



# St Leonard's

Ordinary People, Extraordinary God



## Parish Magazine

April 2014

## Bishop Stephen's Easter Message 2014



There aren't many of us that get through life without some sort of disappointment. For the pessimists among us this is no surprise! They always knew life was too good to be true. For the realists it is business as usual. But even for the optimists there is a veiled disappointment. Rewards aren't always as rewarding

as we hoped; and in the end the grave waits patiently for everyone.

The disciples of Jesus also knew a great deal about disappointment. At times they'd let themselves down, and worse, at times they'd let Jesus down. Not enough faith to heal, not able to see Jesus clearly, not even able to stay awake when he asked them. They competitively jostle for position. Optimists like Peter and pessimists like Thomas, their failures are accentuated. They both end up doubting and denying. But on the day Jesus is executed, this disappointment takes on a new dimension. This motley crew of disciples, fragmented and broken, watch as life drains from Jesus' pain racked body.

Would there ever be a day of such total despair again? All hope collapses into the abyss. Hoping itself is hopeless. Even the faithful women who had followed Jesus from Galilee, stand at a distance watching these things, and in abject horror reflect the anguished face of disappointment.

But this is not the end. From the gut-churning agony of watching a loved one die, overwhelming joy emerges. The unthinkable happens.

**In the midst of pain, darkness and death the miracle of resurrected life breaks forth.**

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the sign of God's power to break into all disappointment, all failure, all human sinfulness and all wrongdoing. It is the world's greatest story of redemption. It is the remedy for disappointment and the source of hopefulness.

We need this redemption today. We need it in our personal lives. We need it in our families. We need it in our management of the world's resources.

We need it in our political priorities. There is so much sadness, regret, anguish and despair about. Many of us have stopped believing things could be better. We simply try to salvage some hope for ourselves, and disregard the needs of our neighbour. God can redeem this. God can speak Into our disappointment. God can raise things up.

The resurrection of Jesus is not just one incredible isolated event in history it's the way of making sense of life today. It is a new way of looking at everything. Through the cross and resurrection there is an ever present, ever available *new beginning*; hope offered to every human life and to every entrenched hope-less situation. He is risen from the dead! That is the great cry of Easter joy. It is also the great hope for the world.

Happy Easter!

**+Stephen Chelmsford**

Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford

# Diary for April

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup>

10.30am Holy Communion at Wren House  
12noon Lexden Ladies Lunch at Barnplants  
2.30pm Holy Communion at the Old Rectory

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>

10.00am The Eucharist with prayers for healing, followed by Open Church  
11.15am Lent Course in church 'Pilgrim' - The Lord's Prayer  
10.45am Holy Communion at Woodlands  
11.30am Holy Communion at Cheviot  
7.30pm Lent Course in church 'Pilgrim' - The Lord's Prayer

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

Friday 4<sup>th</sup>

10am Lexden Springs Easter Service in church

**SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup>: Easter 5, Passiontide begins**

**8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and Sermon**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup>

5pm Contemplative Prayer in the Lady Chapel

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>

2.30pm Mother's Union  
7.30pm 'Medley' House Group at 20 Wordsworth Road (Tel Rosemary 515245)

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>

10.00am The 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 10<sup>th</sup>:  
8.00am The Eucharist

### **SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup>: Palm Sunday**

**8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)**  
**9.45am All Age Eucharist and parade service (please meet in the hall before the service if you are able); guest speaker Sam Firth (a Scout)**  
**6.30pm Stainer's Crucifixion**

### **HOLY WEEK**

#### **14<sup>th</sup>: Monday of Holy Week**

**9am Eucharist for Holy Week in the Lady Chapel**

**3pm Holy Communion**

**7.30pm Compline and address**

#### **15<sup>th</sup>: Tuesday of Holy Week**

**9am Eucharist for Holy Week in the Lady Chapel**

**7.30pm Compline and address**

#### **16<sup>th</sup>: Wednesday of Holy Week**

**10.00am The Eucharist: a healing and reconciliation service**

**7.30pm Compline and address**

#### **17<sup>th</sup>: Maundy Thursday**

**7.30pm Eucharist with foot washing and The Watch until midnight**

### **Good Friday**

**8.40am The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

**9am Morning Prayer and Litany**

**10.00am All Age Service for Good Friday (followed by Hot Cross Buns)**

**12 noon- 2.30pm 'The Seven Last Words'**

**2.30pm – 3pm The Good Friday Liturgy with Devotions at the Cross**

### **Holy Saturday**

**7.30pm Vigil Service and lighting of the Easter fire**



**SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup> April: Easter Day**

**8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist (followed by Egg Rolling and Easter Bonnet Parade)**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>

10.00am The Eucharist with prayers for healing, followed by Open Church

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

**SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup>: Easter I**

**8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong**

Monday 28<sup>th</sup>

11.00 Holy Communion at Hill House

7.45 Annual Parochial Church Meeting in church

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup>

10.00am The Eucharist with prayers for healing, followed by Open Church

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

**Lexden Arts Festival begins (10.30 am - 4.30 pm)**

**12.30 and 2.30 Lunches available**

**7.30 pm Patrick McCarthy Recital**

**SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> May**

**8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)**

**9.45am: All Age Worship**

**Arts Festival - 1.00 pm - 4.30 pm**

**6.30pm: Parish Eucharist**

# From the Rectory



## Worship in Holy Week and Easter

How are you planning to spend Holy Week – will you be able to make it special this year? Holy Week is the heart of the centre of Liturgical Season which runs from Ash Wednesday through to Pentecost – Lent, Holy Week and Easter. The French, Italians, Danes and Greeks all take their word for Easter from the word for Passover so it holds the richer fuller meaning of the word Passover, unlike our word Easter which so often we understand to mean Easter Day. So when we speak of the Paschal Mystery – we are, of course, referring to the whole event of Holy Week – Christ’s suffering, death and resurrection.

Holy Week commences with Palm Sunday and the Commemoration of Our Lord’s entry into Jerusalem. At the end of Holy Week we enter the heart of the Paschal celebration the Paschal Triduum – the three days, beginning with the Liturgy of Maundy Thursday, embracing the Liturgy of Good Friday, and concluding with Easter Day.

It is the Easter Liturgy – the series of services which cover the whole of the Triduum - which is the climax of the season. As one commentator writes – *‘it will never have the easy and immediate popular appeal of Midnight Mass’* – and there will be some churches where it will never be possible to celebrate it in its entirety. But here we do have opportunities for walking with our Lord leading up to the celebrations of Easter Day (please do check the diary and see when you can join us).

It helps to see the liturgies of the Triduum as one continuum – one single rite spread over three days if you like. We need to see the importance of observing all three parts of the Triduum – seeing them as an integrated celebration. People who attend the Easter Liturgy for the first time will often say ‘Wow!’ I never knew we did this – that it was so moving, so dramatic, so joyful...

But we need to travel from *‘on this night when he was betrayed he took bread...’* – through the darkness and desolation of Good Friday to *‘This is*

*the night*’ sung in the Exsultet on Easter Eve – the Easter hymn of praise sung at the Paschal Candle.

#### The Triduum: Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday is a dramatic celebration of the Eucharist of the Last Supper begins in festive mood and ends in darkness and anguish as the Christ, who has celebrated his last meal with his friends, goes out into the night to confront the reality of his sacrificial vocation. It *‘is the supreme example in the Church’s year of liturgy as formation’* (Richard Giles). What he means by that is that on the night of the new commandment, as the feet are washed, the bread is broken, Christians are called to model their lives on the actions of the one who commands them to do this in memory of him. We are shaped by this liturgy – in fact many would say that this liturgy is one of the most moving and formative of all the liturgies of the Triduum.

#### The Triduum: Good Friday

It is not customary to celebrate the Eucharist on Good Friday as there is no historical precedent, and to do so would draw attention away from the prime focus of the liturgy – the cross, but it is appropriate to consume the sacrament reserved from the previous night. This year, before Morning Prayer we will have the ‘Liturgy of the Sacrament’ where there will be a short service to prayerfully consume the reserved sacrament. Later that day we will have the opportunity to set aside three hours to be with our Lord, finishing with the Liturgy of Good Friday.

#### The Triduum: Easter Eve

For the Jews the Sabbath began on the evening before, so on Easter Eve we begin the celebrations for Easter *‘This is the night’* we sing in the Exsultet. As darkness falls we hear the story of God’s relationship with his people through history, we light the Easter fire and bring the ‘light of Christ’ into the church; the Pascal candle is lit, the Exsultet is sung and we make a lot of joyful noise... confident in the resurrection of Our Lord and ready for Easter Day.

Happy Easter – when we get there!

**Teresa**

### CARDS

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

**Owen Shepherd**

## **“Inside Out” – our Mission for Lexden – 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

Preparations for “Inside Out”, our week of community events, are well underway but we still need your help.

Christ calls us all to be disciples and to spread The Word of his love. This week is not about fund-raising (entrance to all the events is free) – it’s about opening up our Church to the wider community and showing them that Christians are actually fairly normal people who simply want to share our faith. So we need people to be at every event to welcome our visitors and make them feel comfortable in what, for some of them, may be an unfamiliar environment.

The other thing we need all of you to do is pray. We want this event to be surrounded and enfolded with prayer and we made a good start with this at our day of Guided Prayer on March 1<sup>st</sup>. There is a special mission prayer included in the weekly newsletter and in intercessions and we hope everyone will include it in their daily prayer at home.

There are lots of other jobs to do as well from delivering flyers advertising the events to baking cakes, helping serve refreshments or setting up and clearing up after events. So if you can help in any way please let Jacquie Messenger know – your help will be gratefully received.

Please get involved in whatever way you can – we are just ordinary people but we do have an extraordinary God and with His help anything is possible.

**Esther**

### **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



# Stainer Crucifixion

Sunday 13th April 2014, 6.30pm

St Leonard's Church, Lexden

Richard Mason - Tenor

Martyn Woodland - Bass

John Barker - Organist

Sarah Blake - Conductor



## LEXDEN LADIES' GROUP

For our first meeting of the year, 27 members and friends welcomed The Rev. Canon Hugh Beavan once again. He related some of the changes which have taken place in the Church of England in the 40 years of his ministry. We were reminded of the changes to the liturgy with the different rites in the Eucharist service from even before the 1662 Prayer Book to the many variations today in Common Worship; the modern translations of the Bible; the changes to the services of Baptism, Marriage and Burial; the loss of Sunday to sport and now to shopping and its effect on Sunday Schools and, of course the changes to the role of women in the Church which is still ongoing today. Hugh spoke much from his own experience relating, for example, that, in some churches, women were not allowed to go into the Sanctuary unless they were doing the flowers or cleaning the floor! Thank you, Hugh, for a most interesting afternoon.

We meet on **April 1st**  
at **Barnplants Coffee Shop** for lunch,  
**12.15 for 12.30pm.**

If you haven't already done so,  
please let me know if you want to come.

I need to know what you wish to eat beforehand, please.

**Please note that there will be no meeting in May.**

**Margaret Tel: 579629**

### **Some Forthcoming Dates**

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

**APCM** 28<sup>th</sup> April

**Tea Party for all House Groups** 1<sup>st</sup> June

**Summer Fete** 5<sup>th</sup> July

**Parish Retreat** 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> July

**PCC Meetings** 12<sup>th</sup> May, 23<sup>rd</sup> June

## **Colchester Chamber Choir Joint Fundraising Concert**

Colchester Chamber Choir have most generously agreed to perform a Fund raising Concert with the proceeds split 50/50 between St Leonard's Church and the Choir in St Leonard's Church on **Sunday 29th June 2014 at 2.30 pm** - see advertisement opposite.

The first half of the Concert will last about 45 minutes and the programme will include the Miserere by Allegri and sacred works by Monteverdi, Bach, Bruckner, Poulenc and Durufle.

Following an interval during which light refreshments will be on sale the second half, lasting around 30 minutes, will include the Choir's first performance of Vaughan Williams' 3 Shakespeare Songs as well as secular works by Wilbye, Sterndale Bennett, Pearsall, Stanford and Elgar.

Tickets costing £10 can be purchased from Sally Pudney, Graham Bell and Robin Greatorex or from the Parish Office and they will also be available on the door.

**Tom Scrimgeour**

## **Collection Boxes for Lent 2014**

These are now available at the back of the church for your financial support of the Church Mission Society and Us (formerly U.S.P.G.), as has been the case in previous years. Please put your name and a contact telephone no. on the sheet and don't forget to include your details on the boxes also, thank you.

Your support will help to continue the work they do in bringing the love of God to many people in the areas of our broken and troubled world.

Counting of the contents of these boxes will begin in the week commencing Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> April for the forwarding of monies to the charities as soon as possible. Boxes can be returned to the church or handed to **Philip Kershaw or Pamela Calvert**.



COLCHESTER  
CHAMBER  
CHOIR

Director  
RODERICK EARLE

SACRED  
AND  
PROFANE

European choral music  
including  
Allegri's Miserere  
& Stanford's The Bluebird

Sunday 29th June 2.30pm  
St Leonards Church, Lexden  
CO3 4BL

tickets £10  
phone parish office  
(Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri mornings)  
01206 575565

email  
[admin@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:admin@stleonardslexden.org.uk)  
[sally@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:sally@stleonardslexden.org.uk)  
tickets also available at door  
light refreshments on sale in interval

[www.colchesterchamberchoir.org](http://www.colchesterchamberchoir.org)  
registered charity number: 1149515

## **A Guided Day of Prayer - What a Revelation**

I had seen the announcement for 'A Guided Day of Prayer' in the Parish Magazine and thought it sounded interesting but had the usual apprehensions - what did it entail, would I know what to do, would I know anyone, would I be bored, so rather put it to the back of my mind. Anyway, that Saturday morning unexpectedly became free, so I made a last minute decision to just drop in for the Instructed Eucharist. There were about 25 of us and it was held in the choir stalls as we do on a Wednesday. However I was surprised to see Teresa without any vestments on and even more surprised to be told that, as she donned each piece, she said a special prayer. Rosemary and Esther then explained each part of the service as Teresa took it and I was amazed how enlightening it was and how much I took for granted - or never knew!

I was so enthralled by what I had heard and seen that I decided to stay on for the Contemplative Prayer in the Lady Chapel. This was half an hour of calming music, candles, a sheet of prayers to follow if we wanted plus Teresa took us through a beautiful meditation exercise before a free half hour to either continue to pray, light a candle, go through the Prayer Labyrinth or take in the Prayer Stations. I chose the latter and found it all very thought provoking especially writing a worry down, shredding it and passing it to God.

So I left inspired, really wishing I could have stayed for lunch and the afternoon sessions as it will certainly add another dimension to my prayers and celebrating the Eucharist in the future. I am therefore extremely grateful to Teresa and her team for all their time, hard work and efforts and I am definitely blocking out the whole day in my diary if it is ever repeated.

**Sue Lewis**

## **The hazards for two wheels**

My heart goes out to the friends and relatives of those killed in cycling accidents. I cycled hundreds of miles in London and to college near Romford in the early 70s. The feeling I could get round and through the traffic gave me a sense of superiority. The vastness of London shrank before my wheels. If someone had booked cheap preview tickets for a

show in the West End I would take orders for coffee in our flat afterwards, in the knowledge that I would be home before anyone else and the coffee would be getting cold by the time they arrived. After a weekend away and a long train journey back to the flat, I was overjoyed to be back on my bicycle again. It was paradoxical that an activity which rendered one so vulnerable could confer such a sense of empowerment. Restrictions, which would have been unavoidable for the car driver, could be easily overcome. My flat-mate joked to someone giving us a lift in his car, that he should be careful taking directions from me as this might involve lifting the car over a wall. This same friend had followed the progress of my bicycle which I had brought back from Amsterdam in 1969. As the months went on and parts were replaced, he observed to my incredulous parents that the only original thing left on it was the bell.

On my return from Amsterdam, as part of the course I was about to embark on, I had a job placement in Tooley Street, London Bridge, for a firm that stored business records for firms in the City. I was their emergency courier for files required at short notice. The cost of this service was minimal; the bill to the client, I suspect, substantial. It was different 40 years ago. There were very few traffic lanes of any sort let alone cycle tracks. The presence of dedicated cycle lanes implies possession and rights. When this translates into high speed and a feeling of invulnerability it is easy for cyclists to forget that they are still the junior partner. It was gratifying to hear a cyclist talking on the radio and deploring the behaviour of certain other cyclists. I recall once jumping the red light at a pelican crossing on the Mile End Road and being stopped by the police and given a very stern lecture. One wonders if the police would have time for anything else if they were to be as assiduous today. Recently I was travelling in my van between Tower Bridge and Elephant and Castle in the rush hour and one young cyclist jumped the lights. These were not even on their pedestrian phase and I watched as she weaved between the cars as they attempted to join the Ring Road at that point. It occurred to me that cyclists might be lured into a feeling of safety in numbers, for there were huge numbers on the Ring Road that evening, travelling past the Elephant and Castle and onwards along the A3.

My first encounter with mortality was a collision with a van turning right across my path into a petrol station. I survived to hear him say 'Sorry, mate, I didn't see you'. I went out and bought reflective clothing. On the next occasion I moved up to the left of a lorry as we both prepared to pull

out on to the main road. The lorry turned left and ran over my front wheel. We had both been travelling up the street [the Cut, near Waterloo] the wrong way. There was little to compare with my other encounter with a lorry on the A13 as I returned to my first flat in Ilford. The traffic was slow moving but an imperfection on the road suddenly had me spread-eagled in the path of the lorry in question. The lorry was barely crawling and stopped without problem but the sight of the cab looming over me in the dark was not easily forgotten.

What does being 20-something confer if not a sense of immortality? Segregated traffic lanes may only serve to increase that. Nothing, in the end, changes the fundamental law of the road: both to drive and cycle with due care and attention. We must surely all look out for one another: the vehicle for the other vehicle; the vehicle for the bicycle; but also the bicycle for the vehicle and, with today's numbers, the bicycle for the bicycle. At least I survived to be a witness to what could hardly be described as my finest hour as a road user. Those who lost their lives recently were not so fortunate. There, but for the grace of God .....

**Robin Greatorex.**



## MOTHERS UNION

Our March meeting took the form of a Holy Communion service led by Canon Hugh Beavan. We are grateful to him for taking the service and preaching on the Lords Prayer to link with our Lent Course.

After the service we enjoyed a cup of tea and perused our accounts (which are not very healthy). We thank Dorcas Smith for keeping them so efficiently. She is not to blame as we have a fall in membership.

The next meeting will be on

**April 8th**

when **Mrs Sonia Lewis** will be our speaker.

Do come and bring ideas for a summer outing .

Please support us at this difficult time whilst we are leaderless .

**Joan Kitson**



# THE LEXDEN ARTS FESTIVAL

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH  
CO3 4BL

MUSIC, ARTS & CRAFTS

3RD-10TH MAY 2014

[www.lexdenartsfestival.org.uk](http://www.lexdenartsfestival.org.uk)

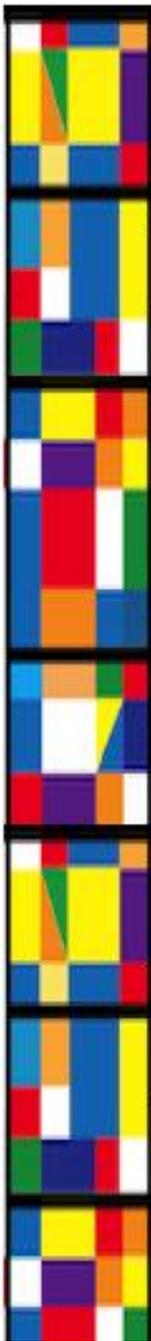
## EXHIBITING ARTISTS

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

CASH OR CHEQUES ONLY

## Opening Times

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



**THE  
LEXDEN  
ARTS  
FESTIVAL**

**ST LEONARD'S CHURCH  
CO3 4BL**

**MUSIC, ARTS & CRAFTS**

**3RD-10TH MAY 2014**

**[www.lexdenartsfestival.org.uk](http://www.lexdenartsfestival.org.uk)**

**Patrick McCarthy**  
with Stephen Evans

**Saturday 3rd May 2014**

**AN EVENING OF ENGLISH SONG**

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 also conducts many other East Anglian choirs and orchestras.



Refreshments available  
£10 admission  
7.30pm

THIS CONCERT IS  
SPONSORED BY

[www.oakshospital.co.uk](http://www.oakshospital.co.uk)

**Oaks Hospital**

Tickets reserved from the website,  
The St Leonard's 'Box Office': opening hours between  
11:30am-2pm every Saturday and Sunday during April '14  
or Red Lion Books, High Street, Colchester

Further details contact:

[graham@lexdenartsfestival.org.uk](mailto:graham@lexdenartsfestival.org.uk)



**THE  
LEXDEN  
ARTS  
FESTIVAL**

**ST LEONARD'S CHURCH  
CO3 4BL**

**MUSIC, ARTS & CRAFTS**

**3RD-10TH MAY 2014**

**[www.lexdenartsfestival.org.uk](http://www.lexdenartsfestival.org.uk)**

**FILM NIGHT**

**MONDAY 5TH MAY 2014**

**7pm START**

**AN 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.  
&

The incredible true story of a  
great leader that inspired the world.

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

**FREE ADMISSION      RETIRING COLLECTION**

**Refreshments available**

**OWEN AVES**  
OPTICIANS

**THIS EVENING IS SPONSORED  
BY**

**[www.owenaves.com](http://www.owenaves.com)**

**The St Leonard's 'Box Office': opening hours between  
11:30am - 2pm every Saturday and Sunday  
during April 2014**

**Further details contact:**

**[graham@lexdenartsfestival.org.uk](mailto:graham@lexdenartsfestival.org.uk)**

**THE  
LEXDEN  
ARTS  
FESTIVAL**

**ST LEONARD'S CHURCH  
CO3 4BL**

**MUSIC, ARTS & CRAFTS**

**3RD-10TH MAY 2014**

**[www.lexdenartsfestival.org.uk](http://www.lexdenartsfestival.org.uk)**

**MATYAS**



**AND THE HYBRID MIND**

**with Rich Nolan**

**Wednesday 7th May 2014**

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.

£10 admission

Refreshments available

7.30pm

**KB**  
Kent  
Blaxill

THIS CONCERT IS SPONSORED BY

[www.kentblaxill.co.uk](http://www.kentblaxill.co.uk)

**KB**  
Kent  
Blaxill

Tickets reserved from the website,  
The St Leonard's 'Box Office': opening hours between  
11:30am-2pm every Saturday and Sunday during April '14  
or Red Lion Books, High Street, Colchester

Further details contact:

[graham@lexdenartsfestival.org.uk](mailto:graham@lexdenartsfestival.org.uk)



**THE  
LEXDEN  
ARTS  
FESTIVAL**

**ST LEONARD'S CHURCH  
CO3 4BL**

**MUSIC, ARTS & CRAFTS**

**3RD-10TH MAY 2014**

**[www.lexdenartsfestival.org.uk](http://www.lexdenartsfestival.org.uk)**

**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

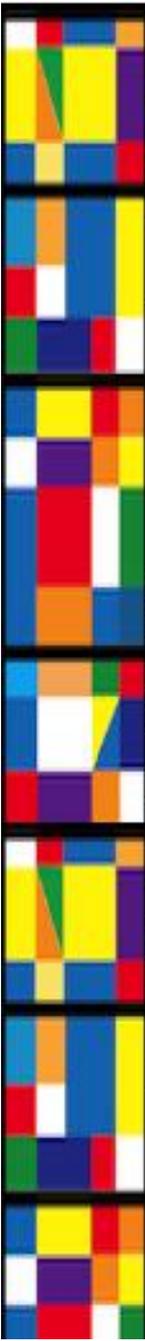
11am-4pm

Lunches & refreshments available

Tickets from: The St Leonard's 'Box Office':  
opening hours between 11:30am - 2pm  
every Saturday and Sunday during April 2014  
or Red Lion Books, High Street, Colchester

Further details contact:

[graham@lexdenartsfestival.org.uk](mailto:graham@lexdenartsfestival.org.uk)



**THE  
LEXDEN  
ARTS  
FESTIVAL**

**ST LEONARD'S CHURCH  
CO3 4BL**

**MUSIC, ARTS & CRAFTS**

**3RD-10TH MAY 2014**

**[www.lexdenartsfestival.org.uk](http://www.lexdenartsfestival.org.uk)**

## **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.



£10 admission

Refreshments available

7.30pm

Under 12's £5

Not suitable for children under 8

**Hatfields**  
HOME FURNISHERS

THIS EVENING IS SPONSORED BY

[www.hatfieldsofcolchester.com](http://www.hatfieldsofcolchester.com)

Tickets reserved from the website,  
The St Leonard's 'Box Office': opening hours between  
11:30am-2pm every Saturday and Sunday during April '14  
or Red Lion Books, High Street, Colchester

Further details contact:

[graham@lexdenartsfestival.org.uk](mailto:graham@lexdenartsfestival.org.uk)



# THE LEXDEN ARTS FESTIVAL

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH  
CO3 4BL

MUSIC, ARTS & CRAFTS

3RD-10TH MAY 2014

[www.lexdenartsfestival.org.uk](http://www.lexdenartsfestival.org.uk)

## The Marenzio Singers

with Alan Bullard (Keyboard) & Jeremy Hughes (Cello)



### A MAY GARLAND

**Saturday 10th May 2014**

An established vocal quintet performing music from the 16th-21st centuries. Their core repertoire includes sacred and secular music, songs from the baroque era, with keyboard and cello accompaniment, and part-songs with a particular floral flavour.

£10 admission Refreshments available 7.30pm



CAPELCOURT

THIS CONCERT IS SPONSORED  
BY

[www.capelcourt.com](http://www.capelcourt.com)

Tickets reserved from the website,  
The St Leonard's 'Box Office': opening hours between  
11:30am-2pm every Saturday and Sunday during April '14  
or Red Lion Books, High Street, Colchester

Further details contact:

[graham@lexdenartsfestival.org.uk](mailto:graham@lexdenartsfestival.org.uk)

## England- from a different perspective...

It is just great, how much you learn about another culture, when you actually live in it! I'm here already for over half a year and experienced a lot. England is a lot like Germany, but totally different! I know that this sounds funny, but there is no better way in describing it!



Let's start with one well known stereotype: The "bad" weather... I have to admit, that it rained a lot, but I realised, that it was very unusual (even for England)... I think the reason for that is the global warming, so I can't blame the country for that. But just because of that I learned one important thing: weather can influence your mood, but it doesn't have to! And you are even happier, when the sun actually comes out for some time.

Another obvious thing is/was the problem, with the other side of the road. But in one of our seminars we learned right from the beginning: It's not wrong, just different. And actually, it's pretty cool, that not everything's the same in every county. And after a few weeks I got used to the other side, but when I went to Paris a few weeks ago, I got really confused again.

Maybe some of you know, that I really like to go swimming... I have to admit, that I was a little bit disappointed of the pool, but I really liked the labels, that say how fast you swim on that lane... Great idea! (But still, the pool is really small.)

Of course there are so many things, that are different to home, but after a long period of time, you get used to it! I really don't know, how I can survive without baked beans, cream tea(!!!), porridge for breakfast, being near the sea, without all the nice people, e.g. when I'll go home. I already miss all of that. But I'm sure of one thing: I will always love drinking tea!!!

## Cream Tea



**Mia**

## First Sunday of Lent



Today we were privileged to have The Revd. Canon Edward Carter (Canon Theologian), with us at the 09.45 Service.

Edward preached a very enlightening sermon based on the three readings of the day, speaking of the ‘ups and downs’ of our faith, and how important it is to try and even out the ‘ups and downs’.

Following the morning worship 58 members of the parish came together to listen to Edward further as he lead a session on the Lord’s Prayer.

He told us of his challenge to go out into the parishes of the Diocese of Chelmsford to stimulate and enliven his listeners.

He gave us the task of discussing what ‘Prayer is’? This generated some very stimulating conversations. Those present, generally agreed that prayer is our way of communicating with God.

Edward then took us through the most well-known prayer of all, from Mathews Gospel, ‘The Lord’s Prayer’. Edward discussed each line of the prayer, sharing his thoughts on what Jesus was telling us in this prayer. His main theme was that this prayer represents the connection between heaven and earth, Edward asked us to discuss the prayer, with this fresh look on it in mind.

Once again a lively discussion ensued.

Edward finished his talk by leaving us with the analogy that ‘the Lord’s Prayer’ is like a ‘Tug of War’ with us tugging on the rope to bring heaven to earth. He said that sometimes when the rope feels like it is pulling away from us, it is similar to the way we feel when our faith feels far off and out of reach. That when the rope appears not to be moving at all, one way or the other, it is like when we are striving forward in faith but it feels like we are getting nowhere. But every now and then the rope moves forward, and we find ourselves flourishing, and this brings us and those around us nearer to God and Heaven.

He left Teresa with a challenge, to lay a Tug of War rope up the aisle and for us **ALL** to hold onto the rope in prayer. He said that faith in God is there for us all, old and young, even a tiny baby, we all play a very important role in praying for heaven to be pulled nearer to earth and thus bringing God's love to all.

Edward then joined 28 parishioners in a shared lunch in the hall, for which we were very grateful to Maggie Whiteman and her team. Edward chatted over lunch as we ate together in fellowship. What a wonderful beginning to our Lenten Journey. **Julie Hinchcliffe**

### **The things I'm asked.....**

Actually – I don't mind people asking me questions – I don't promise to have the answers, but I can always find out! But I thought I'd share these...

*Why don't you make eye contact when you give me the host?*

This depends on the tradition you are coming from I think – I never (or, at least, rarely) make eye contact with communicants when I'm giving (or receiving) the sacrament because I was taught that the sacrament should be the focus of what's happening and we shouldn't be distracted by the person giving (or receiving) it. But other churches have different ways of doing it.

*Why do you (and lots of priests) wear black shirts?*

There are two or three reasons – one is partly because it makes you (and your clerical collar) more easily recognisable. The other is that the black represents a priest dying to self – showing that they put Christ first and their personal preferences second. A reminder that we are to give up the glamour of this world in preference for the life yet to come.

The black cassock stands for this as well. You may notice mine has 39 buttons (a Latin cassock) which is commonly (but probably inaccurately) held to represent the 39 articles. If you don't agree with an article you leave a button undone to indicate this...

There is also a school of thought which says that a black shirt (or cassock) is a reminder that we too are sinners and in need of God's mercy and grace.

**Teresa**

## **Christian Aid week 2014** **May 11<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>**

### ***Give people a future without fear***

We all know that violence and war tears lives apart. Christian Aid wants to help people suffering as a result of these terrors to rebuild their lives and turn their grief into hope. This year their strap line is:

**FEAR**  
**LESS**

If you are thinking that the date looks familiar, it is! It is the same week as our mission event *Inside Out*. We know that people will be very busy but we ask earnestly that you plan **now** to set aside a short time to deliver some envelopes and then a slightly longer time to collect them later in the week. Every little bit of help is really appreciated and the more volunteers we have the less each person has to do. It will be good to think that, as well as reaching out to our local community in that week, we are also helping those in great need in other parts of the world.

Some of you may like to try combining the delivering of envelopes with Prayer Walking (see article below). As busy people, we have to find ways to kill two birds with one stone.....

**Jean, John and Rosemary**

### **What is Prayer Walking?**

As you will have seen, we ended our Day of Guided Prayer with a Prayer Walk. What is that? It is just what it sounds like. You go for a walk and you pray....

A small group of us set off from church and walked down one of the less visited roads in our parish and as we walked we prayed. It would not have been obvious to anyone else what we were doing, because we did not stand and pray out loud. We simply commended people and situations to God as we walked. We thanked God for the natural world we encountered, we prayed for children in the park, people walking their dogs, the people who ran the local shop, those working on people's

houses etc. We prayed that our mission event *Inside Out* might reach out and touch those living in the area. If anyone had stopped and asked us what we were doing we would have told them, but we did not deliberately engage anyone in conversation.

This was the first time I had done a Prayer Walk, and I found it a very moving experience. I have since been on some more - on my own - and would offer this advice to anyone wanting to try it. It can be very tiring!!! Not because of the physical effort of walking, but because the process can become addictive. If you are not careful, you find yourself praying for every single person or situation you see and your mind becomes over active. I have had to remind myself that prayer is a two way conversation and that as well as talking to God I need to listen. He may have a plan for the people or the situation and I need to discern his will for it.

So, if you also allow yourself time to reflect and enjoy the freedom of walking through a beautiful footpath in our 'Leafy Lexden', it is both a pleasurable and a worthwhile experience.

**Rosemary Elden**

### **Healing and Reconciliation in Holy Week**



You may have noticed from the diary that there is a Healing Service on the Wednesday in Holy Week. At this service there will be the opportunity to receive the laying on of hands and anointing with Holy Oil, for those who wish to do so. There will also be prayer ministry offered – members of the prayer and ministry team will be available to pray with and for you, a ministry which is completely confidential.

Following that, in the afternoon, there will be the opportunity to explore the sacrament of reconciliation (confession) in church. If you are interested in exploring what this is about, or making your confession, please put a tick the appropriate box on the list which will be at the back of church in Holy Week (no names necessary) and then just turn up at the right time.

**Teresa**

## Do we sanitise the crucifixion?



You may, or may not, have noticed that there is a new addition to the Nicholls Room. It is a large wooden crucifix hanging where the plain wooden cross (which is put on the altar for Lent) usually hangs. I'm sure you have spotted that I say crucifix and not cross, because this one has a 'corpus' – the body of Christ crucified – in bronze, and it was given to St Leonard's as a gift.

Some people, apparently, are not very comfortable with this, which I find a little difficult to understand. We talk frequently in our liturgies of Christ crucified, we have a large image of the crucifixion in the East window and a crucifix above the pulpit. Without the crucifixion there would have been no resurrection... it is a central tenet of our faith. We proclaim it in the creed every Sunday.

And this has led me to thinking - do we sometimes try to sanitise the cross and remove from it all the pain that the Lord endured? Is it better if we smooth it with machinery, or even put in a few diamonds or plate it with gold, and thus remove all traces of the pain and death it represents?

Are we too quick to remove the wounded and helpless figure on the cross so that we do not need to look at his face or body, thus avoiding having to face our guilt? Are we ready to discuss all the theories about what happened on the cross and the technical details of how he died, but refuse to look into his eyes?

As we journey through Lent we come to Passiontide – when we are reminded of the suffering of our Lord in the words of the liturgy, the hymns and the prayers. We weep for the tragedy of Jesus' death, but are far removed from the pain, anguish and down-right sadistic punishment that went on that day – and every day. Crucifixion was horrible, and common, and when Jesus suffered it none of his followers expected that anything good might follow.

If we stand in front of the East window and look deeply, and feel the profound pain and really appreciate the sacrifice of divine love, then we

would be ready to really celebrate the Resurrection of the one who was cruelly beaten, stripped and humiliated on the cross.

To reduce the death of Jesus to an idea, to ‘gloss over’ what actually happened at the crucifixion, is to miss the depth of his suffering, and to deny his incarnation in human flesh.

Yes, we need the empty crosses – to remind us of the victory of the resurrection – but we also need the crucifixes, to remind us of the price Jesus paid for us.

**Teresa**



Fauré      Requiem

Poulenc      Gloria

Rutter      Gloria

Mendelssohn      The Hebrides

Kingfisher Sinfonietta led by Beth Spendlove  
Conductor: John Chillingworth

St Botolph's Church, Colchester  
Saturday 26th April 2014 7.30pm

Tickets £12.00 (Concession £10)  
From: Mann's Music, Phone 01206 766906/  
[lexdenchoral.org](http://lexdenchoral.org/) / or at the door