



St Leonard's

Ordinary People. Extraordinary God.



Parish Magazine

September 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 SEPTEMBER



Tuesday 2nd

10.00am Holy Communion at Wren House

2.30pm Holy Communion at the Old Rectory

Lexden Ladies Lunch Outing to Craft Nurseries, Lawford

Wednesday 3rd

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 4th

8.00am The Eucharist

Saturday 6th

8.30am Men's' Prayer Breakfast

10.30am Coffee morning at Wren House

2.00pm Marriage of Herman Roos and Emma Brand

SUNDAY 7th: Trinity XII

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am All Age Worship

6.30pm Parish Eucharist (Revd Richard Allen's leaving service)

Tuesday 9th

2.30pm Mothers' Union meet in the Nicholls Room

7.30pm 'Medley' house group at 20 Wordsworth Road (Rosemary 515245)

Wednesday 10th

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

7.45pm 'After Eights' House Group at 127 Straight Road

Thursday 11th

8.00am The Eucharist

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

Saturday 13th

Friends of Essex Churches 'Ride and Stride' - Church Open 10.00am until 4.00pm

SUNDAY 14th: Trinity XIII/Holy Cross Day
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church
6.30pm Evensong and Sermon

Monday 15th
11.00 Holy Communion at Hill House

Wednesday 17th
10.00am The Eucharist with prayers for healing followed by Open Church

Thursday 18th
8.00am Eucharist
8.15pm 'Harmony' house group at 145 High Road. Layer (Alison 734246)

Saturday 20th
12.30 Parish Picnic at Lexden Park

SUNDAY 21st: St Matthew
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church
6.30pm Evensong and Sermon

Monday 22nd
7.45pm PCC meeting in the Nicholls Room

Wednesday 24th
10.00am Eucharist with prayers for healing followed by Open Church

Thursday 25th
8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 27th
10.30am Macmillan Coffee Morning in church

SUNDAY 28th: Trinity XV
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church
6.30pm Evensong and Sermon

Monday 29th
7.30pm 'Jubilee' house group at the Rectory (Teresa 575966)

Tuesday 30th
10.30am Holy Communion and Harvest Festival at Wren House

Wednesday 1st October

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

Thursday 2nd

8.00am The Eucharist

SUNDAY 5th October Harvest Festival

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am All Age Worship for Harvest Festival

11.30am Teaching session by Revd Steve Kersys, Diocesan Advisor for children's work. 'Faith with boots on', a talk about practical advice, encouragement, unity and boldness in service.

12.30pm Parish Lunch

6.30pm Parish Eucharist

Stewardship

Two years ago, as part of the Stewardship Campaign, we highlighted the way in which St. Leonard's works because of the contribution of so many people "doing their bit". If you try and write down all of the different groups of people who contribute in this way you rapidly realise it comprises a very long list! A lot of this activity goes on unseen though some is more upfront. So we wanted to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to all of those members of St. Leonard's who play roles in the various aspects of church life.

So popping up throughout this month's magazine you will see photos of just some of the groups (thanks to Viv Mendham for providing the pictures), with apologies to those for whom we could not find space.

Another reason for highlighting these contributions is that we will shortly be launching a mini-renewal of Stewardship. As before, this is not just about financial giving, though that is obviously important, but providing everyone with the opportunity to think about how they can contribute to the Mission at St. Leonard's.

More details will follow in the October magazine and at services.

Responding to the Crisis in Northern Iraq A Pastoral Letter from our Area Bishops

Like us you will be holding in your prayers the appalling humanitarian crisis in Northern Iraq which has been provoked by the mass displacement of many thousands of Christians and other people from all backgrounds in minority communities. Those communities have been subjected to terrorism, ferocious brutality, abductions and killings.

As you are aware the survivors have been forced to flee from areas controlled by ISIS (Islamic State in Iraq) where they were given the message – convert, leave or die. Vulnerable children, women and men are now stranded in dire conditions. They stand in desperate need of safety, shelter, water, food and sanitation.

Northern Iraq is crying out for our prayers, our practical aid and our advocacy. The Church of England has set up a dedicated [website](#) ‘[Pray.Act.Give.](#)’ on which you will find prayers, a downloadable poster for displaying your support for the people of Iraq, details of how to donate to a wide variety of Church-based emergency appeals, and advocacy action to keep this crisis in the eyes of the international community.

As a Church, we are committed to championing freedom of religion and belief worldwide as a fundamental and internationally recognised human right. Even in the UK, we stand firmly against any labelling or targeting of people on the basis of their religion, and we work for a society that continues to be welcoming and respectful of all faiths.

We would also want to encourage you to find ways to reach out to Muslim neighbours in your local community. Many Muslims are feeling insecure because of suspicion, prejudice and attacks fuelled by claims that ISIS is acting in the name of Islam despite the fact that Muslim leaders have condemned this group.

Thank you for all you are doing, both personally and corporately, in your witness to prayer, practical action and commitment to those who are suffering and struggling at this time of crisis in Northern Iraq.

We are writing in the absence of the Bishop of Chelmsford who is on annual leave.

With our prayers,

From Richard

Dear friends,

As most of you know, I have finished my time as Assistant Curate at St Leonard's, and am to start a new chapter in my ministry at the parishes of St Mary the Virgin Ardleigh, St George the Martyr Great Bromley, and St Anne & St Laurence Elmstead from the beginning of October.



This new post doesn't as yet have a title, as the three parishes are coming together for the first time, and the diocesan plan is to appoint a full-time Priest in Charge as soon as possible. All being well I will be licensed as Associate or Assistant Priest in the parishes when she or he is appointed. In the mean time I am doing what I can to support and encourage the three parishes. Please pray for me in my new ministry, and pray for the parishes as I minister to them.

Wendy and I had been members of St Peter's Church, North Hill since 1983, and we both served on the PCC and in various other capacities. Latterly I regularly led and preached at the family worship services there. During this time I considered the possibility of NSM ordained ministry, but things didn't progress. In 2000 Wendy and I felt we were being called to move from St Peter's, and we started attending St Leonard's that Advent.

I attended the Ordination of the Rev'd Bill Howes as Priest at St Leonard's in June 2001, and had a real sense of being called by God to re-consider training for ministry. To cut a long story short, all the doors opened in turn, and I started my three-year training for ordained ministry in August 2004.

When I was ordained Deacon in July 2007 I was delighted to be appointed Assistant Curate here under the supervision and encouragement of Revd. Stephen Carter. Stephen was an immensely wise and experienced priest who taught me much about ministry. Another part of the learning was provided by the many instances of help, support, encouragement and, yes, forgiveness when I got things wrong, from members of the St Leonard's community. The past 7 years have been a joy, and I will be sad to leave, having come to know many of you as friends (despite having a lamentably poor memory for names). During that time I also had the privilege of

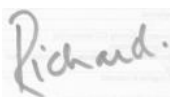
-serving our local ward councillor Sonia Lewis as Chaplain when she was Mayor of Colchester, and undertaking a 9-month secondment to the Colchester Town Centre parishes of St Peter's & St Botolph's during their vacancy before The Rev'd Mark Wallace was appointed.

Many of you attended the service in Chelmsford Cathedral on 1st July 2007 when I was ordained Deacon – Teresa was ordained Deacon at the same service, and we did all our post-ordination training together. I was delighted when she was appointed Priest in Charge of St Leonard's, and have really enjoyed working with her, having got to know her as a friend and colleague before her arrival in Lexden.

Wendy and I have a strong family attachment to St Leonard's; our younger son Ben was confirmed here, I officiated at our elder son David's wedding when he married Hollie here in 2012, and I baptised their first-born, Jacob, here last month. Wendy and I will not be moving house, and I will continue working as an optometrist at Owen Aves, so we will still be part of the parish, and hope to attend social events and services at St Leonard's from time to time.

So as a final “exhortation”: Inside the church – look for the outsiders and the new-comers and make space for them; don't always sit in the same space speak to the same people week after week. Try to be aware of cliques (yes, there are some!) and open things up. When you're outside the church building, Rejoice! Wear your faith on your sleeve. Let your love of Jesus be infective. And look for signposts and listen to that “Still, small voice” - you never know where God may be calling YOU.

With my love, thanks, prayers, and blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard." The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

The Reverend Richard Allen

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

Coffee Mornings

Our next Coffee Morning will be held on
Saturday, 6th September, 10.30am—12noon
at **Wren House, Christine Chase**, (off Heath Drive)
by kind invitation of the Manager.
The residents and staff are always pleased
to welcome friends from St. Leonard's.

There is also a coffee morning
at **St Leonard's** for
MacMillan Cancer Support,
Saturday, 27th September, 10.30am -12 noon

So do come along and support both events.

Jean Hallett

**Lexden
Ladies'
Group**

LEXDEN LADIES' GROUP

We had no meeting in August but on
September 2nd

Merlin is organising an event at
Ardleigh Craft Garden Centre
on the **Harwich Road**.

You can just come for coffee, stay for lunch or just come for lunch.
Just let **Merlin (Tel. 545534)** or **Margaret (Tel. 579629)**
know if you wish to come.

There will be **no meeting in October**
but on **November 4th at 2.30 pm** in the **Nicholls room**
we shall have a **talk from Dr.Jane Pearson**.

Make a note in your diary!

Margaret Howard



**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

SATURDAY 27th SEPTEMBER

**at St Leonard's Church,
Lexden Road, Colchester**

10.30 am – 12.00 noon

Come and join us in the world's BIGGEST coffee morning, for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Coffee/Tea & Cake

Bring & Buy

and

Guess the number of hundreds & thousands!!!!



Friends of Essex Churches Trust Fund Raising Event

The **Sponsored Ride & Stride 2014** event this year is on **Saturday 13th September** which coincides with the Heritage Open Day for buildings throughout Essex & East London. It is a wonderful way to visit churches and chapels that might otherwise be closed on this day. **St. Leonard's, Lexden** will be open **from 10am through until 4pm**; with **Welcome Stewards** in attendance.

This is the main fund-raiser for the above organisation and is a hugely popular community event that takes place on the second Saturday in September every year. Participants are sponsored for the number of visits they make in the day to churches or chapels – **Anglican, Catholic, Free Church or any building that may be used as a place of worship**. Everyone is encouraged to join in; the whole family can be included. Your participation as a **cyclist or walker** can be for just an hour or two, or for the whole day. How about our **Youth Groups** or the **Scouts** getting involved – we really do need your help. You wouldn't want to be left out would you?

Half the money raised from the event goes to the church or chapel of your choice, obviously that means **St. Leonard's, Lexden** for us and the other half is credited to the **Friends of Essex Churches Trust** funds for distribution to pay for repair and renewal grants to our historic church buildings. In 2013 a total of £85,008 was raised in the Essex and East London area. Here at **St. Leonard's** we provided a **very impressive £550**. **Can we improve on that this year? With your help perhaps we can.**

Volunteers of all ages to ride or stride will be very welcome. Sponsorship forms are now available from **Tom Scrimgeour**, who will provide full details and can be contacted on **01206 574797**.

We also need people to be prepared to spend some time (say an hour or two) at the church as **Welcome Stewards** to greet visiting riders and walkers from other churches, as well as our own participants.

Thank you in advance for your support and interest in this event.

Pleshey Retreat: 2014



"God was in his Old Testament mood!" was how Archdeacon David described the weather on the first evening of our stay - it was certainly dramatic and awe-inspiring and these two words can certainly describe how God may work in our lives - or

maybe we just need to listen out for his "still small voice." Either way Archdeacon David was encouraging us to make room for Christ in our lives; to take time to get to know our God; a God who already knows us so well.

On Friday evening in Luke's gospel we met Jesus' first disciples by the Sea of Galilee and learnt how God wants to encounter us where we are in everyday life and how he uses our talents and personal life stories to use us as "fishers of men." To help illustrate a further point on how God uses ordinary and sometimes unlikely people, David shared Caravaggio's painting of the "Call of St Matthew" and unpicked for us some of the symbolism of the painting. Caravaggio himself was an "unlikely" instrument of God's work however he certainly used his talents!

On Saturday morning we entered the house of Mary and Martha (and the world of Desert Island Discs) and considered how God understands our need to be Martha(s) at times but also how we need to remember the importance of making time for God as Mary did. Time is sometimes our greatest enemy and we need to ask our heavenly Father to use his Spirit within us to quieten our minds and bring us back into communication with him.

Speaking of the Holy Spirit, on Saturday evening we visited the disciples in the upper room at Pentecost and explored being, "Alive in the Holy Spirit" which, when you are at Pleshey, seems a lot easier than when we are going about our daily lives! But if we are open to God he will come in,

his Holy Spirit will hold our hands each step of the way and we will make a difference to ours and others' lives. David shared the words of the hymn "Come down O Love Divine" and for me those words, which we sing so often without thinking, will take on a new significance.

Finally on Sunday morning we read in Acts 2 what the church was like at the time following Pentecost. David shared with us how he loves Church architecture, theology and the community of church people, but as he pointed out, this is not "the body of Christ". The "body of Christ" is being alive to God, being "utterly attractive" in the way that Jesus was, so that others want to be part of his body and in turn want to be part of the "living" church.

What a wonderful couple of days - a journey of exploration in a wonderful setting, lovely fellowship and special moments of space with God. Thank you.

Maggie Whiteman



Mothers' Union

At our August meeting we were privileged to have Mrs Pauline Briggs, a diocesan speaker.

She told us about Mary Sumner, our founder, who invited the women of her husband's parish to her home.

She made no distinction of their social status which was unusual in her time. From that period we were asked to imagine the Mothers' Union in forty years time. We must have vision, she said.

Several members stayed after the meeting and began discussing concerns they have. We are grateful to Pauline for joining in. We had different points of view.

By the time this report is read we should have had a garden party at Ellen Bartlett's home. Thank you Ellen for your hospitality.

**Our next meeting will be
Tuesday, 9th September at 2-30pm
All parishioners are welcome to join us.**

Joan Kitson

St Leonard's Church

Parish Picnic

Saturday 20th September

12.30 – 2.30 pm

Lexden Park (Church Lane)

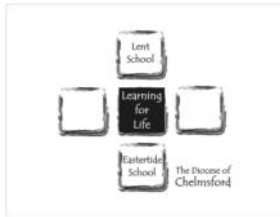
**Bring your own picnic
and something to sit on.**

**We'll eat, chat and relax. There
will be games for the lively ones!**

Children must be accompanied by an adult

If it rains we will be in the Hall





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, Jacque Messinger, Maggie Whiteman, Pauline Jarvis ...to name but a few who have been on this course from St Leonard's!

ST LEONARD'S MUSIC GROUPS ANNUAL REPORT



Over the past year our music groups have contributed to the music at St Leonard's with great enthusiasm and professionalism and we should all be very proud that

around 32 of our youngsters want to play a part in the development of music making here at Lexden.

Much of the membership has remained static this year with most of our older ones, who are at university, coming back to sing at the major festivals at Easter and Christmas. This clearly is an indication of a sense of belonging and a willingness that they still want to be involved even when they leave the area, albeit for short periods. I am greatly encouraged by this attitude and hope that this will continue.

The year saw a number of achievements in the RSCM 'Voice for life' scheme with members of S.L.Club gaining five blue ribbon medals, four light blue and one dark. This is the most we have achieved in one year and it is an indication of the rich talent that is present with the younger members. The attainment of these medals means that all five members will move up to sing with Beyond Blue this autumn. I know that they all can't wait to start.

When Bishop Stephen came to visit at the Patronal Festival, Beyond Blue sang Durufle's 'Ubi Caritas' and, at our first 5th Event service at Advent, Bob Chilcot's 'Advent Candle' was performed. The Wassail, on the Saturday before Christmas, was a relaxed fun event enjoyed by all present and we introduced a wonderful carol written by Will Todd, 'My Lord has come'. At the two services on Christmas Eve we gave a joyful performance of John Rutter's 'All Bells in Paradise' and John Wolton played the piano for us with effortless ease, a very difficult accompaniment. At the Christingle a Taize was sung 'With you, O Lord' and at the second 5th Event of the year, 2nd March, we performed 'The Lord is full of compassion' by Philip Moore and 'Open thou mine eyes'

by John Rutter. Our offering at the Mothering Sunday service was given by both S.L.Club and Beyond Blue, 'Song of Mary' by Margaret Rizza and at the Good Friday service we performed the anthem 'O Saviour of the world' by John Goss. The final 5th Event of the year was St Peters day, 29th June, and we performed 'Tu es Petrus' by Faur'e, with a marvellous solo by Tom Chippendale and a version of Benedictus by Margaret Rizza. The whole year was topped off by the Summer Show, 12th July, which is gaining a reputation as a 'not to be missed' evening as it is a chance to let off steam and an opportunity for some of our members to showcase other talents with often comedic effect.

One of the highlights of the year was the wedding of Angela Isherwood and David Smith. Angela is a member of Beyond Blue, and she wanted the group to sing an anthem. After a lot of searching, Angela chose the same anthem that was sung at Kate & William's wedding in 2011, 'This is the day' by John Rutter. The organist on the day was Toby Parr and we are grateful to him for accompanying us.

The 7th Heaven dance group gave enthusiastic performances at all 5th Event services and at the Summer Show. The choreographers, Shannon Forster and Fiona Logan have decided to move on to other things as they are now both over eighteen and I thank them for their contribution to making possible a very happy little group over the past 4 years. I wish them both success in everything they do. We are therefore in a situation where we have no choreographer but have decided to continue the group without the pressure of performing at services for the time being. The '7th Heaven Collective' has therefore been formed to allow all members an input to the dance routines and it is hoped that this will encourage new members.

The LYNX instrumental group will continue to augment the 5th Event services and other occasions when required.

My special thanks go to Colin Hetherington for his tireless contribution with S.L.Club, Sally Pudney for her teaching and organisational skills and to Kate Crane, a Beyond Blue member, for often helping out at the piano. Above all, I thank all the parents who make sure their offspring attend all practices and services without which nothing would be possible. The future of music at St Leonard's is very bright indeed and I personally can't wait for what's in store for us over the next year.

Graham Bell

RETREAT

A personal reflection on the recent Parish Retreat at Pleshey.



We arrived at the Diocesan Retreat House early on Friday evening, to a warm welcome. We were shown to our rooms and I was immediately delighted with mine. It was small, simple and unadorned, except for a little mirror and a plain wooden cross on the wall. It seemed just right for a retreat.

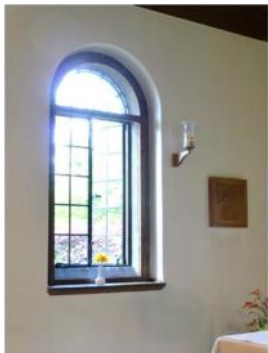
I was conscious of the many others who had been there on retreat before me. This was not a multi-purpose conference venue or hotel, but a holy place, purpose-built for prayer and contemplation. Pleshey is a quiet village, without any main roads within earshot, and from the house there are no long views; just the gardens, trees and rooftops. It is a surprisingly remote, secluded and peaceful place.

It was an indulgence to spend the weekend living in an entirely Christian community, not as one of a minority group in a secular society. There were no practicalities to worry about, because the domestic arrangements were perfectly organised, thanks to the experience of the staff and their empathy with the concept of retreat. The atmosphere was friendly, undemanding and comfortable.

The retreat theme was ‘Space for God’ and the timetable consisted of talks, formal worship, periods of silence, free time, meals together and fellowship. Our gifted conductor’s talks were spellbinding and inspiring, prompting us to contemplate ourselves, our priorities, our relationship with God and our discipleship.

I had wondered if I would find the free time dragging, but was surprised at how quickly it passed. It was an unfamiliar feeling to be doing nothing, without a nagging feeling that I really should be getting on with something!

The early storms gave way to hot, sunny weather, so we were able to enjoy the garden, which has been thoughtfully designed, with shady lawns beside the river, herbaceous borders, and numerous hidden corners in which to find solitude.



The beautiful countryside around Pleshey offered another opportunity for relaxation, peace and contemplation, and for exercising off some of the excellent and plentiful food! I enjoyed a pre-breakfast run each day through the quiet lanes, with the morning sun, the birdsong, the cornfields, and the Creator of it all.

By the end of the weekend I had slowed down, had immersed myself in the retreat. I had not once wanted to check my emails or the social media and was in no hurry to get back to them. I knew, of course, that once back in Lexden I would pick up where I had left off. So, what now? I could look back on the weekend as a relaxing and rejuvenating interlude, time out from everyday life - and of course, it was that, a retreat. But perhaps, back in the routines and busyness of daily living, I could continue to look at my priorities and discipleship, try to build a closer relationship with God, a better balance of Mary to Martha. It has to be worth thinking about...

Viv Mendham



**Dispensing
Coffee
and
Cheerfulness**

Some Dates

PCC Meetings 22nd September, 27th October, 1st December

WW1 Special national Remembrance 11th November

Colchester Chamber Choir at Bury St Edmunds 22nd November

A visit to St Patrick's Cathedral in New York

During my visit to New York, I took advantage of two opportunities to visit St Patrick's cathedral. Firstly, it was only ten minutes' walk from my hotel and secondly, my body clock had not adjusted to the five hour time difference. I was therefore wide awake at 5am and able to attend the first sung midweek mass at 7am!

St Patrick's was designed by architect *James Renwick* and is an example of the American Gothic Revival style. Construction began in 1858 and was completed in 1878. Capable of seating 2,500, it is one of the largest Catholic cathedrals in the United States. It resides on exclusive 5th Avenue, nestling among luxury shops like Cartier's, Tiffany's and other famous places such as Trump Tower. The beautiful and spacious Central Park is just a short walk in a northerly direction.



The cathedral is currently undergoing extensive restoration and is almost completely shrouded inside and out by scaffolding. The picture above taken in May 2006 (courtesy of Wikipedia) shows its former splendour. It is possible to spot the extent of the restoration in the picture of the Lady Chapel. Overall, it did not interfere too much with the day to day running and there was no discernible disturbance during services.

Each weekday there are seven services with eight on a Sunday. On arriving, there was the usual security check but sadly no one to 'meet and greet'. I felt this was a shame as it could have created a warmer welcome and directed worshippers to the right place. The first mass at 7am is sung and was attended by a congregation of about thirty locals who sat in the first few aisles. At the start there was no procession and a small number of clergy and servers appeared from behind the altar area. The first verses of a few hymns were sung and led by a single server with an excellent singing

voice in an emerald-green cassock and brilliant-white cotta.

During the service, I lost my place a few times but the responses were nearly identical to ones we use in St Leonard's. However, there were some minor differences which I found poetic and my favourites were "*make holy, therefore, these gifts we pray by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall*" and "*remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection...welcome them into the light of your face*".

There was a short sermon by a local Cardinal who posed a series of questions and I missed longer sermons which provide greater spiritual insight and guidance. The giving of the peace that followed lacked warmth and was rather perfunctory. A collection was taken with baskets on very long poles, moving quickly and efficiently up and down the aisles which saved valuable time but was slightly amusing. During Communion, the chalice was not offered and I was surprised to see hosts still being given on the tongue if requested. My early upbringing is Roman Catholic and I thought this had been discontinued many years ago.

Finishing promptly at 7.25am with no final procession, the service took twenty-five minutes and we left afterwards without speaking. Although I was glad to take part, it felt hurried and unengaging with insufficient time for prayer or quiet contemplation. However, there are many different styles of worship and it can be worthwhile to experience other services which can help you realise what is important to you personally.

Back at the hotel at 7.35am earlier than planned, I ate a hearty breakfast which gave me the energy for another full day's sightseeing! The rest of the day was spent on a three hour cruise around the whole of Manhattan with a superb guide, an afternoon at the Metropolitan museum of Art with a guided tour of their world famous Egyptian collection and a few hours exploring the beauty of Central Park.

Chris Newton



that the recipient can begin to use the machine straight away. Each kit is contained in a drawstring bag, approx. 12"x13". We aim to fill the sewing bag with the following items:

Cottons, Lace, Tape, Elastic, Ribbon, Bias Binding, Seam Binding, Braids, Buttons, Dressmakers' Pins, Zips, Dressmaking Scissors, Velcro, Sewing Needles, Needle Case, Needle Threader, Safety Pins, Press Studs, Beads, Sequins, Bodkins, Button Thread, Buckles, Seam Ripper, Shirring Elastic, Skirt and Trousers Fasteners, Tape Measure, Thimble, Curtain Rings etc. Tapestry and embroidery items are also in demand.

The charity cannot accept, glass jars, gas bottles, electric hedgecutters and lawnmowers



**Behind
the
scenes**

Dick Whittington

We are planning the next Parish Panto, and this time it's **Dick Whittington**. We hope to stage it in mid/late-January 2015 and are now looking for people to get involved. We need actors, backstage people, musicians, dancers, front-of-house - we welcome people of all ages with or without previous experience; if you want to help we'll find something for you. So what have you got to lose?

If you are even slightly interested, why not find out more?

We are holding a get-together sometime later in **September**,
more details in the weekly newsletter;

alternatively just speak to **David Burrows**,

or give him a ring on **574414**

or drop him an e-mail at **david_j_burrows@msn.com**.

many thanks, **David**

BOOK REVIEW

Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer

by Rowan Williams

This little book (81 pages) is a real gem and would make the ideal gift for someone being confirmed. It could also be used as the content of a Confirmation preparation course, as there are questions for reflection or discussion at the end of each of the 4 chapters. For the same reason it would be suitable for a house group to study and would probably keep a group going for some months !

In the past I have found books by the former Archbishop of Canterbury rather hard going, but this is easier to read (although very challenging) as the book comprises transcripts of talks given by Rowan Williams in Canterbury Cathedral as part of a series of regular lectures one Holy Week.

Let me share some of his words of wisdom. On baptism: The path of the baptized person is a dangerous one. Perhaps baptism ought to have some health warnings attached to it: if you take this step, if you go into these depths, it will be transfiguring, exhilarating, life-giving and very dangerous. To be baptized into Jesus is not to be in what the world thinks of as a safe place. Jesus' first disciples discovered that in the gospels, and his disciples have gone on discovering it ever since.

On the Bible I find him to be very helpful in how to understand those passages in the Old Testament where God appears to condone acts of genocide and murder: one of the great tragedies and errors of the way people have understood the Bible has been the assumption that what people did in the Old Testament must have been all right because 'it's in the Bible'. It has justified violence, enslavement, abuse and suppression of women, murderous prejudice against gay people; it has justified all manner of things we now cannot but as Christians regard as evil. But they are not there in the Bible because God is telling us 'that's good'. They are there because God is telling us 'you need to know that that is how some people responded. You need to know that when I speak to human beings things can go very wrong as well as very wonderfully. You need to know that when I speak, it isn't always simple to hear, because of what human beings are like. We need, in other words, to guard against the temptation to take just a bit of the whole

story and treat is as somehow a model for our own behaviour.

On the Eucharist: Holy Communion makes no sense at all if you do not believe in the resurrection. Without the resurrection it becomes simply a memorial meal, recalling a rather sad and overpowering occasion in the upper room. When we gather as God's guests at God's table, the Church becomes what it is meant to be: a community of strangers who have become guests together and are listening together to the invitation of God.

On prayer: For the Christian to pray -before all else - is to let the prayer of Jesus happen in you. Some kinds of instruction in prayer used to say: put yourself in the presence of God. But I often wonder if it would be more helpful to say; put yourself in the place of Jesus.

I can only give you a taste of this delightful and very readable little book.

If I have wetted your appetite why not order it from the Diocesan Bookshop (01245 294405) £7-99p.

You will not be disappointed.

Hugh Beavan



CHOREOGRAPHER REQUIRED.

7th Heaven have been enhancing the worship in our all age services for the last eleven years.

If there is anyone who has a passion for liturgical dance and would like to work with this group, please get in touch with me:

**Telephone 01206 762144
or email pauline@stleonardslexden.org.uk**

Pauline Jarvis

Joe Cowie

Joe was a founder member of S. L. Club when we first started the group in 2003. He had just had his eighth birthday. Since then Graham and I have watched his exceptional musical ability developing in all sorts of directions. Having sung a number of solos with S. L. Club, he left the group when he started at the Grammar School and began learning the double bass. Within a very short space of time he was providing a confident and accurate bass line for LYNX and rejoined us to sing when we launched Beyond Blue in 2009.

He quickly became an accomplished rehearsal pianist, while also developing his composing skills – many of you will remember some of the pieces that he wrote for Beyond Blue: The Huron Carol, with its wonderful woodwind quartet accompaniment, a joyful setting of the Gloria, and a blessing ‘May the Father’, which featured on our CD ‘Voices in Harmony’. We were delighted – though not surprised – when he got into the National Youth Orchestra playing double bass, although it did mean that he had to leave Beyond Blue, due to the time commitment, at Christmas 2012. To mark his departure from the group he composed ‘The Incomparable Rose’ which we sang at the two Christmas Services of Light.

We have attended some of the NYO concerts since then, at the Royal Festival Hall, the Barbican, and, on 10th August, at the BBC Proms in the Royal Albert Hall. The whole orchestra is amazing, the members playing with such energy and vitality, and it has been wonderful to see Joe performing with such enjoyment in these prestigious concert halls.

In the Autumn term he starts his music degree at Clare College, Cambridge: we will continue to watch his career with the greatest interest, and we are very proud that, in a small way, we contributed to his



The Snowmen

Notice of a Healing Service at Chelmsford Cathedral on Sunday 12th October 2014.

This, the third in a series of healing services arranged at Chelmsford Cathedral, is offered to any in our parishes and chaplaincies across the diocese in Essex and East London who might appreciate the ministry offered on this occasion.

Called ‘**The Beauty of Thy Peace**’, it will be a service of reflection and renewal for all those who live and work with mental illness and its consequences.

Previous services have focussed on loss and bereavement as a result of the death of a child, and a celebration of the healing ministry with a particular focus on all those in the diocese who are responsible for this ministry. We hope that the service on the 12th October 2014 will also provide an opportunity to bless and thank all those who are involved with this important area of pastoral work whether personally or professionally, and when mental dis-ease seems to engender a lot of stigma and misunderstanding, we hope that the occasion will also provide a time of support, recognition and reassurance for any who might value it.

The preacher is The Rt.Rev'd John Wraw Bishop of Bradwell, and we hope that there will be an opportunity for one or two brief reflections from people about their mental health management and recovery, and issues to do with faith and spirituality and mental health.

After the service, as on previous occasions, people will be available around the cathedral for prayer, The Laying on of Hands and Anointing for any who would like that ministry.

Do please spread the word about this service to any who you think might value and benefit from it, and we look forward, once again, to welcoming people from across the diocese to come together in their cathedral on the 12th October 2014 at 6pm.

Ivor Moody, Vice Dean and Canon Pastor.

A day at Chelmsford Cathedral.



Around fifteen members of St Leonards journeyed to Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday 28th June 2014 to support our new curate David on the very special occasion of his ordination as a Deacon.

His was to be the first of three services where 32 men and women were ordained.

It was a great privilege to be present on such an occasion and to feel the power of prayer for those first ten Deacons (Ordained at the morning service) and especially for our own David.

The hymns were a mixture of new and old favourites like ‘Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire’ and ‘In Christ alone my hope is found’ All were sung with conviction and joy led by the Cathedral choir, who we are sure, were a bit dry of throat by the third sitting at 6pm.

The Venerable David Lowman, The Archdeacon of Chelmsford preached an inspiring sermon based on the theme of ‘service’, he spoke of the importance of being prepared to serve others and in particular the washing of feet, and how this was particularly hard for him as a priest, as feet are definitely not his thing, but that with the help of God all things are possible.

It was a particularly special moment when the Bishops (including Bishop Stephen, The Bishop of Karlstad and The Bishop of Mbeere) surrounded David to lay hands on him and pray for the Holy Spirit to come down on him. Teresa as David’s training incumbent then vested him with his stole and the Bishop presented him with a Bible as sign of the authority given him to speak God’s word to his people.

The service concluded with



Bishop Stephen celebrating the Eucharist.

Following the Service we all milled in the Cathedral grounds and vied with David's family, friends and parishioners of his sending parish for a photo opportunity, see attached. There was a sprinkling of rain which dispersed the crowd ! We were then all welcomed into Guy Harlings where David had arranged a Champagne reception for his invited guests and supporters. This was a lovely opportunity to get to know his family and friends. Peter very eloquently spoke with great fondness and obvious pride of David's persistence and hard work to reach this point in his journey of faith.

Peter & Julie Hinchcliffe



HARVEST LUNCH

5th October at 12.30 p.m. in the church hall.

Harvest time has come around again and it wouldn't be the same without our harvest lunch after the service on the 5th October. There are invitations available for you to give to a friend, neighbour or just someone that you think might think would enjoy our harvest service. I will be putting out lists during September for you to put your name on if you could bake one of those lovely apple pies or bring along a salad. A list will also be put out for those who wish to join us for the lunch. If you would like to help with the catering on the day please let me know. You can e-mail me at jacquie@stleonardslexden.org.uk or just let me know when we meet in church.



Servers