



# St Leonard's

Ordinary People, Extraordinary God



## Parish Magazine

May 2014

# Diary for May

## **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> - SS Philip and James**

8.00am The Eucharist

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Lexden Arts Festival begins

Church Open 10.30am - 4.30pm for Arts Festival

7.30pm Arts Festival Recital

## **SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup>: Easter III**

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

**9.45am All Age Worship**

Church Open 1.00pm - 4.30pm for Arts Festival

**6.30pm Parish Eucharist**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup>

Church Extended Opening until 4.30pm for Arts Festival

7.00pm Arts Festival Film Night

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>

Church Extended Opening until 4.30pm for Arts Festival

10.30am Holy Communion at Wren House

2.30pm Holy Communion at the Old Rectory

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>

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

10.45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

11.30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

Church Extended Opening until 4.30pm for Arts Festival

7.30pm Arts Festival Concert

7.45pm 'After Eights' house group

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>

Church Extended Opening until 4.30pm for Arts Festival

8.00am The Eucharist

3pm 'Canticle' and 'Wordsworth' house groups

Friday 9<sup>th</sup>

Church Extended Opening until 4.30pm for Arts Festival

7.30pm Arts Festival Storytelling Evening

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>

Church Open 10.30am - 4.30pm for Arts Festival

7.30pm Arts Festival Concert

**SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup>: Easter IV/Vocations Sunday**

Christian Aid week begins

**8.00am Holy Communion (1662 rite)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup>

7.45pm PCC meeting in the Nicholls Room

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>

2.30pm Mothers' Union – Vivien Wiggins

7.30pm 'Medley' House group at 20 Wordsworth Road

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> - St Matthias**

'Inside out' begins

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

4pm-5.30pm Holy Commotion

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

7.30pm Digital Parenting

Friday

7pm Beer and Hymns

Saturday

10.30am Digital Parenting (take 2)

7.30pm Lexden's Got Talent

**SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup>: Easter V**

**8.00am Holy Communion (1662 rite)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm 'Sing a new song'**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup>

11.00am Holy Communion at Hill House

7.45pm 'Jubilee' House group at the Rectory

Cont'd.....

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>

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

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>

1.00pm Marriage of Angela Isherwood and David Smith

**SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup>: Easter VI**

**8.00am Holy Communion (1662 rite)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>

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

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> - Ascension Day**

8.00am The Eucharist

7.30pm The Eucharist – INCENSE WILL BE USED AT THIS SERVICE

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup>

1.00pm Marriage of Holly Colclough and Alex O’Keefe

**June**

**SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup>: Easter VII**

**8.00am Holy Communion (1662 rite)**

**9.45am All Age Worship**

**6.30pm Parish Eucharist**

### **World Scout Jamboree 2015**

**One of our own Lexden Scouts, Sam Firth**, has secured a place at the 23rd World Scout Jamboree at Yamaguchi City in Japan in July / August 2015 and those of you who were able to be present at the All Age Eucharist on Palm Sunday will have heard Sam give a very interesting presentation about his trip to Japan.

**Sam has to raise £3000** to fund his trip and some congregation members were able to make a contribution on Palm Sunday but if you missed that opportunity and would like to help one of our own scouts to enjoy this life-changing experience please give your donation to **Tom or Kathleen Scrimgeour**.

## From the Rectory



We seem to be in a time of very rapid change and I do get a sense of the Church of England polarising – as I have said before. We seem to be dividing according to whether we would call ourselves liberal or orthodox. We seem to be very keen on putting labels on different sorts of churches.

Actually both liberal and orthodox are increasingly inadequate labels. The liberal Christian tradition has a long and honourable history within the Christian Church, offering at its best an intellectual and spiritual openness, an honesty and rigour essential to critical approaches – qualities vital to the future as well as the past. The problem with orthodoxy is that it tends to suggest rigidity and regression, much like the word ‘fundamentalist’.

In ‘What is Catholic Orthodoxy?’ an essay written some years ago, Rowan Williams identified two contrasting approaches to orthodoxy. The first is a closed system. It is pre-packaged, determined, watertight, a comprehensive ideology. This sort of orthodoxy stifles thought and distorts perception. It allows no real conversation. It is a monologue, and self scrutiny is excluded. There is no conversation because actually everything has already been said and all that’s left to do is repeat it again and again and again. Interpretation is not an issue because truth is seen as self-evident.

I would like to focus, though, on Williams’ second category, what we might call open or progressive orthodoxy. It should be seen as a tradition of shared speech, of shared symbols, a living community of revelation and discourse, a tradition that makes critical engagement possible. Conversation isn’t only allowed, it’s positively generated out of this sort of orthodoxy. Interpretation is taken as an absolute essential. What we have are perspectives on truth rather than claiming to possess The Truth. Tradition is not a static but a dynamic force, not stifling but liberating. Progressive orthodoxy therefore encourages a dialogue between the received tradition on the one hand and contemporary insights and struggles on the other.

There's a lovely line in the film *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, by the brother of a young woman who is trying to break free from her patriarchal Greek background, who tells his sister: *'Don't let the past define who you are, but let it be part of who you become'*. It's a pretty good definition of the kind of orthodoxy I prefer – being deeply rooted in the originating sources of the Christian faith, while recognising that we are moving forward.

But there are many people who would use Bible passages to loudly proclaim what they consider to be the truth – or 'right'. The Bible makes God real to me in lots of different ways. It also constantly challenges me. It instructs my faith. And of course the Bible has influenced humanity profoundly in many ways. In 380AD for instance it inspired the great teacher, Gregory of Nyssa to condemn slavery. In the nineteenth century it led evangelical believers to abolish or lead to the abolition of the slave trade. It led them to fight poverty and injustice, to contend for greater equality between the sexes. In our own day it has inspired movement for justice and liberation. Within society at large the Bible has had some profoundly positive effects.

Yet we have to face the fact that for others it has been a complete and utter disaster. Surely God did not mean such inhumane things to happen in his name? For fourteen hundred years it was used to portray Africans as cursed by God, and to justify their enslavement. It was used to sanction medieval witchhunts. South African apartheid was firmly based (in the minds of many, many people) on the teachings of the Bible. It has led to the oppression of women, to gay and lesbian persecution, to environmental destruction. And the fact is the Bible does appear to countenance slavery. It does appear to advocate the subordination of women to men. It does seem to condemn homosexual relationships. (However, one of the passages frequently quoted is Leviticus 18:22 – if you take that as applying to us in the here and now – then does that mean we should also diligently apply the rules given in Lev 21:18-21\*, 25:44\*\*, 24:16\*\*\*...?)

The issue, then, is how one reads the Bible and how one goes about the process of interpreting it. The truth is that every reading of the Bible is a hermeneutical reading, it is an interpretation.

The New Testament itself gives at least one example of how you have to change to stay the same. In Acts 10 and 11, Peter falls into a trance and

sees a great sheet float down with all kinds of animals in it, and the voice of God commands him: *'Rise up, kill and eat'*. Peter reminds God that the sheet is full of unclean animals proscribed by the Law, and that therefore he can't eat them. And God says, *'Do not call anything unclean that I have made clean'*. Interestingly, Peter was actually being true to scripture. He was being a 'biblical Christian' and yet God was apparently saying: *'Listen, I've got something fresh to say to you'*. On the issues which are exercising our church today – Jesus says not one word. I believe he had a bigger and better agenda – and so should we.

I belong to the Church of England in part because I am deeply attracted by the comprehensiveness, the inclusiveness of its spirituality - that it incorporates many different perspectives, many different traditions. I'm for an inclusive church, not just on the basis of tolerance but on the foundation of an open progressive orthodoxy rooted in and committed to scripture, tradition, reason and experience – and committed most of all to Jesus Christ whom I believe stands with his arms wide open to the world.

*\*For no one who has a blemish shall draw near...he must not come near to offer the food of his God.*

*\*\*As for the male and female slaves whom you may have, it is from the nations around you that you may acquire male and female slaves.*

*\*\*\* One who blasphemes the name of the Lord shall be put to death; the whole congregation shall stone the blasphemer.*

**Teresa**

### **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

## **"Inside Out" - our Mission for Lexden. 14th-18th May 2014**

As our mission week draws nearer here's a reminder of what is planned.

Our week starts with Holy Commotion which this time has the theme of The Good Samaritan and the SMILE puppets will be there.

On Thursday evening Dr Bex Lewis will lead a session called Parenting in the Digital Age in which she will give practical tips and advice on keeping children safe online. This session will be repeated on Saturday morning when a crèche will be available.

On Friday evening it's Beer and Hymns - come along and have a beer and sing some well known, rousing hymns. A BBQ will also be available.

Saturday evening is time for Lexden's got Talent, a variety show of local talent. There are no prizes but this could be your chance to show off your talent and be a star. Entry forms are on the "Inside Out" leaflets or speak to Jackie Messinger.

Our final event takes place on Sunday evening. Sing a New Song is a modern and contemporary worship service and is a chance to give thanks and celebrate our Church and the community. Please note, this service takes the place of our usual Evensong.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help with any of the events. The Mission and Outreach committee have been amazed and delighted by the amount of support you have shown so far and are looking forward to an inspiring and fulfilling week. Please continue to pray for the success of "Inside Out" and that the events will open up our Church to the wider community in Lexden. There is a special mission prayer included in the weekly newsletter and we hope everyone will include it in their daily prayer at home.

**Esther**

### **Some Forthcoming Dates**

**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



## Coffee Mornings

Since our last Coffee Morning was held in March, Junior Church held a most successful and enjoyable coffee party at the home of Mrs Sarah Orr at her lovely home in Lexden Road at which over £300 was raised for the new Junior Church Garden. Thank you so much, Sarah, for your hospitality and we wish you well for your impending move.

As we have a very busy church summer, the next Coffee Morning will be held on **12<sup>th</sup> July** at the home of Mr & Mrs Tonks in Straight Road (Details in July Magazine) which we hope will be well supported.

**Jean Hallett**



## MOTHERS UNION

We continue to pray that someone will come forward to lead our Branch into its next phase, meanwhile, in our interregnum, we continue to share the fellowship and responsibilities between us.

We did appreciate the interesting and stimulating talk by Lexden's Mary Berry – Sonia Lewis – at our April meeting. She told us about many of the activities associated with her year of office as Mayor of Colchester in 2010–2011, some the interesting and famous people she met, the amusing things that happened and some of the sad and poignant moments. Thank you Sonia for sharing so much of your amazing and well-deserved privilege and for your delicious Colchester Gingerbread to go with our cup of tea. The recipe for this will be available at our next meeting – price 10p for our depleted funds.

**Our May meeting, on the 13<sup>th</sup>**, will be a speaker from Beacon House on East Hill, a centre helping the homeless people of our town. We have been asked to bring **bottles of Shampoo**, which are always in short supply.

**Our outing, on June 10<sup>th</sup>**, will be a meal at 'The Ship' between Tiptree and Maldon followed by a ride to Heybridge Basin or Perrywoods Garden Centre. Menus will be circulated at our May meeting so do come and make your choice.

**Jean Holden**

## Life at NOTDEC Uganda January 2014



The staff and children at NOTDEC Uganda wish to convey their sincere thanks to all NOTDEC supporters.  
**Thank you!**

# **NOTDEC Uganda through new eyes:**

## **Tom and Ruth Hartley**

### **First impressions**

We went out to NOTDEC for the first time this January with Anthony and Janet Johnston. We hadn't realised just how far west NOTDEC is in Uganda. After the seven hour drive from Kampala you are only about 20 miles from the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The first thing you notice as you arrive is the bright red roofs standing out in the beautiful green foothills of the Rwenzori Mountains. The orphanage itself is easily accessible from the main road. As you know, the site has been built up over the past 5 years. What has been achieved is fantastic. There are now seven houses, five with 12 to 15 children and their two housemothers, and two baby houses. There is an administration block, a multipurpose hall, some class rooms for the nursery children and staff accommodation.

On arrival we were given a very warm welcome from Milly who runs the daily operations of the orphanage. Over the course of our stay we met the rest of the NOTDEC staff and saw their care and dedication to looking after the children. This was shown even in the way the housemothers talked about the children as 'their' boys and girls. Given that the primary carers are all women, it was also encouraging to see some of the male staff getting to know the boys and providing a good role model.

### **Meeting the children**

The children themselves were a delight to be around. The toddlers were initially a little wary of us, but by the end of our visit most had decided that our hair and glasses were in fact fun things to play with! The smaller children loved having their photos taken and walking around with us. They would often be playing on the climbing frames and swings. However, even the small children would help with house chores such as cleaning the cooking pans.

The older children all speak English, not least because all their lessons are in English, so we were able to have conversations with them. They all wanted to know if we knew their sponsors! They were very keen to hear any news they could get about you. Those children who are older and can understand more what it means to have a sponsor really do appreciate what is done for them.

Cont'd.....

The presents had been eagerly awaited and the toys were promptly put to good use. Robustness is definitely a key feature for any toys that are being sent! The new clothes were initially tried on and admired, but were generally put out of harm's way. Having some clothes suitable for 'Sunday best' is important in Uganda and clothes from a sponsor tend to be picked for this purpose.

### **What we got up to**

Ruth spent a lot of time with Janet, speaking to each older child, especially those who had been back with their families. There was a lot of unpacking to do, not just of the presents, but also other donations such as clothes, rubber gloves (highly prized for hand-washing clothes), presents for the staff and towels. Ruth also worked with Anthony and the nurse to improve the system for weighing the children and keeping their medical records.

Tom (who's an accountant) spent time in the office with Uncle Tom and Pascal. These two men work extremely hard and play a vital role in the administration of NOTDEC. As well as making purchases and payments, they maintain a system of budgeting, receipts and computerised

accounting records. Using this information, we were able to review their finances and put together a pie chart of NOTDEC's expenditures in 2013 (see opposite).

As you can see food makes up a large part of the running costs of NOTDEC. Meat and fish are both eaten once per week, with the main staples being maize, cassava and beans. The relatively high cost of food compared to staff wages reflects the fact that most staff have their meals included as part of their contracts.

### **A major issue NOTDEC is facing**

The major issue NOTDEC is facing at the moment is that the rate at which babies are arriving is unsustainable. Two arrived during the two weeks we were there, and another arrived the following week. These babies had lost their mothers and the family cannot feed them without her breast milk. In the past, babies that have been turned away have all died and so NOTDEC have decided to accept all babies and trust God for the outcome.

The solution seems to be to send older children back to their relatives (if appropriate) and to consider sending some of the younger children back (ages 2-4). NOTDEC would then become more of a 'life saving'

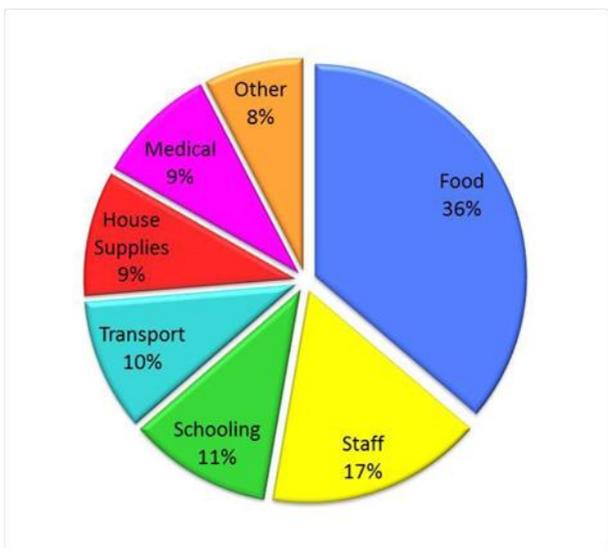
## How is your sponsorship money spent?

Every penny donated is sent to NOTDEC Uganda.

There are no costs in the UK.

NOTDEC Uganda's use of Sponsorship Money is shown on the pie-Chart.

Just over half the money is spent on food and staff wages.



The remaining half is primarily spent on school fees, the costs of running the bus and tractor, house supplies such as soap and medical expenses including medicines and hospital fees.

The Other category includes repairs and maintenance, phone costs, office supplies and gas.

(Percentages calculated based on the 2013 accounts).

institution. This will be hard for the staff as they get very attached to the children and vice versa. Prayer and careful planning will be required to administer this, not least because NOTDEC do not currently have the staff to take on the time-consuming role of visiting families both before and after returning the children.

## Heartfelt thanks

We both really enjoyed our trip to NOTDEC and thank God for all the work that is being done there. It is no exaggeration to say that NOTDEC is saving babies lives, as well as giving a safe and happy home to many children. The staff and children expressed their gratitude many times during our stay and we would like to pass these heartfelt thanks onto you.

## Thank You

To all those gentle, caring people, far and near, who have supported and comforted me since Arthur died so peacefully, my most grateful thanks.

**Eileen Mather**



## 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**

## 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**



# 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

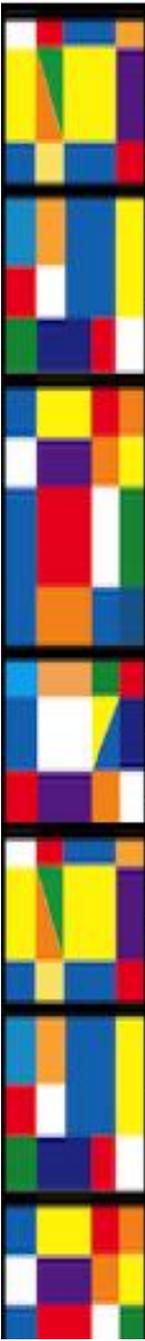
11am-4pm

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)

## James Malcolm Swinstead RIP

James Swinstead, who tragically died in an accident on board the MV Marco Polo on 14<sup>th</sup> February, was a regular participant in the St Leonard's Monday Walking Group and he took part in two of our walking holidays in the Peak District.



A well attended Service of Thanksgiving for James' life was held at St Leonard's on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April but sadly a number of the members of the Walking Group were unable to be present as we had already planned our 2014 trip to Derbyshire for the opening few days of April.

However, having looked back in our records to the 2009 trip to the Peak District we arranged that on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April we would walk from Bakewell to Chatsworth House (where Helen Swinstead's school was evacuated during WWII) and then having stopped in a Baslow Tea Shop for a light lunch we headed north up on to Baslow Edge continuing to the

north along Curbar and Froggatt Edges to finish high above Grindleford.



Back in 2009 James had participated in the same walk, but done in the opposite direction, and we were able to sit down on a bench and a group of rocks on Froggatt Edge at 3.00 pm, when the

service was starting at St Leonard's, and between the five of us we read the same readings as at the main Lexden service and said prayers for James.

It was a beautifully sunny day as we sat gazing over the wonderful Peak District landscape remembering our friend James in countryside that he dearly loved.

During the rest of our 2014 week we also walked the hills around the village of Flash in Staffordshire, which claims to be the highest village in England and we also visited Monsal Dale – both of these locations having featured in our 2009 visit when James was with us and two photographs from the 2009 holiday accompany this article.

**Tom Scrimgeour**

**FINAL DAY FOR ITEMS FOR THE JUNE MAGAZINE IS**

**SUNDAY 11th MAY**

**11.00 am hard copy or 7.30pm email copy**

**Please include your name with any submission. This will be withheld from publication if requested but items from unknown sources cannot be used.**

**PLEASE SUBMIT ITEMS FOR THE JUNE EDITION TO  
PETER BROWNING ; email: [magazine@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stleonardslexden.org.uk)**

**or by placing items in the box marked 'Parish Magazine' in the  
Church**



The Church of England  
in Essex and East London  

---

Diocese of Chelmsford

## **2014 Deanery Synod Elections: Explaining Deanery Synod**

Elections of lay representatives to the Deanery Synod happen every three years and the next election will take place in 2014. These elections occur during the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), which every parish is required to hold no later than 30 April each year. The date of your parish's APCM will be notified to the congregation in advance of the meeting.

Each person elected as Deanery Synod representative will, by virtue of their election, also be a member of their Parochial Church Council.

### **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 priorities formed part of a document known as 'Transforming Presence'. The four priorities set out in Transforming Presence are:

- 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 reimagining ministry

As each of these develop, 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 a group of parishes within a geographical area, known as a 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. The national body is the General Synod.

### **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, for instance, 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 Reimagining Ministry unfolds. Each Deanery has been asked to prepare their responses to this. The next term will be a crucial period in this process.

Finally, Deanery Synod members elect the Diocesan and General Synod. So whoever you choose to be on Deanery Synod from your parish in 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 rep?**

Each parish should prayerfully consider who to elect to represent them at Deanery level. In order to stand for election you must be registered on the electoral roll (the membership) of the parish and have a proposer and seconder, who will also need to be on the electoral roll of the parish.

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 Parochial Church Council?
- As electors to Diocesan and General Synod, do their views broadly reflect those of your church?

Reproduced from Diocesan Leaflet

## Deanery Synod representatives

You probably know that we are expected to elect representatives to Deanery Synod – where all the churches in the area meet and discuss local church matters. From Deanery Synod our lay representatives to Diocesan and General Synod will be elected and this year is particularly important as the vote for women in the episcopacy will be taking place at General Synod in July. This failed last time because there was a disproportionately large number of conservative evangelical lay representatives at General Synod.

In order to make sure the make up of Diocesan and General Synod are representative of all the churches in our deanery it is important that all churches have Deanery Synod members. Deanery Synod only meets three times a year – and brings with it membership of the PCC - and St Leonard's have two vacancies at the moment.

See the article from the diocese on p41 for more information. **If we have no representatives – we waste our votes.** Nomination forms are at the back of church.

### Eagles Wings

24 May 2014  
10am—4pm

**Guest Speaker:** Rev. Harold Afflu  
Senior Pastor, Ipswich International Church

**Theme:** Connecting to God “Emphasis on Prayer”

**Venue:** Hotel Cameo, Copdock, Ipswich, IP8 3JD

Lunch available at £11.95p

£5 Registration Fee for Non-members

**Please RSPV:** To Joan Sackey

07964 382477

01206 769445 or 01473 209988

E-mail: joansackeyeagleswings@yahoo.com

## From Sara Batts

I think it is now officially common knowledge that I have been selected for training for ordination to the priesthood. I've been very grateful for all the kind words and congratulations which have been very much appreciated at the end of a fairly intense couple of months. As people are asking what training will involve for me, and how I got to this point, I thought it worth writing about.

Firstly, then, let's look forward. I will be training full-time, starting in October. I will be a 'permanent resident' at Westcott House in Cambridge for two years and I am hoping to study for a degree in Theology & Ministry with Cambridge University's Faculty of Divinity. After living on my own for over a decade, I'm excited - and a bit apprehensive - about moving into a community.

Secondly, how did this happen? What's been going on behind the scenes, as it were? I'd had a nagging feeling God might be wanting me for something since the autumn of 2011. I tried to ignore it, hoping the idea would go away and I could get on with my library career. No such luck. After Easter 2012, I talked with Teresa. It took me several attempts, so sure was I that she'd laugh (gently). Imagine my surprise, shock, horror, and trepidation when, instead, there was a gentle affirmation. At the time, I was still writing up my PhD so Teresa said it was sensible to wait until I'd submitted my thesis. I went away with a reading list.....and I'd also been persuaded to join the serving team. Getting to grips with all that is required for that has been interesting, as has helping with Alpha, the work of the PCC, the website and After Eights housegroup. These are all things that have helped me understand more about faith, church and people. And I'd have volunteered for all of them whether I was in the discernment process or not, because I want to contribute to the life of St Leonard's.

In November 2012 I submitted my thesis, and went to Cheltenham for the national vocations conference – which annoyingly confirmed the idea of calling rather than squashing it. After the conference Teresa put me forward as a possible candidate and so began the process of discernment. In essence, a series of searching conversations looking at all aspects of vocation, faith, and character; lots of paperwork including a piece of work looking at what being a priest means; and preparation for the selection conference. Underpinning that, lots of prayer, and a genuine desire to seek God's will. In December, I met with Bishop Stephen and he agreed to

sponsor me as a candidate. That triggered more paperwork, collecting of references and college applications – not the most fun way to spend the Christmas break.

On 3 March I went to my selection conference. It's a mix of group activities, interviews and written work, observed by three Bishops' Advisers, running from teatime on Monday to teatime on Wednesday. There isn't a quota for selection, so it was a collaborative rather than competitive environment, with prayer and worship running throughout. I knew I was being held in the thoughts and prayers of many people 'on the outside' (one of whom sent an emergency gin & chocolate parcel which was waiting for me on arrival!) and the help of the Holy Spirit in banishing my anxiety was obvious. I really enjoyed this time – it was hard work, and tiring, but good to be with a dozen or so other people facing the same challenges. Then I had to wait until a phone call from the DDO on 13 March – one of the most difficult parts of the whole process.

So – what's going on now, in this gap between hearing the result and moving to college? Well, nothing *obvious* will change for a few months. I've got a bit more paperwork, and I have to do some hard budgeting to save for costs in the gap between finishing work and moving to Cambridge. I'll also be handing over the website, other bits and pieces I've been working on, and of course carrying on with existing commitments like housegroup and the 'Inside Out' week, the rotas I'm already on, and so on. You are, therefore, stuck with me for a while yet.

I'm hoping to finish work at the end of August, if I can make the finances work. I haven't told my employers yet, so do keep this under your hat should you run into any of my colleagues!

I rent where I live, and will leave there mid-September. Most of my possessions & all furniture will have to go into some kind of storage. If anyone has a spare room, barn, garage, cavernous loft, basement or similar space they don't need for two years...please let me know...

Whilst nothing obvious is changing, it's an 'interesting' time of transition. The expectations of other people have changed a bit, I think – although I'm very much still 'me' at the moment (impatient, noisy, laughing). I'm starting to think about what training will mean, the new ways of 'being me' I will encounter (goodbye, Comfort Zone) and losing the familiar things I will leave behind. It's amazing how even the most mundane things – like commuting – take on a significance when they are part of a

life that is to be left behind. In addition, I can't afford the risk of being kicked out of my job if I tell my employers ahead of my contractual notice period so I do feel somewhat duplicitous; making plans for business development way past the point I will be part of the firm. That is an uneasy tension to live with. So I'd be really grateful for your prayers during the summer that these tensions will resolve smoothly, for patience & fortitude as I try to save for the autumn, for storage solutions, but most of all, for the life ahead of me. Thank you.

## Exploring England



It is really amazing, how diverse places in one country can be! My first big travelling in England took place at the beginning of the Easter Holidays. The whole journey to the Lake District was really interesting. You could see the country change... When we arrived in Ambleside, a great holiday started: We visited

famous Places, like Wray Castle, Hill Top, Tarn Hawk and went on boat trips and a Hiking tour. And the best thing of all was that the weather was quite good the whole time! The thing I liked the most in this area were the green soft hills. It just felt like finding yourself in the Shire (Middle-earth). The sheep, the lakes, the mountains - just everything made this trip very special. But what would be such a journey without little problems (for example with the car...)? Right, it would be boring . You always have to make the best of every situation! We did that and had a great trip to the Lake District!



**Mia**