



St Leonard's

Ordinary People. Extraordinary God.



Parish Magazine

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

Advertisements: The inclusion of an advertisement in this magazine should not be taken as implying endorsement of the objects of the advertiser by this church or the diocese.

Diary for April

30th March: Monday of Holy Week

9am Eucharist for Holy Week in the Lady Chapel

3pm Holy Commotion

7.30pm Compline by candlelight and address

31st March: Tuesday of Holy Week

9am Eucharist for Holy Week in the Lady Chapel

7.30pm Compline by candlelight and address

1st: Wednesday of Holy Week

10.00am The Eucharist: a healing and reconciliation service

10.45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

7.30pm Sung Compline by candlelight and address

2nd: Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Eucharist with foot washing and The Watch until midnight

3rd: Good Friday

8.40am The Liturgy of the Sacrament

9am 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

4th: Holy Saturday

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

SUNDAY 5th: 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

Tuesday 7th

10.00 Holy Communion at Wren House

2.30pm Holy Communion at the Old Rectory

Wednesday 8th

10.00am The Eucharist followed by Open Church

7.30pm 'Explorers' House group (Krisztina 579944)

Thursday 9th

8.00am The Eucharist

3.00pm 'Canticle' and 'Wordsworth' House Groups meet (Hugh 564577-
see pew sheet for venues)

SUNDAY 12th: Easter II

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

6.30pm Evensong and sermon

Monday 13th

7.45pm PCC meet in the Nicholls Room

Tuesday 14th

2.30pm Mothers' Union meet in the Nicholls Room

7.30pm 'Medley' House group (Rosemary 515245)

Wednesday 15th

10.00am The Eucharist followed by Open Church

11.30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

Thursday 16th

8.00am The Eucharist

SUNDAY 19th: Easter III

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

6.30pm Evensong and sermon

Monday 20th

11.00am Holy Communion at Hill House

Wednesday 22nd

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

Thursday 23rd **St George**

8.00am The Eucharist

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

SUNDAY 26th: Easter IV

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

6.30pm Evensong followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Monday 27th

7.45pm PCC meeting in the Nicholls Room

Wednesday 29th

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

7.45 pm 'Jubilee' House Group (at the Rectory, Teresa 575966)

Thursday 30th:

8.00am The Eucharist

Saturday 3rd - Lexden Arts Festival begins

Church Open 10.30am - 4.30pm for Arts Festival

7.30pm Arts Festival Recital

Sunday 3rd May: Easter V

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am All Age Worship

Church Open 1.00pm - 4.30pm for Arts Festival

6.30pm Parish Eucharist

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 12th April**. Forms can be found on the table at the back of the church.

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.

**EASTER VESTRY
and
PAROCIAL CHURCH MEETING**

This will be held on
Sunday 26th April at 7.00 p.m. in Church
after a shortened evensong

Elections will be held for the positions of
Churchwardens (2)
Parochial Representatives on the PCC (4)

Nominations should be handed to the
Priest in Charge
before the meeting.

The meeting will also consider the Financial Statement, and the Annual Report of the performance and activities of the Church in 2014

All persons whose names are entered on the Electoral Roll are entitled to vote at the meeting.



Children Society News

Bev, our faithful treasurer, has just totalled up the years fund raising for 2014-15 from the Parish and we have raised a magnificent total of £2966 for the work of the Children Society. This includes the fantastic £808 raised during the Pantomime.

I am sure that I speak for the rest of the committee in thanking each and everyone of you who have contributed to this wonderful amount of money, which I know the Society will put to good use in supporting the children and young people who are finding life particularly difficult at the moment.

For further information regarding the work of the Children Society, or how you could contribute please speak to either Julie Hinchcliffe or Bev Kettell

Yours faithfully

Julie

From the Rectory



Post Easter our lectionary focuses on the impact of the resurrection on the disciples and the germination of the early church – with a reading from the Acts of the Apostles being compulsory on every Sunday until Trinity Sunday. A word of warning though – don't expect these readings to be chronological – they are chosen to teach us something, rather than just retelling the story in a logical order!

In year B – which is this year – we hear of the baptism of the Ethiopian eunuch, the spirit descending on Gentiles as well as Jews, of Peter being filled with the Holy Spirit and speaking compellingly to Jesus' accusers. It's as if the compilers are trying to remind us that anything is possible with God; that these, sometimes woefully inadequate, human beings were given strength, inspiration and courage to do what God needed them to do. And look what happened.

I have to admit that the weeks leading up to Pentecost, especially the season between Ascension Day and Pentecost which is set aside as a time to pray in preparation for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit are always very powerful for me. It's so easy to pay lip service to the Holy Spirit without actually believing that he is capable of making things happen in our lives. But I have to assure you that he is!

The reminders we have of the early Christians being so fired up and so passionate about their faith may sometimes make us envious of them. Have we in this country and this church got that passion, that burning need to worship and share the gospel any more? Are we too 'Anglican'? Or do we just do it differently? Only you know the answer to that one!

It is, I know, so easy to be bound up with 'this is what we do' or 'this is how we do it here' and jog along in our comfortable lives, looking askance to anyone who does things a bit differently or looks like they don't fit into our social circle. It's a very human thing – and very insidious. Actually, I think that happens less often than it used to, but nevertheless it still happens. It saddens me that people who want to try

something different in worship, such as raising their hands during a hymn that touches them deeply, or crossing themselves as a Lenten discipline often tell me they are put off because people might not approve of it. That they are frightened of 'not fitting in'.

In the Acts reading for Easter 6 (Acts 10:44-48) we hear that the Christian Jews were astounded that the Holy Spirit was also poured out on the Gentiles - they certainly didn't fit in with their society! But, whisper it quietly, God obviously didn't seem to think that way. I don't think he cares too much how we worship him – so long as we do. He doesn't seem to care what car we drive or where we live, so long as we live the gospel and so long as we love one another.

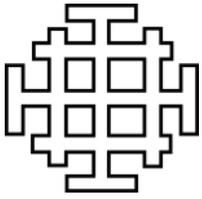
So as we travel through Acts let the stories of the early church open your mind to possibilities; think outside the box. These people did extraordinary things – and so can we.

Teresa



McCabe
PILGRIMAGES

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land



**A pilgrimage is planned to the Holy Land
in October 2015 (20th -29th),
visiting many of the sites mentioned in the Gospels.
The cost will be approximately £1700
(with an optional visit to Masada)
Accommodation is in 3 and 4 star hotels in Jerusalem and Tiberias.**

There will be brochures available soon at the back of church with more information or ask Teresa (there will be plenty – taking one doesn't commit you in any way). There will also be a sign-up list at the back of the church.

I will be arranging a talk – with pictures – of the last pilgrimage in April... so watch this space

Teresa

Lexden Ladies' Group

LEXDEN LADIES' GROUP

We shall not have a meeting in April due to the Easter holidays.

Our next "get together" will be on **Tuesday 5th May** when we meet at **Barnplants** for lunch **from 12 noon.**

Please let me know if you wish to come.

Margaret

Tel: 579629

Mothers' Union



As our March meeting was in Lent we had a communion service in Church ably led by our Rector, Teresa.

Arrangements were made for making posies for Mothering Sunday.

On **14th April**, Ed Kettell will be our speaker
All parishioners are welcome.

Joan Kitson

COFFEE MORNINGS

A big thank you once again to Jon and Alison Ewbank for holding a most enjoyable coffee morning at their home on 28th February. All who went along really enjoyed their hospitality and their lovely house and garden.

Approx £170.00 was raised for church funds and related charities.

Our next get -together will be at

15 Glen Avenue

on **Sat. 25th April from 10.30 until 12 noon.**

by kind invitation of Mrs. Sarah Orr.

Please do come along and meet your friends
and hopefully enjoy her lovely garden.

Jean Hallett

Alpha

Winter 2015

As I write this the Alpha course which has been running on Saturday mornings at the church, since January, is sadly drawing to a close. *But* it is great news that the group wish to keep meeting fortnightly to continue their journeys.

It has been a joyous gathering each Saturday for breakfast of cereal, eggs and bacon, washed down with copious cups of tea and coffee. This was followed by an Alpha talk and then group discussion.

We had our away-day at Assington Annexe. This was a lovely peaceful day where prayer and the Holy Spirit were discussed and we knew that the Spirit was with us during the day.

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the course, whether leading, washing-up, setting-up or supporting it with your kind contributions towards the food. Without you all these courses would not be possible – and they do change people's lives.

We are starting another course in May. This will be centred around a Wednesday lunchtime beginning at 11am with a dvd and a talk followed by a light lunch (eg ploughmans). If you would like to join the May group or can help with providing the lunch please let me know.

Again, my thanks to all who attended and all who supported the last course.

Jacque Messinger

Plant Stall

The Summer Fete (Saturday, 4th July) will soon be here!

When the sun entices you into your garden to tidy up after the winter, you may find unwanted plants and unruly shrubs. Please would you put them into pots and nurture them, then, give them to the Plant Stall and they will be found a good home!

Joan & Peter Hearsom 01206 766906

Lexden
Choral Society

BACH

ST JOHN

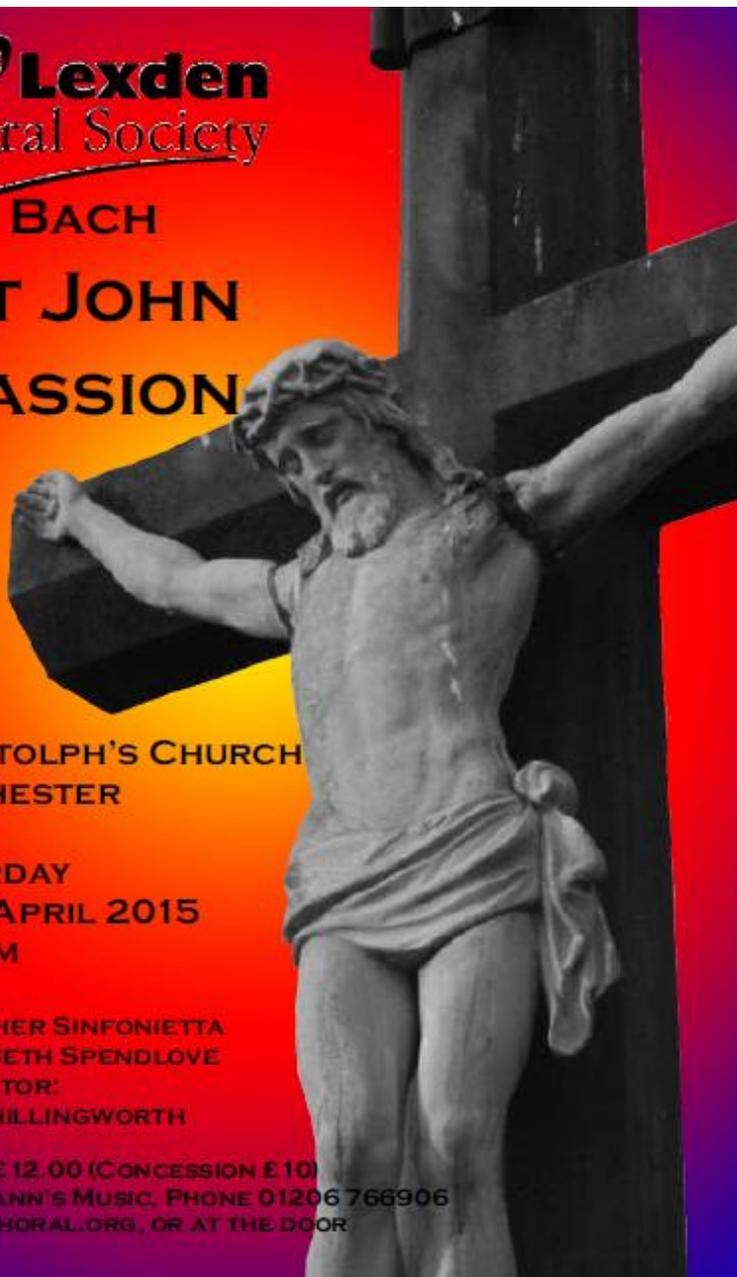
PASSION

ST BOTOLPH'S CHURCH
COLCHESTER

SATURDAY
25TH APRIL 2015
7.30PM

KINGFISHER SINFONIETTA
LED BY BETH SPENDLOVE
CONDUCTOR:
JOHN CHILLINGWORTH

TICKETS £12.00 (CONCESSION £10)
FROM: MANN'S MUSIC, PHONE 01206 766906
LEXDENCHORAL.ORG, OR AT THE DOOR



FROM JUDY



It's been a fun couple of months for me, with new things and exciting adventures. The first of which was a big celebration on the 14th February when my older brother got married. It was a very special day for us all. I went up to Stafford for the weekend and got to spend time with both of my brothers before the wedding day which was lovely and quite a rare occasion nowadays. We're busy bees scattered around the country now, and it makes the time we do have together quite precious.

It was also my birthday in February (as I think most of you found out – sneaky!), and I had a really lovely day. Our Pancake Party for Holy Commotion was great fun, and I loved seeing so many people there. Thank you for the surprise birthday cake (made by Patsi) and all the gifts and cards. My hosts took me out for dinner in the evening too which was a lovely end to a great day.

As most of you know, we've had a bit of a change in Junior Church on Sunday mornings. Some of the older children now come into the service during the Peace. This is to familiarise them with the Eucharistic Prayer before they come to be confirmed. The children have told me that they've been really enjoying going in and seeing what goes on whilst sitting with the choir in the choir stalls. We have also given them books for them to read through at home with their parents/carers, to get them even more familiar with the service. And of course they can ask plenty of questions too!

David Armstrong joined us at Junior OMG in February, where we had 6 children (2 of whom came for the first time). We talked about Identity and who we are. We watched a clip from the film *Wreck It Ralph* and had a great discussion afterwards talking about what they had watched, how we sometimes put labels upon other people, and realising that we aren't defined by what we are good or not good at. We are children of God, and that is where we must find our identity. It was a great meeting, with plenty of cake and games too!

Happy Spring and enjoy the sunshine!!



Lexden War Memorial Cross

First World War Deaths – May 1915

My article in the March issue concluded with the death of Rifleman Malcolm Mann near Fromelles on 9th May and on the same day over the border in Belgium to the north Thomas Thurlow was killed near Ypres.

Lance Corporal Thomas Thurlow was a long serving regular soldier who enlisted into the Essex Regiment at Warley in time to serve with the 1st Battalion in the Boer War where he was awarded the Queens Medal with three clasps (Cape Colony,

Orange Free State and Transvaal) followed by the Kings Medal with two clasps (South Africa 1901 and South Africa 1902).

Having served with the Essex Regiment through 12 years of relative peace he was with the 2nd Battalion at the time of his death nine months into the First World War and it is quite likely that NCOs with lots of experience had been moved between battalions to give stability to the newer recruits.

Peter Potter was unable to establish what connection Thomas had with Lexden as he was born and lived in Aldham before joining the army but he is not commemorated on the Aldham memorial so it is good that this man is commemorated somewhere in the area. His grave is unknown but he is commemorated on Panel 39 of the well known Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres along with three other men named Thurlow amongst the 54,896 names of soldiers who died in the Ypres Salient with no known grave.

It is frightening to learn that the enormous memorial proved too small to accommodate all the names resulting in a further 34,984 missing UK soldiers being listed on a memorial at Tyne Cot cemetery.

The next name on the War Memorial in chronological order is that of Sgt Joseph Lanagan of The 9th Battalion of The Yorkshire Regiment originally from Belfast who died in Folkestone on 11th May 1915. Sadly neither Peter Potter who wrote the excellent book 'Lexden Heroes' on which I have based much of this series of articles nor my own internet research has been able to discover the cause of Joseph's death but as he

was 60 years of age and died in Britain it is not impossible that he died from natural causes.

Joseph is buried in Shorncliffe Military Cemetery near Folkestone where more than 50% of the WW1 burials are of Canadian soldiers.

Next month I shall conclude coverage of the 2015 deaths including the only WW1 death from wounds received at the Front buried in Lexden Churchyard.

Tom Scrimgeour

St David's Day Sunday 1st March 2015



The talk for this All Age Service was about St David and the children displayed some of his sayings in the form of a Daffodil

My Visit to NOTDEC Uganda January 2015 by Mark Shaw

At NOTDEC this January, I photographed a short, plump African lady with a bad back who has saved the lives of dozens of babies and created a loving home for 120. Nobody put a medal around her neck; no-one sang her praises or proclaimed her a hero. But that is the scale of her achievement.

The children that Dorothy believes God has called her to care for have *nothing*. Their mothers have died – in childbirth, accident, domestic violence, or from AIDS – and their families can't feed or care for them; some were abandoned – unwanted babies.

In rural Uganda, if things happen at all, they happen slowly; unplanned; making-do. Shops may be old shacks, or in recycled containers plonked at the roadside. Dorothy's first orphanage was typical – a chaotic "Black Hole of Calcutta" of a place, in rundown premises in Kisinga. We went there.

By contrast, NOTDEC is a well-planned "village" of brick-built bungalows, classrooms, an office and a chapel; there's a farm for food, a tractor and bowser for fetching water, and a bus to take the kids to school. It's not perfect: in the dry season, when we were there, it's so dusty that the kids get filthy just playing – something you don't see in most photos sent to sponsors! But in January 2009, it was open fields. And thereabouts, nothing happens that fast!

Above all, the children are extremely happy, grateful for what they've been given – far happier and more grateful than I ever am.

But what really astonished me is this: I am playing a small part in making it all happen!

I sponsor Abraham and met him for the first time. Being there made me realise that what I and the 100+ other sponsors contribute helps *Dorothy* to do what God has commissioned her to do. With Milly, the house mothers, and the office staff, we're part of Dorothy's team – the team God has given her.

It's like being able to do some of Mo Farah's press-ups for him. Or it would be, if only Mo had devoted his life to something useful – instead of running around in circles!

Pray without Ceasing

If you think God gives an easy ride to those doing His work, you should see the X-rays of Dorothy's back. Or take Canon Andrew Dow – retired former vicar of St Paul's – who answered God's call to teach at NOTDEC. Andrew prepared study booklets in uncomplicated English for two courses – a 2-day introduction to St Mark's Gospel for the oldest NOTDEC children and staff, and a 5-day Bible Overview for the oldest children, staff and anyone in the community who wished to come. He had lots of copies printed and flew out to join us. But arriving at Entebbe late at night after a long flight is disorienting; and Andrew failed to reclaim his precious box of booklets. Worse, he didn't realise until the next day after a 7-hour drive to Kasese.

Lots of prayers, and anxious phone calls followed. To release the box to our driver, the airport wanted a scan of Andrew's passport. And NOTDEC's internet connection just wasn't up to it. But God changed the airport boss's mind: and Andrew's box finally arrived with just 2 hours to spare. The shorter first course could proceed; and the main 5-day Bible Overview should be no problem.

Come 2pm the following Monday, however, and Andrew was alone in the chapel: no one had turned up! After all the stress of retrieving the study booklets, yet more pressure! Cue more prayer.

In the Lord's good time, NOTDEC's 30-seater school bus arrived with 40+passengers from Kagando Hospital. Then a minibus, a motorbike, NOTDEC's older children and staff ... and they were queuing to get in. On Tuesday to Friday, everyone arrived earlier, the chapel was full to overflowing, 150-175 took a soda and biscuit at half time, and we had to buy more Good News Bibles and make some extra copies of the study workbook.

Crucially, the Lord blessed Andrew's teaching to his hearers. In a "thank you" letter, NOTDEC children wrote that this "changed our lives ... and ... gave us an inner and wider understanding of the Bible." His efforts were also well received by NOTDEC staff, by staff of Kagando Hospital, by those doing a lay reader's course, and by local clergy. And both NOTDEC and Kagando Hospital have invited him for 2016 to repeat the undoubted highlight of January 2015.

Mark Shaw (member of St Paul's Church Leamington Spa)