



St Leonard's

Ordinary People. Extraordinary God.



Parish Magazine

December 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 usually open during the day on weekdays, Saturdays 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 December

Tuesday 1st

10.30am Holy Communion at Wren House

12.00 Lexden Ladies Christmas Meal

7.30pm Candlelit Compline

Wednesday 2nd

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 3rd

8.00am The Eucharist

Saturday 5th

8.30am Men's Breakfast

10.30am - 2pm Christmas Bazaar

SUNDAY 6th: Trinity XIV

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.45am All Age worship

6.30pm Parish Eucharist

Monday 7th

7.15pm PCC corporate Eucharist (all welcome)

7.45pm PCC meeting in the Nicholls Room

Tuesday 8th

2.30pm Mother's Union/Lexden Ladies' Carol service in church

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

7.30pm Candlelit Compline

Wednesday 9th

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

1.30pm Lexden Primary School Carol Service in church

Thursday 10th

8.00am The Eucharist
3.00pm Canticle/Wordsworth house group at 22 Rudsdale Way
Saturday 12th
10.30am Coffee morning at 1 Acland Avenue

SUNDAY 13th: Trinity XV

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

6.30pm Evensong and sermon

Tuesday 15th

2.30pm Carols at the Old Rectory

7.30pm Candlelit Compline

Wednesday 16th

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

1.45pm Kingswode Hoe School Carol Service in church

Thursday 17th

8.00am The Eucharist

10.30am Carol Service at Wren House

6.30pm Christmas Eucharist at Cheviot

Friday 18th

9.30am Home Farm School Carol Service in church

Saturday 19th

7.30pm Wassail in the Church Hall

SUNDAY 20th: Trinity XVI

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.45am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Monday 21st

11am Carol Service at Hill House

Tuesday 22nd

7.30pm Candlelit Compline

Wednesday 23rd

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

Thursday 24th: Christmas Eve

2.30pm Crib Service

4.30pm The Service of Light

6.30pm The Service of Light (these two services are identical)

11.15 Midnight Mass

Friday 25th: Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am Parish Eucharist

SUNDAY 27th: Christmas I

9.45am Parish Eucharist

No services until Sunday 3rd January

SUNDAY 3rd January 2016: The Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.45am: Parish Eucharist (incense will be used)

6.30pm: Evensong and Sermon



Friendship Lunch

Thank you to all who made our first Friendship Lunch such a success. Mindful of how busy the Church will be over the next few months and while not wanting to wait too long before the next one, we propose a

**Friendship "light" lunch
on Saturday 9th January 2016.**

This time we plan to offer homemade soup,
sandwich and coffee with something
sweet £3.

**Sign up sheet will be available in
church in early December.**

Beverley

Christmas Postal Service for Lepra

**I will deliver cards within a four
mile radius (approx) of Lexden**

**each card must have a Lepra
sticker costing 20p – available from
church or from me**

**name and address to be *printed* and
if possible postcode to be included**

**contact details of sender on back
of envelope in case of problems**

no parcels please!

Last posting day - Dec 13th 8 p.m.

Thank you for supporting Lepra

Rosemary Elden

‘Trek Crete’ Coffee Morning raises £1109.65

Thank you so much for all the support I received for this event. It was very well attended and the volunteer helpers were excellent. The ‘kitchen staff’ and waitresses were rushed off their feet.

Everyone was so generous in donating raffle prizes, cakes, and gifts for the Bring and Buy. Many of the monetary donations were gift aided so Lepra will further benefit.

Sally’s artwork sold really well and she gave us 20% of her takings. The fluffy rabbit was a star attraction and it turned out her name was Claudia.

We also sold Lepra Christmas cards and launched the **Christmas Postal Service**.

Once again. my very grateful thanks to everyone involved

Rosemary

From the Curate Jerusalem: a City of Prayer

I am sure many of you have experienced that sense of peace, of prayerful, prayed-in peace which is often so palpable in ancient churches and cathedrals. It is a sense of closeness to God, a feeling of God's presence near at hand. It is not because of the architecture or design of such places that we come to that feeling, though these aspects can help. It is because we are entering a space which has been prayed in for centuries. We are entering a place where decade after decade the devout and the doubting, the anxious and the joyful have come before God. They have come seeking God. If we open ourselves to it, we can sense that history of prayer and nearness to the divine.

Such places are sometimes described by spiritual theologians as "thin places". Places where heaven and earth come very close. Places where there is a sense, almost an expectation that heaven could break through. I am describing such places because, on our recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land, I found Jerusalem to be just such a site, but on an enormous scale. Despite the hustle and bustle of street life, of market traders, of people of every race and nation, of police and army, of thousands of pilgrims, and yet more thousands of tourists, despite of all this I found very "thin places" indeed.

The first morning in Jerusalem, after arriving late the night before, I woke to the low rhythmic murmuring of prayer coming from the interior of a mosque close to my window at the back of the hotel. From that mystical moment, I knew I was in an amazing place of prayer. A place of all prayer to God, be it Western or Eastern Christian, Orthodox or Coptic Christian, whatever, be it Muslim, or Jewish, Jerusalem is a place soaked, immersed in prayer, the prayer of the faithful.

Everywhere you go in Jerusalem you find people praying. There are Christians praying in the street on the Via Dolorosa, the Way of Sorrows, the Way of the Cross, the route along which Christ carried his cross. There are Christians praying in every church, crypt and shrine imaginable. They pray in corporate prayer, in private prayer, in words audible, in words softly spoken, and in silence. The method and means are unimportant, the fact that they pray and saturate Jerusalem in prayer is what is important. And, they saturate Jerusalem in sincere prayer.

One of many poignant moments for me, was watching devout Jews praying at the Western Wall (once called the Wailing Wall). As I watched hundreds praying, each turned out in the dress of their sect. There, I saw a young man, dressed in contemporary clothing with his face pushed against the wall as he prayed silently in public. As he turned around to walk away tears were pouring down his face. He was just one of thousands praying in Jerusalem that morning, and his passion and need to be close to God must have been echoed throughout the city millions of times that day.

What was marked about the prayers of the people was that, on the whole, they appeared to be devotional prayers; prayers bring people closer to God. They are praying to God because God is God. They were not simply prayers of petition, a needy shopping list of requests to God. These were prayers bringing the prayer closer to God and deepening and strengthening that relationship, that sense of the nearness of God, and of the divine about to break through. If we too find more time to pray in that manner we will have the intense joy and comfort of knowing just how near God is to each of us.



Fr David

CHURCH FLOWERS

As Advent is upon us, it is time to reflect on another year of flowers, marking the passing of the seasons. Thank you to the ladies and gentlemen who use their time and talents so generously to provide flowers in the Sanctuary week by week and the extra displays at the main festivals. Putting flowers in Church is a good way to mark a special birthday or anniversary - speak to me if you would like to know more about this. The list to sign for your chosen week or weeks will be on the tea bar notice board so please fill in some dates, especially in the weeks leading up to Lent.

Donations towards the cost of the Christmas flowers will be gratefully received by **Viv Mendham** and me, **Barbara Cole**

Notes from the PCC – 2nd November

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. The minutes from the last meeting were approved and signed. We then received reports from some of the sub-committees of the PCC.

Treasurer - Alan gave an overview of how the Church finances were performing against the budget. It was agreed that we should increase our annual donation to the PCC's 18 nominated charities by £10 to £380 a year each. We also agreed to replace our giving to the Jubilate charity (which was included as SLYC and Beyond Blue used their resources) by a donation to Colchester Foodbank. John Brown circulated a paper detailing some enhancements he felt would improve the performance of the Church organ. After some discussion it was agreed that we should not go ahead at this time but review again in 18 months. Alan is stepping down as Treasurer from April 2016 and Jan Buckley will be taking over this role. The PCC are very grateful to Alan for everything he has done in his time as Treasurer and look forward to welcoming Jan to the team.

Youth and Young people –Johanna has settled in well and we all agreed that the Family Service on 1st November was very successful. This was the 1st service Jo had organised and run largely on her own.

PCC Away Day – Penny Clements, our new architect, met with Teresa and members of the Fabric Committee recently to discuss potential projects to improve the kitchen facilities in Church and install a Nave Altar. As yet, we have not seen any plans from her. Penny suggested a firm from Ipswich to come and investigate the damp problems in the Hall and the Vestry which Edward Kettell has been asked to look into.

Christmas Bazaar – Tom and Kathleen have kindly agreed to organise the Christmas Bazaar which will take place on 5th December. It will take the same format as in previous years and Viv has flyers and posters ready for distribution.

Arts Festival 2016 – the Arts Festival will take place between 30th April and 7th May 2016 – planning is already well in hand with several artists

already signed up to exhibit.

Chairs in Hall – many of the chairs in the hall are becoming unsafe and Edward Kettell is looking into replacing them. Teresa has been approached by a local councillor regarding a grant of £2,000 which is available to purchase items for community use. It was felt that as the hall is used by so many groups and organisations we should investigate whether this was a suitable use of this grant.

Any other Business – Margaret Smith has offered to give a talk to the congregation about preventing falls in the older generation, she is talking to the Mothers Union at their next meeting. It was reported that the recent friendship lunch had been very successful; a future lunch is planned for early in the New Year. Alan is looking for additional people to help count the collection on a Monday or Tuesday, anyone interested should speak to Alan.

Esther Heptonstall



Mothers' Union

At our November meeting, Mrs Margaret Sankey, an Occupational Therapist, from the Falls Prevention Service was our speaker ably assisted by Margaret Smith our new Pastoral Visitor.

Margaret Sankey gave a comprehensive talk on the causes of falls. how we can keep fit and what we do to prevent falls. It was a pertinent subject applying to all of us present.

On the 8th of December we meet in Church
when the Lexden Ladies will be joining us for a **Carol Service.**
You are all invited to come whether you are a member or not.

In **January** we shall meet
at the **Colne Restaurant** for lunch,
Jean Hallett is arranging this
so please contact her if you have any queries or are interested.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

Joan Kitson

Lexden
Choral Society



A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

New and Traditional Carols

With
Audience Participation
Followed by
Finger Buffet

ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH, LEXDEN

Saturday 12th December 2015

at 7.00pm



Tickets – £10.00 Students/U-18s £8.00
(Finger Buffet - wine not included)

From: Mann's Music/Phone 01206 766906
lexdenchoral.org/or at the door

Christmas Bazaar 2015
Saturday 5th December 10.30am – 2.00pm

Items will be welcomed for all stalls especially cakes and produce, bottles for the Tombola, gifts, toys and raffle.

These can be brought to the Hall the day before **from 10am to 4pm** or by arrangement.

Tom and Kathleen Scrimgeour

**Lexden
Ladies'
Group**

LEXDEN LADIES' GROUP

Our November speaker was Julie Price from Home Instead Senior Care. Her subject was "Scams and how to avoid them". She described how easy it was to be caught as she herself had been. Scammers target the elderly for a number of reasons and regularly devise new schemes to rob us of our money and valuables. Julie spoke of the numerous types of scams and produced a booklet showing what we need to do to avoid being duped. It was an interesting and informative talk.

On December 1st,
Merlin is organising a Christmas meal
at "**The Garden Cafe**" at **Ardleigh Craft and Garden Centre.**

We meet at **12 noon.**

The following **Tuesday, December 8th,**
we join with Mothers' Union
for our **Carol Service at 2.30pm,**
followed by tea and mincepies.

All are welcome!

Margaret

St Leonard's Church

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday 5th December

10.30 - 2.00

Tombola Cakes Raffle

Cards Refreshments

Children's Activities Books

Toys & Games

Gifts & Toiletries

At 10.45 Father Christmas
will visit with his helpers

All enquiries to Tom & Kathleen
Scrimgeour 01206 574797



Wassail Evening



Entertainment, light refreshments, and the chance to join in festive favourites

A Reflection on the Holy Land Pilgrimage

Just before I went on my trip to the Holy Land, a friend of mine, who is a Reader in the diocese of Southwark, gave me some words of sound advice. She said just hold onto the thought that you are ‘walking where Jesus walked’. I did hold onto those words and even shared them with some of our group when it became more challenging to visualize where we were. I added to those words myself, as ‘seeing what Jesus saw’ and then to me it all gradually came alive.

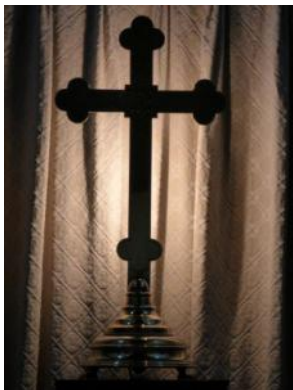
The first sight of Jerusalem was wonderful, I could hardly believe I was actually there, and in fact that just kept happening everywhere we went. I was able to see through the crowds of other people and in fact found it very special that there were so many different people from all over the world visiting too, a concept I found very comforting. I was sorry to leave Jerusalem (as I could have stayed just soaking it all up,) but the morning we left, I realised it was all part of the journey and we needed to move on. I was not expecting Galilee to be just so special, so peaceful, so real, as it really brought everything closer.

Initially I embarked on this trip as I really felt, amongst other thoughts, it was the right time for me to see all the places I had learnt, heard and read about over the years and to put it all into context. For this reason I spent a lot of the time just looking out of the window of the bus as we travelled through the landscape seeing it all.

For me it was overwhelmingly wonderful, and even more so than I could have imagined (and this is the answer I have given people back home when they have asked).

Felicity Josselyn

Legal connections: by Alice Goss



Silhouetted Cross

There is so much more to a church's history than the building or the events that have occurred outside its walls. The church's plaques tell stories of past parishioners and the cemetery is where they rest. Occasionally there are some interesting connections that can be made by linking certain individuals together by surprising coincidences.

St. Leonard's Lexden is just one of those churches with an unusual connection which links people together over a time period of nearly 200 years. This is a connection which originates back in 1764 with a man called William Mason and ends with another man by the name of David Pelham Papillon in 1953. Just how are these two men linked? The connection relates to Colchester's oldest legal firm, now known as Ellisons.

The story begins around 1756 with a man called Samuel Ennew. He was Colchester's leading solicitor at that time writing wills and handling property transactions with a business that was doing well and expanding. Samuel took on an apprentice by the name of William Mason who was initially employed as a scrivener, making copies of legal documents, who some years later went on to write wills for Samuel signing many under his own name.

In 1764 the young William Mason started his own legal firm splitting from Samuel due to differences with another of Samuel's employees, a Francis Smythies. Mason's legal practise was successful and when Samuel died in December 1795 he was buried at St. Leonard's (grave A64) leaving legacies to some of his professional colleagues, William being one of them.

In 1765 William married Elizabeth Stow, the



St. Alban window



Grey window

daughter and only child of Henry and Elizabeth Stow a miller from Lexden. In 1785 the business developed further as his son, also called William, joined his father's business, then being joined by his son in law, James Inglis. William died in February 1802 he was also buried in the church's cemetery (grave A5) next to his wife's parents (grave A7).

Over the years the business passed from the Mason family as new partners from outside the family joined the business. This legal firm was proving very successful as the years went by. The business had several changes of name to reflect the different partners who joined the practice over the years with the last name change coming in 1939 with the name of Ellisons &Co.

Also in the cemetery is the grave of Thomas Grimwood (grave A62) who was a miller from Layer de la Haye. Thomas's will was handled by the legal firm Howard, Ellison and Morton which was just one of the trading names of the original business that was started by William Mason all those years ago.

The next connection comes with the installation in the church of the St. Albans Window. The window was installed in 1953 by Barbara Papillon, who originally came from St. Albans, and the then owner of Lexden Manor. The window is in memory of her parents and all members of her family who have since become deceased. Her son, David Pelham Papillon was a solicitor working at Ellisons, who became a partner in 1937.

Three people all solicitors, two millers and five families spanning nearly 200 years, buried in the church cemetery and all linked through different associations to the legal profession.

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.

A VISIT TO ST JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX MONASTERY

On a warm sunny afternoon in early October a few of us gathered in the car park awaiting the rest of our party to arrive at 2.30pm. We were greeted warmly by one of the Sisters who took us through the grounds of a quiet wooded area towards a building to show us the colourful mosaics which covered the wall from the ground to the top of a two storey building showing the story of Noah's Ark. The animals were all there moving up the wall towards the Ark. Birds, reptiles, lions, every creature were made out of small pieces of glass, pottery even roof tiles were used, in the most vibrant colours, even gold colour was used to bring a sparkle in the sunshine.

We moved on towards the church, but before we entered on the outside of the walls were huge mosaics of Christ, St John the Baptist, Mary, and one Greek Saint. All were again done in gold, blues different colours to catch the eye; these figures were almost the height of the building, so took your breath away.

Inside the church was at first dimly lit to our eyes, but when you got used to it, the marvel of all the murals on the walls all painted by hand by the Monks and the Sisters, again with soft colours and soft gold depicting the life of Christ from his birth to the resurrection. One of the main features of the Altar was a beautiful wooden screen and with swing doors where the Priest would enter to pray. Above the Altar wall to wall was the hand painted mural of the Last Supper with the Apostles and Christ seated and in the corner with Judas slipping out through the door wearing darker garments.

From the Church we progressed through a beautiful orchard, showing vines, apple trees, plum trees and turned left to a smaller Chapel, showing again many aspect of Christ's life around the walls and other parts from the Bible. The paintings being very impressive also showing an elaborate picture of Hell with a view of what happens to us if we do not behave. The ceiling was especially decorative with tiny designs again done by hand and took hours of tiring work. The lighting was also quite dim thus giving a feeling of calmness.

We then walked on to the refectory, passing by some large greenhouses; the Sister told us that they grew all their own vegetables and a lot of fruit.

In the refectory the walls were lined with all the Saints side by side bigger than life and interesting to look at. The Monks eat on one side of the refectory and the Sisters sit on the other side. The tables were all laid out ready for supper.

Our Sister then mentioned it was time we had some refreshment, so we all trooped out to the visitors refectory. Jammy Dodgers seemed to be favourite on our table as tea or coffee and biscuits were served, with a slice of black forest gateau, how generous. We met another lady on our table who had come from another parish.

It was now five o'clock and Vespers were due to start so we all returned to the Church.

The Greek Orthodox service was beautiful, different yet so many prayers were the same as ours, most of the service was said in English. The Sisters who made up the choir sang very sweetly and with clear voices in perfect harmony, sang in Greek and English. They were up in a minstrel's balcony so the sound carried well. The lights were dimmed in different parts of the service, and it left you feeling at peace.

The tradition for the Greek Orthodox is that the men stand on the right hand side and the women stand on the left facing the Altar, there are no pews, some of the Sisters brought in small wooden stools on which they could sit.

The service was an hour in which we all stood except for those who were elderly or infirm as is the custom. At six o'clock the service finished and we all headed for the car park for home, thanking Sister Dec'la for a wonderful afternoon.

The Monastery is well worth a visit, if you get a chance.

Sue Rothman



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

Many thanks **Rosemary**