



# St Leonard's

Ordinary People, Extraordinary God



## Parish Magazine

June 2014

## Regular Services

### Sunday:

- 8.00am** Holy Communion  
(BCP using Common Worship lectionary)
- 9.45am** PARISH EUCHARIST and Junior Church
- 9.45am** All Age Worship (1st Sunday in the month)
- 6.30pm** Evensong and Sermon
- 6.30pm** PARISH EUCHARIST (1st Sunday in the month)

### Wednesday:

**10.00am** The Eucharist.

### Thursday:

**8.00am** The Eucharist.

### Monday-Wednesday:

Morning Prayer is usually said at 9.00am

### Monday-Thursday:

Evening Prayer is usually said at 5.00pm

(Please check times listed in Weekly Notices each week)

## CHURCH OPENING

The Church is open every weekday morning, for anyone who would like to visit, to enjoy this beautiful building and to have the opportunity to experience God's presence. The normal opening hours are:

<i>Mondays</i>	<i>8.45 – 12.00</i>	<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>7.45 – 12.30</i>
<i>Tuesdays</i>	<i>8.45 – 12.30</i>	<i>Fridays</i>	<i>9.45 – 2.00</i>
<i>Wednesdays</i>	<i>8.45 – 12.00</i>		

Advertisements: The inclusion of an advertisement in this magazine should not be taken as implying endorsement of the objects of the advertiser by this church or the diocese.

## **DIARY FOR JUNE**

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

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am All Age Worship**

**3pm House Groups' Tea at 'Harmony', 145 High Road, Layer**

**6.30pm Parish Eucharist**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>

7.30pm 'Medley' House Group at 20 Wordsworth Road

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>

10.30am Holy Communion at Wren House

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>

10.30am Holy Communion at Wren House

2.30pm Holy Communion at the Old Rectory

2.30pm Lexden Ladies meet in the Nicholls Room

Wednesday 4<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

7.30pm Alpha Course begins

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>:

8.00am The Eucharist

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>:

8.30am Mens' Prayer Breakfast Nicholls Room

### **SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup>: PENTECOST**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>

12.30pm Mothers' Union outing

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>

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

7.30pm Alpha Course

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

3.00pm 'Canticle' and 'Wordsworth' House Groups meet

**SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup>: TRINITY SUNDAY**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP): Revd Pamela Davies**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church: Guest celebrant and preacher: the Archdeacon of Colchester**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon with Revd Geoff Read (Colchester CMD advisor)**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup>

10.30am Holy Communion at Hill House

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>

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

7.30pm Alpha Course

8.00pm 'After Eights' house group at 127 Straight Road

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>: CORPUS CHRISTI**

8.00am The Eucharist

8.15pm 'Harmony' House group at 'Harmony', 145 High Road, Layer

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>

3.00pm Teddy Bears' Picnic: a celebration for the recently baptised, at 'Harmony', 145 High Road, Layer

**SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup>: TRINITY I**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>

7.45pm PCC meeting in the Nicholls Room

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>

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

7.30pm Alpha Course

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>

10.00am Deaconing of Revd David Armstrong at Chelmsford Cathedral

**SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup>: SS PETER and PAUL**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am Fifth Event**

**2.30pm ‘Sacred and Profane’: performed by Colchester Chamber Choir**

**6.30pm Parish Eucharist**

Monday 30<sup>th</sup>

7.45pm ‘Jubilee’ House group at the Rectory

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> **JULY**

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

7.30pm Alpha Course

10.45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

11.30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>

11am -2pm Summer Fete

**SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup>: TRINITY III**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am All Age Eucharist**

**6.30pm Evensong and Sermon**

**Mens’ Prayer Breakfast**

*Calling all Men*

We are holding a Men’s Prayer Breakfast on the first Saturday of every month in the Nicholls Room

It will be from 8.30 to 10.00am with a breakfast of Cereals, Tea, Coffee, Fruit Juice and Bacon Rolls.

Followed by Prayer Time

**The First Prayer Breakfast**

**Saturday 7th June 8.30am**

**A parishioner remembers:  
Being on a Troopship in the Red Sea  
bound for the Far East, on 29<sup>th</sup>, April, 1945.  
We had just heard of Mussolini's death in Milan**

**Snow in the Channel**

The morn perspired, and passed away,  
We by the boats did stay  
(The routine drill). The speakers shrill  
News items of the day.

Our dazzled eyes the sea did scan,  
The perspiration ran,  
"The War goes well". The voices tell,  
"A corpse lies in Milan."

Then, suddenly the speakers say  
"The Straits of Dover yesterday  
Were filled with snow, you could not know  
Things fifty yards away",

"Six inches deep", the speakers boast,  
"It lies along the coast"  
And there they freeze, while here our knees  
Are burning as they roast.

And thus the weather back at home  
Out shone the news from Rome,  
Which thrilled before, we did ignore  
Beneath that burning dome.

David Hodge, R.E.M.E.

## From the Rectory



There are quite a lot of saints' and feast days, 'red letter' days, in June. (Do you know why they are called that? If you look in the lectionary, the list of readings for the church year, the feasts and festivals are printed in red). I know some churches never mark them which I think is a shame because they are part of our history and they inform our faith today.

For example, the first one is Pentecost on the 8<sup>th</sup>, otherwise known as the birthday of the church, when the Holy Spirit, which came as promised by Jesus, filled the quaking disciples with strength, courage and conviction; transformed by his power they went out telling of the mighty works of God...and what we would call mission began, culminating in the formation of the early church. (Hence the birthday of the church). And we pray on this day for the Holy Spirit to fall on us and his church - as it did on the first Pentecost – and inspire us as the first disciples were inspired.

Then we have St Barnabas on the 11<sup>th</sup>. He was named an apostle in Acts and he and St Paul undertook missionary journeys together making converts to Christianity, particularly among Gentiles. Tradition holds that he was martyred in Cyprus and that he was the founder of the Cypriot Orthodox Church.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> we have Trinity Sunday – when we ponder on the mystery of the Trinity, and preachers try hard not to preach heresy in their attempt to explain the unexplainable!

19<sup>th</sup> sees Corpus Christi (which translates as 'the Body of Christ' - otherwise known by the cumbersome title of the 'Day of Thanksgiving for the Institution of the Holy Communion') when we give thanks for the creation of the Eucharist. While the institution of the Eucharist is also celebrated on Maundy Thursday, the liturgy on that day also commemorates Christ's washing of the disciples' feet, the institution of the priesthood and the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. So many other things are included in this liturgy that the creation of the Eucharist loses its uniqueness. For this reason, Corpus Christi was established to create a feast focused solely on the Eucharist. It is always the Thursday after

Trinity Sunday.

The birth of John the Baptist is commemorated on 24<sup>th</sup> June. Jesus called John the greatest of all those who had preceded him and his purpose was to prepare the way for Jesus. The attractiveness as well as the austerity of John, his fierce courage in denouncing evil—all stem from his fundamental and total placing of his life within the will of God.

And finally - the 29<sup>th</sup> of June is St. Peter's day, (often commemorated with St Paul) when we remember the disciple who, for all his many mistakes, knew how to recover and hold on, who, for all his waverings was called by Jesus 'the rock', who learned the threefold lesson that every betrayal can ultimately be restored by love. It is fitting therefore that it is at Petertide (the weekend nearest to the 29<sup>th</sup> June) that new deacons are made, on a day when they are reminded that a man whose recovery from mistakes and openness to love can give them courage.

This year – our new curate, David Armstrong is following in that tradition on the 28<sup>th</sup> June in Chelmsford Cathedral. I think it is worth reminding ourselves what the titles of ordained ministers mean – the church loves a title – and the plethora of them we encounter can be quite confusing. I often use a teaching analogy; that all teaching staff in a school are teachers, but some have specific roles within the school eg head teacher, subject co-ordinator etc. Similarly with clergy, all are priests (eventually – see below) but some have role 'titles' such as rector, vicar, area dean, archdeacon etc.

David will be our Assistant Curate while he is here. That is his role in this parish and it means he is serving his title post – a training post of, usually, three to four years. Unlike Richard, he is a stipendiary curate – a full time position, with the expectation that at the end of his curacy he will move into a parish where he will be the incumbent (vicar or rector). While he is with us we have a responsibility, therefore, to give him as many opportunities as possible to learn his 'trade' before he goes on to his next parish.

However, in his first year he will also be a deacon. The ministry of a deacon is that of the servant – every bishop and priest is first ordained as a deacon, and remains one, reminding us that priestly ministry is rooted in service. Being a deacon means David will be able to take services of the word (eg Evensong, All Age services, funerals, baptisms) and preach, but not preside at the Eucharist or take weddings, give absolution or blessings.

Although he will wear clericals and robes and be called Reverend, you will notice that he will wear his stole diagonally in this year. In a year's time he will be priested (assuming his diaconal year is successful) when he will then be able to fulfil all the priestly roles.

It's very easy to fall into the trap of assuming that a new curate is a blank slate to be written on – but they each bring a wealth of experience, gifts and skills, so while David will be learning, he will also have a lot to teach us, I'm sure.

**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**

## David Armstrong - soon to be Curate of St Leonard's



First of all, may I say how much I am looking forward to coming to Lexden, meeting all of you and working alongside Teresa and the community at St Leonard's. We have been to the church and area just three times now and have thoroughly enjoyed each visit, particularly the Sunday service we attended back at the end of January.

Let me tell you a little about myself, so at least you will have some idea what sort of Curate you are about to get.

I am currently coming to the end of my ministry training and theology degree at St Mellitus College in London (St Mellitus was the first Bishop of London). God willing, I will be ordained at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday 28 June. Due to other work commitments, I will then be part-time at St Leonard's over the summer and start full-time on 1 September.

I have been studying at St Mellitus part-time over the past three years and continue to work as a director of a Westminster PR and Lobbying firm, Hadstrong which I established with a business partner a decade ago. Prior to Hadstrong, I worked in various PR roles including national head of PR for the RAC. Earlier I worked as a journalist during The Troubles in Northern Ireland for newspapers there, as well as freelance for the BBC and other national titles. I was born and grew up in Northern Ireland. I initially studied physics and then took a post-grad in journalism. So, I have a combined science and literature background, now with added theology.

The church where I worship, and with which I have been involved for the past 15 years is St Peter's Eaton Square in central London. It has a lively and diverse congregation and worship is in the liberal Catholic tradition. It is well-known throughout London for its wonderful professional choir and excellent school. I regularly Deacon for services at St Peter's and preach there, and was busy helping out during a recent interregnum. My Civil Partner, Peter Wilde, is one of the Churchwardens at St Peter's and was previously the Treasurer. St Peter's has been an important influence in my development during training for ministry, as

has the former Vicar, the Rev'd Nicholas Papadopoulos (now Canon Treasurer at Canterbury Cathedral). Another great influence and guide to me has been the Rev'd Canon Raymond Fox, my spiritual director and formerly the rector of Donegal, where we spend a lot of holidays at our family holiday house.

Before starting at St Mellitus College I spent much of my spare time as a lay chaplain at Chelsea and Westminster hospital and have been privileged to take services in St George's chapel there and to conduct many bedside communions. Other influences on my lay ministry have been my work for a decade with the Samaritans and, a brief spell as a school governor of a failing primary school on an inner-city London estate. I have also recently finished a very rewarding four-month placement at St Anne and All Saints' church in Vauxhall, London.

For me, the key messages of the Gospel are presence, love, hope and justice and these have been developed through my journey with God and my experiences in the world.

Outside my current work and church, my time is taken up with home life. Peter (who read law at the London School of Economics and then spent many years in the oil and gas industry, and is now a business consultant) and I currently live in Kennington in central London. We have a wide circle of friends, people who we know through the church, through work and through our wider interests in current affairs, as well as through dog walking. Living in London we are never short of friends and relatives coming to stay, so it is fortunate that we both enjoy entertaining and cooking. Sadly, my father passed away last year, so my mother is starting to spend more time with us, which is wonderful.

Other interests include the arts, art exhibitions and poetry, as well as keeping fit by going to the gym, walking and cycling. I love boating and sailing which I usually do in Donegal. Fortunately a journalist friend now keeps two classic sailing boats at Maldon, so I hope to sail with him when we move to Lexden. My day would not be complete without my daily fix of news from Ambridge, so much so that Percy, our dog, even recognises the closing signature tune to the Archers as a signal for his dinner time!

We are very much looking forward to coming to live in Lexden, to getting to know you all and becoming part of the community of St Leonard's. We do not know the area at all, so we will be calling on you all for advice, and relying on your local knowledge and recommendations. In the

meantime I will continue to keep Teresa and your church family at St Leonard's in my prayers.

May God bless you all and keep you well.

**David Armstrong**

### **Our new Curate.**

I hope you have read David Armstrong's article – and are looking forward to his arrival in the parish on the 29<sup>th</sup> June. I think he will fit into St Leonard's very well and I'm sure we will want to make him and his partner, Peter, very welcome.

I am aware that some people may find the fact that our new curate is in a civil partnership a little unusual – but let me tell you the church's official position on this.

Clergy have been allowed to enter civil partnerships since **2005**. At that time the House of Bishops issued a pastoral statement which said '*it does not regard entering into a civil partnership as intrinsically incompatible with holy orders, provided the person concerned is willing to give assurances to his or her bishop that the relationship is consistent with the standards for the clergy set out in Issues in Human Sexuality.*' David has done this and his vocation has been recognised by his sponsoring diocese and Bishop (London), a Bishop's Advisory Panel and Bishop Stephen (who has warmly welcomed him to this diocese).

We talk about being a welcoming, inclusive church and I firmly believe that if we say it, but don't actually do it then we are guilty of hypocrisy – a crime of which the church is frequently accused. The first and foremost thing we must remember is that we are all children of God and equally beloved in his eyes and I'm sure David's arrival will be an enormous blessing for us as a parish.

**Teresa**

**Deaconing of Rev'd David Armstrong**

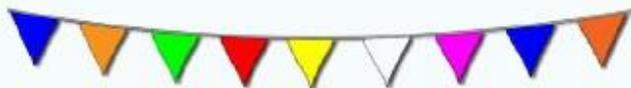
**At Chelmsford Cathedral**

**On Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> June**

**At 10.00am**

**If you would like to go and need transport**

**Please see Teresa**



St Leonard's Church

# SUMMER FETE

**Saturday 5th July**

**11.00 am - 2.30 pm**

**The A Team Van** **BBQ** **Bouncy Castle**

Former Bill's Ice Cream

The Smoothie Bike

**Lunches**

**Cakes**

**Books**

**Jewellery and ceramics**

**Raffle**

**Jazz Piano**

**Greeting Cards**

**Plants**

**Prayer Stations  
in the Church**

**Lexden Morris Men**

**Bric-a-Brac**

**and more!**





## LEXDEN LADIES' GROUP

We meet in the Nicholls room on  
**Tuesday 3rd June at 2.30pm**

Our speaker is

**Mr Chris Parkinson**

who will give an illustrated talk

**"Stained Glass Windows"**

with special reference to St Leonard's Church.

Visitors welcome.

Admission £2

On **Tuesday 1st July**

we shall visit

**West Mersea Museum at 2pm.**

Further details at the June meeting.

**Margaret Howard 579629**

### **My Thanks**

As I am writing this I have no idea of the numbers that will attend the various events of 'Inside Out' as to get this piece in the June magazine I need to write it before the events come to pass. In the July magazine, hopefully, there will be photographs and details of the events that will take place later this week.

But I didn't want to wait until the July magazine to thank all those who have helped with the planning and implementing of this special week. Thanks to all who delivered the initial mail-out, those who have made tea/coffees etc., moved chairs, pianos etc.etc. and those who have generally given of their time to help us along the way with our mission.

Also thanks to all of you who supported us by attending the various events, or even supported us with a kind word of encouragement along the way. What a congregation we have at St. Leonard's.

Many thanks.

**Jacquie.**

## **A MEMORABLE MAY AT ST LEONARD'S**

I am sure that many of us will remember May 2014 as a highpoint in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century life to date of St Leonard's.

As I write this item the very successful Lexden Arts Festival 2014 has just finished and apart from raising over £4500 for the Church Fabric Fund the Church was open throughout eight successive days with four evening performances and we welcomed many visitors through our doors to sample St Leonard's friendship and hospitality.

The grateful thanks of the whole St Leonard's Community are due to Sally Pudney and Graham Bell who not only originally conceived the idea of The Lexden Arts Festival back in 2011 but through sheer hard work and enthusiasm saw the concept through to reality in 2012 and have again in 2014 produced an excellent and exciting week of events which has been enjoyed by members of the Congregation, other Lexden residents and visitors from far and wide.

A key part of the success of this event is the attention to detail of Graham & Sally which was particularly noticeable with their approach to gaining Sponsorship from businesses across Colchester and Essex and then giving all those generous supporters coordinated exposure in print and on the church screen before and during the Festival.

In addition to our thanks to the sponsors and to the exhibitors who between them made the week possible thanks are also due to the many congregation members and friends who helped throughout the festival with stewarding, catering, fetching & carrying and all sorts of other tasks.

Not to be overlooked is the Prayer Corner which was set up in the Lady Chapel and which proved to be a focal point for visitors who explored our lovely church building, often after they had enjoyed some refreshment in Len's Café.

As this magazine goes to press St Leonard's moves on to its second big outreach event of the month with the start of our 2014 Mission Week under the strap line 'Inside Out'. I am sure that many of us wished at some time in recent days that the Arts Festival, 'Inside Out' and Christian Aid had not all come in the same fortnight but it now occurs to me all that these activities come under the wider umbrella of the Church's Mission to our local community and perhaps by having them all taking place over the same short period it will have made a bigger impact on our Parish!

Overshadowing these few weeks has been the sadness of the whole, congregation, Colchester Deanery and Chelmsford Diocese at the death of Mark Cole in late April and as his many friends and colleagues gather at St Leonard's for his Thanksgiving Service on 14<sup>th</sup> May I am sure many will be thinking of Mark's tireless work to promote Christ's Message and his Church across Essex.

**Tom Scrimgeour**

## **Coffee Mornings**

A big 'thank you' to Penny Henderson for inviting us to her home in Victoria Road on 26<sup>th</sup> April where all who came along enjoyed getting together with a cup of coffee, biscuits and chatter. £175 + gift Aid was raised for Church funds.

**There will be no Coffee Morning in June  
but we are looking forward to meeting up  
on 12th July at 127 Straight Road, the home of  
Mr & Mrs David Tonks and family.  
details in the July Magazine**

**Jean Hallett**

## **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 below.

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 Greateorex or from the Parish Office and they will also be available on the door.

**Tom Scrimgeour**



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

## **EASTER VESTRY & ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

This meeting was held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April, chaired by Revd Teresa Wynne. 42 members of the congregation attended. Peter Browning was elected as Churchwarden. Tom Scrimgeour has retired after six years service and was thanked.

The Annual Report and Financial Statement for 2013 had been made available previously. (*Copies may be obtained from the Parish Office*).

Generally the news was good as for the first time there had been a surplus and an increase in planned Giving. The value of Gift Aid was stressed. Heating and lighting are major expenses. Every endeavour has been made to keep these down including regular readings and all were asked to be vigilant. No major repairs had been carried out but will be necessary in 2014/15.

Matters of Fabric reported by Tom Scrimgeour included the need to address repairs to the lower roofs and walls around the tower and at the east end in 2014/15. A new Lectionary, “Ordinary Time” vestments an aspergillum and aspersion (holy water sprinkler and container) acquired thanks to generous legacies. New microphones for pulpit and lectern, and remote control facility for PowerPoint presentations now frequently used, have been bought. No major repairs had been carried out.

A small garden has been created by Youth Worker Mia Fuchs helped by junior church children. Thanks are also due to those who tend the lovely garden outside the west door. Tom expressed thanks to all who help to clean and maintain the church and extension. These areas are regularly used by church and community groups and therefore need almost daily attention – not to mention regular “Messy Church” sessions!!

Deanery Synod Representatives: Three members were elected to serve on Deanery Synod (also on PCC):- John Brown, Tom and Kathleen Scrimgeour.

PCC representatives: Six Lay members were elected (or re-elected) to PCC: - Alan Hedgeland, Adrian Steward, Colin Hetherington, David Watkins, Beverley Kettell and Rebecca Nottage. Other serving members are: - Rosemary Elden, Jacquie Messinger, Judith Steele, Viv Mendham, Esther Heptonstall, Krisztina Rivett, and Florence Isherwood.

Retiring members Sara Batts, Graham Tyler and Graham Bell were thanked.

Three members had been approached and were prepared to take up the position of Assistant Churchwarden: - David Watkins, Viv Mendham and Beverley Kettell.

Teresa rounded up the meeting by declaring that we should be proud of being part of St Leonard's and of the number of people who give of their Time and Talents. This is an exciting place to be. We are blessed with resources and taking stock we have an amazing range of achievements. She thanked all the Ministry team and we look forward to David Armstrong becoming part of the team soon. She thanked Tom Scrimgeour and Peter Browning for their work as churchwardens, and looked to the newly- appointed Assistant Churchwardens to support Peter. She thanked all who do the ordinary tasks around the church either alone and unsung or part of a team, also PCC members and members of the congregation in the pews. Youth Worker Mia Fuchs had been a great asset and we are in the process of appointing her successor.

We have mourned the loss of a number of loyal members who have helped to create solid foundations for us to build on. The welcome given to newcomers is appreciated. We are going through a time of change but must go forward without fear and with confidence in our Faith as.....

“Nothing is impossible for God.  
We are ordinary people  
but we have an extra-ordinary God”

### **Kathleen Scrimgeour, Secretary to the PCC**

*Subsequent to the meeting, David Watkins came forward and was nominated as churchwarden subject to his election at a meeting of parishioners called for 25 May*

*At a PCC meeting on 12 May, Alan Hedgeland was elected to continue as PCC Treasurer and Judith Steele was elected as PCC Secretary*

**The Romantics**  
**Colchester Chamber Choir**  
**22nd March, 2014**

The Colchester Chamber Choir is generous enough to take its performances to various churches around our area during the summer. That includes St. Leonard's where they will be performing in the afternoon of 29th June. Their very first concert in January 2010 was in St. Leonard's but St. Teresa's Catholic Church is a very different building and, at the risk of my being disloyal to St. Leonard's, it feels like home for this choir. To define home from a musical point of view, one could say that it is the environment where everything seems to work. For the BBC singers it is St. Giles in the Barbican; for the Colchester Chamber Choir it is St. Teresa's in Colchester. It has always been the stated aim of the choir to attract young singers. St. Edmundsbury Cathedral, where the choir performed last autumn, was simply too much building for this young sound. The acoustic, the proportions, indeed the intimacy, of St. Teresa's make for a wonderful experience and the perfect setting for the programme entitled the Romantics. Bruckner, Liszt, Puccini, Rossini and Verdi all contributed to the repertoire of unaccompanied (a capella) choral music. Both Bruckner and Liszt followed a movement which sought to return church liturgical music to the perceived purity of earlier ages. Plainsong and the music of Palestrina were considered models for this but when it comes to the music in this concert any further resemblance to the music of Palestrina ends there.

The concert opened with two of Anton Bruckner's unaccompanied motets, *Virga Jesse* and *Vexilla Regis* which reflect poetically on the challenges of the Christian faith in equally challenging harmonies. The choir was immediately into its stride and the swift changes of key and dynamic were perfectly executed. *Vexilla Regis* is a hymn in three verses of the sort of cryptic Latin which revels in the great mysteries. The mysteries were brought into sharp relief by the shifting harmonies which were repeated for each verse, culminating in a perfect pianissimo of the start of the third verse. The choir has performed over time all but two of Bruckner's motets. One of these, the magnificent *Ecce Sacerdos* with brass accompaniment, performed in Norwich Catholic Cathedral two years ago, is surely still etched in the memory of all who were lucky enough to be there to hear it.

Bruckner and Liszt could be described as overtly religious but for Puccini,

Rossini and Verdi to write, respectively a Requiem Mass, a setting of Stabat Mater or the Lord's Prayer there has surely to be some element of spiritual engagement with the texts. The opening introit to Puccini's Requiem Mass was beautifully accompanied by Beth Spendlove on the viola and it whetted the appetite to hear more of this piece. Rossini clearly reflected on the sins of old age - *Les Pêchés de Vieillesse* - and wrote a fourteen volume collection of pieces on this theme. These were written for four-part male chorus. The two we heard appealed to the Lord for help, the first in Latin and the second in old Italian. The English translation 'stretch out your hand to us to relieve our suffering' perfectly makes the point but there is a poignancy about the Old Italian *Ma pargi a noi la mano, rattempra il nostro duol*. Both pieces by Verdi were based on texts from Dante's *La Divina Commedia*. It is possible that Verdi was not the composer of the last piece of the concert, the setting of the Lord's Prayer, but there appears to be no dispute about the authorship of the penultimate piece and it was the turn of the women to send out their *Laudi alla Vergine Maria* - praises to the Virgin Mary - in a performance which was both controlled and assured.

To come to a piece of music for the first time in live performance when one is over three score years is very rare. Avoiding over-exposure on the airwaves, reproduction as a ring tone on a mobile phone or being hijacked by telephone companies to calm people when they are put on hold on the telephone must be something of a miracle. Astonishingly the *Missa Choralis* by Franz Liszt had escaped these abuses, for me at least. I was quite simply blown away by this amazing setting of the Latin Mass. Roderick Earle referred to the 'emotional drama' of the piece. It was an inspired bit of writing - chromatic, dramatic, emotional and compelling and there were opportunities for all the parts, and indeed soloists, to shine. *Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto ex Maria Virgine et homo factus est* - He was born of the Virgin Mary and the Holy Spirit and was made man - is clearly one of the great statements of the Christian faith and, by leaving the phrase to four solo voices, Liszt highlights the extraordinary drama of this claim. The main soloists here were Hilary Sellers, soprano, Lisa Roberts, alto, Tom Chippendale, tenor and Sean Moriarty, bass; supported by Maxine Taylor, Harriet Orbell, Jess Hazelton, Lehla Abott, Andrew Marsden and George Smith who had additional solo parts to sing. There were wonderful moments of dynamic contrasts. The sopranos contrasted a sweet sound in the Kyrie Eleison with the big crescendo towards the

climax of the Gloria. The blend of voices on the top line was never better at either end of the dynamic range but I could have used more diction to give the music more definition. The start of the Benedictus was a case in point where the altos followed the sopranos in an identical phrase and delivered exactly what was required. The tuning from start to finish was impeccable. There was excellent strength in the tenor line throughout and the basses merited a 'sublime' at the end of the Sanctus. In the end it was not the individual parts that mattered so much as the teamwork and the blending of the whole. If it were ever possible to request a second chance to hear any item in a programme I would have asked to hear the *Agnus Dei* again, not because anything was wrong but because of the complexity of the writing which made it seem very different in character from the rest of the piece. The whole was accompanied sensitively on the organ by Martyn Noble, organ scholar at Southwark Cathedral. Wonderful moments of excitement alternating with sublime moments of quiet combined to make this a very fine performance in an exciting and imaginative programme.

**Robin Greatorex.**

### **From the PCC**

At the most recent meeting on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> May, we welcomed the new members; David Watkins, soon to be our new Churchwarden, Beverly Kettel, Assistant Churchwarden, and Rebecca Nottage. Judith Steele is the new Secretary to the PCC and Tom & Kathleen Scrimgeour have become Deanery Synod Representatives. Esther Heptonstall has become the Press Officer.

Being the first PCC meeting since the APCM the Committees were discussed and the new role of the Assistant Churchwardens.

A quotation has been obtained for marking a soft tennis court for the hall. It was decided at the meeting to also ask for a further quotation for a layout for football (soft ball).

### **Some Forthcoming Dates**

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

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

**PCC Meetings** 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 27<sup>th</sup> October.

**Lexden**  
Choral Society

Lexden  
Youth Choir

Vivaldi  
**GLORIA**

Pergolesi  
Shearing  
Chilcott

Stabat Mater  
Songs and Sonnets  
A Little Jazz Mass

ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH, LEXDEN

Saturday 14th June 2014 at 7.30pm

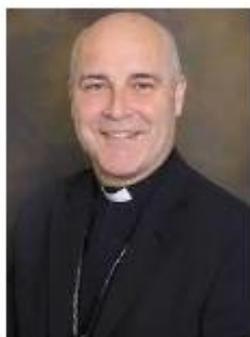
Tickets –£10.00

From: Mann's Music / [lexdenchoral.org](http://lexdenchoral.org)  
Phone 01206 543280/or at the door



# Where is the church in Society – A church without walls

*An evening with  
Rt Revd Stephen  
Cottrell, Bishop of  
Chelmsford*



Wednesday 11th June 2014

7pm for 7.30pm

at

Plume Avenue URC

Plume Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4PQ

*For further information contact Liz Bird:*

*[liz@colchesterchurches.org.uk](mailto:liz@colchesterchurches.org.uk)*

*All Welcome*

## **23<sup>rd</sup> WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE JAPAN 2015**

The World Scout Jamboree is an Organization of the Scout Movement for people all over the world. It is held every 4 years and countries have to bid for it in advance – a bit like the Olympics. It is for youngsters aged 14-17; there will be 36,000 young people in Japan next year for the 2015 Jamboree and 6,000 leaders.

The first World Scout Jamboree took place in London in 1920 and the 23<sup>rd</sup> such gathering is taking place between 28 July and 8 August 2015 when 3,500 Scouts and Guides from across the UK will be joining others from around the world in Kirara-hama, Japan for the 23rd World Scout Jamboree.

The theme of the Jamboree will be 'Wa' meaning harmony, unity, friendship and peace allowing a 'spirit of unity' to share others' cultures and faiths, take part in adventurous activities and grow as global citizens to tackle world issues.

UK Scouts and Guides are currently preparing for the Jamboree, forming friendships, fundraising and preparing so that when they return home, they will have developed skills and knowledge to act as global citizens keen positively to affect their local communities and demonstrating commitment to Scouting and creating a better world.

We are delighted that one of our own Scouts from Lexden, Sam Firth, has been successful in gaining a place at the Jamboree having attended District and County Selection Days when the applicants were particularly judged on their leadership qualities and their ability to work within a group of people they had never met before.

Sam started Beavers at St Leonard's when he was 5½ and is presently Patrol Leader of the Lions in the Scout Troop. One of the highlights of his scouting life was hiking over the Brecon Beacons in a team of 14 and he is hoping to become a young leader in Explorers next year.

Sam has to raise nearly £3000 to fund his three week trip of a lifetime to Japan and part of that fee goes to help scouts from less prosperous parts of the world to be able to participate in the Jamboree. After Sam spoke at the Palm Sunday All Age Worship a number of the congregation were kind enough to make a donation to help Sam reach his fundraising target but if you missed that opportunity and would like to help Lexden be represented at this World gathering please give your donation to one

## **Spiritually Uplifting**

I have been reading Reverend David Sheppard's book 'Steps Along Hope Street'.

I've found it a little heavy going but occasionally find a piece that is spiritually uplifting and it is one of these pieces that I would like to share with you.

This story is not long but tells of a man, Bishop Trevor Huddestone who, I believe, has been truly filled with God's grace and truth.

Trevor has just returned to the UK after spending some years of his ministry in Tanzania. He takes up a post as Bishop of Stepney. David at this time is Bishop of Woolwich and they form a warm friendship and spend a day together, at intervals, talking and praying.

In Stepney, Trevor becomes a tireless visitor to sick clergy, a relentless campaigner in committees whenever he felt Stepney parishes were being overlooked. David tells of a young girl, Kate, who was the daughter of Ted and Audrey, dear friends of ours from our East London days. She was seriously injured when knocked down by a car. Trevor visited her in hospital most days when she was critically ill. He kept up his friendship over the years and later officiated at her wedding.

This story was matched by one that Archbishop Desmond Tutu wrote about when he told of his illness as a child. When he was diagnosed with TB, Trevor drove the young Desmond to hospital and visited him mostly once a week over the next 20 months while he was in hospital. Desmond wrote, 'What this said to me, a Township urchin, about caring, about gentleness, about being made to feel you really counted, is more than I can put into words—maybe I hoped to emulate him one day—his affection helped me to exorcise a likely bitterness against and hatred of whites and made my future ministry more possible'.

**TC**