



# St Leonard's

Ordinary People. Extraordinary God.



## Parish Magazine

March 2015

## **Men's 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 March

## **SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup>: Lent II**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am Fifth Event**

**6.30pm Parish Eucharist**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>

7.45pm PCC meeting in the Nicholls Room

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>

10.30am Holy Communion at Wren House

2.30pm Holy Communion at the Old Rectory

2.30pm Lexden Ladies meet in the Nicholls Room

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>

10.00am The Eucharist with prayers for healing

11.00am Lent course

10.45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

11.30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

12.30pm Lent Lunch

5.15pm Contemplative Prayer

7.30pm Lent course in church

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>:

8.00am The Eucharist

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>

8.30am Men's prayer breakfast

9.30am The Alpha course in church

## **SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup>: Lent III**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>

2.30pm Mothers' Union Lent Service in Church

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>

10.00am The Eucharist with prayers for healing

11.00am Lent course

12.30pm Lent Lunch

5.15pm Contemplative Prayer

7.30pm Lent course in church

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

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

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

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am All Age Eucharist**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup>

11am Holy Communion at Hill House

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>

10.00am The Eucharist with prayers for healing

11.00am Lent course

12.30pm Lent Lunch

5.15pm Contemplative Prayer

7.30pm Lent course in church

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>:

8.00am The Eucharist

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

**SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup>: LENT V Passion Sunday**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>

10.00am The Eucharist with prayers for healing

11.00am Lent course

12.30pm Lent Lunch

5.15pm Contemplative Prayer

7.30pm Lent course in church

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

1.30pm Lexden Springs Easter service in church

**SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup>: PALM SUNDAY**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist**

**6.30pm The Beatitudes**

**Holy Week**

**30<sup>th</sup>: Monday of Holy Week**

**9.00am Eucharist for Holy Week in the Lady Chapel**

**3.00pm Holy Communion**

**7.30pm Compline by candlelight and address**

**31<sup>st</sup>: Tuesday of Holy Week**

**9.00am Eucharist for Holy Week in the Lady Chapel**

**7.30pm Compline by candlelight and address**

**April 1<sup>st</sup>: Wednesday of Holy Week**

**10.00am The Eucharist: a healing and reconciliation service**

**7.30pm Sung Compline by candlelight and address**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Maundy Thursday**

**7.30pm Eucharist with foot washing and The Watch until midnight**

**3<sup>rd</sup> : Good Friday**

**8.40am The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

**9.00am Morning Prayer and Litany**

**10.00am All Age Service for Good Friday (followed by Hot Cross Buns)**

**12 noon- 2.30pm ‘The Seven Last Words’**

**2.30pm – 3pm The Good Friday Liturgy with Devotions at the Cross**

**4<sup>th</sup> :Holy Saturday**

**7.30pm Vigil Service and lighting of the Easter fire (followed by refreshments)**

**SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> : Easter Day**

**8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist (followed by Egg Rolling and Easter Bonnet Parade)**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

## **Annual Review of Electoral Roll**

Over the next few weeks, leading up to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, we shall be reviewing the Electoral Roll. This is not a full review. If your name is already on the roll – check the list in the church porch – no action is required. If you would like your name to be added, please complete a form and hand it to **Jo Burrows** or to one of the **churchwardens** by **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April**. Forms can be found on the table at the back of the church.

## **LENT BOXES**

During Lent St.Leonard's Church will, as usual, be supporting two Missionary Societies – CMS (the Church Missionary Society) and US (the United Society, formerly known as USPG).

Boxes will be available in Church for those who wish to contribute either weekly amounts or the 'savings' made on anything 'given up for Lent'.

Please take a box and sign the list, indicating which society you are supporting. Boxes should be returned to church as soon as possible after Easter, please.

If you have any queries, please speak to me at church or by telephone (547817).

Thank you.

**Pam Calvert**

## **VOCATIONS DAY**

The Colchester Area Vocations Day

is to be held on **Saturday 21st March 2015**

**from 10am to 4pm**

at John Owen Barn, Church Road, Fordham, Colchester CO6 3NL

**Please see Teresa for details.**

## **Some Dates**

**PCC meetings** 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 27<sup>th</sup> April, 22<sup>nd</sup> June

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)** 26<sup>th</sup> April

**Lexden Arts Festival** 1<sup>st</sup> May to 9<sup>th</sup> May

# From the Rectory



*Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' (I Kings 19)*

The still small voice...this is one of my favourite passages of Scripture, I think because I often find God in the silence and in the apparent inactivity of prayer – especially contemplative prayer.

Silence. Stillness. These are not commonly found in the often reckless rush of our daily life. A life which is so often at the beck and call of others and the constant intrusion of all sorts of media, surrounded by sound and stimuli, at the mercy of our electronic diaries and mobile phones. Even for those who have to be still in body—confined by reasons of ill health, disability or age—thought continues, carrying with it a tumult of emotions. It's so difficult to switch off.

But there is a great Christian tradition of meditation and contemplation, which in fact the western world seems to have forgotten. There are magazine articles written about eastern forms of meditation and – the latest thing – mindfulness (which is much the same thing as contemplative prayer) in the awed tone of people making a great and new discovery!

The psalmist calls us to “*be still*” and thereby to know God (Ps 46:10). The saints cherish silence; religious communities, and even theological colleges, maintain a “Great Silence.” Down through the ages stillness and silence have been presented as the context for an encounter with God. However, the practice of contemplation is a time-honoured means of developing the awareness which accesses the still and silent depths

within. The silence to which contemplative prayer exposes us is not merely the absence of sound. Silence is a portal through which we touch the depths of reality. Isaiah tells us: *“In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength” (Is 30:15)*. But in our 21<sup>st</sup> century lives that sense of being renewed, reinvigorated by basically doing nothing except resting in God’s presence seems a little paradoxical to us perhaps.

During Lent we try to turn away from our sinfulness and recommit ourselves to following Jesus, and contemplation and reflective prayer encourage us. We should use the season as a time for looking at ourselves and possibly our prayer life and trying to improve or develop our relationship with God.

We are always very aware of the hustle and bustle of Advent, to which a time of silence can be a welcome antidote – and while Lent hasn’t got that same frenetic feeling it is still a season of repentance and renewal. Lent is meant to be a communal retreat for all Christians-at least those who observe Lent.

So on our communal retreat this year – make some space, have some silence. The opportunities are there – just look at the diary.

**Teresa**

## Worship in Holy Week and Easter

Does Holy Week pass you by? Holy Week commences with Palm Sunday and the Commemoration of Our Lord's entry into Jerusalem. In addition to the Eucharist and Compline on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at the end of Holy Week we enter the heart of the Paschal Triduum – three days, beginning with the Liturgy of Maundy Thursday, embracing the Liturgy of Good Friday, and concluding with Easter Day. This is the week in which we have opportunities for walking with our Lord leading up to the celebrations of Easter Day (please do check the diary and see when you can join us).

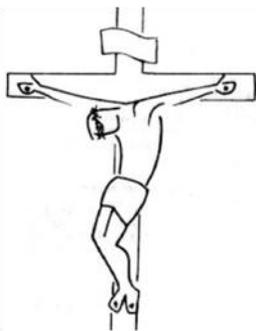
### The Triduum: Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday is a dramatic celebration of the Eucharist of the Last Supper begins in festive mood and ends in darkness and anguish as the Christ goes out into the night to confront the reality of his sacrificial vocation. On the night of the new commandment, as the feet are washed and the bread is broken Christians are called to model their lives on the actions of the one who commands them to do this in memory of him. Many would say that



this liturgy is one of the most moving and formative of all the liturgies of the Triduum and we follow the service with a candlelit vigil in the Lady Chapel until midnight.

### The Triduum: Good Friday



It is not customary to celebrate the Eucharist on Good Friday; to do so would draw attention away from the prime focus of the liturgy – the cross, but it is appropriate to consume the sacrament reserved from the previous night. Before Morning Prayer we will have the 'Liturgy of the Sacrament' where there will be a short service to prayerfully consume the reserved sacrament. Morning prayer will include the Litany. Later that day we will have the oppor-

tunity to set aside three hours to be with our Lord, finishing with the Liturgy of Good Friday.

### **The Triduum: Easter Eve**

For the Jews the Sabbath began on the evening before, so on Easter Eve we begin the celebrations for Easter. As darkness falls we hear the story of God's relationship with his people through history, then we light the Easter fire and bring the 'light of Christ' into the church; the Pascal candle is lit, the Exsultet is sung, this year by David Armstrong, and we make a lot of joyful noise... confident in the resurrection of Our Lord and ready for Easter Day. This year there will be refreshments after the service.



Happy Easter – when we get there!

**Teresa**

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## **Prayer**

Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. James 5: 13 – 15 [NIV]

Prayer is so often our last resort. When illness strikes, when problems arise, when decisions have to be made, we are ready with our plans and practical suggestions, but prayer is often near the bottom of our agenda.

But living in a relationship with God, that shouldn't be the case. Living in a family or with a husband or wife in a marriage, we naturally turn to someone else and ask for help or guidance. Yet we often seem reluctant to turn to God until all other paths have been explored.

Yet prayer should come naturally to us, whether we are in trouble, happy or sick. Our Father is not distant, and he longs to listen to us. Prayer requires no special words, no special place and no special qualifications. We can all pray – for anything, anywhere, and at any time. Prayer is

simply talking to God; as Christians it should come naturally to us.

And God is always far more willing to hear us than we are to pray. He is not reluctant to answer our prayers. He loves us deeply and wants us to pray expectantly.

In his book, *Straight to the Pointlessness*, Mark Hart writes, “Prayer is not a lever to move God, for on what fixed point would it rest? Rather it is a lever to move the world, and it rests on God.”

Prayer does not depend on our weakness, but on God’s strength. In prayer we are accessing the most powerful force in the Universe.

**Esther**

*Lord, please forgive the times when I do not turn to you in prayer. Help me to pray more readily and naturally, for your glory’s sake. Amen.*

## **Lent Course 2015**

### **Holding On**

#### **Exploring a Rule of Life with the Chelmsford Holding Cross**



This year’s course is inspired by the Chelmsford Holding Crosses; Bishop Stephen says:

‘As part of the 2014 Centenary of the Diocese of Chelmsford, we have launched the Chelmsford Holding Cross, as a reminder to us all of what it means to live distinctively as Christ’s people. I commend to you this study

course which accompanies the crosses, and which provides a way to explore what they stand for and what it means to follow a rule of life that keeps us close to God and to one another.’

We will be running Lent courses  
**on Wednesdays – at 11am and 7.30pm.**

Both will be identical and will last approximately 90 minutes.

The dates are: **4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> March.**

**Come along – bring a friend – tell a neighbour.**

## **Contemplative Prayer**

During Lent we will be having contemplative prayer on Wednesdays at 5.15pm (following a shortened Evening Prayer)

We pray in silence by candlelight and it is an opportunity to take 20 minutes or so out of the business of life and spend time with God.

You will be guided as to what to do—so no experience necessary!

The sessions will be on 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March.

## **Dick Whittington**

The dust has finally settled on this year's production. Two people have been kind enough to write their thoughts on the performances, so I will confine myself to reporting that we made a profit of over £1600 and saying a few thank you's. The profit is well beyond what we have achieved previously and will be split equally between the Church of England Children's Society and Church Funds. Thank you to those who came along and supported the production. We experimented this time with a "Cafe-Style" audience for the Friday night performance, serving light refreshments to augment the enjoyment of those who came along. This seemed to be very popular and my thanks in particular go to Bev Kettell and her team for the catering that evening and for the other performances. My thanks also go to the large team who make this all possible; the cast, the stage-managers, choreographer, set design and construction team, costumes, sound and lighting engineers, accompanist, prompt, supervisor of rats and mice, front-of-house, publicity, box-office, raffle ticket sellers, bar-manager...I'm sure I've forgotten someone so apologies for that.

**David Burrows**

## **RAINBOWS**

**1st Lexden (St Leonards) Rainbow Unit are once again collecting the Sainsburys Active Kids vouchers.**

Please can you place your vouchers in the box at the back of the Church.

Please keep collecting until the end of the promotion.

Thank you.



## Healing and Reconciliation in Holy Week

You may have noticed from the diary that there is a healing service on the Wednesday in Holy Week (1<sup>st</sup> April). At this service there will be the opportunity to receive the laying on of hands and anointing with Holy Oil. Prayer ministry will also be offered in the Lady Chapel.

Following that, in the afternoon between 2.30 and 4.30 there will be the opportunity to explore the sacrament of reconciliation (**confession**) in church (also in the Lady Chapel). If you are interested in exploring what this is about, or making your confession, please put a tick the appropriate box on the list which will be at the back of church in Holy Week (no names necessary) and then just turn up at the right time. If you can't make this day and time – speak to **Teresa** or **David** and make an appointment.

**FINAL DAY FOR ITEMS FOR THE APRIL MAGAZINE IS**

**SUNDAY 15th MARCH**

**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 APRIL 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**

## **It's His Turn Again - Oh No it Isn't — Oh Yes It Is**

As soon as the glamorous spirit of Pantomime began to tell the story I knew we were in for a treat. On came the amiable Fairy and the nasty King Rat (later disguised as the equally nasty Silas) who sleazed across the stage and was duly booed by the audience. There's always a daft pair in panto and the cleverly named Stan Dupp and Ben Down played the buffoons for all they were worth.

Out of the Windmill in Lexden Town tumbled the mice who executed their dance well, not forgetting the little one on the end (you always get one). Sarah the Dame bounced onto the stage engaging the audience and raised the roof with his audience participation spot and soon all the characters appeared as the story unfolded. The pompous Alderman Fitzwarren and his daughter, the Pirate Captain and his Bo' son (a pleasing duo this) and a tongue in cheek voluptuous Sultana and her slinky belly dancer (oh no there wasn't - oh yes there was) .

From the depths of the writers imagination came a six foot parrot encased in a eye-catching costume and some very funny lines, whilst the chorus supported the cast in the nicely executed chorus numbers.

Of course, Dick himself burst on to the stage full of principal boy vivacity and was soon on his way to London with the obligatory bundle on a stick. Everyone knows the fairy was guarding our hero and the transition from fairy to cat was executed smoothly and effectively.

The cat, for me stole the show, she was pert, feline like and never let he characterisation drop. Well done pussy.

As you will see no names are mentioned as this production is a team effort, but from the well painted scenery to the effects, music and lighting, all the cast and crew worked extremely hard.

The audience loved it and Lexden Church should be proud of your enthusiastic group.

**Fiona**

### **CARDS**

Handmade cards of various sorts are on sale in the Nicholls room after all services. Also, I can make cards to order. Proceeds to church funds.

**Owen Shepherd**

## Dick Whittington - The Pantomime Burrows Productions

As audiences arrived for the three performances of Dick Whittington they were greeted by the photographs (put together by front of house managers, Adrian and Anne Steward) of all those involved in the show. These were headed up by a shot of the writer and producer, David Burrows, in a relaxed pose, suggesting complete confidence in his cast and crew; a confidence completely justified in a magnificent display of teamwork, colour and individual performances.



The show starts in Lexden Village Square. Dick's mum (Trevor Saint in full bloom as the pantomime dame) runs a popular market stall but has to contend with competition from one Silas

Snitch (Pauline Jarvis, cadaverous and treacherous by turns). Silas is actually the King Rat in disguise (what to do with that tail, eh?) and tries to sabotage the Whittington stall. He has engaged the services of two local rascals, Stan Dupp and Ben Down (wonderfully clowning performances from Esther Heptonstall and Andrew Lennard-Jones), whose dimness is matched only by their occasional brilliance, as they devise ever more ludicrous ways of recovering the precious gem planted by Silas on the Whittingtons in order to compromise them. The policeman (Jo Burrows), in measured and clear tones, turns down Silas' request to have the Whittington stall searched. In this he is backed up by the debonair Alderman Fitzwarren (David Watkins) and his beautiful daughter, Alice (Lynne Saint). The stall, however, is closed down as a result of some dodgy veg being planted by you-know-who and they lose their license to trade. Facing ruin, Dick (Maggie Whiteman) decides to seek his fortune elsewhere.



The fairy queen (Hannah Saint) decides that Dick needs a bit of a helping hand and, with a flick of her magic wand, disappears and re-emerges as Fortune the Cat (Gemma Saint). This brilliant performance as the cat would not have been out of place on the professional stage and was controlled and thought out to

the last hand gesture. Together Dick and his cat embark on a vessel bound for Mersea Island, commanded by one Captain McTimbers (Graham Tyler), who is seen first with one parrot on his shoulder and, subsequently, two parrots (made by Sheila Cook). He explains that he is child minding for Rover, their dad (Dave Young, in a fetching piece from the Tyler Winter Collection) who quickly forges a friendship with Fortune the Cat. Barnacle Bill (Steve Whiteman) does Captain McTimbers' dirty work for him and, after a rough crossing, (Stan Dupp throws up on the Captain's bed) they all wind up in the court of the Sultana of Mersea Island.

Word has got around that the Sultana (Chris Tyler) is having a problem with rats and mice (Gill Young, Isabelle Bueggeln, Hannah Cleverdon, Ella Harvey, Herbie Davies, Rufus Russell-Cox) - a suitably scary lot who lead the Sultana a merry dance (and is it not always a pleasure to watch Gill Young dance? Once a professional dancer, always a professional dancer). Their peace is shattered by the arrival of Fortune the Cat who sets about them, renders the Sultana's palace rodent free and earns Dick a fortune to the cheers of Kirsty Harvey, Jackie Phillips, Judith Steele, Mandy Allston and Julie Hinchcliffe who are, by turns, bystanders in the market place, the ship's crew and chorus. Mandy and Julie step out of the chorus to be submitted to the Ryanair treatment



as passengers on board ship (A brilliant scene - tricky to explain to a seven year old who has never flown). To show that versatility has no bounds they also take the roles of handmaids to the Sultana with whom they sing a delightful trio, based on a traditional Irish folksong, with harmony expertly supplied by Mandy.

Before everyone can live happily ever after Captain McTimbers has to court and marry the Sultana; not without some help in social graces from Barnacle Bill. Back in Lexden, Dick emerges as a wealthy man and gets the girl. Silas Snitch is disgraced but finally re-habilitated and only then can everyone indeed live happily ever after. The whole was supported by an outstanding 'ministry team' consisting of lighting expert, Peter Mitchell, set designer, Graham Tyler, sound engineer, Chris Newton and the superb piano accompanying of John Wolton. No show would be complete without the quite splendid costumes of Daphne Wielobob. The stage management team of Lizzie Bolton, Edward Kettell and Alan Sermons worked tirelessly and imperceptibly. Publicity and ticket sales were undertaken respectively by Viv Mendham and Tom and Kathleen Scrimgeour, with Bev Kettell leading a team from the Children's Society committee in the provision of refreshments. Lesley Fullerton as the Spirit of Pantomime gave her blessing to one and all and bid farewell in what seemed a valedictory speech. 'After 80 years of amateur stage productions', she confirmed later, 'the moment has come for me to take my final bow'. So can Leslie retire? There is certainly one answer that comes to mind. A superb effort by one and all. Robin Greatorex.

(As a post-script, I had wondered if the show (an hour each half) might be a too long for the children. Roman was on the edge of his seat at the matinee and insisted on returning for the evening performance where he joined David Burrows and me at the back. During the show he was able to explain to David what would be happening next. This was helpful as David was not always entirely certain.)

**Robin**



**ST LEONARD'S CHURCH  
CO3 4BL**

**MUSIC, ARTS & CRAFTS**

**2nd - 9th MAY 2015**

**[www.lexdenartsfestival.org.uk](http://www.lexdenartsfestival.org.uk)**

## **EXHIBITING ARTISTS**

Catherine Allen	Jewellery
Richard Baxter	Ceramics
Penny Bhadresa	Lino cut prints
Annie Bielecka	Textile art
Michael Carpenter	Jewellery
Derek Chambers	Etchings & Paintings
Jean Constantine	Handmade felt
Pru Green	Ceramics
Steve Higton	Oil paintings
Jane Jennifer	Basketry
Tom Pockley	Woodturning
Sally Pudney	Acrylic paintings
Glynn Thomas R.E.	Etchings
Nat Young	Mixed media paintings

## **Opening Times**

<b>2nd May</b>	<b>10.30am - 4.30pm</b>	<b>Light lunches between 12.30-2.30</b>
<b>3rd May</b>	<b>1.00pm - 4.30pm</b>	<b>Refreshments available</b>
<b>4th May</b>	<b>10.30am - 4.30pm</b>	<b>Light lunches between 12.30-2.30</b>
<b>5th May</b>	<b>10.30am - 4.30pm</b>	<b>Refreshments available</b>
<b>6th May</b>	<b>Noon - 4.30pm</b>	<b>Refreshments available</b>
<b>7th May</b>	<b>10.30am - 4.30pm</b>	<b>Light lunches between 12.30-2.30</b>
<b>8th May</b>	<b>10.30am - 4.30pm</b>	<b>Refreshments available</b>
<b>9th May</b>	<b>10.30am - 4.30pm</b>	<b>Light lunches between 12.30-2.30</b>



**THE  
LEXDEN  
ARTS  
FESTIVAL**

**ST LEONARD'S CHURCH  
CO3 4BL**

**MUSIC, ARTS & CRAFTS**

**2nd - 9th MAY 2015**

**[www.lexdenartsfestival.org.uk](http://www.lexdenartsfestival.org.uk)**

## **BLONDEL**

**Saturday 2nd May 2015**

**'In the springtime of the year'**



**Blondel** presents a celebration of the joys of spring as seen through the eyes of medieval and renaissance lovers, from the humblest goatherd to the noblest of Kings.

**£10 admission**

**7.30pm**

**THIS CONCERT IS  
SPONSORED BY  
[www.arcaria.com](http://www.arcaria.com)**

**ARCARIA**  
FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS

**Tickets available from the website,  
or Red Lion Books, High Street, Colchester**

**Further details contact:  
[graham@lexdenartsfestival.org.uk](mailto:graham@lexdenartsfestival.org.uk)**



**THE  
LEXDEN  
ARTS  
FESTIVAL**

**ST LEONARD'S CHURCH  
CO3 4BL**

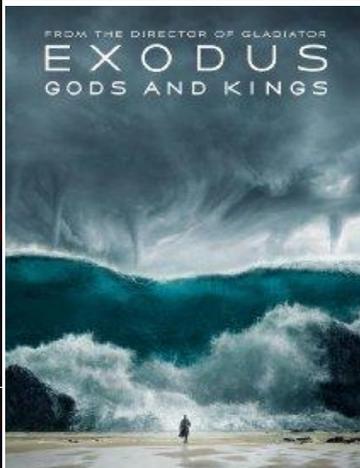
**MUSIC, ARTS & CRAFTS**

**2nd - 9th MAY 2015**

**[www.lexdenartsfestival.org.uk](http://www.lexdenartsfestival.org.uk)**

**FILM NIGHT**

**MONDAY 4th MAY 2015**



**EXODUS**

**'Gods and Kings'**

The defiant leader Moses rises up against the Egyptian Pharaoh Ramses, setting 600,000 slaves on a monumental journey of escape from Egypt and its terrifying cycle of deadly plagues.

**£5 admission**

**7pm start**



**Boydens**  
SALES & LETTINGS

**THIS EVENING IS SPONSORED  
BY**

**[www.boydens.co.uk](http://www.boydens.co.uk)**

Tickets available from the website,  
or Red Lion Books, High Street, Colchester

Further details contact:

**[graham@lexdenartsfestival.org.uk](mailto:graham@lexdenartsfestival.org.uk)**



**THE  
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**ST LEONARD'S CHURCH  
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**MUSIC, ARTS & CRAFTS**

**2nd - 9th MAY 2015**

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## **'The Wednesday Slot'**

**6th May 2015**

**An evening for up and coming talent**



**Ashley  
Blasse**

**&**

**Bethany Appleton**



**£5 admission**

**7.30pm**

**Refreshments available**



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**RAG-RUG MAKING WORKSHOP**

**with Mary McCarthy**



**Thursday 7th May 2015**

A day-course in hooked rag-rug making to introduce you to a great way of recycling old clothes and make stunning wall-hangings or mats. Rag hooks and squares of hessian will be provided, as well as the 'rags'.

**Only 12 places available**

**£45 for the day**

**11am-4pm**

**Light Lunches & refreshments available**

**Tickets available from the website,  
or Red Lion Books, High Street, Colchester**

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## **'The Homing Stone'**

**A storytelling evening with  
Hugh Lupton**

**Friday 8th May 2015**

In this praise song to his great uncle, Arthur Ransome, storyteller Hugh Lupton tells of the escape of Ransome and Trotsky's secretary (with whom he has fallen in love) from Moscow in 1919, back home to Coniston Water.



**£10 admission  
Under 12's £5**

**Refreshments available**

**7.30pm**

**Not suitable for children under 8**

**OWEN AVES  
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## **Sam Bullard Quartet**

**'People and Places'**

**Saturday 9th May 2015**



As a musician known for his exceptional facility, versatility, eclectic tastes and humour, Sam will lead you through an engaging and entertaining concert of original music and improvisation inspired by real and fictional people and places.

**£10 admission Refreshments available 7.30pm**

**Hatfields**  
HOME FURNISHERS

**THIS CONCERT IS SPONSORED  
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**[www.hatfieldsofcolchester](http://www.hatfieldsofcolchester)**

**Tickets available from the website,  
or Red Lion Books, High Street, Colchester**

**Further details contact:**

**[graham@lexdenartsfestival.org.uk](mailto:graham@lexdenartsfestival.org.uk)**

## Gifts for the Housebound

In December, the Junior Church children put together some gifts for the housebound members of our congregation. These included plants, chocolates, soaps, and a Christmas card which the children designed and made themselves. In return we received some lovely cards; and here are some of the lovely responses the children received.

*Thank you for the bag of goodies. They were a surprise and will last a long time.*

*Jessie Hamilton*

*Dear Judy and Junior Church,*

*What a lovely surprise to receive a pretty pink plant and some more gifts from you special people at Junior Church! Thank you so much, and for your card too, with your own names on it. I am so happy also, to have been able to talk to lovely Judy.*

*With love from Eileen (Mather)*

*To all at the Junior Church,*

*Thank you very much for my beautiful Christmas basket!!!*

*With love and all good wishes,*

*From Rosemary Ost*

*Dear Junior Church,*

*What a lovely surprise when I was brought your Christmas gifts! The cyclamen looks so cheerful, the jam will be very tasty at teatime and I have already enjoyed the sweets... Thank you. It all cheered me up.*

*When I was able to come to church seeing you all come in at the end of the service did me more good than all the doctors pills.*

*Love from*

*Sylvia Francis*

*Dear Teresa,*

*Thank you so much for the present of the cyclamen. Please would you thank all the children and everyone at Junior Church for me. I have found a china bowl to stand it in, and it is on my telephone table.*

*From Vera Watson*

Thank you to all that delivered the gifts for us. As you can see, they were all appreciated!

**Judy**

## From Judy

March, already? How did that happen?

In Junior Church I've been introducing some more fun worship songs which the children are enjoying. I've also been trying to spend some more time focussing on prayer and teaching the children how important it is. We've been doing the Lord's Prayer most weeks and I bought a book where we can write down what the children want to pray for. I've been following what's known as the teaspoon prayer guide. TSP – Thank You, Sorry, Please. It's a really great simple way to remember how and what to pray for. My hope and prayer is that the children are encouraged to pray more during the week, understanding that they can do it anywhere and everywhere. And also understand that they don't need to use big words either!

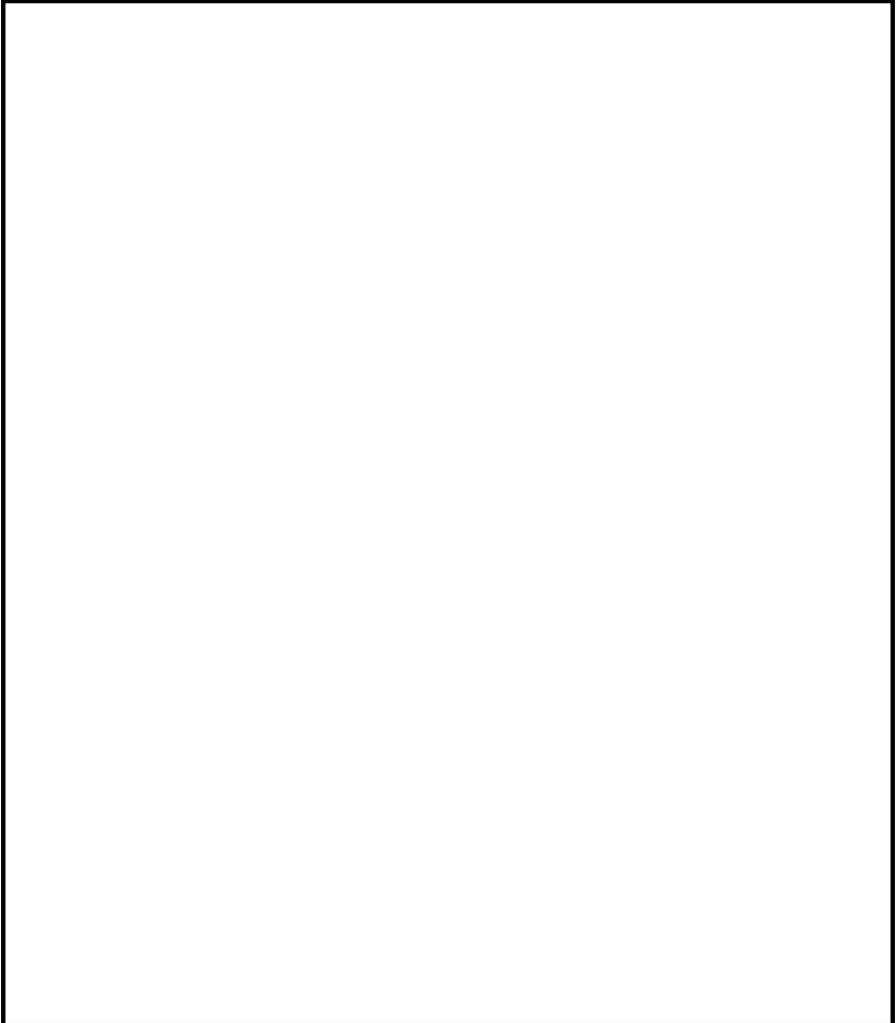
Junior OMG has also been going well, and we had a good meeting in January. There were four children that came along (one of which was new to the group), and we had a good time watching a video about a British Paralympian who's boating accident as a teenager had caused her to turn to God. It was a really inspiring video and the children enjoyed talking about it. They were particularly struck by her bravery and determination to carry on. In 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, Paul writes ***'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is the Father who is full of mercy and all comfort. He comforts us every time we have trouble, so when others have trouble, we can comfort them with the same comfort God gives us.'*** The children took this verse away with them on a bookmark as a reminder of the meeting and an encouragement during the times that they might find challenging.

As well as all this, I spent five days in the middle of January at a conference in mid-Wales with other Time For God volunteers. It was a great refreshing week where I learnt a lot, experienced different styles of worship, and made friends from around the world. Wales was quite snowy and we all enjoyed a group hike up one of the hills nearby during a free afternoon. The week also made me realise how very British I am. I drank rather a lot of 'ordinary' tea (which due to its unpopularity was behind the café counter), and got a bit too excited about being one of two British volunteers. I took on the responsibility of educating the other 88 volunteers at the conference on how to be British. Learning is fun after all!

And finally, the Christingle service! I at least thought it was fun! I was really pleased to see a good amount of the uniformed groups there, and I thought 7<sup>th</sup> Heaven, SL Club, and Beyond Blue did really well. And to be honest, I think we'd all be a bit worried if it wasn't a *bit* chaotic! No accidents, and more people coming into the church, definitely a Thank You God moment!

Happy March everyone!

**Judy**



## Record number of visits to St Leonard's website in December!

Did you know that St Leonard's website has the largest number of pages visited every December?

In an average month 2,400 pages are visited (this is not the number of unique individuals as one person will generally view more than one page during their time on the website). As you can see from the graph below taken from an analytical tool, December received nearly 3,000 visits! Unsurprisingly, this peaked just before Christmas when most people looked for details of Christmas services.



Looking back over 2014, there were nearly 30,000 pages visited, the most popular being:

- Newsletters and Magazines

- Contact and Directions

- Gallery

- Who's who

During the past few months several improvements have been made. Some pages have been improved to ensure the layout is more suitable for a larger variety of different hand held devices (e.g. tablets) and mobile phones. Popular pages have been more clearly signposted for ease of navigation, with some additional links added between pages to encourage further browsing!

On an ongoing basis, the front page is regularly updated with news items, reminders of forthcoming events, photos and stories about recent events. One underused feature is an automated email is sent containing this information whenever something new is added. At present only 22 people have registered for this service, which is free!

I therefore encourage everyone who has an email address to subscribe by going to <http://www.stleonardslexden.org.uk/subscribe/> and entering your email address there. You will then be added to the mailing list and receive the latest news, updates and reminders in the future. It could also be of interest to anyone who is not a regular visitor to the church or the website and encourage greater numbers to our services and events.

We also have an entry on '*A church near you*' (<http://www.achurchnearyou.com/>) and keep it up to date. For those unfamiliar with this website, it contains information about Church of England parishes with details of services and events taking place. It also helps people find out:

Which parish they live in (based on a post code search, useful for weddings and funerals as well as general churchgoing).

Their nearest church (its distance from their own location with a position on a map).

What events and services are happening.

Who to contact to find out more.

Finally, anything you can do to promote our website and encourage people to subscribe to news and events could potentially lead to greater numbers of people attending our services and events in the future.

**Chris Newton**

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## **Lexden War Memorial Cross**

### **First World War Deaths – April & May 1915**

As mentioned in my article in the January issue all the six names listed on the War Memorial under 1915 died in a short three week period in late April and May and we can perhaps imagine the shock effect in the then small village of Lexden as the dreaded telegrams arrived.

The first death was that of Lieutenant Guy Staniforth Wemyss St George of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of 1st King George's Own Gurkha Rifles (the Malaun Regiment) who was hit by a nearly spent bullet near Ypres on 27<sup>th</sup> April dying the following day from his wounds.

Lt St George was the son of Lt Col Harry Hammersley and Agnes Collier Wemyss St George and it appears that after their marriage Col

Hammersley took his wife's surname. For a long time the family lived in Elling, Hampshire but in 1915 the Essex County Standard listed Mrs St George, by then widowed, as living at The Cottage, Lexden.

Lt St George is buried in the CWGC plot of Hazebrouck Communal Cemetery and it can thus be assumed that he died in one of the casualty clearing stations located in that French town.

The 1<sup>st</sup> King George's Own Gurkha Rifles were originally raised in 1815 from defeated survivors of the Siege of Malaun becoming the first Gurkha regiment in the Indian Army. They were mobilised in Dharamsala on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1914 reaching Marseille via a period guarding the Suez Canal where Lt St George joined the regiment and their service in France in 1914/15 was the only time they served in Europe.

At Partition in 1947 the regiment became one of the six Gurkha regiments joining the post independence Indian Army with the other four transferring to the British Army and initially it retained its royal designation but in 1950 when India became a republic it was renamed 1<sup>st</sup> Gorkha Rifles (Malaun Regiment) with the Indian spelling of the Nepalese soldiers name.

The second 1915 death was that of Rifleman Malcolm Albert Mann of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Rifle Brigade who died on 9<sup>th</sup> May near Fromelles which lies west of Lille and barely 10 kilometres north east of Givenchy where Lt St Georges died 12 days previously. Rifleman Mann was the son of Walter and Kezia Mann of 45 South Street but sadly Peter Potter, on whose book and excellent research I am basing much of these articles, was unable to locate any further family information.

Rifleman Mann has no known grave and is commemorated on Panel 10 of the Ploegstreet Memorial in the Berks Cemetery Extension in Belgium very near another Lexden soldier, Albert Nevard, who died almost exactly 6 months earlier just a few miles away from Malcolm Mann.

These deaths so many weeks apart in the same area serve to demonstrate how static the trenches of the Western Front were in some parts of France and Belgium from the 'Race to the Sea' in October 1914 until 1916.

For further details about the Ploegstreet Memorial please see the concluding paragraphs of the article published last November about Private Albert Nevard's death.

**Tom Scrimgeour**



My name is **Sarah Hinchcliffe**, I am currently training to become a Primary School Teacher, which is a very busy year. For the past 4 years I have been fundraising for The Matt Hampson Foundation. In 2005 Matt dislocated his neck, which severed his spinal cord, whilst training with the England u21 rugby squad, as a result of this accident, Matt is now paralysed from the neck down and relies on a ventilator to breathe. Matt set up the foundation to support and inspire those seriously injured through sport and their families.

The charity is one very close to my heart, Matt has become a true hero of mine, yet remains a humble man who simply in his words '*wants to help others who are worse off and less fortunate than himself*'

This year I am once again fundraising for this fantastic cause. On **Sunday 15th March** 10 years to the day of Matt's accident, I will be taking part in the **Silverstone Half Marathon**, to fundraise for this event I am hosting a **pub quiz on Friday 13th March at The Cricketers Pub in Eight Ash Green. At 7.30pm**; 5 quiz rounds, plus games and a raffle. 6 per team £5 per person. All proceeds go to the charity. If you would like to come please find myself or my parents Peter & Julie in church for more information.

If you would like further information on the foundation please visit: <http://matthampsonfoundation.org/>

If you would like to sponsor Sarah visit: <http://www.justgiving.com/Sarah-Hinchcliffe3>

### **From Sara**

I am nearly halfway through my second term here at Westcott House and after a visit from Teresa decided it might be a good time to write another update. It was lovely to be back at St Leonard's over Christmas, even if only for a short time – not time enough to talk to everyone I wanted to. I should be back for part of Holy Week and Easter, trying to make myself useful.

I am well into the routine now of chapel, lectures, supervisions, essay writing, learning Greek and fitting in all the other activities around it. Here's a few things I've been getting up to.

I'm currently being coached in singing by one of the team of chapel musicians. I've officiated at two sung Compline services and I'm learning the difficult bits so I can act as cantor as well. I also have an Evensong here on the horizon but that's easier as I know what the officiant's part is supposed to sound like after being a St Leonard's regular. I'm singing a lot more here, and I am enjoying it.



With a friend I co-ordinate a group for women across all the Cambridge Theological Federation colleges. This year, there are only a handful of women in the first year and we really felt it was important to meet to share our experiences of training. That has been very well received by most of the student

body. We arranged a champagne breakfast in January to celebrate the consecration of Libby Lane as Bishop of Stockport, which was fun.

Westcott House is staging a Passion Play in March. I have three lines to learn and three different parts to play. The rehearsals for that are fun, and I have just enough to do for it to be interesting but not overwhelming.

Last week I helped for the first time serving dinner for the emergency winter night shelter overflow arrangements.

And I am, when I am in Cambridge on a Saturday morning, a fairly regular Park Run participant. Viv & I are running the Cambridge half marathon at the start of March, and I am trying to find time in the week to run. So there is plenty going on to keep me busy.

Greek is getting interesting (OK, if I'm honest, it's difficult). I'm really glad I am learning it, as it's fascinating looking behind the translations we are used to and seeing what the Greek text really says. But, I'm no linguist and I have been flummoxed more than once. We sat an exam in January as a progress check, and I did OK, but I am not looking forward to the exam in the summer. I haven't sat an exam for nearly twenty years so the prospect fills me with some dread. I also have a couple of assessed essays to write. The other subjects I'm taking are early church history, doctrine, a whistlestop introduction to the Bible, what it means to be Anglican, and a module looking at mission and contemporary culture. Oh, and also one looking at various methods of theological reflection – thinking about what has been happening, and working out where God is in it – very different

from the academic lectures that are the bread & butter of our teaching here. Plus, we started learning how to preach this term.

On Sunday mornings and evenings I'm at Pembroke college chapel. I am attached to the chapel team this year. I've preached a couple of times, and will be leading a choral Evensong sometime next term. After the morning Eucharist there is a breakfast for the Christian students – all those in college, not just those who have been to chapel. Those have been fun, and I've got to know some of the students quite well.

By the end of last term I was somewhat frazzled – settling in, getting my bearings and dealing with the onslaught of everything new was exhausting, and then I discovered exactly how busy the weeks were in 'normal' time. The Christmas vacation gave me a chance to reflect on the many and varied experiences and emotions and to sort out what was important from what was just the 'noise' all around me from living in a close community. So this term, although even busier, has been a lot easier, and I have been making a point of being away from Westcott more or less every fortnight. Friendships that were tentative are beginning to feel more concrete as we find time to put the world to rights over a cup of tea. We're also getting to know our colleagues at Ridley Hall quite well.

On the horizon is the self- assessment I need to do, which feeds into the letter that goes to the Bishop about my progress this year- and we start thinking about curacies... there's not a lot of time here before we think about leaving again.

In the Easter vacation I am going to be undertaking a placement with the chaplaincy at RAF Marham, which I am both excited and a bit terrified about. Then in the summer, I will be in Salford for July & August. I said in the last updated that I was hoping to use the gift from St Leonards towards something other than books. It is looking very likely that I will be heading to Cambodia with a Serve Asia project for OMF in September.

So, there's to think about, to read, to plan and to be part of here. There are things I find hard that I thought I would barely be troubled with; and things I thought would be awful I have hardly noticed. The tricky parts can make community life difficult. We lose our principal to become Bishop of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich next term, so things will be uncertain for a while. But, as Teresa reminded me last week, God called me here, and He knows what He is doing. I just have to keep praying and showing up.

## **A tribute to Gwen Goodyear**

### **By David Goodyear**

Mum's life was lived through love. Love for her beloved husband Leslie, love for her children David and Andrew, love for her four grandchildren and love for her three great grandchildren. Beyond the family her great loves were the church and her Christian faith, music, particularly choral singing, her garden, wildlife, particularly birds, and, of course, cats. She was also very fond of cakes and biscuits.

Mum was born in 1921 in Hitchin, to a rather surprised 41 year old mother, and she quickly got used to sharing her mother's knee with the family cat. She remained an only child and the family moved to Bishop's Stortford when she was young. She excelled at the local girls' grammar school, gaining her School Certificate with high marks across all subjects. She did not continue her education to a higher level but took employment with Post Office Telecommunications in London, commuting from home. In 1939 she met Leslie and she very soon realised that he was the man she would marry. The war intervened. Leslie went to sea on a troopship in 1941, marking the start of a relationship characterized by long periods of separation, but 'absence makes the heart grow fonder' proved to be very true for them. After being bombed out of her London office Mum joined the Women's Auxiliary Airforce. As a WAAF she spent time based near Leighton Buzzard, and later on the Isle of Man. While based on the mainland she often hitchhiked to Bishop's Stortford at weekends so that she could see Leslie when he was on leave. That wasn't feasible from the Isle of Man and perhaps that was why she was posted there! Circumstances changed for the better and they were able to marry in 1944, subsequently enjoying 66 years of a wonderfully fulfilling marriage until my Dad's death in 2010. Mum did not return to work after the war. She devoted her life to her family and outside interests, including the church.

I arrived in 1947, earlier than ideal, because they were still living with parents and Dad was on deep-sea ships, away for months at a time. So they moved to Dovercourt, where Dad took up a position on the North Sea ferries at Harwich so he would only be away for two nights at a time. They were fortunate in 1950 to be able to buy one of the very first post-war new-build houses, and Andrew arrived in 1951. After a few years Dad was able to transfer to a shore-based position, ending the periods away at sea, although he still spent time away on ship repair business. They both

became heavily involved in the local parish church, joining the choir and participating in the running of the parish and its activities. They also joined the local choral society and took up Old Time Dancing.

In 1968 Dad was promoted to a post in London and they moved to Lexden so he could commute. Again, the church became the main focus of their outside activity, with choir membership for all four of us, and active participation in the running of the parish. Dad retired in 1981 and they enjoyed the freedom retirement gave them to indulge their passions for the church, music, their garden, wildlife, and walking.

Mum's life changed dramatically in 2010, firstly with the untimely death of Andrew, followed very quickly by Dad's sudden death. We were all very concerned at how she would cope, both practically, because Dad did so much to help her, and, of course, emotionally. She surprised us all with her resilience and determination. Her deep Christian faith helped enormously during the remaining four years of her life as did the support and love from her family. She adored her family and was very proud of their achievements. On one of my visits she looked at the family photos in her back sitting room and said 'Your Dad and I started all that!' with great pride. Here I must also, on Mum's behalf, say how much the support and friendship from this church community helped her through her last years. With your practical support and that of the family she was able to remain in her own home for her remaining years. She became even more appreciative of this after she spent two weeks recently in a very nice care home on respite after an arthritis flare-up. She likened it to a prison and couldn't wait to get home! Last, but by no means least, I must mention her beloved cat Lula. She was eternally grateful to my wife Joy for finding her this beautiful Abyssinian soon after Dad died and the beneficial effect of loving and caring for Lula on Mum's well-being cannot be over-estimated.

For me, Mum was just that, my Mum. She took motherhood in her stride, claiming that even giving birth was easy and painless. She often reminisced with me in recent years about how much she loved her babies. We had our moment of fame when a photograph of her with me won a prize in a 'Mother and Baby' competition. At least there was no doubt then that I was the baby and she the mother. In later years the distinction became blurred. When I was a teenager there was once a rumour that I had got a new girlfriend. No, it was simply Mum and I spotted from the rear when out shopping, with Mum looking ever-youthful in her forties!

This went full circle recently, on two separate occasions, when nurses in Colchester Hospital thought I was her husband! That got potentially very embarrassing but I won't go into detail. Mum found it all very amusing! She certainly liked to take pride in her appearance right to the end, never leaving the house without 'putting her face on'.

As a mother she was very caring, supportive, uncritical and trusting. She was not over-protective or domineering in any way. She just did what a good Mum should. She looked after us in every way, welcoming our friends into the home, and girlfriends when they came along, and setting us all an example of good Christian family life. Perhaps we made it easy for her by being such perfect children! She probably didn't think that of me when, aged 14, I returned from a day out with a new sports jacket completely ruined by a nice slurry of engine oil and coal dust after I fell into an inspection pit at Retford engine shed! She didn't suggest I stop such foolish activities but did hope I'd learnt a lesson and would be more careful in future.

I will miss my regular Thursdays with her, particularly the challenge of the visit to the Co-op, with my failed attempts to stop her buying yet more cakes and biscuits 'just for stock', and her fascination with the end-of-row bargain offers. The Colchester food bank recently gained a plentiful supply of Thin Arrowroot and Chocolate Digestives!

## **Carmina Burana**

**50th anniversary events**

**07 March 2015**

**University of Essex Choir comes home  
for gala performance (Colchester Campus)  
At 19:00 in Ivor Crewe Lecture Hall**

The Choir's Music Director is Richard Cooke, conductor of the Royal Choral Society and Canterbury Choral Society, and the Choir will be joined by outstanding professional musicians, as soloists and members of the orchestra, for the performance.

For more information visit the Choir website.

**Sarah Greatorix**