elected as a Deanery Synod representative will, by virtue of their election, also become a member of Lexden Parochial Church Council (PCC).

Transforming Presence

The Deanery Synod is a key body as we come to grips with the issues in Transforming Presence.

In 2011 the Diocese agreed a set of priorities for the mission and ministry of the Church in Essex and East London. These four priorities were set out in a document known as 'Transforming Presence' –

- Living a distinctive Christian life in the world
- Evangelising effectively
- Holding ourselves mutually accountable over the basics of Christian ministry
- Developing a new vision for a Church serving in a missionary context by re-imagining ministry

As each of these priorities develops, key questions are being faced at all levels within the church.

What is a Deanery Synod?

The Deanery Synod is a gathering of ordained and lay representatives from all the parishes in a geographical area – the Deanery. The word 'Synod' means 'seeking the way together'. The Deanery Synod fits into the synodical structures of the Church of England between the PCC and the Diocesan Synod with the General Synod at the national level.

Why Deanery Synod is important?

Generally speaking the Deanery Synod provides a forum for mutual support for all the clergy and congregations within the Deanery. It should be a place of prayer, listening and study where people can grow a vision and passion to see the wider Church flourish.

It is also an important link between the local Church and the Diocesan and National Church and Deanery Synods are sometimes asked to vote on matters affecting the wider Church.

At present Deanery Synods are becoming more important as the process of Re-imagining Ministry unfolds. Each Deanery has been asked to prepare their responses to this and the next Deanery term will be a crucial period in this process.

Finally, Deanery Synod members elect the Diocesan and General Synods. So whoever is chosen to represent St Leonard's on the Deanery Synod for the three years from 2014 will, in turn, choose the deanery representatives to our Diocesan Synod in 2015; and that same summer, will elect our diocesan representatives to General Synod – the Church of England's national decision-making body.

What to look for in a Deanery Synod representative?

Each parish is asked to prayerfully consider who to elect to represent them at Deanery level. In order to stand for election you must be registered on the electoral role of Lexden Parish and have a proposer and a seconder who also need to be registered on the electoral role.

Those are the legal requirements, but Church members may want to consider the following points when deciding where to cast their vote:

Does this person have a passion and vision to see the wider church engage in mission and growth?

Is this person committed to working with others and working across boundaries – both geographical and non-geographical – to seek God's will for the mission and ministry of the Deanery?

Are they able to think and act strategically and to listen to others?

Will they be able to effectively represent the parish at Deanery level and to provide effective feedback to the PCC?

As electors to Diocesan and General Synod, do their views broadly reflect

the views of St Leonard's congregation members?

If you are interested in possibly standing for election to Deanery Synod in April or in encouraging someone else to consider standing please free to approach and question any of our present representatives – Mark Cole, John Brown, Tom Scrimgeour and Kathleen Scrimgeour or Teresa.

Churchwardens and Assistants

Most of you may realise that in May Tom Scrimgeour will cease to be Churchwarden (having served the maximum six years). While we value immensely the dedication and sheer hard work he has put in over these years – we must begin to think about appointing a new Churchwarden.

As this opportunity presents itself, it is worthwhile, I think, to consider the tasks which are undertaken by the Churchwardens (few of them in the official 'job description' and many of which have 'devolved' to them unintentionally) and consider whether any of them can be delegated.

It is common for churches to have 'assistant wardens' or 'wardens' assistants', who have no legal role, but who can share some of the delegated responsibilities. For example; an assistant warden could be 'on duty' at some services, or be responsible opening up church for lettings/workmen outside Lynne's hours, or oversee some rotas... the list is fairly eclectic and would vary according to individual's preference and personality, but it would mean the Churchwardens needn't feel that they had to be 'on duty' or at every service and do everything – and they could even relax and worship with the rest of us!

It is becoming apparent that, in a parish which is this busy, if we are to continue to thrive and grow we will need more people to help with the smooth running of church and all that goes on here. In some ways it's a nice problem to have, but it does need to be addressed. People value the welcome, the comfort and the efficient organisation – and we must continue to provide this.

Therefore, there are some things I would like you to do. First, pray about Tom's successor, that the right person will come forward. Secondly, consider who might be suitable to be wardens' assistants - and also pray about this, of course!

Speak to Teresa if you have any suggestions as to who might undertake either of these roles.



ST LEONARD'S CHURCH
CO3 4BL
MUSIC, ARTS & CRAFTS
3RD-10TH MAY 2014

www.lexdenartsfestival.org.uk

CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS

Elizabeth Morris	Etchings
Pru Green	Ceramics
Margaret Gardiner	Ceramics
Edward Broadway	Jewellery
Michael Carpenter	Jewellery
Barbara Peirson	Oil paintings
Lisa Cockrell	Photography
Sally Pudney	Acrylic paintings
Dylan Pym	Wooden furniture
Charles Crocker	Wooden furniture
Shirley Morrison	Ceramic sculpture
Susan Boddy	Watercolour paintings
Dale Devereux Barker	Lino prints & enamels
Nat Young	Mixed media paintings

OPENING TIMES

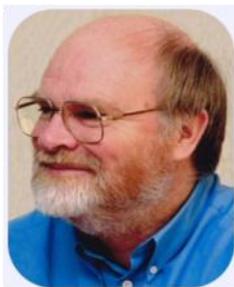
3rd May	10.30am-4.30pm	Lunches available between 12.30-2.30
4th May	1pm-4.30pm	
5th May	10.30am-4.30pm	Lunches available between 12.30-2.30
6th May	10.30am-4.30pm	
7th May	10.30am-4.30pm	
8th May	10.30am-4.30pm	Lunches available between 12.30-2.30
9th May	10.30am-4.30pm	
10th May	10.30am-4.30pm	Lunches available between 12.30-2.30



ST LEONARD'S CHURCH
CO3 4BL
MUSIC, ARTS & CRAFTS
3RD-10TH MAY 2014

www.lexdenartsfestival.org.uk

Patrick McCarthy
with Stephen Evans



Saturday 3rd May 2014

A RECITAL

The baritone Patrick McCarthy is an experienced musician with a wide-ranging operatic and concert career. He taught at the Colchester Institute School of Music for 30 years and founded the Colchester Bach Choir. He has conducted many other East Anglian choirs.

Refreshments available

£10 admission

7.30pm

Tickets available from the website
or Church 'Box office'

Open during exhibition hours

and also between 11:30am - 2pm on:

5th / 6th April 2014 12th / 13th April 2014

19th / 20th April 2014 26th / 27th April 2014

Further details: gbell7@ntlworld.com



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3RD-10TH MAY 2014

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FILM NIGHT

**MONDAY 5TH MAY 2014
7PM START**

A FUN EVENING FOR ALL THE FAMILY TO ENJOY

Rare classic silent movie with a famous comedy duo,
which has been restored in black & white
and set to orchestral music.

&

A blockbuster 'main feature' movie about a major
historical figure who changed the worlds thinking
on certain issues

**ALL DETAILS AVAILABLE IN CHURCH
AFTER SERVICES
AND AT THE 'BOX OFFICE'**

FREE ADMISSION RETIRING COLLECTION
Refreshments available

Church 'Box office'
Open during exhibition hours
and also between 11:30am - 2pm on:
5th / 6th April 2014 12th / 13th April 2014
19th / 20th April 2014 26th / 27th April 2014
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MATYAS



Wednesday 7th May 2014

In Concert

Matyas is an award-winning professional pianist, singer-songwriter, composer and piano tutor.

Following the success of his appearance at the 'Young Musician's Review' in 2012 Matyas returns to give his first solo concert at Lexden.

Refreshments available

£10 admission

7.30pm

**Tickets available from the website
or Church 'Box office'**

Open during exhibition hours

and also between 11:30am - 2pm on:

5th / 6th April 2014 12th / 13th April 2014

19th / 20th April 2014 26th / 27th April 2014

Further details: gbell7@ntlworld.com



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3RD-10TH MAY 2014

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RAG-RUG MAKING WORKSHOP with **Mary McCarthy**



Thursday 8th May 2014

A day-course in hooked rag-rug making to introduce you to a great way of recycling old clothes and make stunning wall hangings or mats. Rag hooks and squares of hessian will be provided, as well as the 'rags'.

Only 12 places available

£45 for the day

11am 4pm

Refreshments available

Tickets available from the website
or Church 'Box office'

Open during exhibition hours

and also between 11:30am - 2pm on:

5th / 6th April 2014 12th / 13th April 2014

19th / 20th April 2014 26th / 27th April 2014

Further details: gbell7@ntlworld.com



ST LEONARD'S CHURCH

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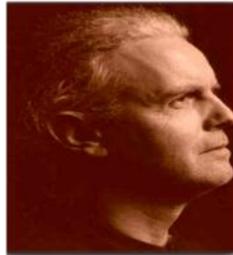
MUSIC, ARTS & CRAFTS

3RD-10TH MAY 2014

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The Mardling Acre

**A storytelling evening with
Hugh Lupton**



Friday 9th May 2014

Hugh Lupton entertains with folk-tales, legends, music and songs from East Anglia – funny, frightening, bawdy and playful this performance celebrates the gossiping acres of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and the Fens.

Refreshments available

£10 admission

7.30pm

Under 12's £5 Not suitable for children under 8

**Tickets available from the website
or Church 'Box office'**

Open during exhibition hours

and also between 11:30am - 2pm on:

5th / 6th April 2014 12th / 13th April 2014

19th / 20th April 2014 26th / 27th April 2014

Further details: gbell7@ntlworld.com



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3RD-10TH MAY 2014
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The Marenzio Singers



Saturday 10th May 2014

An established vocal quintet named after the sixteenth-century Italian composer and singer Luca Marenzio, a major figure in the development of secular vocal music. The quintet's repertoire ranges from Marenzio's time to the present day, including first performances of commissioned works.

Refreshments available

£10 admission

7.30pm

Tickets available from the website
or Church 'Box office'

Open during exhibition hours

and also between 11:30am - 2pm on:

5th / 6th April 2014 12th / 13th April 2014

19th / 20th April 2014 26th / 27th April 2014

Further details: gbell7@ntlworld.com

Colchester Area Vocations Day

"Me - imagining ministry?!"

A day to think about your calling in God's Church

Saturday 22nd March 2014

John Owen Barn, Fordham Church, Colchester CO6 3NL



The Church of England
in Essex and East London



For further information telephone: 01245 294453

E-mail: gread@chelmsford.anglican.org

ST. PETERSBURG DIARY (part 2)

On our 3rd day, Wednesday, we went to the famous Hermitage Museum. For many of us this was the crowning glory of our visit and for many people, myself included, the main reason for their wanting to visit St. Petersburg.



To visit all 350 exhibition rooms would entail walking about 10 km. The museum contains at least three million items - it has been calculated that to just glance at each one would take nine years! To get an idea of its vastness think of any one of the world's great art galleries and museums e.g. the National Gallery, the British Museum, the Louvre, the Prado, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and treble its size!

The Hermitage has excellent examples of Italian high renaissance art, unparalleled collections of paintings by Rembrandt, the French impressionists, Matisse and Picasso, not to mention fabulous treasures from Siberia and central Asia, Egyptian and Classical antiquities and Persian and Chinese artworks.

The museum occupies an impressive site on the bank of the river Neva and is spread across three buildings: the ornate Winter palace, built between 1754 - 62, (the official residence of the imperial royal family until the 1917 revolution), the small old hermitage and the larger New Hermitage. On the same site there is also the Hermitage theatre. It was the empress Catherine the Great who really began the Hermitage's art

collection, a self-confessed ‘glutton for art’ she made the first significant purchases in 1764. She enlisted the help of Russian ambassadors across Europe who were ordered to build up the collection, buying in bulk from impoverished English, Italian and Dutch aristocratic families. The Tsarina’s personal favourites were works by Rubens and Leonardo.

During World War 2, before the German siege of Leningrad (as it then was), 45 special trains conveyed numerous works of art to Siberia for safe keeping. During the siege 2000 people lived in the cellars which served as a bomb shelter. While scholars continued their work and gave lectures by candlelight, guides described the works which normally hung in the rooms for the benefit of troops on leave from the front.



We were fortunate to start our guided tour conducted by our very own guide Tanya just before the museum opened to the general public at 10.30am. It lasted 3 hours without coffee or comfort breaks! We started with Italian art from the 13th to 18th centuries: Simone Martini, Fra Angelico, Della Robbia, Filippo Lippi, and the only works by Leonardo in Russia: his *Benois Madonna* and the famous *Madonna Litta* (the virgin suckling the infant Christ).

We walked through the beautiful Raphael loggia, a long gallery which is a copy of Raphael’s famous gallery in the Vatican museum. We saw his *Madonna Conestabile* (which he painted at the age of

17), his painting of the Holy Family, which depicts a beardless but aged Joseph and Michelangelo’s striking sculpture of the *Crouching Youth*.

On we went through Spanish art of the 15th to 18th centuries: Ribera, Zurbaran, Murillo, Velazquez and Goya. French art of the 15th to 18th centuries: Simon Vouet, Poussin, Claude Lorrain.

Then it was Dutch, Flemish and Netherlandish art of the 15th to 18th centuries. One of the Hermitage’s great glories is that it has the largest collection of Rembrandts outside the Netherlands and one of the world’s finest collections of paintings by Rubens and Van Dyck. Many of which came from the Walpole collection at Houghton Hall in Norfolk, bought by

Catherine the Great at a knock down price from Sir Robert Walpole's dissolute grandson.



We saw Rembrandt's *Flora* (portrait of his wife) his *Sacrifice of Isaac* and his beautiful *Return of the Prodigal Son*. This was the painting I had longed to see and we were amazed there were not masses of people trying to get a look at it. Also, it surprised me that it was tucked away in a small side room.

This is the painting which is the subject of Henri Nouwen's book *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, which is a commentary on the well-known biblical story in the light of Nouwen's long hours of contemplation in front of the painting.

We then saw 3 rooms of English art from the 17th to 19th centuries which included 3 paintings by Sir Joshua Reynolds and Gainsborough's portrait of a *Lady in Blue* and Joseph Wright's painting *The Forge*. (most of these paintings were also from the Walpole collection at Houghton Hall). We also saw the famous 944 piece *Green Frog service* made by Josiah Wedgwood for Catherine's Chesma Palace.



The story behind this is contained in A. N. Wilson's biographical novel of Josiah Wedgwood *The Potter's hand*.

After lunch in the Hermitage café, we were able to stay on and see the amazing collection of French impressionist paintings and some of the unique collection of paintings by Matisse and Picasso. We came away feeling we had only 'scratched the surface' and wishing we could spend more time in this wonderful museum.

If you are still reading this article I thank you for your patience and perseverance. I thank all those who have kindly expressed appreciation of part 1 of this diary. I think I have gone on for long enough so I will not

bore you with our memorable visit to the Hermitage theatre to see Swan Lake or our memorable visit on day 4 to Catherine's Palace at Pushkin!

We came away from St. Petersburg conscious that there were so many places we had not visited but grateful for all we had seen and done, grateful to our wonderful guide Tanya, our helpful drivers and hotel staff. I am also grateful for the fellowship and friendliness of our fellow travellers who helped to make the trip so enjoyable and worthwhile.

And on a personal note, I would want to thank Chris for organizing the trip, for his great patience in helping me complete the 10 page online visa application, for being such a congenial travelling companion, and for his tremendous practical help with Mobie my mobility scooter.

Hugh Beavan

A week in the life of a Youthworker

I'm not sure, if everybody knows, what work I'm actually doing, so I thought it might be interesting for you, to see my "average" timetable...

Sunday: In my job, a normal working week starts on a Sunday... Junior church is a big part and I have to prepare a lot for it. But the children in the church are (most of the time) just lovely and I do really enjoy leading Junior church. After church I sometimes get invited by families and I love spending time with them and learn more about the whole English culture... Once a month we normally have OMG (youth group), where I have just started to lead the sessions on my own- so that's a challenge that I appreciate.

Monday: A normal Monday starts for me with working in the office... Every week there's something different to do. Regular things, like preparing for Junior church, OMG, Holy Communion or different services are parts of my tasks. In the evening I help with 7th Heaven (Dance group) and SL Club (children's choir). Sometimes there are meetings or House groups after that, but normally I have a little bit free time.

Tuesday: Everything starts with Morning prayer. There's nothing for me to do, just to join in and read a passage from the bible. After that I have my supervision meetings with Teresa. There we talk about my tasks, experiences, hopes and aims for the future... All in all, we talk about many things! In the afternoon I have to work in the office and continue with preparation-things. Quite often I have to update the youth-and Junior church-website and write articles for the church magazine...

Wednesday: The earliest time I have to start in the morning is on Wednesday. At 8:30 Pauline, Daphne and I get ready for many children with their mums (dads, or nannies). There's a lot to set up, so that all the toys are ready for the children to play, when they arrive. While Parent & Toddler is running, I usually go down to the coffee-meeting after the service, to chat with all the people and socialize. I love to talk to people with different stories and personalities! In the evening I help with cubs. That's sometimes really fun and sometimes just exhausting!

Thursday: It's really difficult to explain, what I'm doing in my "office time"... It could sound, that I've got nothing to do, but actually there are just a few days, when I'm not busy. Like I said, always different things to think about. One time I had to do a Mothers Union talk, another time

doing some craft activities for Junior church, develop some actions for a new Junior church song, organizing services, or designing invitations for Holy Communion or OMG-services. A few weeks ago Teresa and I had to lead a church-evening for the Rainbows (young girl-scouts). That was really fun! And just to help in the normal rainbow-sessions is one of my favourites during the week. Beavers afterwards are fun as well, especially to learn the promise in sign language.

Friday, Saturday: Normally these are my free days. But sometimes when we have rehearsals or preparations for services (eg. Christingle, 5th events) to do, I'm working as well...

All in all I really like my job. Of course there are ups and downs, especially when you're living in another country! But I never had the feeling, that I would rather be at home, that being here- and I think that shows how much I so enjoy my time here. All the new experiences I will take home... And who knows, maybe I'll be the first one in Germany, who starts a Christingle service or Holy Communion. Who knows???

Mia

Morning and Evening Prayer

Prayer is a very important part of our everyday Christian life.

On Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of each week we have morning Prayer at 09-00am here in this beautiful church. It is a time when we can thank God for our safe keeping through the night and to and ask God's blessing for the day ahead.

On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week we have Evening Prayer at 5-00pm. This is an opportunity to reflect on the day and offer to God everything that has happened—good or bad.

A Parishioner Remembers: A Railway Journey Circa 1926

A week today we're going away!

The calendar on the nursery wall,
Hung there by Mother, as I recall,
So that we wouldn't forever say,
"When, oh! When are going away?"

"A week to go!" Mother started to load
The old green trunk, it would go by road.
Then in the window, where all would see,
We placed the sign with the letters 'CP'.

"Carter Paterson", in days of yore
Transported luggage from door to door,
Leaving Mother, with baby, free
To keep an eye on Diana and me.

To Paddington Station we then made haste.
On arriving there, to the stall we raced
To buy a comic for me to read,
"Tiger Tim's" fulfilled my need.

Diana's search brought this results;
A 'paper back', much more adult!
Then back to the barrier we would scamper,
While mother asked about the hamper!

For, at that time, you were certainly able
To order a hamper, and they would cable
Down the line (where you were heading),
A station you passed, like the town of Reading.

We stopped at Reading, saw a Porter dodge
Among the crowd, shouting 'Mrs Hodge'
Mother beckoned, and the Porter passed
In through the door, our next repast.

Hot tea, a salad, a plate of cold meat.
Cups and cutlery, and even a sweet
That we ate with glee, while Mother did see
To the needs of the baby, upon her knee.

Anthony John was the baby's name,
We loved him dearly, and our aim
Was to keep him happy and a game devise
To see his smile, and his bright blue eyes.

Our Mother told us what we could spy
From the train window as we sped by;
Castles, White Horses, and cottages small,
A church, and buildings thatched with straw.

Our lunch we'd finished ere we would reach
To where the track ran beside the beach.
The waves were breaking, so close at hand
You'd see the children on the sand.

At Newton Abbot, we then stopped,
Our luncheon hamper to be dropped.
They often changed the driver here
Which meant a wait, till all was clear.

But we did get moving, after a time,
And now the train had hills to climb,
Bridges to cross and a tunnel or two
Before the moors came into view.

Our Mother pointed out the Tors,
Those rocky outcrops on the moors
And then the rivers, that run so fast,
Reminding mother of her childhood past.

With views of Dartmoor in the sun,
The train began its downhill run
Towards our final destination,
And journey's end, at Plymouth Station.

Where Cousin Sydney and Auntie Kate
Would wait for us, at the platform gate.
To take us by car, yes, all the way
To Auntie's home, where we would stay.

David Hodge

Junior Church Garden

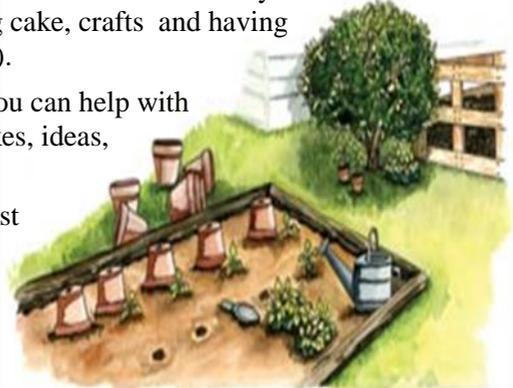
My next big project for Junior Church is to create a Junior Church Garden. It will be a great opportunity for all the children to learn about faith by growing, planting, eating and caring for God's creation. But to put the whole Garden into practice I need a lot of help!

The Junior Church children will start to raise money at different events from now on, Including selling cake, crafts and having a Coffee Morning (29th March).

If anyone likes to support us, you can help with small things, like providing cakes, ideas, equipment or money...

I hope to be able to open the first St. Leonard's Junior Church Garden, soon...

Yours, **Mia**



Coffee Mornings

Our first Coffee Morning of 2014 will be held on **8th March** at **10.30am -12 noon** at **18 Scott Drive,**

by kind invitation of Ann Matthews, a Mothers' Union member.

There will be a Raffle and Bring & Buy of produce, plants and books.

Please come along and bring your friends.

JUNIOR CHURCH (Mia Fuchs) are holding a Coffee Morning to raise funds for a **Junior Church Garden**

to be established in the Churchyard. (Exact site still to be decided upon).

This will on **Saturday, 29th March** from **10.30am to 12noon**

at either **45 Lexden Road,** by kind invitation of Sarah Orr

or at **The Rectory**

Please see the Church Weekly Notices for more details

but keep the date and time free.

Jean Hallett