



# St Leonard's

Ordinary People. Extraordinary God.



## Parish Magazine

May 2015

## **Men's 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 May

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>

8.30am Men's Prayer Breakfast

Lexden Arts Festival begins

Church Open 10.30am - 4.30pm for Arts Festival

7.30pm Arts Festival Recital

**SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup>: Easter V**

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

**9.45am All Age Worship**

Church Open 1.00pm - 4.30pm for Arts Festival

**6.30pm Parish Eucharist**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup>

Church Extended Opening until 4.30pm for Arts Festival

7.00pm Arts Festival Film Night

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>

Church Extended Opening until 4.30pm for Arts Festival

10.30am Holy Communion at Wren House

11.00am Felt making workshop

12.00noon Lexden Ladies' lunch at Barnplants

2.30pm Holy Communion at the Old Rectory

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>

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

10.45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

11.30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

Church Extended Opening until 4.30pm for Arts Festival

7.30pm Arts Festival Concert

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>

Church Extended Opening until 4.30pm for Arts Festival

8.00am The Eucharist

11.00am Rag- rug making workshop

Friday 8<sup>th</sup>

Church Open 10.30am - 4.30pm for Arts Festival

7.30pm Arts Festival Storytelling Evening

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>

Church Open 10.30am - 4.30pm for Arts Festival  
7.30pm Arts Festival Concert

**SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup>: Easter VI**

**Christian Aid week begins**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>

2.30pm Mother's Union meet in the Nicholls Room

7.30pm 'Medley' house group (515245)

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>

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

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>: Ascension Day**

8.00am The Eucharist

7.30pm The Eucharist

3.00pm 'Canticle' and 'Wordsworth' house groups (564577)

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>

10.30am to 12noon Junior Church coffee morning

**SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup>: Easter VII**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

Monday 18<sup>th</sup>

11.00am Holy Communion at Hill House

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>

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

7.45pm 'Explorers' house group (579944)

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

8.15pm 'Harmony' house group (734246)

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>

2.00pm Marriage of Sean Bloomfield and Zoe Westrup

**SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup>: Pentecost**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>

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

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

**SUNDAY 31st: Trinity Sunday**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**12noon Holy Communion**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

**June**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>

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

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>: Corpus Christi**

**8.00am The Eucharist**

The logo for Lexden Ladies' Group, featuring the text "Lexden Ladies' Group" in a stylized, overlapping font.

## **LEXDEN LADIES' GROUP**

We are meeting for lunch on  
**Tuesday 5th May at 12noon**  
at **Barnplants Coffee Shop.**

**There will not be a meeting in June**

On **July 7th, Dr. Jane Pearson**  
will be talking on: "**Weddings before 1753**"  
All welcome!

**Margaret Tel: 579629**

## **St Leonard's Summer Fete Saturday 4th July 2015**

It will be a traditional English Fete with perhaps just a nod to our American cousins for Independence Day. Please put the date in your diary. If your help, support and presence match that of last year it will be a lovely occasion.

**Robin 07887 841774 15**



## Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union had a most interesting illustrated talk from Edward Kettell. He is involved with a charity called Wings of Support which is the charity of the flying staff of both KLM and Martinair who are the principal Dutch airlines.

The charity builds and supports schools and orphanages in poor areas in Africa and all over the world. Edward himself, has visited one of these settlements taking books for their library. He continues to have books delivered there and the M.U. members thought they would like to help.

Does anyone have any books, any type - childrens' and adult - you could help us with. We shall take them to our next meeting ready for Edward to deliver.

**Joan Kitson**

## A BIG "Thank You"

Last month I wrote an article asking for donations from the readership of this magazine, to help me fund construction materials for the NGO Restless Development that I will be working with this Summer in rural Nepal. (If you missed it, you can read about it on <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/nepaltim>).

I hope it doesn't sound too clichéd to say I am absolutely bowled over by the amount of support St Leonard's have given me, meaning that my original fundraising target is no longer a goal in the distance, but something that has been overtaken, and is now a speck in my rear view mirror. The financial support means that we will be able to make a real difference this summer, as well as allowing us to help carry out extra work there. And for that, I wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart!

I am hoping to give a talk on my return to the congregation sometime in October, to let you know about the work we have done out there.

Once again, many, many thanks for your kind support!

**Tim Hedgeland**

## From the Curate

We are in the midst of election fever. All around us is political spin and counter-spin. In print, on the radio, on-line and on TV we are assailed constantly with the claims, accusations and promises of politicians.

Earlier this year, our Archbishop, Justin Welby made a speech entitled *Think, Pray, Vote*, in which he stated that it is imperative that every Christian engages with politics in some way or other.

He said that the business of proclaiming the Good News of the saving love of Jesus Christ, and the business of seeking to transform society go “absolutely together”.

“They are indistinguishable. They are literally the two sides of the same coin. You do one, you do the other,” he said.

Politics and the Church have never made comfortable bedfellows. If the Church criticises decisions, or the outcome of decisions made by government, as it has recently regarding poverty, and social economic division, it is accused of sticking its nose into matters that are none of its concern. As the Archbishop puts it: “it has been suggested that we stick to the family business of saving souls and let politicians and media commentators get on with important matters of public policy making and the accountability that goes with it”.

I would argue that we have a clear Christian duty to engage with politics. We are commanded by Jesus to love our neighbour as ourselves. Within our society locally we can ensure that we love others as we love ourselves by looking after the poor, caring for the ill, comforting those who mourn, and tending to those in any kind of need. But, we are incapable of doing that on a larger scale, nationally or internationally. Our only power to ensure that Christian commands are executed in places beyond our direct control is to have people who share our Christian values in positions of responsibility.

The 19th-century Anglo-Catholic priest Robert Dolling famous for his work amongst Victorian slums, said: "If you love Jesus Christ, you will care about drains." His message is as true today as it was in the 1800s. If all we do as Christians is preach, sing and proclaim the good news without actually engaging with the society in which we exist then, we are not truly representing Christ on earth. We must use all our powers to look out for those in need. Turning your back on a problem never solves it. Ignoring

politics is simply absolving responsibility.

The Church does not, and should never, tell people for whom they should vote. It is up to each individual Christian to make that decision on his or her own. I would, however, argue that the Church does have a responsibility to encourage people to vote; and vote in a way that reflects Christian values. During debate and political commentary, I would ask you to put on your Christian spectacles and examine closely from a Christian viewpoint what politicians say, promise and proclaim.

Regularly in our intercessions we pray for those around the world who are oppressed, those given no voice in society. We are greatly blessed in the UK that we live in a free democracy. If we do not take full advantage of that, we are hypocrites when we pray for freedom for others whilst not exercising the freedom given us. Each of us has a Christian responsibility to vote and we should encourage, where we can, others to vote too, especially the young.

At election time, as we place our cross on our ballot paper, pause and consider which politician's policies would best represent Christ's hopes for us: "...for when I was hungry you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." (Matthew 25.35-36)

Best wishes,

**David**

## BODY LANGUAGE

As Anglicans, we enjoy the constancy and familiarity of the liturgy, but because we know the words so well, we risk finding ourselves reciting them automatically, without paying attention to what we are saying, much as we operate the controls without thinking when driving a car.

One of the ways we engage with the words is through actions. We all do them – we stand up and sit down for different parts of the service, we turn to face the Gospel reading, some of us kneel to pray and most of us, if we can, walk up to the altar and kneel to receive communion. In addition to the clergy, some members of the congregation also choose to bow or to make the sign of the cross at certain points in the liturgy.

Why do we do these things? Well, they punctuate and emphasise different points in the worship; they actively involve us and invite us to make a connection between the action and that part of the service.

I have always knelt to pray and bowed at certain words of the liturgy; that was what we did at my childhood church. This year as a Lenten discipline I also began making the sign of the cross. I read up on it beforehand, so I would understand what I was doing, but I was still unprepared for its powerful effect. It has added another dimension; it keeps me focussed and engaged with the liturgy and as I do it I am prompted to think about the words and why they merit this special acknowledgement. I feel more actively involved. And there's no drifting into autopilot!

We come to church because we want to show God that we love him. Nothing we do can compare with his love for us, but we want to do our best, so we dress up, sing, kneel, read aloud, exchange the peace and do all sorts of things which we don't normally do outside church.

From high Anglo catholic churches where people genuflect as they come for communion, to evangelical congregations who raise their arms while singing worship songs, Anglicans of all traditions can't help but use their bodies as well as their voices, to praise and worship our wonderful God. It's pulling out all the stops, and that seems like the right thing to do.

**Viv Mendham**

**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.



## **Christian Aid Week 2015**

**May 10<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>**

**This year Christian Aid week falls at the end of The Arts' Festival, so the envelopes will be in church for the two weeks preceding that event, namely from April 19<sup>th</sup> – May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please try and spare some time in the actual week to deliver and collect the envelopes and return them to church on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May. We will open them and count the money in the Nicholls Room after the 9.45 service. Jean, John and I would really appreciate your help with the counting.**

As many of you will know this is a charity we support on a very wide scale. We aim to deliver to every house in the parish in order to give everyone an opportunity to donate. It is also a really good way of making contact with 'our neighbours' and a chance to witness the love of God by raising awareness of what the charity does. It is important to stress that any money collected for CA does not go to the government of the countries concerned. All the money is used directly by CA partners who link up with local people and support them in the fight against disease and poverty.

### **Christian Aid's help with Ebola in Sierra Leone**

I usually report on some of the work that is done by Christian Aid and most of the information I get is from their very extensive website or from the resources they send us. This year I am able to say something from an eye-witness who has been working in Sierra Leone on the Ebola crisis. My daughter –in –law, Susie, has just returned from a six month spell in SL, and although she works for the Department for International Development (DfID) she has been full of praise for the many Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) one of which is Christian Aid. She says that with their help, the Sierra Leoneans themselves have achieved great things.

CA were in Sierra Leone before the Ebola crisis hit the country. They were involved in many health initiatives and were well supported by the people living there. However, when the disease first hit the country, awareness of how it spread through touch and by handling dead bodies was not fully known, and many of Sierra Leone's own health workers died in the first swathe of casualties, leaving the country short of nurses

and doctors.

Having learnt more of how the disease spreads, stringent measures have been put in place. The news reports have highlighted the inordinate amount of care taken to try and ensure health workers have absolutely no contact with the sufferers, but it is not just in the clinics and hospitals where care is being taken. Contact amongst human beings is no longer encouraged - no handshaking or hugging friends, no passing the peace in church. People are encouraged to stand well away from each other, and every time my daughter - in - law moved from one area to another she underwent a health screening. She reckoned she washed her hands in chlorine about 20 times a day. Added to the heavy workload, all these restrictions put tremendous strain on everyone. CA have provided thousands of pairs of disposable gloves and powdered chlorine to help keep it all at bay.

Many people are quarantined to try to halt the spread of Ebola, but some have needed to break out of their houses in order to obtain food and water. CA partners provide care packages of tinned food, vegetable oil and water to help families survive the 21 days quarantine period.

One of the things that Susie says has been hardest to bear is to see mothers left childless or children left without parents. Often every family in a village has lost someone. Added to this is the stigma that still surrounds the disease and CA is working to reduce that and also to offer psychological support to survivors.

Although the many agencies involved have achieved a great deal, there is still work to do. Only recently one man broke his quarantine and went back to his village where he infected 11 other people. Dead bodies are still found abandoned in the streets and as well as being a threat in themselves, with no identification it is almost impossible to trace who they have been in contact with. The disease has not been eliminated. The fight must go on.

### **What's next?**

Because the aid organisations have had to put their resources into tackling Ebola, the other health programmes have suffered. Malaria, TB and HIV programmes have all had setbacks and more women and babies are dying in childbirth.

Christian Aid partners were there at the start and they will continue their

work long after some other agencies withdraw in order to deal with another emergency, or when news crews have something more pressing to report. Ongoing work desperately requires money and although our collection will not necessarily go to Sierra Leone, any money collected will help to alleviate the suffering of people across the world. Please do what you can to support Christian Aid this year. Thank you.

**Rosemary Elden**

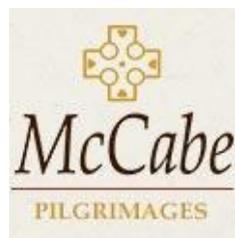
### **Many Thanks**

I would like to offer my thanks for all the messages and cards of love and support but above all, your prayers, following my recent illness.

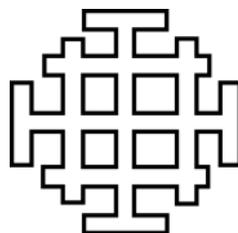
I cannot put in words what it has meant to me and to Julie and Sarah.

God Bless You All

**Peter Hinchcliffe**



### **A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land**



**A pilgrimage is planned to the Holy Land  
in October 2015 (20<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup>),  
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 are brochures available at the back of church with more information or ask Teresa (taking one doesn't commit you in any way).

There is also a sign-up list at the back of the church.

**Teresa**

## **Holy Commotion: An Easter Party!**

School was out and Easter was coming up, so it seemed obvious to schedule another party. This time though no pancakes in sight, but plenty of Eater-themed fun instead.

There was even more for the children to do this time, with donkey races, scratch egg art, a prayer tree, Alleluia banner decorating, edible Easter baskets/nest, parachute games, AND an Easter garden to put together. Lots of fun and plenty of mess with 28 children (plus grown-ups). We sung lots of fun songs and again enjoyed marching round the church.

The clergy had their own donkey race too (although rumour has it there was cheating involved), which was probably the most competitive of all the races that took place.



Join us for our next Holy Commotion will be on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May which will include lunch. Watch out for the posters!

## **Easter Gifts from the Junior Church**

In March, the Junior Church children put together some Easter gifts for the housebound members of our congregation. The Christmas gifts received some lovely responses, and we thought that Easter would be an even better surprise for them. The bags included chocolate bunnies, mini chocolate eggs, soaps, puzzles, tissues, and an Easter card which the children designed and made themselves. Yet again we received some lovely cards, and here are the responses the children received.

*Thank you very much for the lovely Easter presents. I will really enjoy doing the Sudoku puzzles while eating chocolate!*

*I hope you have a good Easter holiday.*

*With love from*

*Zoe Watts*

*Dear Junior Church,*

*Thank you so much for your card and Easter bunny. What a nice, kind thing to do. God bless you. I hope you all have a wonderful Easter.*

*With love,*

*Jenny Mortimer*

*Dear Junior Church,*

*What a lovely surprise! Thank you very much for my Easter bag of goodies.*

*I do hope you all have a lovely Easter.*

*Much love from*

*Win Kenway*

*Xxxx*

*Dear children,*

*We had a lovely surprise when we received a beautifully decorated Easter bag filled with lovely goodies.*

*We like sweets and will enjoy eating our chocolate bunnies on Easter Day. Your lovely Easter card is on display where we can see it all the time.*

*It was very kind of you to think of us as we cannot get to church anymore, we do miss seeing you all.*

*We hope you have a lovely Easter.*

*With love from*

*Mary and Dennis Cook*

*Dear Junior Church,*

*Thank you again for a lovely surprise on a Sunday morning. A beautifully decorated bag, and an Easter card which is sitting on my sideboard in the hall.*

*What treats inside the bag, but will I be able to keep them until Easter Day? I love chocolate, and will enjoy your sweets very much.*

*With love,*

*Sylvia Francis*

*Dear Judy and Junior Church and Sam,*

*What a lovely surprise your Easter parcel was. Janet Crees bought it over to us yesterday. A lot of work went into it all, it was beautifully presented – chocolate rabbits, a large bottle of handwash, 2 packets of tissues and a at the bottom many more chocolates and sweets. Very, very kind of you all.*

*I suspect Sam must have padded out the bag and we thank you for your really delightful card, beautifully done Sam.*

*Easter is such an important time for the church and you all have been so kind and generous, we both thank you so much.*

*A very Happy Easter to you all.*

*With love,*

*Teddy and Pat March*

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

**Judy**

## **Junior Church Coffee Morning**

**10:30am - 12noon Saturday 16th May at church**

The children are holding a coffee morning to raise money for the church and a charity of their choice. Recipes of the cakes and biscuits from the children will be made into a book and sold to raise more money. Please come and support the children if you can.

Any extra donations of cakes or biscuits will be very much appreciated too. You can never have too much cake!

Contact Judy ([youthworker@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:youthworker@stleonardslexden.org.uk)) for more information and if you are able to bring a cake with you too.

Thanks

**Judy**



**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)**

**FELT**

# THE LEXDEN ARTS FESTIVAL

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

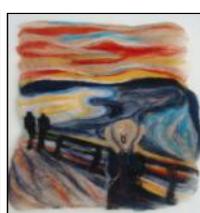
**MUSIC, ARTS & CRAFTS**

**2nd - 9th MAY 2015**

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

## **FELT MAKING WORKSHOP**

**with Clare Kiely**



## **Tuesday 5th May 2015**

Introducing you to the exciting world of felt-making from selecting the glorious colours of fleece to the tactile process of wet-felting your first piece of flat felt. This can be framed as a picture or made into something of your choice.

**Only 10 places available**

**£40 for the day**

**11am-2.30pm**

**Light Lunches & refreshments available**

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

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



ST LEONARD'S CHURCH  
CO3 4BL

MUSIC, ARTS & CRAFTS

2nd - 9th MAY 2015

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

## 'The Wednesday Slot'

6th May 2015

An evening for up and coming talent



**Ashley  
Blasse**  
&



**Bethany Appleton**

£5 admission

7.30pm

Refreshments available



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

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

**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

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



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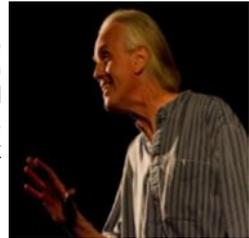
## **'The Homing Stone'**

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**

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## **Lexden War Memorial Cross**

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

Further to my articles in the March & April Issues of the magazine there are two remaining 1915 deaths to report, both of which occurred in May making a total of 5 deaths in that tenth month of the War. In fact all the six deaths recorded on the Lexden War Memorial for 1915 occurred within a three week period in April / May.

The fifth death was that of Trooper Ernest Percival Munson of C Squadron, Royal Horse Guards who died somewhere in the Ypres area of Belgium on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 1915 at the age of 24 and as he has no known grave his name is recorded on Panel 3 of the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing in Ypres. His younger brother Bertie was killed later in the war on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1917, whilst serving with The Manitoba Regiment of the Canadian Army and is buried in Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery, located just 5 miles west of Ypres town centre.

Their parents are listed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as William Robert and Frances Elizabeth Munson of 35 London Road, Lexden but the location of that house is rather a mystery as from the number it would have been located somewhere to the east of the Halstead Road junction on the north side where is no extant housing. At the time of the 1901 Census the family were resident in Colne Engaine at Brick House with William being recorded as a Farmer.

The final 1915 death is that of Captain Cecil Edward Morton, Adjutant of the Portsmouth Battalion of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, serving with the Royal Naval Division on the Gallipoli Peninsula. Captain Morton was wounded on 7<sup>th</sup> May and died on 18<sup>th</sup> May in the Deaconess Hospital in Alexandria, Egypt. This hospital, also known as No 15 General Hospital, was set up by a Royal Army Medical Corps unit in the modern buildings of an Egyptian secondary school – The Abassia School – to treat wounded being shipped across the Mediterranean from the Gallipoli campaign.

Captain Morton was originally buried in Chatby Military Cemetery near the hospital in Alexandria but the CWGC records reveal that his body was subsequently exhumed and transported back to the United Kingdom where it was reburied in the southern part of St Leonard's graveyard and as far as I can tell this is the only grave in our churchyard of a serviceman

who died as a result of enemy action in World War I.

Captain Morton lived at Heath Lodge in Heath Road, and was the elder son of Mr Cecil Howard Morton but by the time of his death aged 29 he was married to Evelyn and their son, also named Cecil, was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1915 just over a month after his father's death. By a strange coincidence in World War II this son, an Army Captain, was killed in the Western Desert in 1940 and is buried in Egypt.

Miss Mary Beattie MBE JP DL also of Heath Lodge, who died last December, was Captain Morton's niece and a photograph which she supplied of her uncle appears in Peter Potter's book 'The Real Lexden Heroes' which has been invaluable to me in preparing this series of articles. The beautiful wooden font in the Church was given 50 years ago by the Morton and Beattie families and commemorates the Captain Mortons' – father and son – with the insignias of their naval and military units.

As the grave in St Leonard's churchyard is a rare tangible link between the Gallipoli campaign and Colchester, the Garrison sergeant major is arranging a brief remembrance service at the graveside on the Centenary of Captain Morton's death - Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

**Tom Scrimgeour**

## **Confirmation**

### **21st June 2015**

*Calling everyone who is interested in exploring  
Confirmation: whether you are 11, 21, 41 or 101*

**This will be a Diocesan Confirmation service in the  
afternoon or evening in Bishops court (Margaretting)**



**Classes will start in early May.**

**For more information contact Teresa  
(575966).**



## **The Easter Vigil on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

A jewel in the crown of the Easter period is the Vigil which marks the end of emptiness on Holy Saturday, leading to the celebration of the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

By the second century Christians celebrated the Great Easter Vigil which began on the night of Holy Saturday, continuing until dawn on Easter morning. During the vigil Christians commemorated the history of the

salvation, awaited the return of Jesus and celebrated the resurrection. The Easter Vigil was in fact the most important day of the liturgical year.

As evening descends, the church is unlit and a series of scriptures are read on the theme of bringing light out of darkness and hope from despair. The first one is from Genesis telling of the Creation. Between readings a period of silence is kept for quiet contemplation.

The church now in complete darkness, the service continues outside where the Easter fire is lit and blessed. The Paschal candle is marked with grains of incense representing the wounds of Jesus and lit from the fire.

The candle is carefully carried in a procession back into church and is the only visible light.

The Exsultet (an ancient hymn of triumph and rejoicing) is sung unaccompanied and solo.

This was executed beautifully for the first time by David Armstrong in pitch-perfect plainsong. (I understand that there was a lot of practicing in the kitchen at home in the preceding weeks!)

With gentle swirling clouds of incense, candlelight is distributed throughout the church and the light slowly returns, creating a wonderful moment. Hand bells are rung in joyous celebration.

Towards the end of the service, water is blessed at the font. This was

sprinkled thoroughly and liberally by David as a renewal of our Baptismal vows.

This is one of my favourite services and sometimes sadly overlooked, marking a poignant and joyful transition in the Easter cycle.

**Chris Newton**

## **FROM JUDY**

Here's a question: God gave you a gift of 86,400 seconds today - how did you use it?

Me? Well, where do I begin...

March certainly had many highlights for me. Mothering Sunday was really good, and I was very proud of the children for their excellent reading and acting. I also enjoyed being a part of the worship group too. SHAMELESS PLUG: We would love to have people join the group if you would like to. Guitarists, flautists, drummers, percussionists, vocalists, etc. Speak to Simon, Patsi, or myself if you would like to know more.

At Junior OMG, after playing some fun games and eating some of Patsi's delicious cakes, we talked about making decisions. We watched a clip from a film called 'Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs' and had fun discussing how and why we make decisions and where we can turn to when we need help. Some decisions are easier to make than others, but with God's help we can make the right ones. He can guide us if we ask him to. We ended the meeting with writing some prayers of where we wanted God to help us this week with big or little decisions we had to make.

As well as all that, I also had my first trip to the Mercury Theatre. I went with a friend to see 'Three Men in a Boat' which we enjoyed a lot. Very funny! I also went to visit my younger brother in Norwich again, where it was great to catch-up and see how he is getting on at university.

As I write this, Holy Week has just begun and Easter is nearly here. A busy week but very exciting! I think I might have been more excited than the children about having the donkey on Palm Sunday... But we're all children at heart though, aren't we?!

## **Loving my neighbour through buying Fair Trade products**

Buying Fairtrade products means you can feel happy that producers in developing countries are getting a fair price for what they grow. They also receive an extra 'fairtrade premium' so that they can invest in beneficial projects in their communities like schools, hospitals and wells.

The growth of Fairtrade products in our supermarkets has been rapid over recent years. In most supermarkets we can now buy Fairtrade tea, coffee, fruit juice, wine, drinking chocolate, cocoa, bananas, chocolate, cotton T shirts, sugar and flowers. Are you a chocaholic? There are a large number of chocolate bars which are Fairtrade. (so you can enjoy your chocolate with a clear conscience!)

I wonder if other members of St. Leonard's church would like to see our church become an accredited 'fair trade' church ? It would mean, for example, that tea and coffee served after services and at church functions would always be Fairtrade. But I guess it will only happen if enough of us want it to happen. I would be interested to hear what you think – my email address is on page 2 of this magazine.

Soon it will be Christian Aid Week and we shall be appealing for volunteers from the congregation to trudge round the roads and streets of our parish as house to house collectors. The moving Advent service held at St. Leonard's last year showed us the tremendous difference Christian Aid is making to the lives of mothers giving birth in rural Kenya. But even if you are not able to help to love your neighbour in the developing world through collecting for Christian Aid, you could look out for Fairtrade products next time you are doing your supermarket shop. In this small but important way you would, I believe, be carrying into effect Jesus's command that we love our neighbour as ourselves.

**Hugh Beavan**

### **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**