



# St Leonard's

Ordinary People. Extraordinary God.



## Parish Magazine

February 2016

## **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 February**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>

10.00am Holy Communion at Wren House

2.30pm Holy Communion at the Old Rectory

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</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 4<sup>th</sup>:

8.00am The Eucharist

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>

8.30am Men's Breakfast

9.00am Alpha Course in Church

12.30pm Greek Lunch in aid of Leprosy

**SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup>: Candlemas**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am All Age Worship and Parade service – Christingle**

**6.30pm Parish Eucharist**

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>

2.30pm Mothers' Union meet in the Nicholls Room

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

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>: Ash Wednesday**

**10.00am Eucharist with the imposition of ashes**

**7.30pm Eucharist with the imposition of ashes**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

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

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>

9.00am Alpha Course in Church

11.00am Marriage preparation course in church

**SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup>: Lent I**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

## **6.30pm Evensong and Sermon**

Monday 15<sup>th</sup>

11.00 Holy Communion at Hill House

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

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>

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

11.00am Lent course in church

7.30pm Lent course in church

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>

10.00am -3pm Alpha Course Away day at Assington

## **SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup>: Lent II**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and Sermon**

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>

10.00am Eucharist with prayers for healing followed by Open Church

11.00am Lent course in church

7.30pm Lent course in church

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>

9.00am Alpha Course in Church

7.30pm Quiz night in the church hall

## **SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup>: Lent III**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and Sermon**

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

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

11.00am Lent course in church

7.30pm Lent course in church

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>

\*\*8.00am Morning Prayer

**SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup>: Mothering Sunday/Lent IV**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am All Age Worship**

**6.30pm Parish Eucharist**

### **A tribute for Rev'd Richard Allen Mayor's Chaplain 2010/11.**

Richard was my Mayoral Chaplain a position new to both of us and we learnt together what the role involved. Richard organised and officiated at an Armed Forces Day, Remembrance Sunday and St George's Day Church services, giving me and The Town Hall team the benefit of his experience, making each service different and special, plus my personal Civic Service which was held at St Leonard s. Together we decided on The Good Samaritan theme. I think about all these events and what comes to mind is the way Richard caught my eye when I stood ready to make a reading, he smiled and nodded his head calming my nerves, saying with his eyes " you can do it."

Prayers were said before each council meeting, we would meet with The Town Hall team about half an hour before hand to talk through the agenda. On one occasion Richard had two tributes to pay and during the meeting news came through that a Colchester based soldier had fallen in Afghanistan, Richard asked to use the Mayor desk, sat down and re wrote his prayer to cover all the events, and his prayers were mostly in rhyme... With love and remembrance I have written a short rhyme for Richard which sums up his dedication as Mayor's Chaplain.

Richard always near when I needed a guide.  
There in thought , deed and prayer, by my side.  
My Mayoral path, was stressful, hard and long  
It was you who kept me going, kept me strong  
A friend to me beyond my mayoral days  
God bless you for your love and caring ways.

**Sonia Lewis.**

## **From Wendy Allen**

My dear friends,

This has taken me a long time to write, because I wanted to find the best words to say.

Firstly David, Ben the girls and I were very grateful for your love and prayers that flowed unconditionally from you all from September to the time of Richard's death in December.

We have also been incredibly humbled by the lovely letters and cards (and flowers) that many of you have sent us.

It has been difficult to read many of them, and I am afraid I do not have the emotional energy to respond individually. The speed with which the news of Richard's death was announced meant that I was deluged by so much love in the first 2 days, I thought I would drown.

Walking the path to Paradise with the man I adored was the most amazing 3 months of my life. His acceptance and trust in Our Lord, was humbling and invigorating. We shared our faith openly with all who cared for him and all who visited. Even on his last trip to St. Helena hospice Richard ministered to a soul in need.

As a family we shared 2 special home communions, one with Bishop Roger at Richard's bedside and another on Advent Sunday, when Richard presided for us for the last time. Richard's love of worship shone through in our daily acts of prayer and he would have loved to have shared his favourite season of Christmas with us. We all felt he was with us and still is, as we sing and praise Our amazing God, who in all of this has walked with us every step of the way.

Finally a huge thank you to all the St. Leonard's church family for making Richard's funeral and celebration of life such a memorable event in our lives. Richard had designed the service to make it as bearable for us as a family as he could. We were grateful to Bishop Roger for his wonderful ministry and to Teresa for her care in taking Richard to the crematorium, as he had asked her to.

With much love

**Wendy**

# From the Rectory



As you may know it's a clergy tradition (or in fact, necessity) to take a Sunday off after Christmas or Easter. Now usually we don't languish in bed on that Sunday morning— even though you might think we do! We are not strictly obliged, but more expected, to receive the sacrament on a Sunday but most of us want to do it anyway and the opportunity to worship without the responsibility of making sure everything goes smoothly is a rare treat!

So on our days off – most of us head off to another church for a bit of a busman's holiday... and that is sometimes a very interesting experience. To start with it's interesting to see and feel what it's like to be a stranger among a group of people who all know each other. Welcomes can vary from cursory to overwhelming... but there is always an assumption that once you've been given whatever the sidesman is handing out you'll know what to do and where to sit.

Then most of the time I sit in splendid isolation until the peace.

Now – admittedly - I am quite at home in church (of course) but even for me there is always a frisson of concern as the distribution of communion starts... Which side do I go to, or do we go all the way along the altar rail? Will the sidesmen tell me when to go? Which way do I come back?

And what concerns me is – if I, a priest, can feel like that, what must it be like for someone who doesn't know the ropes as well as me? So I thought, what would make it better? It is difficult because we do expect a certain sort of behaviour in church and we try not to interrupt people if we think they want to be quiet... but a friendly smile, a gesture showing which way to go... someone just keeping an eye on the visitor or going with them to communion... could help. And it's not just the job of the sidesmen... it's the job of everyone. Let's not forget that to welcome the stranger is to welcome Christ the Lord. So if a stranger sits next to you next Sunday... introduce yourself, say hello – help them feel at home,

ask them if they need any help, show them what we do here – because every church is different. And if someone says that to you and you’ve been coming for years – don’t be offended... in a church as big as St Leonard’s you can’t know everyone – use it as an opportunity to get to know someone new.

And an important footnote... last time I visited a church I apparently sat in someone’s usual seat, which was made plain to me when I came back from communion and found her handbag in my place. What sort of message does that send about the people at that church? If I had been church ‘shopping’ I certainly wouldn’t have gone back there; in fact I was tempted to walk out there and then as it made me feel totally unwelcome. I know something like this occasionally happens at St Leonard’s, and sometimes people are even openly told they are in someone else’s place – but bear in mind how it must feel to be on the receiving end. Also bear in mind that there are **no** reserved seats at St Leonard’s – apart from the Rector’s stall – and, therefore, no one should **ever** be told they are sitting in the wrong place. Let’s see if we can make that one of our ‘Lent promises’. There’s space enough for everyone.

**Teresa**

## **LENT BOXES**

During Lent, boxes will be available in church for our usual 2 charities:

The Church Missionary Society (CMS)

The United Society (US), formerly known as USPG

If you take a box please sign the list, indicating which charity you wish to support, and if you are a taxpayer please tick the Gift Aid column as the reclaimed tax makes such a big difference to the amount we are able to donate.

Thank you.

For further information, speak to **Pam Calvert**

## **Some Dates**

**PCC meetings:** 7<sup>th</sup> March, 16<sup>th</sup> May, 27<sup>th</sup> June

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting:** 24<sup>th</sup> April

**St Leonard's  
Church,  
Lexden**



# **Christingle Service**

**An all-age service on  
Sunday 7th February at 9.45 am  
in aid of the Children's Society**



Take part in  
**The Children's Society  
Christingle** and share  
the joy

## Lent 2016

In the church calendar, Lent is the six weeks before Easter.

This year it begins on the **10th February** at St Leonard's with two services for Ash Wednesday (10.00am and 7.30pm). Ashing will take place at both services – and this is a poignant reminder of both our mortality and our sinfulness, when we hear the words *'Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return; turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ'* as an ash cross is traced on our foreheads.



Traditionally it is seen as a time when we 'give things up' but it's more than that. Lent is a journey; 40 days when we, as Christians, focus on making an effort to deepen our faith, to learn more about it, to be better neighbours, to come closer to God, to wipe the slate clean and more. How we get from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday is different for everyone but it is a journey that we should make.

### Lent courses

There are several opportunities at St Leonard's to make that journey. We will be running Lent courses based on the 'I am' sayings of Jesus on Wednesdays at **11.00am** and **7.30pm**. Both will be identical and will last approximately 90 minutes.

The dates are: **17th, 24th February, 2nd, 9th and 16th March.**

Come along – bring a friend – tell a neighbour!

*In addition* our Bishops will present four Lectures on the four themes of Transforming Presence, the strategic priorities for the Diocese of Chelmsford, in the first four weeks of Lent. The lectures will be given locally at St John's Colchester, also on Wednesdays (24<sup>th</sup> February, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 9<sup>th</sup> March, 16<sup>th</sup> March) at 7.30pm.

### Confession

There is the opportunity to make your confession during Lent - a gentle, healing yet powerful service - contact Teresa or Fr David if you would like to find out more. There is always the opportunity to be referred to a member of the clergy outside the parish if desired.

## **Holy Week: 20th March to 27th March**

At the end of Lent there is Holy Week - the week before Easter (**20th - 27th March**) when there will be something happening every day. See Easter 2016 (in next month's magazine) for further details.

### **Coffee Mornings**

Firstly, I would like to wish all who read this "A Happy and Peaceful New Year"

Thank you very much to Frances Bonner who held the last Coffee Morning of 2015 in her home on 13th December. As in previous years, it led up to Christmas and was enjoyed by all who came along (including Teresa's little granddaughter) and the sum of approx. £200 was raised for church funds and associated charities.

The total sum raised over the year was approx. £1535 incl. gift aid which sum includes £500 being the proceeds from the Tea Party held in July at the home of Sonia and Keith Lewis. Many thanks to all who hosted our get-togethers and to all who came and supported.

Our next Coffee Morning will be on **5th March**  
at the home of **John and Judith Evans in Glen Avenue**,  
so watch this space in the March magazine for details.

If anyone would like to hold one in 2016,

I should be pleased to hear from you.

Thanks,

**Jean Hallett.**

### **WANTED!**

#### **TOYS FOR JUNIOR CHURCH CRECHE**

Junior Church is in urgent need of toys suitable for our under 2s and babies. As storage is limited we would be very grateful for any unwanted small, good quality toys to use on Sunday morning sessions. Please contact any Junior Church leader for further information or bring in toys on a Sunday morning. Thank you!

## **The Monks of St. Leonards**

**By Alice Goss**

The stained glass windows at St. Leonards are simply stunning and definitely the best that any church that Colchester has to offer. Saying this, two of the windows for me really stand out above the others for their designs and depictions. The first is the St. Albans window in the Nave, the other located in the Lady Chapel depicts St. George and St. Martin. Both these windows share the same maker's mark, a small monk (or white friar) located at the bottom right side of each window.

This mark indicates the company who made the windows, which was the London company of James Powell and Sons, also known as Whitefriars Glass. This was a company started around the year 1680 in Fleet Street, who were fine English glassmakers, lead lighters and stained glass window manufacturers. Whitefriars Glass became well known as a result of the 19th century Gothic revival, resulting in an increased demand for stained glass windows for the many new churches being built at this time. James Powell purchased the company back in 1835 passing the business down to his sons when he died in 1840 aged 66. The windows may have been designed by, William Wilson, who was their Chief Designer at that time.

In the case of the Lady Chapel window there is the date of 1946 written underneath, although many Whitefriars windows don't show a date. The St. Alban's window dating from 1953 shows the monk against a 'fleur de lys' without showing the date. There are a further three windows in the Nave all with little monks hidden away within the glass. Take a few minutes to have a look at them and see if you can find the others.

### **Flower Arranging**

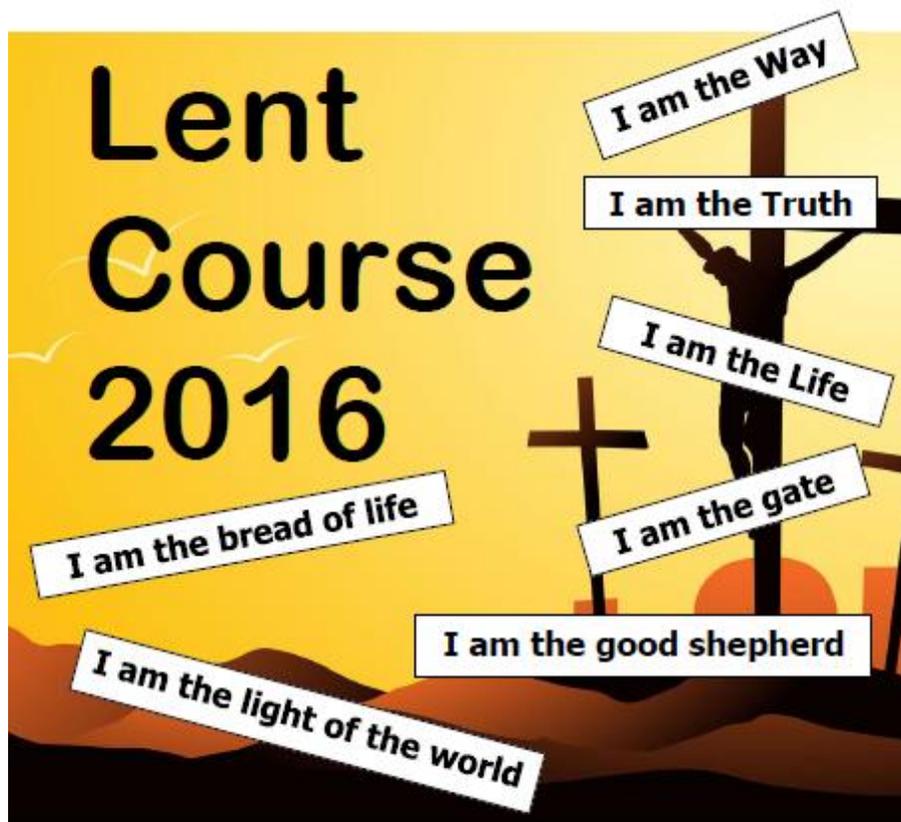
We are most fortunate at St Leonard's that we have a dedicated team of flower arrangers who decorate the Church week by week and for major Festivals.

As well as being one of the arrangers Barbara Cole has organised the Flower Rota for over 15 years having taken over from the late Queenie Shepherd around 1999. She has now decided to step down and Peter Hearsom has volunteered to take on this role.

Our grateful thanks to Barbara for her years of commitment and congratulations to Peter for his 'breaking through the glass ceiling' to take on this important role.

# St Leonard's Church

## Lent Course 2016



**Wednesdays**

**17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> March**

**11am and 7.30pm in church - CO3 4BL**

See our website: [www.stleonardslexden.org.uk](http://www.stleonardslexden.org.uk)

## Christmas in India by Kirsty Harvey



Many of you will know that I have recently been working in India. I have always wanted to travel there and am grateful to have been given the opportunity to see part of the real India! I am fascinated

by the culture and also the breadth and depth of religious sentiment there, some of which I want to share with you. I was based for 4 weeks in Nagpur – which is in the very centre of India, far away from the glamorous Mumbai, or the much travelled tourist-trail of Goa and Kerala. It is certainly a working city, stretching endlessly between the affluent and hard-working business community and the tireless, enterprising “unregistered” population. I was working for a company that makes furnace/heat resistant equipment which was incredibly interesting from

my perspective, but the long days and evenings soon took their toll. Towards the end of my tenure having never taken much of a lunch-break, I felt the need to get out of the





client-site office at lunchtime and take in some air.

I say air in the loosest sense of course. Nagpur, being the 9<sup>th</sup> largest city in India, has a thriving community living life navigating the streets aboard their “two-wheelers” (motorbikes and mopeds) and tuk-tuks, which choke the living daylight out of any real quality air that is to be found here – but luckily there is just enough oxygen to share around, so off I went.

It is only when you see India from the streets that you get the sense of the capacity. A colleague I met put it into perspective for me when I told him what the population of the UK is. With a population of 1.2 billion, he said, there is circa 70 million people aboard our trains at any given moment! Wow! While we moan about a 10 minute delay on the commuter line to London, the front page of the Nagpur Times reported a delay of 10 hours 15 minutes to one train. I challenge anyone to keep dinner warm for that long....

Anyway, I digress. My walk took me along unkempt pavements, and no pavements at all, weaving my way in and out of traffic, dogs and cows (this is the middle of the city after all), receiving strange, interested and surprised looks from pretty much everyone. Nagpur, I decided, is definitely not on the tourist trail!



As I rounded one corner, I saw a sign painted on a white-washed wall declaring “Be good and do good” A few steps further I was told that “God can do what man cannot”. Before I knew it, I was walking up a tree-lined pathway to Nagpur’s All Saints Cathedral.

To my left, men (and boy scouts?) were busy furnishing a shed-on-stilts with straw (a nativity scene in the making) and to my right a wrought iron gate was laid out being soldered by a man wearing only trousers and sandals for protection. I asked him if it was OK to go into the cathedral. His face beamed and he gestured me inside.

What a feast for the soul.

In a country, which is host to Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, and Islamic beliefs, I have found out that around 5-10% of the population has Christian beliefs. And they all seem to live in harmony. My client MD’s personal assistant told me a lot about it – then it clicked with me. She is Indian and her name is Mary! That really should have given it away, but in all my preparation and focus on the work, I had failed to make the connection.... Doh!

Inside the church I found more Boy Scouts lost in a myriad of tinsel and baubles. A small Indian lady up a ladder holding up a long tinsel



wreath addressed me directly. “Does this look central to you?” she cried, a little exasperated with the lads. I assured her it looked super, and offered to help. She declined, instead ushering me towards the altar, where she let me be. Rev Richard Allen would have been thrilled to know a prayer was said for him in India that day, I am sure. And the relative calm and silence within a very hectic, and stressful Friday was more than welcome.

I have since attended the 9 Lessons and Carols that the welcoming decorator invited me along to – a December Sunday night at 6pm much like our own – it all sounded very familiar. In actual fact, it was 9 lessons, 18 carols, a rendition of Auld Lang Syne, a sermon and lighting and procession of candles! I was surprised to hear my name called as I walked into the service, and turned to find someone I had met the previous week at my client office (not bad in a city with the population of Scotland – around 4 million), who invited me to sit with him. Many thanks also to Mr Tapan Biswas for sharing the attached photographs of the service with me. The choir wore pink Saris and sang as though their lives depended on it – 3 of the carols were in Hindi (although there is no mistaking Hark the Herald Angels sung in any language!). The Young People read the lessons accompanied each by a tableau of under-10’s in various angel/fairy/sheet/shepherd/king costumes looking as prepared as our little ones do on most Sundays. The Pastor spoke about God’s gifts at Christmas time – not even



a buy-one, get one free, but a buy-one and keep getting! We carried out our candles singing Silent Night, and placed them in a ring of sand in front of the shed/crib scene whilst everyone came out. It was very emotional and while it made me pine a little for home, it also made me very grateful for being able to share such a wonderful experience.

There, right in the heart of India, were some very excited disciples indeed. It certainly completed my year in terms of professional, cultural and spiritual learnings and I would have no hesitation in returning, in fact I'm currently dreaming of making our next family holiday a long Indian train journey!!

**Jean, Judith, Julie, Bev and Carole invite you to**  
**A Greek Lunch**  
**In aid of Rosemary's Trek Crete Challenge for**



**Saturday 6th February St. Leonard's Church 12.30pm**

**Come and enjoy a meal of moussaka  
and other Greek delicacies**

**Suggested donation of £10  
(or any other big fat Greek donation!)**

**Please sign list at back of church**

## **Thank you for the thank yous!**

One Sunday morning, just before Christmas, the children of Junior Church had great fun putting together gift bags for members of the congregation who had been unable to attend church in recent months. Not long after this the children were thrilled to receive cards, letters and notes thanking them for their kindness. Here are some extracts from the happy recipients:

*You are kind and thoughtful to put together surprises in your Christmas gift. The plant is now sitting on my draining board and will encourage me to do the washing-up!*

*Thank you very much to Junior Church for my lovely plant, chocolates, notebook, tissues and Christmas card.*

*Thank you all for the Christmas bag of gifts. I was delighted with them. It was very kind of you.*

*Thank you so much for my Christmas bag....it was beautifully decorated. The chocolate was delicious. I make my shopping list on the notepad and the plant looks pretty in my kitchen.*

*Thank you very much indeed for our generous Christmas present, very exciting. We kept taking out present after present and a beautiful plant. So much thought went into the parcel.*

*On a nasty wet miserable Sunday morning and a ring at the doorbell and Sheila called with a beautifully decorated bag of goodies from you. Thank you for sending me cheer on a rotten morning. I am a chocoholic so I fear the chocolate has been eaten already!*

*Thank you for my lovely bag of presents!*

*I would like to thank the children and their helpers for my lovely Christmas presents – very much appreciated.*

*The gorgeous pink flower is in our lounge where we can see it all the time and think of you. It was very kind of you to think about us. We do miss being able to get to church and see you all.*

We were especially impressed by Jessie who is 103 years old and still managing to write her own letters! We loved the photo too!

*I am now 103 and don't get many surprises. Thank you very much.*

And finally...

*Thank you very much for my goody bag. I **do** love surprises. I hope Santa was kind to you and that 2016 will be a happy year.*

Well we can tell you all that the children must have been very good as they all seemed pleased with the Christmas presents they received on Christmas Day. We are so pleased that our gifts were very much enjoyed by our absent friends who we miss so much.

## **Junior Church**

### **Church Flowers**

Having been asked to take over responsibility for flowers in church, from Barbara Cole, to whom we are all grateful for many years devoted service.

It would be good if more members of the congregation could be involved in the provision of flowers and therefore I am suggesting that if you would like to donate flowers - maybe to celebrate a special event/ anniversary or in memory of a loved one – but do not feel able to arrange them, then please contact me and I will organise for one of our regular arrangers to do this for you.

I would need to be contacted at least a month before your selected date and also receive your donation at this time (I would suggest £20 - £25). A note would then be put on the weekly service sheet to the effect; ‘The flowers today are given by ..... in memory of..... or to celebrate.....’

Whilst writing, may I remind you that Easter is early this year (Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March) and therefore I will be pleased to receive your gifts toward the cost of flowers to decorate the church from the beginning of March.

To contact me, **PETER HEARSUM**, I am usually at the 9.45am and 6.30pm Sunday services or telephone me.

I do hope that with the help of you all and our valued flower arrangers, we will be able to maintain the high standard which has already been achieved.

**Peter**

## Youth and young people's news

The next all-age service is on the **7th February**, where we will be having a Christingle service – all children who come will receive a Christingle and we collect money for the Children's Society at this service (please do pick up a 'collecting' candle box – at the back of church – if you haven't already got one).

**Mothering Sunday is on the 6th March** this year; at this service we give thanks for our mothers and posies are given out to give to them. Tell your friends!

The next **Holy Communion** is on **Saturday, 19th March** from **3-5 pm**.

**Easter Day is on 27th March**. We will be having the usual activities up in the hall (e.g. Easter story, egg decorating, craft activities) but will also be providing a crèche in the Nicholls room for children aged 2 or under. We may need extra help on Easter Day – we had 35 children last year - so if you would be able to help, please let Jo know.

We have also decided to have **Junior OMG** during Junior church on Sunday morning (instead of in the afternoon) once a month for the older children (years 4-6). While Jo will be leading OMG in the Shepherd Room, the younger children will continue to have their session in the Nicholls room as normal (we'll all start together in the Nicholls Room though). That way the topics and activities can be adapted to the age groups! The dates of the OMG sessions will be 17<sup>th</sup> April, 15<sup>th</sup> May and 12th June.

This year we will be trying out having all age Eucharists on first Sundays **from April to September**. We would like Junior Church children to come and help with these services.

We have a very dedicated Junior church team, but they are always delighted to have new helpers, so if you could assist occasionally, please let Jo or Teresa know.

St Leonard's Church

**QUIZ NIGHT**

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> **????** February  
2016

**Church Hall 7.30 pm Prompt Start**

**Teams of maximum 6 people (4 minimum)**

**Tickets £6 per person**

**(On Sale from Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January)**

***Sausage, Beans & Mash Supper***

***Included***

**Bring your own drink and glasses**

**We politely request**

**You take all empties and rubbish home**

## **“Vocation – radical obedience”**

a day to think about your discipleship in the Church and the World

**Saturday 5th March 2016, 10:00-16:00**

**Christ Church, Ireton Road, Colchester, CO3 3AT**

Obedience means to listen or to hear.

*'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'*

The Annual Vocations Day is for people at every stage of exploring all sorts of ministry, lay and ordained. It offers input and information, time-out to think and pray about your own direction in life, and an opportunity to meet and talk with other people on similar journeys. Principally, it is a day to hear or to listen to God.



The day is packed with helpful information and valuable insights, all set in the context of worship:

Short talks by Bishop Roger on the theme “Vocation – radical obedience” and Nick Hutchings, Headteacher of St John’s school Colchester on “Vocation and education”

Personal stories about how God has guided others in exploration of His purpose for their lives

a choice of up to four workshops:

- Vocation - radical obedience
- Who me - a Pastoral Assistant (PA)?
- Exploring Licensed Lay Ministry
- Who me - an Evangelism Enabler?
- Exploring selection, training & ministry for Fresh Expressions & Pioneer Ministry
- Who me - leading worship and/or preaching?
- Who me - leading the next generation? Children & Youthwork?

- Exploring ordained ministry: selection & training
- Who me - vocation in education? (teaching, governor, volunteer, etc)?

time alone to think and for a one-to-one chat with Vocations Advisors

*The event is free and includes refreshments and a sandwich lunch.*

For more information about this day:

Speak to Teresa

- Pick up a flyer with booking form in church
- Contact your Deanery Vocations Adviser or Rev Geoff Read on [gread@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:gread@chelmsford.anglican.org)
- See the Colchester Area page on the Diocesan website where you can download a booking form ([www.chelmsford.anglican.org/areas-and-bishops/colchester-area-team/events](http://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/areas-and-bishops/colchester-area-team/events))
- Please send your booking by Tuesday 1st March by post using the reply slip or by email: [b.colchester@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:b.colchester@chelmsford.anglican.org)

## MICHAELMAS TERM

It was lovely to be back at St Leonard's for Christmas, and a few people were asking what I had been up to - so here's a bit of an update from Westcott.

My penultimate term is now well underway - the time really has gone quickly. I do now only have seven weeks worth of lectures to go to - but quite a few thousand words to write, not to mention exams in June - so there's a lot of work left yet.



This year, I've chosen courses that let me study the Bible in more detail - the Gospel of John, the letters of Paul and Isaiah, to be precise. I'm also studying various ways that hope has been thought about theologically; plus ethics; and the other taught course I'm taking is about how the Bible can be interpreted from a feminist perspective. (Armed with this, and my in-depth study of Paul, I hope to be a worthy opponent when anyone tries to tell me women shouldn't be ordained...). I am also writing a dissertation on whether a theology of place (how we live, and think about God, in relation to the places around us) has anything to contribute to thinking about how much of life is now happening online. I'll let you know the answer when I have written it! No more Greek classes this year - although I am part of a small group that meets to translate the forthcoming Sunday gospel. It has the slogan "Maximum Cake, Minimum Grammar" and it's a fun way to ensure I don't forget everything I learned last year. I did go to a few Hebrew for beginners classes, which means I can now read the alphabet and look words up in a dictionary - but that's about it!

Another change this year is how I spend Sundays. Instead of working with a college chapel, I am part of a rural team ministry. The Lordsbridge Team covers 11 parishes to the west of Cambridge. My friend Rosanne and I are with four: Barton, Coton, Haslingfield and Harlton. We are learning the art of getting from church A to church B in time for church B's service when there is a tractor in the way. And also, that although ancient churches are beautiful, they are cold. Very cold. To the point where there might be part of you that is warmed vaguely by a distant heater, but it's never a useful part like fingers or toes - and all it does is remind you how cold the rest of you is. Those radiators at St Leonard's are amazing! True, we're also practising leading services, preaching and deaconing...but it's nice, knowing I'll be in an urban curacy, to experience

life in rural parishes. I'm leading an All-Age service for the first time in a few weeks. I'm a lot less worried about that after spending the autumn in charge of our weekly children's work in college.

It's been fun welcoming the new students to Westcott (including lots of new children), helping them settle in, and make friends and connections. Reflecting on their worries and fears definitely shows me how far I have grown in the last year. It was good to be able to allay others' fears of the unknown and provide living proof that it is possible to get through the first few weeks and months.

Of course things feel a bit different now I know where I am going to be serving my title post (being a curate) - and we're starting to look forward to leaving. I have been making decisions about buying clerical shirts, cassock, surplice and the other 'tat' that I need, plus starting to think about what life will be like when I no longer live in an institution. I am trying to fit in all the Cambridge things I haven't quite got round to - there are not too many Saturdays left here for adventures! I revisited Chingford St Edmunds just after Christmas to be properly introduced - I hope they won't mind if I have forgotten people's names by June! Sometimes the idea of ordination feels exciting - other times it feels completely overwhelming and I wonder how I ended up here. Either way, it certainly feels real! So, thank you to all those who are praying for me - those prayers are welcome and very much appreciated.

**Sara Batts**

## Notes from the PCC – 7th December and 18<sup>th</sup> January

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. Jan Buckley (who is taking over as Treasurer) was welcomed to the PCC. The minutes from the last meeting were approved and signed. We then received reports from some of the sub-committees of the PCC;

*Treasurer* - Adrian gave an overview of how the Church finances were performing against the budget. We ended the 2015 year with a surplus of around £5,000 of income vs. expenditure. In addition we have received some very generous legacies this year which have been invested until a decision is made about what they should be used for. Our parish share for 2016 has increased by 0.8% to £93,059.

*Youth and Young people* – Jo has started a Gospel Choir with some of the young people who used to sing in SL Club. Their 1<sup>st</sup> performance was at the Crib Service on Christmas Eve and they will be singing again at the Christingle service on 7<sup>th</sup> February. She is also introducing a monthly Junior OMG during Junior Church to ensure we fully engage with the older members (9 and over).

*Ministry team* – Teresa reported that the service on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month will be an All Age Eucharist rather than a service of the word as attendances have been falling. She will trial this until September. The Lent course will cover the “I am” sayings of Jesus and will take place at 11:00am and 7:30pm every Wednesday in Lent (starting 17<sup>th</sup> February).

*Fabric* – The Churchwardens have had a further meeting with Pam Clements (our architect) to discuss the work we are considering and she has provided an initial report. We are now awaiting a visit from the members of the DAC committee so we can discuss the proposals before any formal plans are drawn up.

Maljon (Timber Preservation) have done an initial inspection of the damp in the Church hall and provided several recommendations for us to consider. The PCC felt that as this was a long-standing issue it is important that we make the right decision now to solve the problem in the long-term.

Edward Kettell provided a sample of chairs for the PCC to try and there

was a unanimous decision on which was the preferred option. 150 chairs have been ordered to replace the ones in the hall, it is hoped that the locality budget grant will help with the cost of these chairs but we are still awaiting a decision on our application. Edward is also seeking estimates for work to replace the urinals in the hall.

The fabric committee were asked to investigate providing additional speakers at the back of Church as there have been complaints that the service cannot always be heard from there.

We have received a legacy from the estate of Mary Beattie specifically for the upkeep of the War Memorial. Tom suggested that we may wish to consider having the lettering re-done as some of it was faded and difficult to read. The fabric committee will investigate this further and get estimates for the work to be done.

Christmas Bazaar – It was generally agreed that the Christmas Bazaar was a great success and it was noted that there were significant numbers of visitors in attendance. Over £1900 was raised for Church funds and the PCC expressed thanks to Tom and Kathleen for their hard work.

Christmas Services – over 1,000 people attended St Leonards on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and Teresa thanked everyone involved for all their hard work to ensure everything went smoothly. As usual, all money collected at the Christmas Eve was donated to charity as follows,

	9 Lessons & Carols	Crib Service	Services of Light (2)
Collection	£311.30	£285.90	£1,100.11
Gift Aid Added	£16.75	£46.26	£141.90
Donation	£328.05	£332.16	£1,242.01
Charity	Fresh Beginnings	Sheepfold (Within Reach)	CAP/ Beacon House

Lexden Arts Festival – planning is already well in hand with the majority of exhibiting and performing artists already booked. Sponsorship is in place and the funds from this will more than cover the costs involved in putting on the exhibition.

Priest in Charge Notices - Frank Wielobob has been approached and agreed to become an Assistant Churchwarden with immediate effect. Peter Hearsom has agreed to take over the flower rota from Barbara. The PCC expressed their thanks to Barbara for all her hard work organising the flowers in the church over many years.

John Brown has been elected to the Bishops Council as a representative. Sara Batts will be made Deacon on 25<sup>th</sup> June. The PCC have agreed to fund her communion stole.

The meeting closed with The Grace.

**Esther Heptonstall**

## **Lexden War Memorial Cross First World War Deaths – 1916**

Further to my earlier articles in the magazine, 1916 was a year of large numbers of British dead particularly in France and Lexden was no exception with eleven deaths appearing on the Memorial, the only year in the war when the Parish losses reached double figures.

Interestingly whilst 1914 - 1918 is generally regarded as much more deadly for the British forces than the 1939 – 1945 conflict there are thirteen deaths recorded in 1944, probably reflecting the increased population of Lexden in the inter-war years.

Of the eleven 1916 deaths eight occurred in the second half of the year mostly on the Somme battlefield. There were single deaths in the months of February, March and June with then three in September, three in October and again single deaths in November and December.

As mentioned in previous articles in this series I am much indebted to Mr Peter F Potter who researched the Lexden War Dead and his widow Christine has kindly given me permission to use extracts from Peter's 2003 book 'The Real Lexden Heroes'.

Sadly, Peter Potter was able to discover very little information about **William Daniel Ponder** a Private in the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of The Royal Fusiliers who died in the Loos area of France on Saturday 19 February 1916 aged 19. William was the son of Mrs Eliza Ponder of Mill Beach Cottage, Heybridge and we do not know what his connection was to Lexden.

William Ponder is commemorated on the Loos Memorial located in Dud Corner Cemetery close to the large town of Lens.

**Tom Scrimgeour**

## **Reflection on Christmas Services**

Yet another year has past, our Christmas services were very well attended, we had our now traditional 2 carol services 4.30 and 6.30.

Firstly we had a crib service at 2.30 , David Armstrong welcomed people by saying " You have come here to worship and recreate the story of Christmas, to take time out of a busy time and meditate on the true meaning , so for the next 45 minutes sit back and relax "ha ha" some 145 people enjoyed a very noisy chaotic service with the nativity scene being acted out by members of junior church, and ad hoc members of the congregation joining in, the new "gospel choir "sang a Carol with actions, great fun, almost as good as sister act, the service ended with anyone who had arrived in any type of costume joining the crib table, with an array of angles, shepherds, Kings camels reindeers. A great time was had by all not sure anyone meditated though !

Our next 2 services were more traditional carol services 4.30 and 6.30, the 4.30 service was attended by 391 people, the 6.30 by 336 people .These 2 services are identical in content, the choir sang the carol "Torches Torches" and there were readings and the traditional carols. The service started in candlelight with each member of the congregation having a lighted candle, (a church wardens nightmare), everything passed off well.

The last service of the day being 11.15, Midnight Mass, 150 people attended this service, a truly wonderful way to welcome our Lord on his "birthday".

Christmas Day 9.45 Communion saw 119 people joining together, what a way to start the day.

Both Peter Hinchcliffe and I pass our many thanks on to any and everyone who helped out over the Christmas period, without you it would not have happened, or things gone so smoothly.

St Leonard's is a truly welcoming church, with something for everyone, please come and join us at any of our services, you are sure of a friendly welcome and a cuppa!

**David Watkins**

Churchwarden

## Mouse Tails

Christmas has always been a very special time for our mouse families and 2015 was no exception, the Balcony twins Betty and Billy, cousin Dicky Below-Stairs were awake at the crack of dawn, excited beyond measure in anticipation of the day to come. They knew of course, that they had to wait until all the humans had finished Services for the day before they could begin their own festivities.

Once the Church was empty and quiet, the whole St. Leonard's mouse community gathered in the Church in front of the Crib. Grandpa Balcony, conducted the service as had his father before him and his sermon was all about looking after each other and being kind to those less fortunate than they, just as Jesus had done. They sang their favourite carols; Away in a Manger and While Shepherds Watched, (the naughty twins sang washed their socks instead of watched their flocks!) Mum Molly noticed but, as it was Christmas, just gave them a reproving look (and she remembered doing the same thing when she was little!) After the service, the mice looked around the Church, admiring the beautiful flower arrangements and making sure that they hadn't missed any tasty titbits for their feast later.

Each of the families went back to their own nests to exchange the little gifts they had made, or found, Betty was thrilled with her little pieces of chalk, for she loved drawing, and the pretty red ribbon and piece of tinsel which she promptly tied on the end of her tail! Billy had a little racing car which Dad had made for him from lollipop sticks and string and a tiny pack of cards (which someone must have dropped from a cracker). Mum had made them both warm scarves, knitted in many different colours and the twins had made Mum a lovely bouquet of flowers and leaves they'd gathered and for Dad a multi coloured hat and scarf, Billy had found the wool and Betty had knitted them.

Two very different, but equally exciting, things happened during the day, on the bottom of the stairs was a small parcel and a little card wishing all the Church mice a happy Christmas with love from Mrs. J. When they opened the parcel a wonderful sight met their eyes, 6 miniature mince pies, a triangle of cheddar cheese, a slice of Stilton and a packet of chocolate buttons. "What a lovely lady" said Dad, "she must love the Church mice very much". Mum was thrilled at how good their contribution to the feast would be. The other exciting event was that after

the service Dora, Dicky's Mum had given birth to a dear little girl mouse and decided to call her Carol. Much to the amusement of everyone, Dicky declared that he had had the best present of them all – his little sister!

Later on all the mice congregated for their annual feast, everyone contributing what they could and all declared that it had been the best Christmas that they had ever had and said a little prayer of thanks to God for all their blessings.

**C T**

### **Cards**

**Owen Shepherd** makes cards of various sorts that are on sale in the Nicholls room after all services. He also makes cards to order. All proceeds to church funds