



# St Leonard's

Ordinary People. Extraordinary God.



## Parish Magazine

October 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 October

Saturday 3rd

8.30 Men's Breakfast

**4th: Harvest Festival**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am All Age Worship**

**11.30am Talk by Brian Ford of Colchester Food Bank**

**12.30pm Harvest Lunch**

**6.30pm Healing Eucharist: preacher Jacquie Messinger**

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>

10.30am Holy Communion at Wren House

2.30pm Holy Communion at the Old Rectory

2.30pm Lexden Ladies meet in the Nicholls Room

Wednesday 7<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

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

3.00pm 'Canticle' and 'Wordsworth' House Groups meet at 22 Rudsdale Way (Jacquie 760742)

**SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup>: Trinity XIX**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>

2.30pm Mothers' Union meet for a service in the Church

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

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>

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

7.45pm 'Explorers' house group (Krisztina 579944)

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

**SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup>: S Luke**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and Sermon**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup>

11.00am Holy Communion at Hill House

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>

Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land begins

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>

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

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

**SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup>: Last Sunday after Trinity**

**8.00am Holy Communion (1662 rite): Revd Tony Rose**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church: Revd Jackie Sams**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon: Fr Richard Tillbrook**

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>: SS Simon and Jude**

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

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup>

12.30pm Friendship Lunch

**November**

**SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup>: All Saints/S Leonard**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am All Age Worship – preacher Anne Mason**

**4.00pm Memorial Service**

**6.30pm Parish Eucharist – preacher Anne Mason**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>

7.15pm PCC corporate Eucharist, followed by PCC meeting in the Nicholls Room



relies on food donations to feed local people in crisis. Items they are short of right now are:-

**Longlife Fruit Juice, Longlife Milk, Tinned/Packet Puddings, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Meats, Tinned Fruit, Pasta Sauce, Tinned/Packet Potatoes, Tinned Ravioli/Bolognese, Jam/Peanut Butter, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned/Packet Soup, Biscuits, Lunch Box Snacks**



After such a wet week at the end of August it was a delight for 20 ladies and 2 men to be able to sit outside in glorious warm sunshine in Christine Moore's beautiful garden. She and several other members had made delicious scones, cakes and biscuits and these were accompanied by plentiful supplies of tea and very sociable chat. We even had a flypast of the B17 Flying Fortress (identified by the men) from the Clacton Airshow to entertain us. It was such a lovely afternoon that everyone reluctantly left rather later than intended!

So a big thank you to Christine and her husband Brian.

Our next meeting will be on  
**Tuesday 6th October, 2.30pm in the Nicholls Room**  
where the Rev David Armstrong will be giving a talk

## **Friendship Lunch**

There will be a friendship lunch in church  
on **Saturday 31st October.**

A signup sheet with more details  
will be available in church



**Visit to St John the Baptist  
Orthodox Monastery,  
Tolleshunt Knights CM9 8EZ  
3<sup>rd</sup> October 2015 2.30pm - 6pm.**

The opportunity to be shown round the monastery by members of the community and see their chapels of worship, mosaics and some of their icons. There will be opportunity to ask questions and to learn more of the Orthodox Traditions. Tea will be provided. If people would like to make a small donation towards the cost of it, this would be gratefully received.

Vespers is at 5 pm and there is usually an opportunity to leave just before 6 pm.

**Numbers for this visit are limited – please see Teresa if you would like to go**

**Christmas Bazaar 2015**

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

Planning is in hand for the Christmas Bazaar to be held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December from 1030 am and further details will appear in the November magazine.

In the meantime if you can offer help please contact  
**Tom and Kathleen Scrimgeour**

**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.

On **Sundays October 25<sup>th</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup>**, he will be selling his cards at the back of the church after the 09-45 service. All proceeds going to church funds.

# From the Rectory



I write this in the wake of the vote on the Assisted Dying bill, which I'm sure you recall was not passed in the Commons. So, you may think, that's that. But this issue will, I expect, arise again and it will impinge on all of us sooner or later, and we, as Christians, need to think through the implications of it – and our own views on assisted dying. There is plenty of talk about 'the thin edge of the wedge' and the 'slippery slope'; knowledgeable (and not so knowledgeable) people weighing in with their opinions from both sides. It is such a difficult thing to think about objectively, but think about it we must. Let's be clear here...we are talking about killing a human being. With their agreement, of course.

Having seen my father die a protracted and painful death I speak from experience; I have driven home from a hospital in tears praying for his death to come quickly. I think that medical science sometimes prolongs lives which, in years past, would have ended far sooner and I have seen people kept alive who were ready to die. I believe someone suffering extreme pain and moving towards the end of their life should be allowed to die and I know that palliative (end of life) care can be extremely well managed and allow a 'good' death. I do understand people who are so disabled that they feel they have no quality of life and want to manage how they die.

But on the other hand I also think that the pro-campaigners are clever with their words – the name 'assisted suicide', 'euthanasia' or 'mercy killing' would be much more emotive than Assisted Dying. And they keep on coming back with their bills – a process of attrition. Somewhat cynically, I think they also have a somewhat naïve and benevolent view of human nature.

There are two main things which concern me. I hope we would all agree with the Christian belief that all life is a gift from God and we must respect it, but one is the slipping away of the concept of the sanctity of life. We need to reflect on what sort of society we might become. Do we want to be a society that does not value life; that is willing to 'throw

away' those who aren't useful/productive/healthy/perfect? To use the hackneyed phrase, I think it *is* a slippery slope. Look at what happened after the Abortion Act. It was never intended to provide abortion on demand, it was never intended to make it easy to kill the unborn – but that is what it has become. That is what we have become. I fear that we will become a society where life is cheap. The pro-euthanasia campaigners are probably full of good intentions – but we know what is paved with good intentions.

The other thing that concerns me is the informed consent aspect of this (and I know safeguards were intended to be put in place). We know from the USA states of Oregon and Washington that between 40% and 61% of those who used legally prescribed lethal drugs to end their lives cited concern that they would be a burden on their families as a factor in their decision to bring their lives to a premature end. And there is also the much more insidious pressure that could come from a very small minority of unsupportive relatives who wish not to be burdened. Age UK asserts that some 500,000 elderly people are abused in the UK each year.

We will all have our own views on this issue – and as I said at the beginning – it's not black and white, there are many grey parts of it. We are all products of our previous experiences, and we actually do not know how we will react until these decisions are ours to make. But I do think, at the very least, our job is to protect the vulnerable and the powerless, who are equally loved in God's eyes as the greatest amongst us.

**Teresa**

### **It Starts with a Shoebox**

Leaflets and Boxes for **Operation Christmas Child** are now available in Church or by phoning us.

Please follow the instructions carefully; noting which items should NOT be included. The donation towards transport is again £3.00 to be put in the box or paid on line. Secure the box lid with a rubber band.

The last date for delivery of filled boxes is **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November**.

**Thank you**

**Tom and Kathleen Scrimgeour**

## Lexden WI

This year the WI is celebrating its centenary nationally.

Lexden WI was formed in March 1930 in the Parish Rooms. The theme was mainly about running and bringing up babies.

Since then we have broadened our horizons. When I joined in 1965, membership had risen to 80 with a waiting list and Home Farm was formed in 1966.

We have flourished in Art and Drama and have won many awards. We also had a thriving choir.

During the war we were given sugar to make jam , hence “Jam & Jerusalem”.

We have travelled the world through our various speakers and explored East Anglia and beyond as far as Paris and Brussels.

Members have served the community in various capacities and strong friendships have been formed.

It is surprising how much talent is forthcoming and there is always something new to learn.

Sadly our numbers are declining and we would love some new members.

We meet on the first Wednesday in the month at Lexden Primary School, Trafalgar Road (subject to school holidays) at 7-15pm.

Do phone the secretary; Mrs Jean Hunt 01206 542776

**Win Kenway**



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.

## **AUTUMN THOUGHTS**

Mary and I would like to thank everyone at St. Leonard's for all their kindness, thoughts, prayers and good wishes over the past 3 months, which have been such a comfort and support to us. Special thanks to Teresa and David for so generously making time each week to bring us Holy Communion.

We hope to be able to get back to church and see you all very soon.

Sometimes during the summer we have heard the bell for Morning or Evening Prayer and that has helped to make us feel part of the family of St. Leonard's. A lovely surprise on Bank Holiday Monday was when Chris Newton gave us a CD of the whole of the previous Sunday's service: we heard everything from the processional hymn to the dismissal at the end. It reminded us how good the congregational singing is at St. Leonard's, helped, undoubtedly, by our excellent choir.

There are a variety of religious programmes and services on different radio and TV channels on Sundays. We especially enjoy the service on Radio 4 at 8.10 which lasts for 40 minutes. This comes from different churches and reflects different worship styles but is always well thought out and well prepared. Sometimes it might be a traditional Anglican Eucharist, or it might be a Pentecostal service. Very often it marks some significant national event e.g VJ Day or a significant day in the Church's Year, e.g John Bunyan's day. Today's service came from Rugby School, and appropriately, marked 200 years of rugby football!

Perhaps the highlight for me on a Sunday is hearing the repeat of the previous Wednesday's Choral Evensong.

One must not forget weekdays as well: the daily service on Radio 4 long wave may only be 15 minutes but is always well prepared with a clear theme and often, choral singing of a high standard.

In all these ways those who cannot get to church are ministered to very well.

**Hugh Beavan**

### **CAP Sunday**

**7.00pm, 18th October, United Reform Church, Plume Avenue**

**With music from the Kingsland Community Gospel Choir**

## **Notes from the PCC – 14<sup>th</sup> September**

Teresa and the PCC feel it is useful for the wider congregation have a better understanding of what is discussed and agreed at PCC meetings. I will be providing a short summary after each PCC meeting so you all know what is going on.

The meeting started with prayer with special prayers being said for Richard Allen and his family. The minutes from the last meeting were approved and signed. We then received reports from the various sub-committees of the PCC.

Treasurer - Alan gave an overview of how the Church finances were performing against the budget. Overall our income versus expenditure is where Alan would expect it to be at this point in the year although one concern is that planned giving is lower than forecast. Alan and the finance committee are constantly reviewing interest rates to ensure we are getting the best value possible from our investments. Alan announced that he was standing down as Treasurer at the end of the year but that he was pleased to announce Jan Buckley would be taking over from him.

Mission and Outreach – David Armstrong reported that the work at Hargood Close is going well with over 30 people regularly attending sessions. A review meeting is being held to discuss how we can build on this success. A day of prayer will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> November, the format will be similar previous events with an Advent theme. A new Alpha course starts in January; previous groups have been extremely successful and have resulted in new people coming to Church. The dates for next year's Mission weekend have been set as 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> June.

Staff meeting - the date for the Memorial Service (8<sup>th</sup> November, 4pm) was circulated and the PCC were asked to attend if possible. Candlelit Compline will take place once a week during Advent. Christmas services will be as normal but there will be only one service on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December (9.45 Eucharist) and no services in the week following.

Youth and Young people –Johanna has arrived and seems to be settling in well, we are very grateful to Margaret Smith who has very kindly agreed to host her for the year she is with us.

PCC Away Day – the PCC met at Assington on 1<sup>st</sup> August to discuss

legacies and ‘Serving with Accountability’; several of the suggestions made at the day have begun to be implemented, such as a Day of Prayer. A summary of the discussion points of the day are to be sent to the Archdeacon in November.

We have received a significant amount of money from legacies recently, much of which is restricted to spending on the fabric of the church, and this day gave us the time to consider how it should best be used to serve the Church and the parish community. Many suggestions have been put forward and the Fabric Committee were asked to investigate 2 particular projects, an extension to the kitchen facilities in Church and a Nave Altar, further details will follow.

Share Scheme – the diocese are proposing changes to the way in which the parish share is calculated and paid – the PCC had several questions around the proposals which Teresa will take to Diocesan Synod.

Christmas Bazaar – Tom and Kathleen have kindly agreed to organise the Christmas Bazaar which will take place on 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Arts Festival 2016 – the Arts Festival will take place between 30<sup>th</sup> April and 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016 – planning is already well in hand with several artists already signed up to exhibit.

Choir Music – the PCC agreed to purchase new books and resources for the Choir.

Refugee Crisis – Bishop Stephen’s letter asking us to help refugees will be made available to the congregation. Esther was asked to investigate charities that work with refugees to find out whether there was a scheme whereby we could, as a congregation, financially support a family of refugees from our parish.

**Esther Heptonstall**

Forthcoming PCC Meetings:

2nd November

**A date for your diary:**  
**Colchester Chamber Choir**  
**Stille Nacht** a German Christmas  
Layr Marney Tower  
6pm Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December

## From Sara

I am at the end of a rather splendid 13 days in Cambodia, and as the departure lounge wait coincides with the magazine deadline I thought I would send an update now.

I won't deny I am looking forward to Australia and being in a place I can read the language... But I am sad to leave Cambodia behind. The mad traffic, the incredible loads carried on the back of a motorbike (whole dead cow was the winner, I think), the beauty of the sweet palm trees and the rice crops - these were all new experiences for me, and I loved it.

I flew into Siem Reap, which is a tourist focused town. You may find it hard to believe I only walked down Pub Street on my way to an ice cream shop. Angkor Wat is the draw for tourists - the largest religious structure in the world is an ancient temple. You can look it up yourself. Impressive and complex but I did find myself wondering how one could spend 7 days in amongst the various temple ruins. I had a swift tour from my host, Marguerite. That was enough for me on a hot and humid day. I got very used to riding on the back of Marguerite's motorbike as we went to various places, including the Landmine museum, Night Market, usual local markets and just generally around Siem Reap.

I also spent time with other OMF missionaries. Marguerite's husband, Alex, works with the student community, and I went with him to a Saturday afternoon Bible study. Alex taught in English, since I was there, which helped - I got very used to listening to Khmer, though I still only understand a few words. The students sang in Khmer. One of those spine tingling moments in life was when they sang a song that had a chorus including a few Alleluias. Universal words of praise - reminding me in the heart as well as in the head that we are a global community of Christians. I had the same kind of feeling the following morning as Cindy and Michaela, two German women, led a village Sunday School through its paces with "Allelu Alleluia" (where half are sitting/ standing depending on the bit you are singing). I visited two villages where churches were being planted. One is a village created by the government after the banks of the river in Siem Reap were cleared of the people living there. It has sanitation, and electricity: but no school, or clinic; and for those who made a living as tailors or mechanics, no passing trade so no viable business. I met one family whose income comes from collecting scrap for

recycling. There's a pastor there building a church which he hopes will be a real focus for the community. It will be called "The Great Commission Church." The other 'normal' village is further out of Siem Reap, and the people there are better off as they have always been farmers, so they have land and resources. The Cambodian countryside is beautiful, but beauty doesn't negate poverty. We visited a family watching TV in the open part of their house, next to a large pig nursing her piglets.

I even rather enjoyed the bus trip to Phnom Penh, only 5 hours on dubious roads, because there was a fantastic lightning show to watch. In PP I stayed in OMF's team centre, a mix of offices and B&B used by people either visiting, like me, or who are based in rural parts and need a city base from time to time. Here the mode of transport changed from moto to tuktuk - I was not brave enough to be a motodup passenger in PP city traffic, when I don't know the driver.

Before I travelled, I had read a lot about the Khmer Rouge regime, and what happened in Pol Pot's time. I knew about the forced evacuation from the cities, the separation of people, the torture and death. I knew I would be visiting Tuol Sleng, where men, women and children were detained, and the Killing Fields outside PP. What I wasn't expecting was to hear first hand the testimony of a survivor, sitting over a coffee in the team centre garden. I'm still at a loss for words to describe that particular experience. Tuol Sleng has on show some of the thousands of photographs of victims the Khmer Rouge took - people in their last hours or days until execution, staring at the camera. That is chilling.

PP wasn't all history, though. I visited Jesus Village Church, set next to a garment factory near the slums along the railway track. Here, I heard amazing stories of transformation, of the hope they are providing, and the work their nine daughter churches are carrying out. I also had a good chat about the problems the university students have with Facebook use - a reminder just how closely connected we all are. The same afternoon I went to Tuol Sleng I ate at Sugar & Spice cafe run by Daughters of Cambodia - one of the many places training women and girls who have left or been rescued from sex trade work. In Siem Reap I had rather lovely cupcakes at a similar cafe.

I'm left with many questions to ponder - something to chew over on the flight I am about to take. I wanted to know what Christianity looks like in a society that is fundamentally Buddhist. I wanted to know what

missionaries actually do. And I think I have answers to that. But what was more challenging was how the 'gospel was shared,' - models of evangelism I'm a little wary of; and I am working through what role an overseas missionary might play in 21st century. I'm left wondering how Cambodia will continue its recovery - it is a corrupt society, and dependent on overseas aid. I'm left wondering how I can develop my ideas about mission and evangelism. And having been out of my comfort zone in many situations, I am left wondering how Cambridge life will feel on my return.

It's been a fantastic fortnight, though, and I am immensely grateful to St Leonard's for the gift that has allowed this to happen. It's been much, much more than just 'time in Cambodia.' The experiences and questions - and some of the answers - are, I know, a major contribution to my training. Thank you.

**Sara Batts**



Sanitation blocks awaiting new homes to be built