



St Leonard's

Ordinary People. Extraordinary God.



Parish Magazine

July 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.

Goodbye to Judy

Judy's last service is on 2nd August. I know you will want to thank her for all her hard work this year... she has been an excellent youth and families worker, a real asset to St Leonard's and we will miss her greatly. We will be having a parish barbeque after the service – so do come along and say your goodbyes and wish her well in her new job (as a youth worker in her home church).

Teresa



LEXDEN LADIES' GROUP

Our next meeting is on
Tuesday 7th July at 2.30pm
in the Nicholls Room

Dr Jane Pearson is our speaker and her topic will be:
"For Better, For Worse: Weddings before 1753"

Entrance £2.

All are welcome!

Margaret. Tel: 579629



Mothers' Union

We were appreciative of the arrangements Jean Hallett made for us to have an enjoyable lunch at Beth Chatto's establishment. After the meal we were able to wander round the nursery and gardens where the plants were looking at their best.

Thank you Jean for enabling us to have such a pleasant summer outing.

Next month **Mrs Vivienne Chapman**, who is an elected vice president of the Mothers' Union, is coming to advise our branch on the way to continue. We still desperately need a leader. Do come to hear our speaker.

Joan Kitson

Childrens Society Box Opening and coffee morning

At church

Tuesday 21st July from 10.30am

Diary for July

Wednesday 1st

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

11.15am Alpha course in the Nicholls Room

10.45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

11.30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

Thursday 2nd

8.00am The Eucharist

12.30pm Marriage of James Priest and Robyn Lonergan

Saturday 4th

8.30am Men's Breakfast

11am – 2.30pm St Leonard's Summer Fair

SUNDAY 5th: Trinity V

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am All Age Worship

10.00am Priesting of Revd David Armstrong at St Nicholas, Witham

6.30pm Parish Eucharist

Tuesday 7th

10.30am Holy Communion at Wren House

2.30pm Holy Communion at the Old Rectory

2.30pm Lexden Ladies meet

Wednesday 8th

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

11.15am Alpha course in the Nicholls Room

7.45pm 'Explorers' House Group at 127 Straight Road

Thursday 9th

8.00am The Eucharist

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

Saturday 11th: S. Benedict

11am Revd David Armstrong's first mass

INCENSE WILL BE USED AT THIS SERVICE

1.00pm lunch in the hall (please ensure you have put your name down on the list if you are attending)

SUNDAY 12th: Trinity VI

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

6.30pm Evensong and sermon

Monday 13th

7.45pm Jubilee House Group at the Rectory

Tuesday 14th

2.30pm Mothers' Union in the Nicholls Room

7.30pm 'Medley' House group (Rosemary 515245)

Wednesday 15th

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

11.15am - 3pm Final Alpha course in the Nicholls Room

Thursday 16th

8.00am The Eucharist

Saturday 18th

2.30pm - 4.30pm tea party at 19 Acland Avenue

SUNDAY 19th: Trinity VII

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

6.30pm Evensong and sermon

Monday 20th

11am Holy Communion at Hill House

Tuesday 21st

10.30am Children's Society coffee morning and box opening in the Nicholls Room

Wednesday 22nd: S. Mary Magdalene

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

Thursday 23rd

8.00am The Eucharist

Friday 24th

1.30pm Marriage of James Punchard and Stacey Lock

SUNDAY 26th: Trinity VIII/S James

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

6.30pm Joint evensong at All Saints', Shrub End

Wednesday 29th

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

Thursday 30th:

8.00am The Eucharist

Saturday 1st August

8.30am Men's Breakfast

Sunday 2nd August:

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am All Age Eucharist

6.30pm Joint Evensong at St Barnabas, Old Heath

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.

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. If you would like lunch, please ensure your name is on the sign-up list.

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

Teresa

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.

From the Curate

A Reflection Before Priesting

This month I will be priested by the Bishop of Colchester at a ceremony at St Nicolas's Church in Whitam. Whilst I was ordained Deacon last year at Chelmsford Cathedral, the ceremony on 5 July will see me fully priested in terms of the duties the church recognises that I can perform. Central to those, is permission to bless and consecrate people or objects. For me, most importantly, this means that once I am priested I am able to conduct a full Eucharist service, consecrating the elements of wine and bread: calling God's Holy Spirit upon them.

The Eucharist is a keystone in my faith. It is for me a point at which heaven and earth are at their closest as we fulfil Christ's wish. It is his documented desire that we should take bread and wine as his body and blood and do so in remembrance of him. As we do so, we are uniting ourselves with Christ in an astoundingly intimate and personal way. To preside at the Eucharist, for me, will be an enormous honour and privilege.

As with all things, sound preparation is essential. I have had all my training and theological education and am continuing my curate's training; however, none of that prepared me for the feeling I experienced at my first practice run at conducting a Eucharist. As with all that I have learned and experienced over the past year at St Leonard's, Teresa has been the most wonderful guide and tutor. In a quiet and empty church late last month I donned the vestments, and Teresa talked me through the practicalities of presiding at the Eucharist. But, it was as I stood behind the altar, wearing the vestments and about to practise the liturgy of the Eucharist, that I felt totally unworthy – in short, I felt a fraud!

Taken aback by those feelings, I have reflected deeply on them, and discussed the sensation with my spiritual director and with Teresa and other priests. In common accord, I have been told to hold on preciously to that sense of unworthiness, because it is only in coming before God openly and vulnerably, with all my faults and weaknesses held in front of me, that I can truly call on the Spirit to be with us. And, I think that applies to each of us as we come to receive the Eucharist. We can receive the true gift of the Eucharist only if we come to share at Christ's table with a true and open heart.

Thank you all for your kind words, thoughts and prayers as I travel towards priesting, and I hope as many of you as possible can come to my first celebration of the Eucharist at St Leonard's on Saturday, 11 July at 11am. I am not one to ask for prayers for myself, however, if you do pray for me and my priesting, I ask that you include in your petition that I shall always be humble before God and always retain a sense of true unworthiness throughout my priesthood.

David

FINAL DAY FOR ITEMS FOR THE AUGUST MAGAZINE IS

SUNDAY 12th JULY

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

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

**Cream Teas on
Inside Out
Mission Weekend**



From Judy

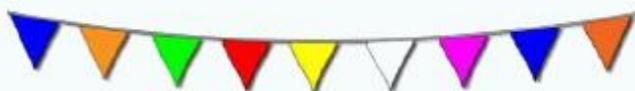
Lots to say this month, but the recent highlights include some more new songs in Junior Church; talked about Worry in Junior OMG; had a fun and tasty Holy Commotion; and a busy and chaotic all-age service with the uniformed groups.

However, this month I particularly wanted to share with you what I'll be doing once I leave St. Leonard's. I know word gets around quickly, but for those of you who don't know, here's the story...

Back in February as I was applying to do a PGCE course (Postgraduate Certificate in Education) to be a primary school teacher, I received a phone call from the pastor of my home church in Canterbury. He explained to me that from September they were looking to appoint a part-time Children & Families Worker and asked whether it was something I might be interested. He told me to think and spend time praying about whether it was where God was directing me to after my time in Colchester. So that's what I did. I prayed a lot and really felt that it was where God was leading me to next. I felt at peace making the decision and was really excited about this opportunity. I spoke to several people about it too, and they also felt it could be where I was being led.

So, when I was at home over Easter I had an interview for the job. It was both strange and comforting to be interviewed by four people that you know well and who know you well. I felt that it had gone well, and a few days later I was offered the job!

The role itself will be similar in many ways to St. Leonard's, but also quite different. Firstly, there will be no regular children attending the church on Sunday mornings, so that's quite a change! I will be doing a lot of mission work (beginning new initiatives like a Messy Church (Holy Commotion), Holiday Club etc.), working closely with children and families that are connected to the church in many ways, lead the bi-weekly parent & toddler group, hopefully linking up with a local school, and more. I am really excited about it and all the opportunities that lie ahead. A year ago I would not have thought that this is where I would be



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!



WOW! WHAT A CHURCH



This was my comment after the evening of Beer and Hymns. It was about the people I enjoyed being with on the Friday of Inside Out Mission weekend when we celebrated at the end of a glorious summer day. I hadn't known what to expect being a new girl and was surprised to find a marquee in the churchyard complete with bar, keyboard and chairs for our comfort.

Smoke from the BBQ rose heavenward, sausages sizzled. The welcome was warm too.

In the marquee groups of folk chatted enjoying the opportunity of being together. An onlooker might well have said, "See, how they love one another"

After refreshments it was the time for the hymns to begin. We were each given a hymn sheet of the



words of old favourites. Simon Eavery on keyboard and Simon Grinham as compere led the worship and received requests from the floor. Simon G gave us biblical references to beer.

The singing began with Praise My Soul the King of Heaven, followed by Be Thou My Vision, My Song is Love Unknown, How Great Thou

Art among others. The final hymn was Jerusalem sung with great gusto.

At times there was the banter of friendly competition over the next hymn to be sung and when Simon G teased that there would be only one verse



of Jubilate Everybody a groan went up. They wanted fun and fun it was when the Jewish melody grew faster and faster. Some of the girls linked arms and danced energetically ending in laughter.

Simon E had us singing one hymn to the tune of another, Christmas carol tunes in June even!.

The quality of singing in the bar area was well lubricated as a bunch of fine chaps took tenor and base parts for the twiddly bits between lines and verses particularly in Cwm Rhondda.

I have learned that at St Leonard's people don't go hungry for food or fellowship.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Margaret Smith

Holy Commotion – The Trinity

Our Holy Commotion in May half-term took a slightly different turn to usual, both in the topic and the inclusion of lunch. After the Parish Eucharist on 31st May, we had our service with the theme of the Trinity (It was Trinity Sunday after all!). I used an apple to try and explain the Trinity, and we had a lot of fun singing some new songs.

I had some brilliant readers to help me, and the children enjoyed the three-legged races, the plaiting craft, the three leaf clover magnets, the prayer chain, and making their own pizzas for lunch. After the service we all went up to the hall to eat our delicious lunch (after saying grace of course!).

A lot of fun, and the tastiest Holy Commotion so far!

Judy