



# St Leonard's

Ordinary People. Extraordinary God.



## Parish Magazine

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



Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>

8.30am Men's Prayer Breakfast in church

10.30am Coffee morning at Appletree, Chapel Lane, West Bergholt  
CO6 3EQ

**SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup>: All Saints**

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

**9.45am All Age Worship**

**3.00pm Memorial Service, followed by refreshments**

**6.30pm Parish Eucharist**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>

7.45pm 'Jubilee' house group at the Rectory (575966)

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>

10.30am Holy Communion at Wren House

2.30pm Holy Communion at the Old Rectory

2.30pm Lexden Ladies meet in the Nicholls Room

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>

**10.00am The Eucharist for All Souls followed by Open Church**

10.45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

11.30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

**SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup>: Remembrance Sunday**

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

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church followed by the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial at 11am**

**6.30pm An Evening of Remembrance - Music, Poetry, Readings, Prayer and Reflection**

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>

2.30pm Mothers' Union meet in the Nicholls Room

7.30pm 'Medley' House group (515245)

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>

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

7.45pm 'Explorers' House group at 127 Straight Road (579944)

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

Friday 14<sup>th</sup>

1.30pm Marriage of Andrew Mason and Rachel Speechley

**SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup>: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent**

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

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup>

11.00 Holy Communion at Hill House

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>

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

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

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

**SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup>: Christ the King**

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

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church; guest preacher Teresa  
Lasky from Colchester CAP Debt Centre**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>

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

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

**SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup>: Advent Sunday**

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

**9.45am Parish Eucharist**

**6.30pm 'From Darkness to Light' – an Advent Carol Service**

Cont'd.....

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December

7.45pm PCC meet in the Nicholls Room

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

7.30pm Christian Aid Service

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>

10.30am - 2pm Christmas Bazaar



## Memorial Service 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 3pm

As usual this year we are holding a memorial service for those who have been recently bereaved. We will be personally inviting relatives of those whose funerals have been taken by the ministry team – but we would like **you** to invite anyone you know of who has lost someone close to them and might appreciate the opportunity to remember and give thanks for their lives, and preferably offer to come with them.

It is a gentle, positive and hope-inspiring service and everyone who comes will be able to light a candle for a loved one. There is no time limit (as grief has no time limit either); *everyone is welcome*. It will last about three quarters of an hour and there are refreshments afterwards.

## It Starts with a Shoebox

Leaflets and Decorated "GO" Boxes for **Operation Christmas Child** are now available in Church.

The donation towards transport is again £3.00 to be put in the box. Secure the lid with an elastic band.

The last date for delivery of filled boxes is **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November**.

**Thank you**

**Tom and Kathleen Scrimgeour – 574797**

# **WW1 REMEMBRANCE**

**AN EVENING SERVICE  
OF  
REMEMBRANCE  
AT  
ST LEONARD'S CHURCH  
9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER  
TIME: 6:30**



**MUSIC  
POETRY  
READINGS  
PRAYER  
& REFLECTION**

## From the Rectory



How well do we prepare ourselves for worship? The house group that meets at the Rectory have been looking at aspects of the liturgy we use week in, week out and recently we looked at the Collect for Purity (nowadays known as The Prayer of Preparation).

*Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hidden; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

It is an ancient prayer, based on psalm 51; snippets of it can be found in worship used in the 5<sup>th</sup> century. It has been part of the rite of the celebration of Holy Eucharist in the Church of England since 1552 and in the first English translation in the prayer book of 1649. Some rubrics directed that it was for the priest alone to say – but the custom grew up of the whole congregation saying it as well.

The English version that we know comes from a translation of a medieval Latin prayer based on the Sarum rite (used in southern England). There was a long time of preparation in the vestry before the service– and this was one of the priest’s prayers. (3 psalms, Lord’s Prayer, separate confessions by the priests and servers - as well as this prayer!)

This prayer is a prayer of recollection, of calming down, of getting rid of the mental clutter. This prayer is intended to remind us that God knows all about us, to remind us that we need healing and forgiving in order to give ourselves fully in worship. And that’s an important idea to hold onto – especially as we come to the beginning of a service when we want to give our full attention to God. At the beginning of the Eucharist (in both BCP and Common Worship) we say this prayer.

*Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hidden....*

The first phrase isn’t there to tell God something he knows already but an acknowledgement of something important; hearts means our thoughts as

well as our emotions. God's knowledge includes the things about ourselves that we don't see – those which we find difficult to acknowledge and those we would like to hide.

It doesn't accuse us of deliberately trying to hide our true selves – but we can find ourselves habitually not having the courage to see ourselves, our actions, words and motives as they really are. *But we must not hear those words in the sense that God only knows our flaws* – we frequently think we are not good enough. Just as we can fool ourselves into hiding our faults – we can also ignore the potential that God sees in us. It continues:

*Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name.*

Inspiration.... This word has romantic connotations today... ideas of being given wonderful ideas... however – spirit means breath, Ruach, and in-spiration means breathing. So the prayer is carrying the theme of the intimate relationship with God further. A prayer that God's spirit will breathe in us and through us. His being is to be entwined with ours.

This phrase is intended to do more than give us some religious feelings and help us to concentrate on God for the next hour. It is a prayer for cleansing...and as such to be guarded from anything that distracts from worship. A deep clean... a reminder to purify our thoughts, our habits, everything so we may be in line with God's will. So that we can offer our whole mental and spiritual selves as we pray... *that we may perfectly love you*, that we may love God with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our might (from Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

When we pray that we may more fully love God and magnify his name – we must not secretly congratulate ourselves that we 'do things right here'; rather we are offering ourselves to be changed. The Collect for Purity reminds us that alongside, and despite, the fact of our failures and shortcomings there is realism that God can bring wonderful possibilities into being. And it's a prayer that we will be able to give enough room in our busy minds and lives and enough space for the spirit of God to be renewed, refreshed in us.

So its new name is appropriate... the Preparation, because we should take care to be well prepared when we come to meet our Lord in worship. We are reminded that we are God's that we are free again and reminded that by the Grace of God and love of Christ, we are made pure. And then, the

liturgy continues...

The next time you have a chance to pray the Collect for Purity, listen to the words with an open heart, an open mind and an openness to allow God to touch every part of your being. Actually, say it before the service...slowly, deliberately and hear the words and what they mean.

**Teresa**

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## **Colchester CAP Debt Centre**

Colchester CAP Deb Centre (CCDC) was established in the summer of 2013. It is one of 250 debt advice centres in the UK, set up by CAP (Christians Against Poverty). In its first year it has provided a professional debt counselling service, entirely free of charge, to over 50 local families. From their first meeting with a trained counsellor, participating families are given practical help and advice so that they can start the difficult process of bringing their debt issues under control. CCDC then provides ongoing structured support and monitoring so that each family can make progress in improving its debt profile, with the ultimate aim of becoming free of debt. In its first year CCDC helped 12 of the participating families to move to a debt free position and all the others have made good progress in the right direction.

It is a Christian charity and is supported by a network of local churches, including St Leonard's, but the counselling service is available entirely free of charge and there is no obligation for any client to commit to faith or to join a church. Having said this, a number of families have become involved with local churches, taking inspiration from the help they have received from CCDC.

Debt is a massive issue in the UK. Here are just a few frightening statistics:-

Every 21 minutes and 29 seconds a property in the UK is repossessed.

The total amount of personal debit in the UK is £1.452tn (trillion).  
£18,134 is the average spending per second on credit and debit cards in the UK.

£146,853 is the average size of a first time buyer mortgage.

It costs just under £65 to fill a 50 litre petrol tank with unleaded

petrol.

The average debt per adult in the UK is £28,756 which is approximately 116% of average earnings.

Citizens Advice Bureaux in England and Wales are being swamped at the moment with 6,500+ new debt problems reported every working day.

(Source of this data: The Money Charity)

This data is illustrative of what is a worsening problem in the UK and CCDC is doing what it can to assist at the local level. However its resources are now being stretched and there are a number of areas where help would be very welcome:-

Please include CCDC in your regular prayers.

You might consider joining CCDC's band of volunteer befrienders who assist the trained counsellor by helping and encouraging clients to make continuing progress in restructuring their debts.

You might even consider training as a debt coach or counsellor yourself. CAP provides a full training programme and this would help CCDC to deal with the rapidly increasing local demand for debt advice. At the moment the CCDC's waiting list for an initial meeting stretches into the first quarter of 2015.

At St Leonard's I have taken on the trustee role for CCDC that was previously held by Sara Batts and as noted above, our parish also provides CCDC's administrator, Patsi Morgans. If you would like any further information on CCDC then please do not hesitate to speak to either Patsi or myself.

I should add that CCDC's Centre Manager, Teresa Lasky, will be visiting St Leonard's for the 9.45am service on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November to talk about her work as a debt counsellor, so that will be an opportunity to hear more and to ask any questions.

**Jonathan Ewbank**

## Reflecting on our Gifts – the Harvest talk

Harvest at St Leonard's this year was a wonderful time of reflection and examination. We have taken the opportunity to thank God for the bounteous gifts and blessings he has given us, and we have taken the time to reflect on our gifts in the wider context.

We have looked at the gift of all our talents and skills and how we can use these to make known the good news and work of God within our community and beyond. One such opportunity for lively reflection was the inspiring talk delivered by Steve Kersys, the Diocesan Advisor for children's work, before our Harvest Festival lunch.



Steve works across the 1,500 square miles of the diocese offering support and guidance on matters relating to ministry to young people to its 600 churches which serve nearly three million people and 140 church schools.

He told us how he and the diocese are committed to all the children and to their spiritual welfare. It was,

he said, the role of his team to help churches to help children find faith, grow in faith and reach their full potential in Christ.

Illustrating his talk with wonderful anecdotes from his time teaching in schools and working as a youth leader, he developed the harvest theme of gifts. He encouraged each person present to take some time to consider what gifts in terms of talents and skills they can offer St Leonard's. After doing so, he asked us all to imagine our vision of St Leonard's and what we felt it should be, or should represent. Our skills and aspirations we wrote on individual pieces of paper which, as we left the church, were used to form a "wall" of talents and hope for St Leonard's.

**David Armstrong**

## **First abused, now abandoned:**

The Haven Project was started in 2004 as one of ten pilots for people with personality disorder. In more than 86 % of cases this disorder arises from early childhood sexual, emotional and physical abuse. It leads to dysfunctional behaviour in adulthood and more especially an inability to trust.

The Haven Project was designed by people with the disorder and it is one of the most successful therapeutic and recovery programme for people with the diagnosis. At the Haven the suicide rate is less than 1 % over a ten year period, while the national average runs at 8-10% for this client group. Our clients reduce their attendance at A&E and acute wards by 80% and save the local health service more than £800,000 per year.

Until now the project has been funded by the Department of Health and the funding was intended to be tapered to the local health authority the Clinical Commissioning Group. Despite our record for effectiveness and government insistence that CCGs must save money on unplanned admission – the biggest driver of cost on the NHS-, the North East Essex CCG has decided not to fund us at all. This decision was furthermore taken after many delays and without transparency of process or clear reasons given.

The clients who have learnt to overcome their difficulties and are beginning to thrive might have this precious safety net ripped from under them. You can help them:

Please go to **[www.thehavenproject.org.uk](http://www.thehavenproject.org.uk)**

and click on **sign the petition.**

**Write to the CCG**

**Write to your councillor**

**Write to your MP**

**Write to Norman Lamb**

**Campaign for justice for this vulnerable  
group of people not to be let down again.**

Contact **[pernille.petersen@thehavenproject.org.uk](mailto:pernille.petersen@thehavenproject.org.uk)**

or ring **01206 287315.**

## **Lexden War Memorial Cross**

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

The first article in this series dealt with the death of Lt Soames during the Battle of Mons in August 1914. This cavalry officer died within three weeks of Britain joining the conflict and was the first Lexden death of the War. There is only one other casualty in 1914 recorded on our war memorial and that was on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November when Private Albert Nevard was killed close to the French / Belgian frontier north of Armentières during the final phase of what came to be known as the First battle of Ypres.

As mentioned in previous articles I am 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 which on page 10 has a photograph of Albert Nevard in the dress uniform of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. I am also grateful to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website for additional information.

Albert was born in Heath Road, Lexden on 9<sup>th</sup> January 1882, the son of William Kenningale Nevard and Ellen Gibling. Ellen was born in 1844, and had seven sons and four daughters with William K Nevard before she died in 1887. William married secondly Elvina and they had a son, also called William Kenningale, in 1889 and this only child of this marriage and half-brother of Albert was also killed in action on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1917 whilst serving in the Canadian Army.

So both the Nevard half-brothers are named on the Lexden Memorial.

Mr Potter was only able to piece together limited information about the Nevard family but they lived at various locations around Colchester including Boxted, West Bergholt, Nayland and Lexden. “Bert” as Albert was known also lived at 40 Bergholt Road at some point but otherwise very little is known about his life although it seems very likely that he emigrated to Canada, returning to the UK to enlist.

Albert has no known grave but is commemorated on Panels 9 & 10 of the Ploegsteert Memorial in Berks Cemetery Extension in Belgium. This memorial commemorates 11,000 men from the United Kingdom and

South Africa who have no known grave but who died in the area of the French / Belgian borderlands where trench warfare in WWI lasted the longest. The memorial includes deaths in and around the towns of Hazebrouck, Merville, Bailleul and Armentières, the Forest of Nieppe (all in France) and Ploegsteert Wood (in Belgium).

Those commemorated on the memorial did not die in major offensives, such as those which took place around Ypres to the north, or Loos to the south. Most were killed in the course of day-to-day trench warfare, which characterised this part of the Western Front, or in small scale engagements, usually carried out in support of major attacks taking place elsewhere.

**Tom Scrimgeour**

## **Stewardship 2014**

If you are a regular worshipper at St. Leonard's you should have received a letter from us as part of this year's Stewardship Campaign. If you haven't received one, please speak to David Burrows or Tom Scrimgeour.

There is a box at the back of the church for your Confidential Response Envelopes; it would help if you could respond ASAP. Thank you.

## **Coffee Morning**

**Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> November, 10.30am to 12 noon**

**at Appletree, Chapel Lane,**

**West Bergholt, CO6 3EQ**

by kind invitation of Edward and Beverley Kettell

## **FINAL DAY FOR ITEMS FOR THE DECEMBER MAGAZINE IS**

**SUNDAY 12th NOVEMBER**

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

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

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

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

## A thank you from Cambridge



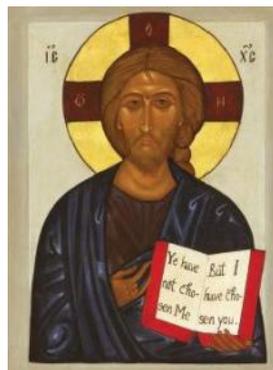
Hello everyone from room D4 in Westcott House!

I wanted to write to say thank you for the very generous cheque I was presented with on my last Sunday in Colchester – thank you all so much! It's a very good safety net to have as I am sorting out what life and student finances look like. Resisting the temptation to buy all the books on the reading list...

Sometimes it feels like I have never lived another life than here, other times I'm reminded sharply of the things and people I have left behind. Squeezing life into two smallish rooms here in college was a challenge – I have re-ordered things in the rooms several times to try to create a good working and living space. I am looking out across the garden pondering my first two weeks here in Cambridge. We have been very thoroughly inducted into the life of the House and had the first few introductory lectures.

The course I'm doing is partly taught by Cambridge University and partly taught by the Cambridge Theological Federation (an ecumenical partnership). As well as being a member at Westcott, I am a member of Pembroke College in the University. My term-time attachment is at the college chapel, which is beautiful, so I am looking forward to contributing to community there as well as here. Everyone at Westcott is training for ordination, but there are many possible academic pathways that one could follow so it's taken a while to sort out who is going to be a classmate and who I'll only see in the House. There's a mix of ages here, including ordinands' children, so it's not just serious young ordinands making me feel old.

Westcott chapel is the heart of the House. This is the icon behind the altar – “you have not chosen me but I have chosen you.” We say Morning and Evening prayer together every weekday – summoned by a bell five minutes



before. No latecomers are admitted... After morning prayer (and Eucharist if one chooses) there's breakfast, in a small but lovely dining room. We then scatter to various places for lectures, or other activities – meeting back for lunch and dinner. Most of my lectures are in the Divinity Faculty or at Ridley Hall so I will be doing a fair bit of travel across the river (ever thankful for the bicycle!)

Thursdays look a bit different as we worship next door in All Saints Church, and in the evening the whole community comes together (ordinands, their families & partners, and staff). There's a Eucharist, then a fairly rowdy 'notices' period where announcements are given – and after Compline we are in silence until 8.45 on Friday morning. Well, the Greater Silence is in the House. But there's also Lesser Silence, which happens in a nearby pub.

One new addition to the House this year is a pair of Franciscans – Brother Malcolm is the new chaplain, and Brother Chris has accompanied him. So it's been good getting to know them as members of the community, too.

Community life is interesting. It is a changing environment – each year a new group arrives, and a group leaves – so we are all figuring out what our place is, even those that have been here for a year or two. The Principal described it like a big painting. We all turn up with our various colours and we have to figure out where they are needed and most useful.

Before I left Colchester I ventured into the unknown territory of Junior Church. I asked the children what they would ask God if they knew they would get an answer. They had some very interesting questions. I suspect one of the markers of success of my time at Westcott House will be whether or not I can attempt a coherent answer to these! How would *you* respond to the questions posed?

Why is your name God?

What's it like up there in Heaven?

Do you have a wife?

Do you have children?

Why do people look up to you?

Why do people fight each other?

Why is there loads of poor people?

Why is the world the world?

How did God go to Heaven?  
How did Jesus get to Heaven?  
How many Angels do you have?  
Do you help people who don't look up to you?  
Why did you make a sun and moon?  
Did you make the world or is it a story?  
Why do we worship in a church?

**Sara Batts**

### **Golden Wedding**

On 26th and 27th September, John and I celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary with close friends and family.

I approached the planned week-end with a certain amount of trepidation in view of the state of John's health and mind, but I truly thank God that all went very well and John, who is receiving such good care, seemed to what appeared to me to be given some extra sense of recognition of, and strength for the occasion - was it some divine intervention? - for, as we neared the end of the party on Saturday, I looked at him his eyes were open, and looking around and, what was so wonderful, he had a happy countenance which I and family had not seen since he left home 18 months ago.

I do sincerely thank all our friends from the Church who I know were thinking of us and praying for us, and a big "thank you" to Teresa who willingly said she would come and give us Communion, along with John's sister, on the 26th. She was still with us at nearing 12 noon, the time of our Wedding in Writtle Church 50 years ago and we listened to "Praise my Soul, the King of Heaven, which I came down the aisle to, and the version of The Lord's Prayer sung by John's uncle, a member of the BBC Choral Society at that time.

It was a very special celebration.

Thank you so much.

**Jean Hallett**

## Archdeacon Canon Stephen Kathanje.



Stephen is archdeacon of Ngenge Archdeaconry in the diocese of Mbeere in the Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK). In Kenya archdeacons have parish responsibilities as well as archidiaconal ones; Stephen's parish is St Stephen's, Ngenge.

Mbeere Diocese came to existence on 1st July 1997; it lies close to the equator in central

Kenya, north-east of Nairobi, a semi-arid and arid land. People of the area are peasant farmers, exceptionally poor and dependent on the biennial rains for their existence. They grow crops and keep animals, particularly chickens and goats. Some of the crops grown are maize, coffee, bananas, mangoes. Chelmsford and Mbeere Dioceses are officially linked together and there are many exchanges and visits between us (clergy and laity, particularly, teachers). The ACK is growing very quickly in Kenya – and new churches are being planted all the time. Stephen said the most baptisms he had done in one day was 46!

The Anglican Church in Kenya is heavily involved in healthcare and is a stakeholder in the education system; a large proportion of schools are church schools. They are trying to encourage integration and child centred education for their pupils with special needs and Archdeacon Stephen was particularly impressed with special needs provision here.

Chelmsford Diocese is keen to encourage partnerships between the two dioceses on a parish level and we will be exploring whether this could be something appropriate for us as a parish. This may include praying for each other, sharing news of the things which are happening in the parishes, hosting visitors and, from our side, possibly some financial support. (A pound in Kenya goes an awful long way!)

**Teresa**





## From Judy

Autumn is here and it is very exciting! For me, Harvest Festival is definitely a sign that days are getting colder and it will soon be time to turn those clocks back (an extra hour in bed – yippee!). The rain and leaves may be falling, but this season is one of the most beautiful seasons of the year and I'm looking forward to experiencing it in a new place and seeing what Colchester has in store.

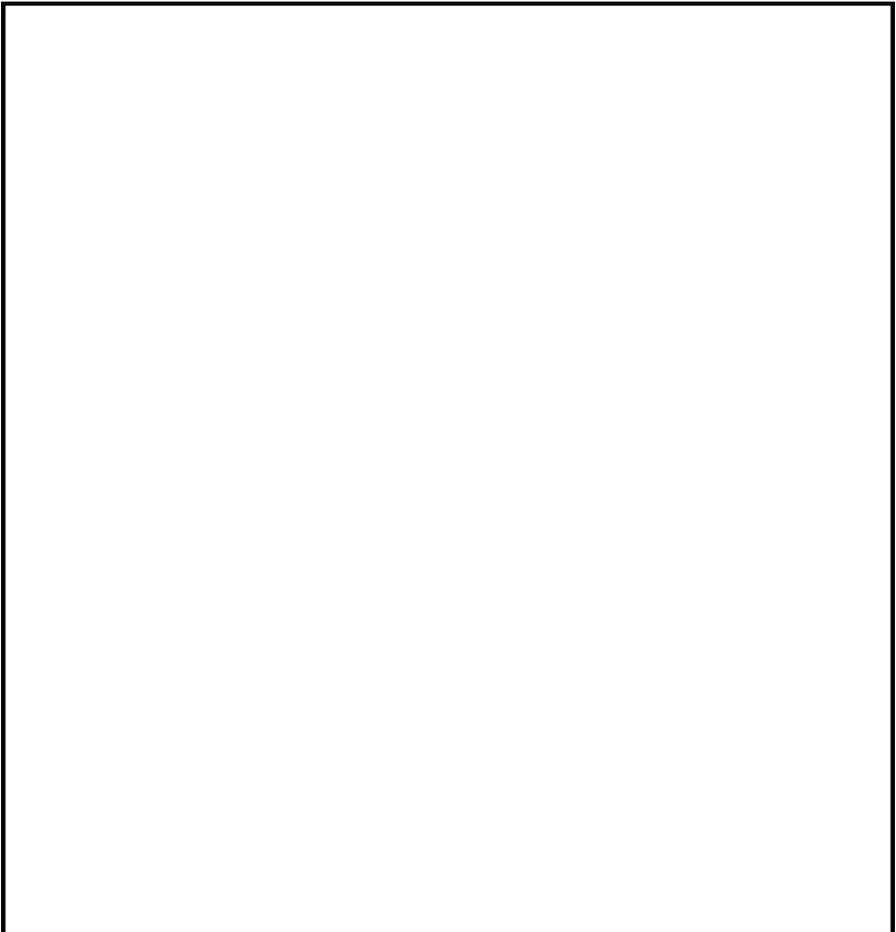
A few weeks ago I attended a conference with other people from Time For God (the Christian volunteering organization that I'm part of this year). It was great to meet other volunteers from around the world who are serving in different communities in the U.K. this year. We learnt about service, mission, worship, and even about the British culture. We did a quiz, and even I didn't get all the answers right! There was also an entertainment evening in which we had to work together in groups and do a performance to everyone else. It was good fun and very funny and a great way to get to know each other. We were at High Leigh conference centre in Hertfordshire (along with several groups of nuns) and it was a beautiful place to be, away from all the places we have come from. A great week!

I really enjoyed our Harvest Festival service on the 5<sup>th</sup> October. If I'm honest, Harvest is a service in the year that for me always just suddenly appeared and then left. I don't think I fully appreciated it or thought about it in great detail until this year. I really enjoyed planning the service, and looking for a Bible reading, for prayers, and looking into detail the great causes that we supported (food bank and the Mothers' Union) I had time to reflect on what I am thankful for. As I write this I am thankful for technology (there was no powerpoint problems during the service), for kind words after the service, for the belief and trust that was placed in me to do this, and for answered prayers (***'I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer'*** Psalm 17:6). A very special thanks goes to Susan Eavery who ran the powerpoint, to Milan and Hannah for reading beautifully, and the Junior Church and uniform group children who did the actions songs brilliantly! And thank you God for His presence with us and for the freedom with have to gather together and worship Him!

Besides planning Harvest, all the groups I help out with during the week are now in full swing and I'm really enjoying getting to know the children, parents, and leaders. The Cubs and Beavers are working on some of their badges and I've been learning plenty with them too! It's nice to have a clearer routine now, and I feel very settled into life in Colchester and at St. Leonard's. Thank you for all the help and lovely Sunday lunches I have had. At the end of October we have my first Holy Communion which I'm looking forward to! It's going to be a great month!

God bless,

**Judy**





# Mozart Requiem

## Remembrance & Thanksgiving Concert

Holst

Jupiter

Elgar

Nimrod

Parry

I Was Glad

Last Night of the Proms with Audience Participation

Kingfisher Sinfonietta led by Beth Spendlove

Conductor: John Chillingworth

St Botolph's Church, Colchester,  
Saturday 8th November 2014, 7.30pm

Tickets £12.00 (Concessions £10)

From: Mann's Music / Box Office 01206 766906

lexdenchoral.org / or at the door

## Harvest Flowers and Lunch

After the well attended All Age Service, the many gifts collected were taken to the Food Bank



# Lexden History Group

## World War 1 Commemorative Exhibition

For three days over the last weekend of September the Church Hall was turned into a veritable ‘Aladdin’s Cave’ of World War 1 memorabilia with display panels along both sides and numerous tables on the main floor and on the stage displaying uniforms, helmets, deactivated weapons, diaries, press cuttings etc, etc all dating back to the 1914 – 1918 war. The photograph below shows one corner of the exhibition



with volunteers dressed as an army chaplain and a nurse with uniforms and weapons in the background.

The weapons and uniforms, including some rather splendid helmets, had been specially brought up from Canvey Island by a team from the Bay Museum.

There was so much detail included in the numerous displays that despite spending more than 3 hours in the Hall at various times through the weekend I felt that I had only been able to study in any detail a small number of the aspects covered in. It was particularly touching to see various displays about the contribution of Lexden residents to various aspects of The Great War.

Just to recall some items I noted of which I was previously unaware –

There was a list displayed of the Army units stationed in Colchester Garrison when war was declared on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914 and I noticed that the 20<sup>th</sup> Hussars were listed which was the regiment with which Lt Harold Soames of Lexden was serving when he died less than three weeks later near Mons in Belgium (see article on pages 22 & 23 of the August 2014 issue).

I noted a report of a small group of German prisoners who had escaped from a POW camp in mid-Essex, purloined a rowing boat from the vicinity of Maldon and headed down the River Blackwater no doubt hoping to reach Germany but who were spotted and recaptured once the boat had grounded on a sandbank off West Mersea

There was a special display by the Stow Maries Aerodrome Museum about the work they are doing to preserve many original buildings from this WW1 Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force aerodrome located a few miles north-east of South Woodham Ferrers

The exhibition was visited on the Friday by 180 older pupils from local Primary schools and then over the weekend by numerous members of the public who were all able to enjoy refreshments of the period whilst exploring the exhibition.

The Committee of the Lexden History Group are to be congratulated on putting together such an excellent exhibition with particular thanks to their indefatigable Secretary – Liz White – who personally prepared many of the informative displays.

I am hoping to find time in 2015 to visit both Stow Maries Aerodrome and the Bay Museum.

If you are interested in history generally you will be made very welcome at the LHG monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.45 pm in the Church Hall. The subject of the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November is ‘Essex Seaside Heritage’.

For further information please look at these websites –

**Lexden History Group** – [www.lexdenhistory.org.uk](http://www.lexdenhistory.org.uk)

**Bay Museum, Canvey Island** – [www.the-bay-museum.co.uk](http://www.the-bay-museum.co.uk)

**Stow Maries Aerodrome Museum** - [www.fosma.co.uk](http://www.fosma.co.uk)

Finally for all those interested in the First World War and it’s aftermath may I remind you of the special evening service at St Leonard’s on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm **An Evening of Remembrance – Music, Poetry, Readings, Prayer and Reflection.**

**Tom Scrimgeour**

### CARDS

**Owen Shepherd** makes cards of various sorts that are on sale in the Nicholls room after all services. Also, he can make cards to order. All proceeds going to Church Funds.

On **Sunday November 16th** he will be selling his cards at the back of the church after the 09-45 service. All proceeds going to church funds.