



St Leonard's

Ordinary People. Extraordinary God.



Parish Magazine

July 2014

Mens' Prayer Breakfast

**on the first Saturday of every month
in the Nicholls Room**

8.30 to 10.00am

with a breakfast of

Cereals, Tea, Coffee, Fruit Juice and Bacon Rolls.

Followed by Prayer Time

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 JULY



Tuesday 1st

10.30am Holy Communion at Wren House

2.30pm Holy Communion at the Old Rectory

Wednesday 2nd

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

10.45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

7.30pm Alpha Course

Thursday 3rd

8.00am The Eucharist

Saturday 5th

8.30am-10.00am Mens' Prayer Breakfast in the Nicholls Room

11.00am – 2.30pm St Leonard's Summer Fair

SUNDAY 6th: Trinity III

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.45am All Age Worship

6.30pm Parish Eucharist

Tuesday 8th

2.30pm Mother's Union meet in the Nicholls' Room

7.30pm 'Medley' House Group at 20 Wordsworth Road (Tel Rosemary 515245)

Wednesday 9th

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

11.30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

7.45pm 'After Eights' House Group at 127 Straight Road (Sara 07710070387)

7.30pm Alpha Course

Thursday 10th:

8.00am The Eucharist

3.00pm 'Canticle' and 'Wordsworth' House Groups meet (Hugh 564577)

Saturday 12th

10-3.30pm Alpha day at Assington Hall

10.30am-12noon Coffee Morning at 127 Straight Road

SUNDAY 13th: Trinity IV

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

6.30pm Evensong and Sermon

Monday 14th

4.00pm-5.30pm Holy Commotion

Wednesday 16th

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

7.30pm Alpha Course

Thursday 17th

8.00am The Eucharist

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

Friday 18th

5.00pm Parish Retreat at Pleshey (until Sunday lunchtime)

Saturday 19th

12.30pm Marriage of Katie Nicholson and Ryan Kendall

SUNDAY 20th: Trinity V

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

6.30pm Evensong

Monday 21st

11.00am Holy Communion at Hill House

Wednesday 23rd

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

7.30pm Alpha Course

Thursday 24th

8.00am The Eucharist

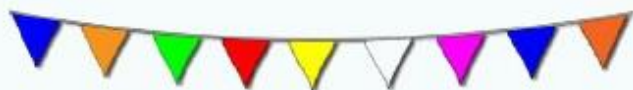
SUNDAY 27th: Trinity VI

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.45am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Evensong

Cont'd.....



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!



From the Rectory



I'm writing this in the space in the Church's year between Ascension and Pentecost – partly because I will be on holiday when the magazine deadline is due!

What is striking me is the way I am reminded every day through the liturgy and the daily office readings of the power that the Holy Spirit brings; again and again we are told of the promise of the Holy Spirit and the effect it can have on ordinary people's lives.

The disciples waiting in the upper room, however, didn't know what was to come – and life for them must have been very frightening. But you might ask, why did they have to wait? This is apparently a space of holy waiting, explicitly commanded by Christ in his last earthly words before ascension. It's tempting maybe to suggest that surely Christ could have been more practical, breathing on them with a "Receive the Holy Spirit" before leaving them. But instead... he told them to wait.

Waiting is difficult. We know how difficult children find it! How do we know the difference between procrastination and holy waiting? How can we wait when so many things seem to demand action or response? How long must we wait when we're promised something wonderful? Sometimes God brings us into waiting for specific reasons. Maybe he wants time to minister to us in the waiting, maybe he needs to prepare us. When the fire falls maybe our hearts will be ready for this new call and direction because of what we've experienced, what we've reflected on, while waiting.

Eventually the Pentecost story explodes into high drama. A ferocious gale threatens to blow apart the upper room. Mysterious, incandescent haloes of fire dance on the disciples' heads and in a flash they become multi-lingual. You could not ask for a more boisterous, action filled account of the early church getting off the ground! But we must remember it's a story which has application in the here and now... we too can respond to the Holy Spirit and be touched as they were – and do what they did.

In Corinthians we are told that in the one spirit we were all baptised into one body – and the concept of one body made up of many members was something the that the Greeks understood very well – this metaphor was used to describe the Greek State. However, for the emerging church the body is now Christ, into whom we are all called as essential components. We are made in God’s image, incorporated into Christ and animated by the Holy Spirit to be a living, breathing force for good.

We know that the Spirit distributes gifts... have you asked yourself what yours is (or are)? We all have them – but sometimes it takes a while to find them, or to realise what they are. There is a wide variety (*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;*⁵ *and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;*⁶ *and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.*⁷ *To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*⁸ *To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,*⁹ *to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,*¹⁰ *to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.*¹¹ *All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. I Corinthians 12)* – which are given to each member to build up and strengthen the whole body for its work in the world. The business of transforming lives and communities is a joint enterprise and we all have a role to play. Exercising our God-given gifts is not for our benefit – but, as Paul says, for the common good... the good of our church and our society and our world. Contrary to appearances the world is not doomed, dark, desolate and forsaken, but enmeshed with God’s glory and it’s our job to show that truth.

During Ordinary Time we are encouraged to reflect on how we live out our lives as disciples. Maybe your gifts are to nurture newcomers, talk to people outside church about your faith, comfort those who are lost, support those within our community who need it...?

We are all bearers of the Gospel, and people cannot know the glad tidings unless God’s community shares them. Our news is so good that we cannot keep it to ourselves! And with the Holy Spirit’s help we’ll manage to share it with joy.

Teresa



Course in Christian Studies

The next course in Christian Studies is starting in September.

This is a two year course exploring the Christian Faith with others, delivered weekly in local centres around the diocese. CCS has a foundational first year and a more flexible second year and leads to the Bishop's Certificate.

Since it began in 1987, over 2500 lay people from Essex and N.E. London have joined the Course in Christian Studies. What has it given them? What could it give you?

The **excitement** of discovery and learning together: members bring their own varied stories and experiences and share them.

Knowledge of the Bible and of the huge riches of Christian tradition, nurtured by tutors and textbooks, and whetting members' appetite for more knowledge - but not providing all the answers.

Delight in that biblical and Christian tradition.

Constructive **Reflection** on the Bible and tradition and on the contemporary world: the Course does not shirk the hard questions posed by the Church's history or by believing in God and seeking peace and justice today.

It could be a useful way to learn about your faith, your church and yourself.

It will be held at St. Stephen's Church, Canturbury Road, Colchester on Wednesday evenings. A Taster Evening will be held there at 7-30pm on Wednesday 16th July

Speak to Teresa if you are thinking about this...or Wendy Crockett, Mark Howell, Jacquie Messinger, Maggie Whiteman, Pauline Jarvis, ...to name but a few who have been on this course from St Leonard's!

Tom and Kathleen Scrimgeour

A few weeks ago Tom completed his six years as churchwarden and Kathleen retired after 14 years as secretary of the PCC. They carried out their duties with great dedication, and we owe them a big debt of gratitude.

The role of churchwarden has several different aspects, some more visible than others. As well as helping to ensure that Church services run smoothly, a churchwarden will arrange any necessary repairs to the Church building, chair numerous meetings and liaise with the Rector on numerous issues, etc etc, - and deal with the unexpected! Tom handled all aspects of the role with great ability and energy. He also had two extra things to cope with: in his first year as churchwarden he was also continuing as project co-ordinator for the Church extension project, working with the architect and the builders and others involved; and he took on sundry extra responsibilities during the interregnum between Stephen Carter's departure and the arrival of Teresa.

The role of PCC secretary may not be the most glamorous job in the parish, but it is a very important one: members need to be kept informed, decisions need to be properly recorded, paperwork needs to be kept under control, and follow-up action needs to be taken. All these objectives were well achieved by Kathleen, with her quiet efficiency.

A great deal of the work of Tom and Kathleen was "behind the scenes", ensuring that things ran smoothly. They shared a readiness to tackle any extra task that arose, and a very genuine willingness to help.

Thank you Tom! Thank you Kathleen!


Colin Hetherington

Church with a difference

Holy C mmotion

 Topic: Journeys

 When: Mon, 14th July 2014

 Time: 4pm-5.30pm

 Where: St Leonard's church, Lexden

 What: Cakes, games, craft activities,
singing & dancing, footprint-walk,
treasure hunt & lots more...

Children must be accompanied by an adult

No charge to take part, but please let us know, if you are coming: Contact Mia on 0758 2442682 or youthworker@stleonardslexden.org.uk

Our New Youth Worker



Hello! My name's Judy and I am very excited to let you know that I will be the Youth and Families Worker at St. Leonard's from September.

I have recently completed my undergraduate degree in American Studies from the University of Lincoln, and I am really looking forward to the next year in Colchester working with your church.

My family live in Canterbury, and I spent four and a half years of my early childhood in the United States (a starting point for my choice of degree). During my second year as an undergraduate I was very blessed to be able to spend four months studying at a college in the United States. I was also able to travel with old childhood friends and new friends from the college, many of which were from around the world. It was great to also attend a local church and meet Christians of different ages whilst I was there.

I really love working with children and have helped with various Christian camps and holiday clubs as a teenager and young adult. My hope is to be a primary school teacher in the future. I play the flute, piano, and sing, and I have loved being a part of my worship group at my home church.

I'm looking forward to living in a different part of the country and meeting new people and making new friends. I'm really excited for what God has planned for the next year at St. Leonard's, and I feel very privileged to be a part of it!

Judy Nicholas

INSIDE OUT – Round-Up

What an experience! From the beginning with Holy Commotion to the finish with ‘Sing a New Song’ the event was full of hope, if not always packed with people.

The children (and adults) particularly enjoyed the puppets from Smile Puppet Ministry at Holy Commotion and Beer and Hymns was a great success with people actually noticing us, outside of the church, praising God and enjoying it! At the end of the evening faces were lit up and smiling and it had nothing to do with the beer. The Digital Parenting events were not so well attended but I know that those who attended found it worthwhile.

Lexden’s Talent never really got off the ground even with the most enthusiastic efforts of Sara and Patsi and prayers from all quarters. But again the time people spent together during the afternoon in church was a special time of fellowship for them and it was, therefore, a success for a different reason.

The Sunday evening service was very different for St. Leonard’s congregation. Rosemary Elden led us in a service which we all enjoyed, even those that were expecting Evensong! The drums and tambourines came out in force and arms were raised in worship.

Many thanks for all those who prayed for us during this time, whether in groups or alone. The prayers were all so very welcome and necessary.

What can we learn from this time – that we can reach out to the community; that we can enjoy different types of services (not every week but sometimes, for a change); certainly that we have a hard working, willing congregation who should be proud of the effort they put into that week – from the delivering of the leaflets to joining in the events. I am sure that if Jesus had walked amongst us that week He would have been pleased with our efforts and I know that the Holy Spirit was certainly with each one of us.

So what next.... Well, our Alpha course has just started as I write this. A vibrant group of seventeen plus leaders and then it will be time for Teddy Bear to host his picnic again for the younger members of the parish. There will be many more events happening throughout the year. What a busy church – but we must make sure that we are not losing sight of God. He must be part of each event or else it just becomes

another picnic or another singsong. With Jesus walking alongside us we can accomplish outreach into the parish and we can enjoy the fellowship of being part of St. Leonard's church.

Jacque Messinger.

A talk on digital parenting by Bex Lewis

Although I haven't quite resorted to sending texts to say that tea is ready sometimes I wonder if it would be a more effective form of gathering the family to the table at meal times. Therefore I made a point of attending Bex's presentation on Saturday morning in mission week partly to see if she had any tips and partly to share a few moans with other parents.

My first surprise was that Bex herself was not actually a mum. As a battle weary mum meeting midwives, teachers, doctors and the like who have yet to experience the pains and joys of having children is sometimes a little off putting. Often a first response in a child related issue is to feel that they have no idea of what life is really like on the front line of parenting. I appreciate that this is short sighted and Bex certainly did not try to pretend that she knew what it was like to be a digital parent.. however what she did more than effectively was to present to us the views of a mediator or digital observer. The presentation offered a number of very useful insights and tips on how to survive, plan and enjoy digital parenting.

I went away feeling more positive about some of my decisions and with ideas for new strategies. I also managed to find out a few bits of information which I have dropped casually into conversations with the boys just to show that I'm not a complete digital dead loss on matters of the 21st century !

Fran

Ps Bex Lewis has written a book " Raising Children in a Digital Age". I think that there is a copy in the library at the back of the church. It's an excellent starting point to either understand what your children or grandchildren are talking about, or if you are a parent or grand parent or even just someone who feels concerned about what children are going to experience in their digital childhood.

BEER & HYMNS



The Bible says a lot about singing. Here is a great example:

Psalm 95: 1-2. Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

There are literally hundreds of references to singing as an integral part of worship and praise.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Psalm 100:1-2

“Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth”. Isaiah 12:5

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying, “I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously”. Exodus 15:1

I could go on.....

Not so much is said about alcohol and *its* part in worship.

Psalm 104 states that God gives “wine to gladden the heart of man”, and Ecclesiastes is a little more forthcoming, stating “Go, eat your bread with enjoyment, and drink your wine with a merry heart; for God has already approved what you do”.

I like to sing in church, as do many of us, and I am never happier than when belting out a tune surrounded by others, especially if it is an upbeat one. But I am aware that people sometimes feel either a little shy,





self-conscious or even unsure of their own ability to hold a tune, and don't manage to get the full enjoyment out of a "Song of Praise" that maybe they might.

What if, what if, there was a way to take down inhibitions just a fraction, just a notch, and allow everyone to compete in the noise that is truly the Worship of God? Now that would be good wouldn't it?

What if, what if, there was also a way to remind ourselves, and others in our community, that God is everywhere, and can be praised everywhere – not just in our Church buildings?

Well we tried it – in the form of Beer and Hymns.

The inaugural gathering of Beer and Hymns at St Leonards met at 7pm on Friday 16th May outside in the Churchyard for an eclectic mixing of the two said elements. God really shone His face on us – it was a beautiful warm, sunny evening, and he gave us some wonderful volunteers who tended the barbeque, set up the marquee, arranged the furniture, enabled the music, lugged the ale, printed the hymns, pinned the bunting, served the ale, administrated the ticket system, and made the whole event possible.

Once we were all set up and first drinks (All local beers from Colchester, Maldon, Coggeshall and Mersea Island) were happily in hand, Simon Grinham gave us a few words of instruction and led us in the first round of hymns. We were ably assisted by Simon Eavery on the piano. Around 70 people (both familiar and new faces) with ages ranging from 5 to 80+ happily belted out some of the more rousing hymns (Guide me O thou great Redeemer; To God be the Glory!; Thine be the Glory; And can it be, etc), which were chosen in a manner likened to an auction house or bingo hall.

Cont'd....



It was wonderful to hear these beautiful hymns being sung with full hearts and raising the roof (if you can, in a marquee!). Special mention must go to the members of the choir for providing the impromptu harmonies, which we were all able to join in with!

All in all we were singing for over 2 hours (including a short break, for both food and drink re-fuelling), providing wonderful entertainment to neighbours and passers-by, and reminding them, and ourselves, that God indeed can be praised anywhere and everywhere.

Already looking forward to the next one!

Kirsty



MOTHERS UNION

Our June meeting was our Summer Outing and enjoyed a very nice lunch at 'The Ship' at Tiptree and afterwards a visit to Heybridge Basin or the Perrywoods Garden Centre.

Our thanks to Jean Hallett for liaising with the restaurant and organising the transport.

**Our next meeting will be
on July 8th at 2-30pm
in the Nicholls Room
Our Speaker will be
Beverley Kettell**

Jean Holden



The Lexden Arts Festival 2014 seems a long time ago now, but this is our first opportunity to express a few thoughts about it, and offer some very grateful thanks.

We were both more than delighted with how the week went – it was such fun, and everyone who came, either to the art exhibition or to an evening event, seemed to be thoroughly enjoying themselves. The art sales, at £9749, were amazing! Many of the exhibitors commented on how well it was all organised, and what a pleasure it was to exhibit with us. All the performing artists were wonderful – I'm sure no-one will forget Matyas' amazing piano-playing, or Hugh Lupton's mesmerising storytelling, in a hurry, or the musical delights of Patrick McCarthy's recital or the Marenzio Singer's 'May Garland'. They have all contacted us to say how much they enjoyed performing in '*your lovely church*', and Jan Bullard (Marenzio Singers) said she felt the Festival was '*now firmly established and becoming part of the cultural map of Colchester*'. The fellowship in Len's Café was also a positive aspect of the Festival, and we were delighted to see hundreds of people come through the doors over the course of the week, many of whom do not normally come to church.

The high level of support from our sponsors was a key factor in the success of the Festival, and we intend to build on this next year. We already have nine sponsors who have pledged support for 2015, including two new companies! One of our major new sponsors this year has volunteered to increase their level of support next year because they were so impressed with the high standard they observed when they attended the Private View, and two of the evening events.

We are very aware that we relied on the help of a large number of people and are very grateful to every one of them, especially the 'gang' who moved large amounts of furniture, and erected and dismantled the art screens; Sarah Orr, Ann Baines and Linda Clifton, who each took charge of the tea-bar on different days, plus all their daily helpers; Jen and Alan Hedgeland for masterminding the lunches and keeping track of all the money; the evening event teams who sold event tickets and raffle tickets and wine and nibbles; Robin Greatorex for supplying the wine, lending wine glasses and donating a raffle prize; to all those who helped steward the exhibition, especially Kathleen who helped at the hectically busy

Private View (when we sold over £3000 worth of art in an hour and three quarters); and to Tom who helped in so many ways all through the week! AND huge thanks to all those of you who supported us by coming to the exhibition and all the various events. The Festival would be pointless if nobody came!

When all the sums had been done the Lexden Arts Festival 2014 had raised £4404 profit for the St. Leonard's Fabric Fund.

Needless to say, we are already well on with our plans for next year's Festival

Sally Pudney and Graham Bell

MARK COLE

Barbara, Simon and Joanna are grateful for the wonderful tributes to Mark. We are overwhelmed by cards and letters representing every aspect of his life.

Mark himself had planned his Thanksgiving Service down to the last detail and we would like to thank everyone who helped to fulfil his wishes - how he would have enjoyed it - St. Leonard's at its best.

He wanted us to "make the welkin ring" - and we did.

Barbara

From the Seafarers

The Charity 'Felixstowe and Haven Ports Seafarers' Service' have written to say how grateful they are for our cash donation and the toiletries. They say that their thanks are merely symbolic of the gratitude of countless Seafarers who are delighted to take a warm hat or other item away with them as they travel the seven seas.

Further and to add to the physical utility of the items, is the thought that people who they have never met care about them creates a warm glow, reminding the Seafarer that while he or she may be out of sight, they are not out of mind.

Evensong with a difference

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul instructs them to 'be filled with the Spirit. Speaking to yourselves in Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. Give thanks always for all the things unto God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ'.

'Sing a New Song' which replaced Evensong on the last Sunday of Mission Week gave St Leonard's congregation the opportunity to do just that.

A quartet of musicians from St. John's Church band led the singing while playing the keyboard, guitar and drums. They took us seamlessly through the familiar and popular *How Great Thou Art* and *In Christ Alone*, to the new and inspiring *10,000 Reasons* and *Cornerstone*. Their enthusiasm was infectious and our efforts were considerably enhanced by our choir who joined us in the pews for this service of celebration and thanksgiving. The Hymns were interspersed with readings, prayers and a reflection by Rosemary on the Mission's aim to open our church to the wider community.

Although we didn't have quite the wonderful range of instruments mentioned Margaret's reading of Psalm 150, we added colour and vibrancy to the last Hymn, *To God be the Glory*, with drums and tambourines which Jacquie persuaded us to play proving the truth of the Mission Prayer's last line, 'You can achieve the Extraordinary'.

The Psalmist urges us to praise the Lord with 'Timbrel and Dance'. I am not sure that the gentle swaying and discrete foot tapping count as dance but we certainly shared in making 'a joyful noise unto the Lord' to bring Mission Week to a harmonious and uplifting close.

E. A. Baines



Please would you all keep an eye out for new people moving into your road or block of flats. We would like you to put a Welcome leaflet through their door and if possible talk to them a little bit about our church. If you are unable to do this yourself, please let someone in the Ministry Team know and we will follow it up. Many thanks, **Rosemary**

My last month as a Youthworker



My highlight of the last few weeks was the lunch with the archbishop. It was a special lunch for young people who wanted to hear the Archbishop 'live'... This opportunity was great, so I went with 2 other girls from Colchester up to Romford. I was really excited and I experienced the fact

that he's a very good speaker. It was definitely worth going!

It's incredibly hard to believe that my last month here in Colchester has started! When I think about the beginning, so many feelings come up. Feelings of excitement, uncertainty, joy, nervousness and just feeling welcome. One memory is still very clear in my mind: Leaving my family at the airport and heading off to my first big adventure! Now it'll be the other way round! Leaving all those people here will be incredibly hard for me! But it's not over yet. I have to enjoy my time and come back to visit.

But I won't suddenly disappear at the end of July. When I finish my work here, I will do a placement in London for 2 weeks, so I will still be around... After that I will travel, with a German friend, to Cornwall. But then I will really head off home. In October my plan will be to go to University and study Civil Engineering. I decided, that I really enjoy working with children, but I just want to keep it as a hobby, not do it for my job. I'm already quite excited to start University. But it will be so different. But different can be good... And who knows, where my path will lead me in my life???

But until I go back to Germany I will enjoy my time here as much as I can...



Mia

House Group Tea

On 1st June all the house groups got together for an afternoon tea, kindly hosted by Alison and Jonathan Ewbank at their home in Layer De La Haye. There were more than 30 people there and there was plenty of tea, cake and chat!



Puppets at Holy Commotion



Lexden War Memorial Cross

First World War Deaths



During the next five years we shall all become very aware of the anniversaries of battles and events during World War I as the various centenaries are marked through the remainder of 2014 and the following years through until 2018. Indeed there have already been television programmes based on the naively named ‘War to End All Wars’ such as the fictional ‘Crimson Field’ based on a field hospital in France.

I should like to bring the events and horrors of the War to a more localised level by contributing a series of intermittent articles to the magazine attempting to give some details about the thirty-eight Lexden men who died during World War I and whose names appear on the Memorial in our Churchyard which was unveiled and dedicated on Saturday 17th July 1920, just 20 months after the Armistice.

The proper time to record in detail the design, construction and unveiling of the Lexden Memorial will be in 2020 but in the meantime it is interesting to note that it consists of a slender stone shaft supporting an open “lantern” of delicate arches and pinnacles surmounted by a cross issuing from the Crown of St Helena. The base is octagonal and at the base of the shaft there are four panels – the one facing Lexden Road bearing the inscription “THE GLORIOUS DEAD” and the other three bearing the 38 names.

In preparing these articles I am very much indebted to Mr Peter F Potter who researched over a period of three years the Lexden War Dead of both World Wars and in 2003 published a fascinating book “The Real Lexden Heroes”, a copy of which is available for reference in the Vestry. Peter Potter sadly died last September but his widow Christine has very readily given me permission to use extracts from her husband’s book.

I shall contribute an article to the August issue concerning the earliest

name on the memorial, Lieutenant Harold Martin Soames of 20th Hussars who died 23rd August 1914, within three weeks of the British declaration of war. The next article will then be November 2014 dealing with the only other 1914 name on the memorial, Private Albert Nevard of 2nd Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Then there will follow articles in 2015 to cover the six men who died in April and May 1915.

In the meantime, when you next pass the War Memorial, please take a moment to pause and think of how it looked for its first 26 or so years from 1920 until 1947 when a number of changes were made in order to accommodate the further thirty-two names from World War II.

The large crowd who attended the unveiling in 1920 would not have had any inkling that in 1939 Lexden men would be again fighting in another World War nor could they conceive of the many other conflicts to follow including Korea, Suez, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Tom Scrimgeour

An evening with Scarlett Canaday, Joe Richardson & Friends

Cheese and Wine @ St Michael's Myland

Saturday July 12th - 7 for 7.30pm start

Featuring music for all tastes

Price £10 per ticket

Includes 1 glass of wine, food and a free raffle.

On Saturday 12th July we are holding a Summer Concert to raise funds for the church. It is also a celebration of the vocal talents of Scarlett Canaday, from the USA, whose time with us, (through Time For God) is sadly drawing to a close. Joe, Scarlett (and Friends!) will delight us with their wide range of styles.

It would be great if you could attend this special 'one-off' event; not only raising money for the upkeep of the church, but to enjoy the warm hospitality that is being offered.

If you are able to support us on Saturday 12th July then please do get in touch.

Kind regards, **Hazel**