



St Leonard's

Ordinary People. Extraordinary God.



Parish Magazine

June 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 during the day on weekdays and on Sunday afternoons for anyone who would like to visit, to enjoy this beautiful building and to have the opportunity to experience God's presence.

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 June

Monday 1st

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

Tuesday 2nd

10.00am Holy Communion at Wren House

2.30pm Holy Communion at the Old Rectory

Wednesday 3rd

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

10.45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

11.30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

11.15am Alpha Course in Church

Thursday 4th: Corpus Christi

8.00am The Eucharist

Mission Weekend begins

Friday 5th

7.00pm Beer and Hymns

Saturday 6th

8.30am Men's Breakfast

1.00pm Wedding of Karl Curnock and Claire Kettle

3.00pm Cream Teas

SUNDAY 7th: Trinity I

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am All Age Worship – led by the uniformed organisations

4.00pm Confirmation course at the Rectory

6.30pm 'Sing a New Song'

Tuesday 9th

2.30pm Mothers' Union meet in the Nicholls Room

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

Wednesday 10th

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

11.15am Alpha Course in Church

7.45pm 'Explorers' House Group at 127 Straight Road

Thursday 11th

8.00am The Eucharist

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

Saturday 13th

9.00am 'After Alpha' group meet in the Nicholls Room

SUNDAY 14th: Trinity II/Vocations Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

4.00pm Confirmation course at the Rectory

6.30pm Evensong and Sermon

Monday 15th

11.00 Holy Communion at Hill House

Wednesday 17th

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

11.15am Alpha Course in Church

Thursday 18th

8.00am Eucharist

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

SUNDAY 21st: Trinity III

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

6.30pm Evensong and Sermon

Monday 22nd

7.45pm PCC meeting in the Nicholls Room

Wednesday 24th

10.00am Eucharist with prayers for healing followed by Open Church

11.15am Alpha Course in Church

Thursday 25th

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 27th

9.00am 'After Alpha' group meet in the Nicholls Room

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

Wednesday 1st October

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

11.15am Alpha Course in Church

Thursday 2nd

8.00am The Eucharist

12.30pm Wedding of James Priest and Robyn Lonergan

Saturday 4th July

11.00am – 2.30pm St Leonard's Summer Fayre

SUNDAY 5th July: Trinity V
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am All Age Worship

10am Priesting of Revd David Armstrong at St Nicholas, Witham

6.30pm Parish Eucharist

**Lexden
Ladies'
Group**

LEXDEN LADIES' GROUP

In May, over 20 members and friends met for lunch at Barnplants. All enjoyed the food and the chat!

There is no meeting in June

but on **Tuesday 7th July at 2.30pm** in the Nicholls Room

Dr Jane Pearson will be our speaker

Her subject is:

"For Better, For Worse: Weddings before 1753"

Entrance £2.

All are welcome!

Margaret. Tel: 579629

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.

St Leonard's Church, Lexden

Ordinary people. Extraordinary God

INSIDE OUT 2015

June 5th – 7th

Everyone is invited...

Friday 5th 7.00pm

BEER AND HYMNS

Enjoy a drink with friends and sing some favourite hymns in an informal setting. Beer tent and BBQ.

Saturday 6th 3.00 - 5.00pm

CREAM TEAS

Bring your friends or just bring yourself to relax and chat in the sunshine (or inside if wet.)

Sunday 7th 6.30pm

SING A NEW SONG

An 'alternative' Songs of Praise with modern worship songs and music. Try something different!

From the Rectory



I don't think I've mentioned Transforming Presence (the Diocesan 'vision' document) for some time - and some of you may be thinking that's probably a good thing! However, there are some things in it which are very sensible and necessary – such as being a people of prayer and evangelising effectively. And what is always very satisfying is that we are doing most of the things the diocese recommends already!

As part of the annual Archdeacon's visitation though every church has been asked to assess how well they are carrying out 'Serving with Accountability', a section of Transforming Presence. This title is frequently misunderstood – the accountability part is us being accountable to God; a community which is faithful to Christ, that is growing in the Lord and which is adding people to its number.

(And, going off on a tangent, I was looking at the congregation at the evening service on Ascension Day (which, by the way, is the Anglican equivalent of a holy day of obligation) and realised that almost half of the people there had joined our community since I have been here. So we are adding people to our number – but we often don't realise how many.)

We have been asked some questions by the diocese, questions which the PCC will consider at a day away on August, but which I think are worth sharing with the wider congregation.

Worship

What are you doing to make worship the central focus of the church?

Spirituality

What are you doing to teach people to pray?

Nurture

What are you doing to teach people the faith and help them in their discipleship?

Evangelism

What are you doing to share faith with others and what have the results been in last year? Does your church have a place of nurture?

Vocation

What are you doing to nurture and develop the ministry of the whole people of God including enabling people to come forward for authorised lay and ordained ministry?

Service

How is your church a blessing to the community you serve? And how is it witnessing to God's kingdom of justice and peace?

Hospitality

What are you doing to ensure your church is a place of safety and welcome for all ages and for people of all backgrounds?

Interdependence

How are you working in partnership with other Christian communities in your locality and at diocesan, national and global levels?

Generosity

What are you doing to ensure that your church is showing signs of generosity towards the wider church and community as well as becoming financially secure?

We do not have to consider *all* of these questions in depth –the PCC only needs to consider two or three of them, but I think it is worth asking the people in the pews (that is – you!) what they think we are doing well and what we could do better at.

So have a look at these again – what do you think we are doing well? What could we do better? As I said at the APCM I am very proud to be part of this vibrant community which I think is doing so many good things – but we all have a responsibility to God to do the best for him and for those whom we serve and we mustn't be tempted to be complacent. If you have any ideas, views, offers of help...please tell one of the PCC (their pictures and names are on display in the porch) to help us in our discussions in August.

Teresa

FINAL DAY FOR ITEMS FOR THE JULY MAGAZINE IS

SUNDAY 14th JUNE

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 JULY EDITION TO
PETER BROWNING ; email: magazine@stleonardslexden.org.uk**

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



Mothers' Union

Canon Hugh Beavan spoke to us at our May meeting bringing with him a selection of slides covering our own country, Europe and the HolyLand. We thank him and Frank Weilebob his able assistant with the slide projector.

Thank you to all of you who brought books for Edward Kettell's charity providing books for orphans and staff at a school in Kenya.

This month

Jean Hallett is organising a visit to Beth Chatto's and restaurant for a lunch time meal.

Please contact her if you wish to book a meal.

Joan Kitson



**Captain Cecil Edward Morton,
Royal Marine Light Infantry
Ceremony at his Grave in Lexden
Churchyard
on Monday 18th May 2015 - the
Centenary of his Death**

Captain Morton of Heath Lodge, Heath Road, Lexden died at the Deaconess Hospital, Alexandria, Egypt on 18th May 1915 from wounds sustained at Gallipoli on 7th May and most unusually his family were able to arrange for his body to be shipped back to the UK for burial in Lexden Churchyard.

He and all those from Colchester who died in the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign were remembered at a short service beside Captain Morton's grave at 11.00am on the Centenary of his death. The service was led by Revd Richard Tilbrook, Garrison Chaplain, with wreaths laid by the Colchester Garrison Commander, a Royal Marine Sergeant and the Royal British Legion.

Tom Scrimgeour

Four Counties and another St Leonard's Church

There is a Lexden Walking Group which walks in the Colchester area most Monday mornings with the majority of members belonging to the St Leonard's congregation.

Each year there is also a Spring Walking Week which used to be centred in Snowdonia but for a few years now the destination has been the Peak District, staying at Hulme End in Staffordshire near the border with Derbyshire which follows the River Dove.

This year in late April eight of us enjoyed sunshine and cloudless skies for 5 days and our walks took us across various parts of the Peak District which largely lies in the counties of Derbyshire and Staffordshire but this year additionally into Cheshire and for the first time we ventured into

South Yorkshire.

We reached Cheshire on our Tuesday walk which took us on an 11 mile circuit taking in The Roaches rock escarpment before descending into valley of the River Dane which we crossed into Cheshire to have a refreshment stop at The Ship Inn in the delightfully named village of Wincle, which is quite some distance from the sea and ships! In previous years we have also stepped over into Cheshire at Three Shire Heads where Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire meet close to Flash, reputedly the highest village in England at 1518 feet.

On our Thursday walk we headed for Stanage Edge, another escarpment north of Hathersage in Derbyshire and only six miles west of Sheffield City Centre. Whilst the Edge itself is just short of the county boundary as we continued south onto the summit of Higger Tor we crossed into South Yorkshire.

On our final morning we headed south to park near Thorpe in Derbyshire



from where we climbed to the summit of Thorpe Cloud before descending to cross the Stepping Stones over the River Dove into Staffordshire. We returned through the village of Thorpe where we discovered that the Parish Church dating back to Norman times is dedicated to St Leonard and that surprise discovery seemed to be a good

omen as we started our long drive back to Lexden.

Tom Scrimgeour



Please would you all keep an eye out for new people moving into your road or block of flats. We would like you to put a Welcome leaflet through their door and if possible talk to them a little bit about our church. If you are unable to do this yourself, please let someone in the Ministry Team know and we will follow it up.

**St. Leonard's Summer Fete
4th July, 2015**

Stalls requiring contributions please;
CAKES: Julie Hinchcliffe and team
TOMBOLA: Maggie Whiteman and team
RAFFLE: Lesley Fullerton and Alison Ewbank
PLANTS: Peter & Joan Hearsum
BOOKS: Chris Newton and Rosemary James
BRIC-A-BRAC: Robin Greatorex

**All contributions to be brought to the church
on Friday 3rd July, please.**

Cakes on the day.

Thank you

Revd David Armstrong

As you will see from the Diary;

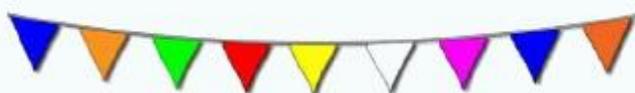
David is being priested on 5th July at St Nicholas Church, Witham

You may or may not be familiar with that term, but just to recap; last year he was made a deacon (you will have noticed he wears his stole diagonally) and on the 5th July he will become a 'fully fledged' priest. That means he will be able to celebrate the Eucharist, conduct weddings, hear confessions, anoint with holy oil, and give absolutions and blessings. He will be sharing more about this journey in next month's magazine.

On 11th July (St Benedict's day - and a Saturday) at 11am he will celebrate his first Eucharist in St Leonard's, which will be followed by lunch in the hall. Everyone is welcome – there will be a sign up list at the back of church nearer the time so that we know how many people to cater for.

Do come and join us in this celebration of what is always a momentous time in a priest's career!

Teresa



St Leonard's Church

SUMMER FETE

Saturday 4th July

11.00 am - 2.30 pm

First Class Brass **BBQ** Bouncy Castle

Ice Cream The Smoothie Bike

Lunches Cakes Books

Face Painting Raffle Coconut Shy

Pictures and Artworks Bric-a-Brac Crockery Smashing

Spectrum Majorettes Plants Greeting Cards

and more!



From Judy

I don't know about you, but Easter feels quite a long time ago now. The weather is getting much warmer and I can see summer on the horizon, but Holy Week for me was a very moving and life-changing week. Beginning with Palm Sunday and a donkey through to Easter Day itself, every service was both new and a great experience. The foot washing on Maundy Thursday and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday were my favourites. The week really helped me to imagine what Jesus went through in a way that I had not experienced before, and for that I'm really grateful. On Easter Day it was great to have 35 children join us in Junior Church (many of whom I didn't know), and I loved having my parents there too.

After that busy week, my parents whisked me away on holiday to Suffolk with my Mum's side of the family (17 of us in total). Every year my grandparents hire a house for us all to stay in, and we had a wonderful week near Woodbridge visiting local castles and the countryside, as well as Sutton Hoo and a radar museum. Afterwards I headed back to Canterbury for a long weekend (stopping off at Tiptree for lunch), where I had an interview, attended the wedding of my old youth worker, spent time with my home church, and enjoyed a cream tea with my Mum. A lovely break!

Since being back in Colchester, we've had another great Junior OMG talking about helping others and watching an advert that shows how when we are kind to others it is passed on from one person to the next. The Bible tells us to care and love others like God cares and loves us. We enjoyed eating cake (as usual) and playing some very active games.

We had an all-age service at the beginning of May on the theme of Jesus being the true vine. I hope those who were there enjoyed moving around to our action song and leaving your pews to hang your desired fruit onto the vine. The weather may have been very wet, but every plant needs water to grow fruit after all!

Happy June!!



As I write this, it's only five days since the Lexden Arts Festival 2015 closed, and we are still doing all the post-festival jobs – delivering the raffle prizes, writing to all the artists, doing the accounts, delivering unsold work to artists – but it is good to look back at the week we had.

And it was a great week! Sitting on the reception desk at the top of the steps, I heard time and time again that it was the best art exhibition we had mounted, and many people came in for a second or even a third look round. We had some wonderful new exhibitors, such as Glynn Thomas, Richard Baxter, Steve Higton, Penny Bhadresra and Cathy Allen, who I am looking forward to welcoming back either next year or the year after.

The first event of the week transported the audience back to a Medieval Springtime: Blondel, a renaissance wind band, played with amazing skill and enthusiasm on English bagpipes, shawms and recorders. I wondered if St Leonard's had ever heard such sounds before! The three members explained the context of the pieces they played and a little about the instruments as we went along which added to the interest.

The second event of the week was the Film Night, and this time we were transported back to Egypt at the time of the Pharaohs. The film 'Exodus' told the dramatic story of Moses and the 'exodus' of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt – and I shall never think of Moses in quite the same light again!

Wednesday evening has always been our time to showcase young up-and-coming talent – and we certainly weren't disappointed by the talent on show this year. Ashley Blasse took the first half, and delighted us with his classical guitar playing, including some beautiful Spanish songs for guitar and soprano voice, in which he was joined by Mariona de Lamo. In the second half Bethany Appleton showed what a confident and talented singer-songwriter she has become, performing her own songs, along-side one or two covers. I really enjoyed them all, especially some of Bethany's newer songs, and I was very glad I'd filmed her performance on my iPad so I could listen again!

On Thursday Mary McCarthy ran a Rag-Rug making workshop and she and her group had a really fun time together with this traditional craft.

Hugh Lupton, an internationally acclaimed story-teller, made such an

impression on everyone who heard him at last year's Festival that we had asked him back again. Before the evening began Hugh and I sat in Len's Café having sandwiches and mugs of tea, happily reminiscing about our time at college together – a very long time ago! This year Hugh's programme was centred on his great-uncle, the children's author Arthur Ransome, and Hugh mesmerised the audience with stories that Ransome had collected in Russia before the First World War. After the interval we heard the tale of Ransome's own dramatic escape from revolutionary Russia in 1919, with his beloved Evgenia, Trot-sky's secretary, who became Ransome's wife. After the performance Hugh showed me his copy of Ransome's book, 'Old Peter's Russian Tales', inscribed to him from his great aunt, Evgenia, when he was a boy. So many of the audience said to us as they left, 'You are having him back again, aren't you!' that we have booked Hugh for next year's Festival already, with a new programme of stories from the British Isles, which he is putting together just for us!

The closing concert brought us Sam Bullard's People and Places Jazz Quartet, a rousing end to the Festival which was very well received by the audience. Sam introduced each piece with dry humour, and all four members played brilliantly. And now I know what a flugelhorn is! It was a particular pleasure for me to welcome this quartet as I taught Sam at Hamilton Primary School, and he started off playing his saxophone in my instrumental group there.

Throughout the Festival Len's Café proved very popular with our visitors, providing lovely food, and helpful and efficient service which was friendly and welcoming. Some visitors stayed all day, graduating from coffee and cake, to lunch, and then to tea and more cake!

Of course, Graham and I could not run the Festival by our-selves, and we had some wonderful, willing helpers who grasped exactly what we are trying to achieve and really got behind it. We would like to particularly thank Ed Kettell, who spent a huge amount of time and effort making the new 'bar' counters, which I'm sure will also be useful at Fetes and at Holy Communion. We would also like to thank: Richard Peile, Paul Walker, Alan Hedgeland, and Tom Scrimgeour who helped us assemble the display screens and make up the bar stools; Richard Peile, Edward Kettell, and Joe and Siobhan Forster, who moved all the church furniture and brought the screens down from the hall; Sarah Orr and Ann Baines

who between them manned the tea bar all the week; Jacquie Rose, Rachel Burrage, Rosemary Elden and Linda Clifton who masterminded and prepared the lunches;

Patsi Morgans and Judy Nicholas who helped with the waitressing; Siobhan Forster, who managed the Café for the whole week as well as waitressing all the time AND serving at the bar in the evenings; all the people who helped me steward the exhibition, especially Lisa Cockrell who helped at the very busy Private View; Jen and Alan Hedgeland, Tom and Kathleen Scrimgeour and Judy Nicholas who helped at the evening events; Robin Greatorex for supplying the wine and glasses; 'David' from Witham Choral Society who helped us with the loan of the stage lighting; Colin Hetherington, Tom Scrimgeour, Ed Kettell, Robin Greatorex and Joe Forster who helped to dismantle everything at the end and re-order the church. I hope I haven't forgotten anyone! Our very grateful thanks go to them all!

And thanks are also due to all those of YOU who supported the Festival. Our aim is to keep improving on it, year on year – roll on 2016! We've got a few ideas already!

Sally Pudney



Junior Church Coffee Morning

A very big thank you to all those who baked, helped at, and came to the children's coffee morning at church on Saturday 16th May. With your help the children raised **£226.70** for Christian Aid and St. Leonard's.



Thank you for your support towards the children and your generosity. The recipes from the children's cakes will be made into a book that we will be selling to raise more money. More details to follow...

Judy