



# St Leonard's

Ordinary People. Extraordinary God.



## Parish Magazine

August 2014

# DIARY FOR AUGUST



Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>

8.30am Mens' Prayer Breakfast

**SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup>: Trinity VII**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am All Age Eucharist**

**6.30pm Joint evensong at St Barnabas, Old Heath**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>

10.30am Holy Communion at Wren House

2.30pm Holy Communion at the Old Rectory

7.45pm 'Jubilee' House Group (at the Rectory - Tel 575966)

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>: The Transfiguration**

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

10.45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

11.30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

**SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup>: Trinity VIII**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church**

**6.30pm Joint evensong at St Andrew's, Fingringhoe**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>

2.30pm Mother's Union meet in the Nicholls Room

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>

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

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

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

**SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup>: Trinity XIV**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Joint evensong at All Saints', Shrub End**

Monday 18<sup>th</sup>

11.00am Holy Communion at Hill House

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>

3.00pm Mothers' Union Garden party

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>

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

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

**SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup>: St Bartholomew**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Joint evensong at St Leonard's**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>

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

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

**SUNDAY 31st: Trinity XI**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Joint evensong at St Mary's, Wivenhoe**

**September**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>

2.30pm Lexden Ladies' outing

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>

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

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

**SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup>: Trinity XII**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am All Age Worship**

**6.30pm Parish Eucharist**

# From the Rectory



It was a lovely day at the Cathedral in Chelmsford on 28<sup>th</sup> June when 32 people were made deacon in three services (including, of course, David Armstrong). There were an exceptionally large number of ordinands this year. But you have to feel for the bishop, the archdeacons, the choir and the cathedral staff who were at all three services and must have been exhausted by the end of the day! But each of these ‘brand new’ curates had one thing in common – they had said ‘yes’ to God’s call.

So why is there this apparent upswing in vocations – especially in this part of the country? (Chelmsford and London Dioceses regularly produce 20+ ordinands, this year 32 and 35 respectively). Perhaps it’s because ordained ministry is rather more ‘user-friendly’ than it was – you can train part time and minister part time if that’s what you are called to. Or perhaps, just perhaps, God is calling more people to work in the vineyard! And there is a greater willingness to take the vocations of young people seriously – there is even a website just for them called ‘Call Waiting’.

The nature of ministry – of all kinds of ministry – has changed considerably in the last few years. We must all realise by now that the church is changing – to be frank, she has to survive. This is a common theme, one which is a little frightening - because as a church and a community (and probably as individuals) we don’t like change that much. But essentially, what will change is the way that we do things around the edges – what will never, and must never, change is the core of our faith.

We need to live by the teachings of Jesus - we are his disciples; that is all we need to know - and we need to respond to, and be guided by, the Holy Spirit.

The church has always been in a state of change... but the nature of discipleship remains constant. It is messy. It’s humbling. There’s often no glory in it. It’s for the long haul. To be a disciple of Jesus you must be committed to him above everything else.

Actually, the first word for Christians was not "Christians" but "disciples."

Newcomers to the faith saw themselves in relationship to the risen Lord Jesus in some way similar to the relationship of the first disciples to the earthly rabbi Jesus.

A disciple learns by hearing his or her Master and doing like his or her Master. This is explicitly commanded by Jesus in John 13: "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set an example that you should do as I have done for you."

To be a disciple is also to be called to make new disciples. People should see the Christ in us and through us. We should enable them to encounter the Jesus that loved but also challenged, the Jesus that laughed but also wept. We should be able to make him real to them... but, of course, he first needs to be real to us.

Throughout the New Testament, the term "disciple" is a dynamic concept, not a 'sit on your laurels and rest' thing. We're all on a journey –and we need to make sure we continue to keep moving on that journey. We need to keep on renewing our faith, our relationship with Jesus through prayer, worship, study, discussion and reading. We need to actively work at allowing the Holy Spirit space in which to act; space in ourselves and space in our lives.

So where are you in your discipleship? You never know what you might be called to do – God of Surprises is a very apt title. You may find yourself sharing your faith (in word or deed) and making new disciples. You may find yourself washing the feet of others (physically or metaphorically), you may find yourself slowly realising that you may have 'an echo of a whisper of a call' as Bishop Stephen puts it.

You may be realising that God has a job for you just like those 32 people ordained on the 28<sup>th</sup> June ... simply because you are his disciple.

He really does do that!

**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**



## 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, Canterbury Road, Colchester on Wednesday evenings.**

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!



## A BIG Thank you!!!

It is strange to write my last article for the church magazine about my time here... Next time you will hear from Judy, the new Youth worker. But before I will go back home, I wanted to say thank you! Thank you for the time I had, for many interesting discussions, conversations, events, etc.... I learned a lot in my time here. In the last couple of weeks I explored my passion for doing and leading worship, being creative in every possible way and organizing services.



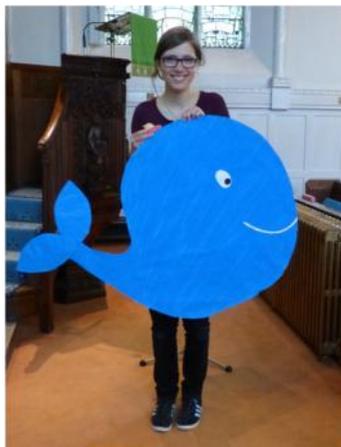
When I came here, I wouldn't have dreamed of leading a service on my own, starting a new youth group or organizing a Holy Communion. All of these things had their challenges, but I grew in them. They are things which will help me in my life in one way or the other. And just the fact, that I was working in a church made me realise, how many people it

takes to run a church. There are so many involved and I feel proud, that I was a part of that community. All the people I met, changed my life... Thank you for all the support and the patience for me, so I could find my own way. I thank the children for their acceptance, even though I had a strange accent. A big thank you to the Junior Church helpers, the Ministry Team, Rainbows, Cubs, Beavers leaders, Parents and Toddlers and to all the people I have met.

I hope you keep me in your memories. I will definitely never forget the fantastic time. It helped me to find my own way, to explore my future-plans and to grow in confidence!

**I will miss you,**

**Love Mia**



## St. Leonard's Summer Fête - 5th July, 2014



There was just enough summer to make it work. From the beginning of the week we had been bracing ourselves for the worst but the weather forecast softened as the days went by and it was clear that, on the day of the fete, the worst of the rain would be over by about nine in the morning. So it proved to be. It was a strange feeling, in the

early part of the week, to be preparing for an event in glorious sunshine and knowing that the day itself would be damp. There was some soul searching on the Tuesday when Saturday's weather first appeared on the radar in the five day forecast but, here as over the past few months, I was grateful for the wisdom and experience of Viv Mendham, whose view it was that, as far as possible, all the stalls and activities should be outside. This proved to be



entirely correct. Only the book stall was vulnerable to a downpour, as the stock of books extended way beyond the confines of the gazebo, and the books were easily protected from the showers we had by covering them with spare tent sides.



I would like to express my gratitude to all those who ran stalls, the raffle, activities and refreshments; to those who put up, took down, set up the sound system, mastered the ceremonies, counted the money and



lent gazebos. The Smoothie Bike saw its first airing and was brilliantly run by Kirsty, Daphne and Mia. The bouncy castle could be seen, if not for miles around, certainly by anyone coming down the Lexden Road and it helped send out the message that this fete was for all ages, as the church is for all ages.

We were very fortunate in donations. Kirsty rounded up donations from Tesco, Sainsbury and Morrisons for the Smoothie Bar. We were donated a barbeque by Brookes Accounting Services in Grays, four trays of assorted soft drinks [i.e. 100 cans and bottles] from Britvic Soft Drinks. Maggie used her magic to source vouchers from Poplar Nurseries, The Lexden Crown and the Peldon Rose for the raffle. Also Bernie, who prints my Christmas card, donated 2000 flyers which arrived by return of post.



The congregation then went to action with the distribution.



A regular theme amongst the comments from visitors was that it was lovely to come to a traditional fete. Here I must pay tribute to Adrian and the Morris Dancers. The routines had to be carefully rehearsed. Also a separate sound system had to be set up. I am indebted to Chris Andrews for loan of both her electricity

for the latter and her garage as a short stay for the books and the fridge. As far as the entertainment was concerned I cannot speak highly enough of Matthew Brown who entertained us with Jazz piano over lunch and the Old Chimers, who brought their hand bells all the way from Benfleet.

Writing this I am conscious that so many people have given of their time and labour here as in so many aspects of church life. I have been handed the keys to a Rolls Royce and it has been a privilege to drive it.

**Thanks to one and all.**

**Robin Greatorex.**

## **Women and the Episcopacy**

As you will know, General Synod voted in favour of women bishops on 14th July.

The voting figures were:

House of Bishops: 77 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention;

House of Clergy: 162 in favour, 25 against, 4 abstentions;

House of Laity 152 in favour, 45 against, 5 abstentions.

Archbishop Justin said *“My aim, and I believe the aim of the whole church, should be to be able to offer a place of welcome and growth for all. Today is a time of blessing and gift from God and thus of generosity. It is not winner take all, but in love a time for the family to move on together.”*

The legislation will now move to the ecclesiastical committee of parliament where it will be considered. Then, subject to parliamentary approval, the measure will return to the General Synod in November when it will come into force following its promulgation (a formal legal announcement). That means the first woman bishop could be appointed by the end of the year.

So – now it has happened – and we have the opportunity to stop focusing on the internal differences of our church and remember the needs of the world!

**Teresa**

## Holy Commotion

The July's Holy commotion was all about Journeys...

We had a great time and many fun activities.

The children explored.....



what it feels like to be in the tummy of a whale,.....



be tickled during the feet painting.....

finding the missing parts for the treasure hunt and making whales...

The song parts were great fun and we introduced some new ones.

The children loved the 'live' music and it was a great new experience.



how to build boats out of muffins...



**Mia**

## **Lexden War Memorial Cross**

### **First World War Deaths – August 1914**

Over the past few weeks many of us have probably been reflecting on how the lives of our ancestors were changed forever by the outbreak of the First World War, which Britain joined on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914. In an age of limited communications, the War must have seemed to appear as if from nowhere between the Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie in Sarajevo on 28<sup>th</sup> June and the first declaration of war – Austria against Serbia – on 28<sup>th</sup> July.

Germany became actively involved on 1<sup>st</sup> August, declaring war against Russia, followed on 3<sup>rd</sup> August by their declaration of war against France and invasion of ‘neutral’ Belgium. In retaliation for the German invasion of Belgium and in support of the Entente Cordial agreement with France, Britain declared war on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The British Expeditionary Force, commanded by General Sir John French, was shipped across the English Channel from 12<sup>th</sup> August onwards, particularly landing in Le Havre, and moved forward by rail to join the defensive and retreating French Army line just across the Belgian frontier in the area of Mons. The BEF originally consisted of two Army Corps supported by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Division commanded by Major-General Sir Edmund Allenby and amongst the units in this Division were the 20<sup>th</sup> Hussars which had been based in Colchester.

Initially the fighting with the German Army consisted of a series of skirmishes in a war of movement (in complete contrast to the subsequent fairly static trench system).

As mentioned last month I much indebted to Mr Peter F Potter who researched the Lexden War Dead and in 2003 published a fascinating book “The Real Lexden Heroes” and his widow Christine has kindly given me permission to use extracts from her husband’s book.

The earliest death recorded on the Lexden War Memorial is that of Lieutenant Harold Martin Soames of the 20<sup>th</sup> Hussars who died on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1914 whilst out reconnoitring with his groom, riding polo ponies, near Binche, a small Belgian town lying ESE of Mons and nowadays famous for a UNESCO recognised 3 Day Carnival culminating on Shrove Tuesday.

Lt Soames aged 27, who resided in Lexden, originated from Farnham in Surrey and joined the Hussars in 1905, being gazetted Lieutenant in 1911 and married in 1913. His daughter, Mrs Rachael Gosling, told Peter Potter that she was born two weeks prematurely on August 6<sup>th</sup>, due to the shock of her father's departure for the Continent. As a consequence of this and her father's subsequent death her mother suffered from Post Natal Depression for the rest of her short life and Rachael was brought up by her widowed grandmother and a 17 year old girl "as my nanny", who came from the then Lexden Post office and had brought the dreaded official telegram to her mother.

Lt Soames was a well known sportsman who played Polo for his Regiment and for England and also competed in Show Jumping and Skiing for the Army.

Near Binche the two riders passed a spinney and then turning a corner saw German troops massing in strength so they immediately turned and cantered back but when again passing the spinney they came under fire and Lt Soames was gravely wounded and his horse killed. His groom slung his body across his saddle and made it back to regimental headquarters to report the German concentration before rushing his officer to a nearby Nunnery. The groom remained with Lt Soames for several hours until he died.

Lt Soames is buried in Hautrage Military Cemetery, 15 kms west of Mons and approximate 30 kms west of where he died but the Commonwealth War Graves website explains that this area of Belgium was in German hands for almost the whole of the war and in the Summer of 1918 they moved a large number of British graves from across the Mons area and dating from 1914 into Hautrage Cemetery mostly of the 2<sup>nd</sup> cavalry and 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Divisions. The Cemetery contains 235 Commonwealth burials alongside 537 German graves.

So Lt Soames' death in what became known as the Battle of Mons and within three weeks of Britain joining the conflict was the first Lexden death of the War and there would just be one other during 1914 which will be covered by an article in the November magazine.

It is interesting to reflect that the battle in which Lt Soames died was the first fought by the British in Western Europe since Waterloo 99 years earlier in June 1815 also on Belgian soil.

**Tom Scrimgeour**

## **Steps along Hope Street** **By David Sheppard**

I felt that I had to add to earlier comments (June 2014 issue) I made regarding Reverend David Sheppard's book 'Steps Along Hope Street', which I have now returned to St. Leonard's library at the back of the church. In my earlier piece I did say that I was finding the book rather heavy going and that's true and is possibly due, mainly, to my lack of knowledge in the matters of Church Structure, Community Services, Voluntary Groups and the like. David touches on these at length and in quite some detail. However I'm glad that I kept reading right to the end. I should add that cricket was one of my favourite games and although I did not see David play he was nevertheless, one of my cricketing heroes.

As his book draws to a close the final chapters touch on some thorny issues. In the way they were discussed, I felt I was reading about a person who, with others, was trying desperately to bring about a fairer and more just society. Also the Christian ideals of love, caring and listening to peoples' concerns came to the fore. Several times I had more than a lump in my throat as David expresses his faith, hope and love in the situations he was faced with and encountered. A truly remarkable man of our time, blessed by God's grace, truth and Holy Spirit.

**TC**

## **Moses**

What a wonderful evening The Lexden Summer Show was in the church on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> July. The young people of S.L Club, Beyond Blue and 7th Heaven, masterminded by Sally and Graham, gave a beautifully varied review in aid of Moses the little African boy who lives in the NotDec Orphanage in Uganda.

The group have been sponsoring him since he was two days old and he is now 4 and a half.. The sponsorship is £300 a year and £240 was donated on Saturday, which will be enough to look after Moses for 10months.

If anyone else would like to help him to stay for the full year, please contact Sally by 'phone on **563368** or **[sally@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:sally@stleonardslexden.org.uk)**

I am sure that others will write about the music but I wanted to draw attention to Moses. PLEASE HELP

**Jean Holden**

## A visit to the September 11 National Memorial in New York



As part of a week's hectic sight-seeing in New York, I had particularly wanted to visit the September 11 memorial. The tragic events of 9/11 are indelibly etched in our memories, with their far reaching consequences still being felt today. This is still evident in the increased airport-style security checks required at all major tourist sites in New York and elsewhere.

After a morning visiting the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, a short walk from Battery Park in Lower Manhattan took me to the site of the former World Trade Centre, now a memorial to nearly

3,000 people who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks. Surrounded by newly-planted trees, two large pools (the largest manmade waterfalls in North America) are situated where the twin towers once stood. It was designed by Israeli-American architect Michael Arad and is called "*Reflecting Absence*".



The names of those killed are inscribed in bronze around the edges.



I was very moved to see a single white rose carefully placed by the name of a loved one. The water cascades around all four sides of the pools and gently falls away into a smaller deeper square in the middle. For me, this simple, tasteful and beautiful design symbolised the cycle and constant renewal of life. Amidst the hustle and

bustle of the city, this area was quiet, reflective and dignified.



A Tribute Centre has now opened next to the location of the northern tower, with galleries and rooms revealing personal stories and experiences of some of those involved. The lower parts are deeper underground and situated at the foundations of the tower. It was an eerie feeling standing at the foundations and

almost impossible to imagine the events that had taken place above.

A special private ceremony took place on May 28<sup>th</sup> 2002, when the last remaining column was carefully lowered whilst Bagpipers played *Amazing Grace*. It was then shrouded in black and draped with the American flag. Two days later, the column was then removed, marking the end of a nine month recovery period. It is now on prominent display in the large underground space.



Overall, I felt the Tribute Centre was well judged and respectful in terms of what was shown but not without controversy. Some of the unidentified victims' remains are behind a wall in an area which is off-limits to the public. It is inscribed with a single quote from the Roman poet Virgil: "*No*



*day shall erase you from the memory of time."* A few of the families complained because the final resting place of their loved ones is now partly the property of tourists, even though kept in a sealed room only they are



allowed to visit.

Walking around, I was drawn to one item which I vaguely remembered hearing about on the news. *Frank Silecchia*, one of the construction workers, discovered a 17 foot intersecting steel column and crossbeam in the rubble, forming a large crucifix. Moved by the spiritual presence he felt, he pointed

this out to other workers and members of the clergy. He said later that *“some people will say it's velocity or physics that put it there. To me it's an act of God”*. It was perceived as a religious icon and was relocated to the edge of the site, increasing its visibility and accessibility to workers and victims' family members. Hundreds attended a ceremonial blessing given by a Franciscan priest ministering to the local community and individuals of many faiths and belief systems saw it as a symbol of hope, faith and healing.

*Richard Sheirer*, former commissioner of the New York City office of Emergency Management said *“it didn't matter what religion you were, what faith you believed in...it was life, it was survival, it was the future...It represents the human spirit...good over evil...how people will care for each other at the worst time and moment in their life and how people can put aside differences for the greater good.”*

I found a visit to the memorial moving, thought-provoking and poignant. Next month, I am hoping to write another article about my visit to St Patrick's cathedral, where I attended early morning mass.



**Chris Newton**

## Colchester Chamber Choir Concert

### Sunday, 29th June, 2014

A huge thank you to Roderick Earle and the Colchester Chamber Choir for another wonderful programme of music performed at St. Leonard's church in June. The concert could be described as a game of two halves, to take a football analogy, but with the first half played away and the second at home. We are definitely at home in our own language and the settings of poems by Stanford, Elgar, Vaughan Williams and others, in the second half of the concert, are part of the rich musical heritage of these islands. The performance of these pieces seemed to belong perfectly to a summer's afternoon. The choir managed to make some of the most demanding music in the repertoire seem easy. Hilary Sellers's rendering of the Bluebird by Stanford was an object lesson in control and phrasing.

The first half was an away match but not just because the pieces were written in an 'away' language - Latin. Much sacred music is written for specific times of the church year and there is no doubt that such music has its greatest resonance when performed at the appropriate time. Would a concert of Christmas music feel appropriate, say, in the middle of August? The penitential psalm *Miserere Mei*, Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness, is normally associated with the period of Lent. For many people it is never an inappropriate time to hear this beautiful work and the Colchester Chamber Choir have made it very much part of their repertoire. This was the second piece in the first half of the concert. There was some uncertainty, on this occasion, with the tuning in the semi-chorus which stands apart from the main choir although the soprano top C was impeccable as usual. The plainsong from the men of the choir had improved by leaps and bounds and was beginning to flow easily and naturally.

The concert got off to a wonderfully rhythmical start with Bach's motet *Lobet Den Herrn* Praise the Lord, all you heathen. After the Allegri *Miserere*, we were treated to four of Maurice Duruflé's motets, where each motet is introduced by a brief line of the plainsong on which the piece was based. By luck or design the last of the motets was *Tu es Petrus*, You are Peter and upon this rock I shall build my church, was indeed appropriate to the day and followed our celebration of St. Peter in the morning. The glorious *Tota pulchra es, Maria* You are wholly

beautiful, Mary, was written for women's voices. This and the first motet, *Ubi Carita et amor Deus ibi est* Where charity and love are found God is there, are beautifully expressive pieces and need the space to breathe. Why rush them? We have time. In the first motet the altos shone in the phrase *Timeamus et amemos deum vivum* Let us fear and love the living God. It must be said that the altos presented the brightest 'look' of all the parts? The look conveyed to the audience that they were enjoying what they were doing and meant what they were singing. At the same time there was dullness and lack of phrasing in the bass line. Both tenors and basses were noticeably one singer down in each part.

None of this mattered, however, with the performance of the last five items of the first half. We had heard these in a concert at St. Teresa's quite recently. There was a confidence and enthusiasm which goes with knowing the music well. It was lovely to re-visit the Bruckner motets and Poulenc's *Salve Regina* Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, was sublime. There was a fine blended sound in the soprano line, influenced greatly by the musicianship of its lead singer. The final piece in the first half was Rossini's *O salutaris hostia* O saving victim, opening wide the gate of heaven below. My notes state simply 'expressive', rhythmic, 'good dynamic contrasts' and 'sung with purpose'.

Sung with purpose indeed and received and appreciated by a good audience at St. Leonard's which extends its thanks once again. The concert raised £650 to be split between the church and the choir who will be returning to the cathedral of St. Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St. Edmunds where the audience is invited to Blow the Trumpet (or to let the choir, brass and organ do it) for a feast of music for St. Cecilia's Day on Saturday, 22nd November.

**Robin Greatorex.**

### **Some Dates**

**PCC Meetings** 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 27<sup>th</sup> October, 1<sup>st</sup> December

**Harvest Festival** 5<sup>th</sup> October

**Confirmation Service at St Leonard's** 12<sup>th</sup> October

**WW1 Special national Remembrance** 11<sup>th</sup> November

**Colchester Chamber Choir at Bury St Edmunds** 22<sup>nd</sup> November

## **An Interesting Discovery in Syre Church, Sutherland**

I am writing this in our caravan pitched on one of the most remote sites in Scotland alongside Loch Naver, to the east of the tiny hamlet of Altnaharra and 25 miles from the nearest shop. We are listening on the radio to Netherlands beating Spain in the World Cup as this beautiful lochside caravan site has no television, mobile phone or WiFi reception!

Earlier today we drove 10 miles to the north-east to visit the next hamlet in that direction, Syre, where we stood in the churchyard and listened to a cuckoo calling on one side and a shepherd crying to his dog as they sorted sheep for shearing on the other.

We were delighted to find the tiny whitewashed and red roofed corrugated iron Church of Scotland building unlocked and despite only having occasional seasonal services it was well cared for with hymn books in the pews.



In the porch, whilst making an entry in the visitors book, we picked up a leaflet produced by [www.lookingforGod.com](http://www.lookingforGod.com) to commemorate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James Bible which featured the following anonymous text which we found an affecting version of the life of Christ.

### **One Solitary Life**

He was born in an obscure village, the son of a peasant woman. He grew up in an another village, where he worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty. Then for three years he became a wandering preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office.

He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He never visited a big city. He never travelled more than two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He did none of those things one usually associates with greatness. He had no credentials but himself.

He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to his enemies and went

through a mockery of a trial. He was executed by the state.

While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure for much of the human race and a key leader of mankind's progress.

All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that **One Solitary Life**.

*Anonymous*

**Tom & Kathleen Scrimgeour**



**WHO  
IS  
SHE?**

Can anyone identify the lovely little girl being looked after by the late Arthur Mather?

We think it dates before 2003 but as yet we can't name her.

**Please let us know and contact us on 579121**

Many thanks,

**Jenny and Tony Cross**



## **Mothers Union**

At our meeting on Tuesday July ,we remembered Anne Marshall who served our branch so well for many years.

Mrs Beverley Kettle gave us a very interesting illustrated talk on John Constable R. A . She certainly held our attention as she spoke about his working landscapes.

**On 12th August** we meet to hear  
**Mrs Pauline Briggs , a Diocesan trustee.**

The following **Tuesday August 19th**  
**Mrs Eileen Bartlett** has  
invited us to her home for a garden party,  
This will start at **3.00pm**

Do come

**Joan Kitson**