

St Leonard's Lexden



Ordinary people. Extraordinary God.



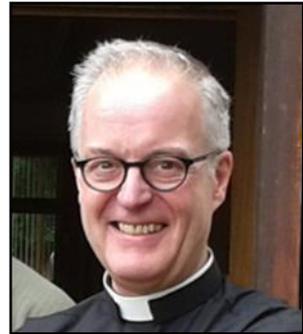
Parish Magazine

50p

March 2018



From the Curate



A time for forgiveness

Lent should be an intensely personal time in terms of our relationship with God. It is a period in the church when the liturgy, hymns and prayers encourage us to look inward, to examine more closely our faith and seek to strengthen it in our understanding of the love of God. To do so necessitates a humbling of ourselves before God.

One of the most humbling times of Lent comes right at the beginning with the service on Ash Wednesday and the imposition of ashes. At this service, as I make the sign of the cross on each person's forehead, with the ashes made from the burnt, blessed palm crosses from last year's Palm Sunday, I repeat the words: *Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return*. There is nothing more humbling than publicly recognising our mortality. In that humbling action we are pulled up to recognise the glorious gift of our life, its preciousness and our responsibility to use it best for the good of those around us and the glory of God.

Along with this recognition of mortality, there is no more powerful way of starting the process of humbling ourselves before God, than confessing our sins and actively seeking forgiveness. In whatever way we feel most comfortable, we need to come before God, holding before us our sins; holding before Him the good things we have neglected to do, our mistakes and misjudgement and asking His forgiveness. To do so is a profound experience and helps us sense the life-giving strength of Christ's forgiveness both spiritually, and perhaps physically.

When asking for forgiveness, I am always conscious of a line from St Paul's letter to the Colossians: *Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive* [3.13]. It is a poignant reminder of the immense privilege of being a follower of Christ, in that we will always obtain His forgiveness, simply by asking. It is also an important reminder of our duty to be Christlike and forgive others.

This Lent, as part of humbling yourself before God, I would encourage you to search your heart and forgive as you have been forgiven. Many can hold grudges or hurts from years ago. These can become debilitating and it is only by forgiving do we release ourselves from their negative power.

In prayer and contemplation this Lent, please remember to welcome Christ's forgiveness freely given to you and endeavour to forgive any wrong ever done to you.

With God's blessing for an enriching and freeing Lent,

In David



An 'official' Facebook page has been created for St Leonard's, aiming to promote events, news articles and share photos. This is a great opportunity to reach out to the wider community and hopefully attract newcomers to the church.

Your support would therefore be appreciated, so if you are a Facebook user, please search for '*St Leonard's Lexden*', '**like**' our new page and share it with family and friends.

DIARY FOR MARCH

Thursday 1st: David, Patron of Wales

8.00am The Eucharist

Saturday 3rd

8.30am Men's Breakfast

10.30am Charity Coffee Morning in Church

SUNDAY 4th: Lent III

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church**

6.30pm Evensong and Sermon

*****Informal Eucharist is on 11th: Mothering Sunday***

Tuesday 6th

10.30am Holy Communion at Wren House

2.30pm Lexden Ladies meet in the Nicholls Room

7.30pm 'Medley' house group (Rosemary 515245)

Wednesday 7th

10.00am The Eucharist with prayers for healing, followed by coffee

10.45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

11.00 Lent Course in the Nicholls Room

11.30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

6.30pm Lent Course followed by Compline

Thursday 8th

8.00am The Eucharist

2.30pm 'Constable' house group (Hugh 564577)

SUNDAY 11th: MOTHERING SUNDAY

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am INFORMAL EUCHARIST

with distribution of posies

6.30pm Evensong and sermon

Tuesday 13th

2.30pm Mothers' Union meet in the Nicholls Room



Wednesday 14th

10.00am The Eucharist with prayers for healing, followed by coffee

11.00 Lent Course in the Nicholls Room

6.30pm Lent Course followed by Compline

Thursday 15th

8.00am The Eucharist

SUNDAY 18th: Lent I

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

6.30pm Evensong and Sermon

Monday 19th

11.00am Holy Communion at Hill House

Wednesday 21st

10.00am The Eucharist with prayers for healing, followed by coffee

11.00am Lent Course in the Nicholls Room

6.30pm Lent Course followed by Compline

Thursday 22nd

8.00am The Eucharist

SUNDAY 25th: Palm Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am Procession, Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

6.30pm Stainer's Crucifixion, sung by the Choir



Monday 26th

9.00am Eucharist

7.30pm Compline and address

Tuesday 27th

9.00am Eucharist

7.30pm Compline and address

Wednesday 28th

10.00am The Eucharist with prayers for healing, followed by coffee

7.30pm Compline and address



Thursday 29th: MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.30pm The Eucharist with foot washing followed by stripping of the altar and Watch till midnight

GOOD FRIDAY 30th

8.45am Liturgy of the Sacrament
9.00am Morning Prayer and Litany
10.00am All Age Worship
followed by Hot Cross Buns
12.00-2.00pm Stations of the Cross
2.00-3.00pm Good Friday Liturgy



SUNDAY 1st April: EASTER DAY

6.00am Easter Vigil and lighting of the new fire*
**An outdoor service, followed by breakfast.*

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am FESTAL EUCHARIST with Junior Church,
followed by egg rolling and Easter bonnets
6.30pm Choral Evensong



MAGAZINE DEADLINE

FINAL DAY for items for the April edition:

SUNDAY 11th MARCH

Please submit items to the Editor

email: magazine@stleonardslexden.org.uk

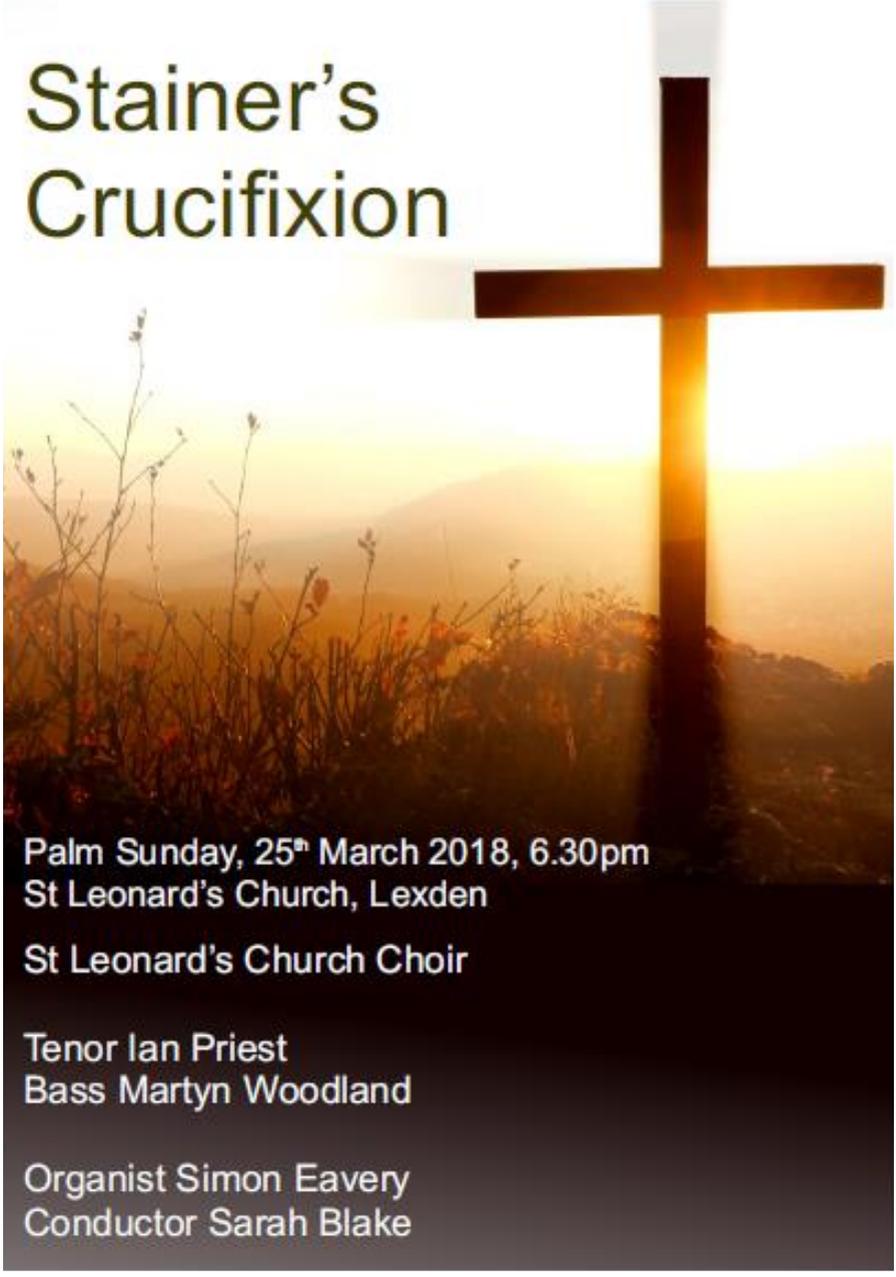
Please include your name with any submission.

Items from unknown sources cannot be used.

Please limit text to 500—600 words maximum.

Longer articles may be edited. Thank you

Stainer's Crucifixion



Palm Sunday, 25th March 2018, 6.30pm
St Leonard's Church, Lexden

St Leonard's Church Choir

Tenor Ian Priest
Bass Martyn Woodland

Organist Simon Eavery
Conductor Sarah Blake

Junior Church in March



4 March	Jesus in the Temple (about foolishness and wisdom) John 2:13-22
11 March	Mothering Sunday Informal Eucharist with distribution of posies
18 March	Staying the Course (Being deaf to God) John 12: 20-33
25 March	The Passion of Christ - Preparation for Easter, Gift bags for the housebound

Vacancy Update

The advert for our new priest is now closed and as we write we are waiting to hear whether we have had any applicants. Assuming we have, we plan to hold interviews in March and the PCC have been working with Archdeacon Annette preparing for the interview day. Applicants and their partners will have a chance to look round the Church and Rectory and be given a short tour of the parish so they can get a feel for the area. They will then be formally interviewed by the Archdeacon and the Churchwardens. It is likely to be a few weeks after the interviews take place before we are able to make an announcement about any successful candidate as legal checks have to be done and it is important that they inform their current parish before the news is made public here.

In the meantime, we are blessed that we still have Father David with us for the foreseeable future and he will continue to preside at the majority of services with support from the Ministry team here as well as some visiting priests and preachers. We are very lucky at St Leonard's to have a huge team of people who undertake a variety of tasks and this support is even more valuable at the moment. So if you have ever wondered about whether you could help with something then now is the time to offer. There are a huge variety of things needing to be done from welcoming people to services, making coffee, cleaning the Church, helping with Junior Church, reading the lesson, counting the collection or serving during the Eucharist. If you think you can help with any of these or anything else please speak to Father David or one of the Churchwardens.

Even if we appoint a new priest in March, it will be several months before he or she joins us but we are confident that the congregation here will pull together to do whatever needs to be done. Please continue to pray that God will guide us at the time of change and will send us the right person to become our new parish priest, to lead us and to unite our parish in faith, hope and love.

David and Esther



Coffee Morning

Saturday 3rd March
St Leonard's Church

10.30 am

On March 25th Sarah Hinchcliffe will be taking part in the London Landmarks Half Marathon. She is hosting a coffee morning to fundraise for this event and this wonderful charity.

There will be plenty of yummy cakes and a raffle

Our aim is to provide advice, support, relief and/or treatment for anyone suffering serious injury or disability which has arisen from any cause, but in particular from participation in or training for any sport, sporting activity or other form of physical education or recreation.

St Leonard's
Church, Lexden
Road, Colchester,
CO3 4BL.





The Soup Run

The Soup Run is one of many activities supported by “Seeking God’s Blessing for Colchester”.

It started over 20 years ago and St. Leonard’s in linking with Castle Methodist are one of over 20 churches supporting this project.

We became involved over 10 years ago when Richard and I felt that we ought to widen our social conscience and we approached Castle Methodist as we knew they were looking to expand their Soup Run team. At the time they were covering 3 nights a week which has since reduced to 2, Wednesdays and Fridays. There is now someone from St. Leonard’s involved at least 3 evenings in a month.

Every night of the year between 8-9 pm soup, sandwiches ,tea and coffee and perhaps something sweet are offered to those who are in need. There are homeless people, rough sleepers, sofa surfers and some who are just lonely. We ask no questions, make no judgements but are there to offer nourishment and comfort and in doing so shine a light for Christ, and share his love with our guests.

Every time I take part, I remember that each of these people is son, daughter, brother or sister. We are not there to solve life’s problems but a smile or just talking or listening, as well as offering food and drink may make the rest of the night more bearable.

For a while we have had a box at the back of the church, if you would like to contribute to this, obviously tins of soup are appreciated or cuppa soups. But individual wrapped chocolate biscuits too. I like to think that finding a chocolate biscuit in your pocket on a cold and lonely night might just help someone remember that people, and God, do care. If you are interested in more or getting involved please do talk to me.

Wendy Allen

Flower Festival



It no doubt seems a long time ahead, but we are holding a Flower Festival over the Harvest weekend, 6th & 7th October.

Please, EVERYBODY, put the date in your diary NOW!

This is not just an opportunity for the flower arrangers to 'do their thing,' but for everybody to be involved in some way. Yes, anyone who can arrange flowers will be needed, but the success of this venture will lie with us all — in inviting friends, family, neighbours along, and not only inviting them but coming with them.

This is an opportunity to bring people who do not normally attend St Leonard's along to meet our friendly and inclusive congregation, and in coming into church we pray that they may find something of God's love for them.

There will be plenty to come along to—the current plan is as follows:

Saturday 6th Church open with light refreshments, lunches and teas, from 10.30am to 5.00pm.

A concert by Lexden Choral Society, with audience participation, at 7.30pm. (To be confirmed)

Sunday 7th Our All Age Harvest Thanksgiving at 9.45am.

Church open again at 2.00pm, with teas being served until 5.00pm, when there will be a Harvest Songs of Praise.

More details, and what you could do to help, in subsequent magazines.

Peter Hearsom



Mouse Tails



The Church mice were contentedly going about their daily business: Mums tidying up their family nests, Dads preparing to go out scavenging and Grandpa teaching the younger mice some of the skills and knowledge that they would need when they became full grown adults with families of their own, when, all of a sudden, out of nowhere, came the most horrendous, loud banging noise. Everyone stopped what they were doing and looked at each other with fear; whatever was happening? they asked.

Within minutes all of the Church Mice Dads gathered together, told their families to get up to the balcony and stay quiet while the Dads investigated what had occurred. Rupert, of course, could sense an adventure in the offing and was giving reasons why he should go along to help. However, Dad was in no mood to listen and told his offspring to sit down, shut up and wait for the adults to return. What was more, he added, failure to obey would result in being grounded for 4 weeks!

The Dads set off stealthily; eldest son Billy lived with his family in an under stairs nest and they went there first, through the drainpipe which served as their back door into the Churchyard. They could see immediately what was making the noise: a huge machine pounding the earth to flatten it. "Ah," said Grandpa, "I see, this building work is to prepare for the new kitchen in the extension. We're not in danger if we just get on as usual and don't get in the way of the workers."



One of the Dads said: "What about the outside mice who nested all around here? Where are they and are they safe?"

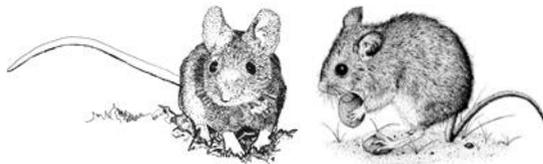
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The exploring party returned through the drainpipe into safety and held an impromptu meeting. "Firstly," said Grandpa, "We need to set out and find the four families who were nesting around that garden. As soon as the workmen have gone we'll split up and check with the outside mice and our Hall cousins."

All of the Dads returned to the balcony, much to the relief of their families who had been imagining all sorts of terrible happenings, and told them what they had seen and what they planned to do. Much relieved, the families returned to their own nests and as soon as it was safe, the Dads, Grandpa (and this time with Rupert and Tommy Organ in tow) set off to visit all of the mouse families in the Churchyard. After only an hour all the families had been accounted for and were safe and sound. All of the Dads and Grandpa accepted the hospitality of their Hall cousins (who still had some root beer left over from Christmas) to discuss what, if anything, they should do next. Rupert and Tommy, much to their disgust, were sent back to the Church to let the families know that all was well.

Plans were made for rehousing the displaced families and after some discussion they all agreed that a larger kitchen area could mean more available food in the Church and with Easter coming, that, surely, was a good thing!



CT

FRIENDSHIP LUNCHES

Work is being carried out during the spring to extend the tea bar area and make it into a kitchen with full catering facilities. The next Friendship Lunch will therefore be in May. Look out for the date. It will be worth the wait!



OUR SPECIAL GUIDE

DOG SESSION

On Sunday 25th January we had two special visitors at Junior church: Alex and his guide dog Blossom. Alex proved to be a fantastic ambassador for the Guide Dogs charity telling us his personal experience of owning a guide dog as well as giving us information on how guide dogs are chosen, trained and placed.



At first some of the children were a little anxious at being so close to quite a big dog but Blossom won everyone over! Alex explained that he needed training as much as Blossom and at one stage she knew more than he did!

We found out how Blossom leads Alex safely on walks, helps him to navigate stairs and steps and best of all finds him an empty seat on a bus or train or anywhere!

The children had so many questions which Alex answered with great patience. We have never seen the children so quiet for so long in Junior Church!

Thank you for making and buying cakes after the service.

We raised a fantastic £210 for Guide Dogs!

Luisa





FILM REVIEW

Darkest Hour & The Post

These two films share some common characteristics, despite depicting events at different dates and in different places: one set in 1940 in London, the other set in 1972 in Washington and New York. They are both dominated by two strong and very courageous characters, who have a very clear sense of the right course of action to be pursued, and who refuse to be deflected from doing what they believe to be right. And both films owe their success to two outstanding actors who play the leading roles, Gary Oldman and Meryl Streep.

Darkest Hour portrays Churchill 'warts and all' with all his personal flaws and foibles, just after he has become Prime Minister in May 1940. He is resisting pressure from his foreign secretary, Lord Halifax, and his predecessor as PM, Neville Chamberlain, to enter into peace negotiations with Hitler. The Church Times film critic, Stephen Brown, believes the film takes several liberties with historical facts, and that neither Chamberlain or Halifax were so entrenched in their positions as portrayed in the film.



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There is a memorable (almost certainly fictitious) scene in which Churchill, in a stationary tube train, asks his fellow travellers whether there should be a peace agreement with Germany or whether the fight against Hitler should be maintained. They all resoundingly opt for the latter and Churchill later uses this experience to convince Parliament that ‘the man and woman in the street’ are completely for continuing the struggle against Nazism.



In The Post the urbane and gracious owner of The Washington Post, Katherine Graham, decides to back her editor, Ben Bradlee, played by Tom Hanks, in publishing the Pentagon Papers, leaked top secret documents, which reveal how successive US governments have deliberately hidden the truth about the progress of the Vietnam war from the American public. She makes the decision to publish despite the risk of prosecution and imprisonment and despite being strongly advised against it by influential financial backers of the paper. The

decision to publish is eventually upheld by the US Supreme Court who rule that the freedom of the press is sacrosanct under the US constitution.

Two films well worth seeing.

Hugh Beavan