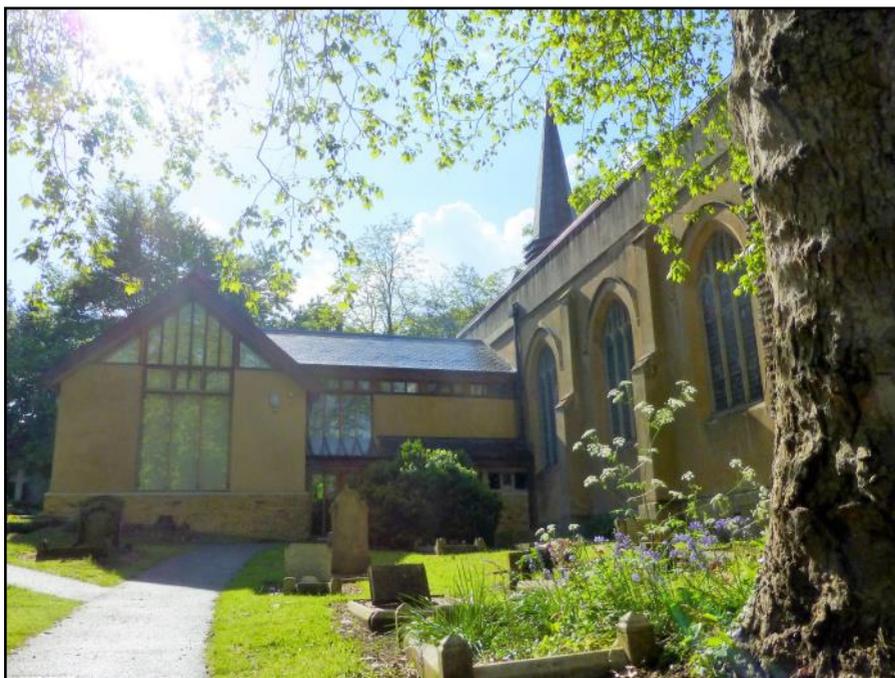


# St Leonard's Lexden



Ordinary people. Extraordinary God.



## Parish Magazine

50p

April 2018



# *From the* **Curate**



## **Our worldwide family**

In Lent of last year, I attended an excellent talk by the theologian Jane Williams (wife of the former Archbishop of Canterbury) at St Matthew's Church in Westminster. It was one of a series at which speakers reflected on what, for them was the essence of Anglicanism and what they most loved of the Anglican tradition. One aspect which Jane reflected upon was the Worldwide Anglican Communion, something which resonates greatly with me.

Each day at Morning Prayer, we pray for a diocese somewhere else in the world. We are given the name of the diocese by the church centrally. This means that every Anglican community throughout the world should be praying for that same diocese on the same day. Some days we pray for obvious, internationally famous places, like New York or some other great city. But, more often than now we pray for some obscure corner of the earth, often places the location of which I have no concept.

What is important about this act of prayer is that it is a reminder that we do not stand alone in our faith. We are part of a worldwide movement, a family, if you like, with one thing in common at its core. That is our faith and our love of God in Christ Jesus.

Anglicanism's greatest strength must be its willingness to embrace a wide variety in Anglican faith and lifestyle. This does, of course, provoke heated debate among its practitioners, but that is healthy.

What is important is that Anglicans agree that their beliefs and practices, their authority, derive from a combining of Scripture (the Holy Bible) with Reason (the intellect and the experience of God) and with Tradition (the practices and beliefs of the historical church). This creates a balance in the Anglican approach to faith, contrasting it with Roman Catholic and the Protestant doctrines. The term *via media* when used in reference to the Anglican tradition generally refers to the idea that Anglicanism represents a *middle way* between Protestantism and Roman Catholicism.

Anglican Communion believes that rather than saying Anglicanism is Protestant – like Lutheranism or Calvinism – it is more accurate to say it is catholic – believing it is still part of God’s one Church and having bishops as Church leaders, but that it is *reformed*. That it shares the principles of other Christian Churches that broke away from the Roman Catholic Church in 16<sup>th</sup> Century. That makes us unique and special.

The Anglican Communion has worshipping communities in 165 countries throughout the world. Each one is as relevant and authentic as our community at St Leonard’s. Each day when we meet for prayers or come together in worship on Sundays, the same Bible readings will be read by every Anglican community throughout the world. That draws us together and it is something we should cherish.

At a time when political and national isolationism seems to be growing throughout the world, at a time when nations attempt to turn their backs on their neighbours, it is good to reflect that we, as Anglicans, are inescapably one worldwide family – a family which respects and values everyone, no matter what and no matter where they are, nor where they came from.

With best wishes, and God’s love this Easter season,

*Fr David*

# DIARY FOR APRIL



## **SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> 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 FESTIVAL EUCHARIST with Junior Church,**  
***followed by egg rolling and Easter bonnets***

**6.30pm Choral Evensong**

**NO OTHER SERVICES IN CHURCH THIS WEEK**

### **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

10.30am Holy Communion at Wren House

7.30pm 'Medley' House group (Rosemary 515245)

### **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>**

10.45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>**

8.30am Men's Breakfast in the Nicholls Room

## **SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup>: EASTER 2**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

### **Monday 9<sup>th</sup>**

7.45pm 'Jubilee' House group (Viv 513495)

### **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>**

2.30pm Mothers' Union Open Meeting in the Nicholls Room (see p17)

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>

10.00am The Eucharist with prayers for healing followed by coffee

11.30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

2.30pm 'Constable' house group (Hugh 564577)

**SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup>: EASTER 3**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup>

11.00 Holy Communion at Hill House

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>: St Luke

10.00am The Eucharist with prayers for healing followed by coffee

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>

10.30am Coffee Morning at 15 Glen Avenue

**SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup>: EASTER 4**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>

7.00pm PCC Corporate Eucharist—All welcome

7.45pm PCC meeting in the Nicholls Room

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>

10.00am The Eucharist with prayers for healing followed by coffee

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

**SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup>: EASTER 5**

**8.00am The Eucharist (Common Worship)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong followed by  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting**



**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

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

**10.45am Holy Communion at Woodlands**

**11.30am Holy Communion at Cheviot**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

**8.00am The Eucharist**

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

**8.30am Men's Breakfast in the Nicholls Room**

**SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> May: EASTER 6**

**8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)**

**9.45am Informal Eucharist**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

## **MAGAZINE DEADLINE**

***FINAL DAY* for items for the May edition:**

**SUNDAY 15th APRIL**

**Please submit items to the Editor**

**email: [magazine@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto: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**

# Bishop Stephen's Easter Message 2018



## Share a bit of Easter 'foolishness'

When was the last time you shared a bit of good old-fashioned Christian 'foolishness'?

Many early Christians eagerly embraced the label 'foolishness' for the good news they shared about Jesus. They didn't think the Gospel was nonsense, though. They simply saw that, by the usual standards of the world, the story of the cross and resurrection was 'foolishness'. Today, in a world obsessed with material success, the cross has lost none of its 'foolishness'. Today, in a time when hope seems in desperately short supply, the 'foolishness' of the resurrection remains as powerful as ever.

So, this Easter, I want to challenge all of us to rediscover, celebrate – and most importantly – *share* the delicious 'foolishness' of the cross and resurrection with those around us.

The cross is 'foolishness' because it is a sign of complete failure by the usual standards. Things looked different when Jesus arrived triumphantly at Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, however. As he was heralded by great crowds, Jesus seems to be the epitome of success. But that was one day at the start of a very long week.

As the days went by, success disintegrated and faltered into Good Friday, when Jesus's death on the cross was to redefine the depth of worldly failure.

*(Continued on p11...)*

(... continued from p9)

He seemed a failure through the betrayal and denial of his closest friends, a failure in his condemnation by the political and religious authorities and the crowds, a failure in the anguish and

humiliation of his public torture, a failure in his pathetic criminal's death on a cross - suffocated by the weight of his own broken body. Truly, from the foot of the cross the sign above his head, 'The King of the Jews', seemed so foolish as to be laughable.

At Easter we discover that this 'foolishness' shouldn't be accompanied by the laughter of derision, however, but rather by the laughter of great joy: the laughter of hope fulfilled beyond any expectation. The 'foolishness' of the resurrection is that the terrifying absence of Jesus's body from the tomb tells of the eternal presence of the risen Christ! At *that* moment, the 'failure' of the cross is revealed to be God's great triumph – a success beyond our imaginings.

If we share this 'foolishness', we become beacons of resurrection hope in a world paralysed by fear of failure. If we cherish this 'foolishness', we are liberated to be disciples who know that whether we succeed or fail by the world's standards, the risen Christ is present with us. In our triumphs and joys, our disappointments and disasters, and even in our death, the risen Christ is there. He is with us because in the cross and resurrection the world's greatest failure was shown to be the eternal triumph of God's love. *That* is a 'foolishness' that world needs to hear in every generation.

So let's share it.

+ Stephen Chalmers

# Junior Church in April.



1 <sup>st</sup> April	Easter Sunday: Junior Church, egg rolling, Easter bonnet competition
8 <sup>th</sup> April	I have seen the Lord: Resurrection Personal stories John 20.1-18
15 <sup>th</sup> April	The Touch of Peace Transforming individuals, transforming communities John 20.19-31
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Mixed Emotions Luke 24.36b-48
29 <sup>th</sup> April	Enfolded in God's love John 10.11-18

# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

The March meeting began with a Eucharist service, led by Father David, whose sermon was based upon "Behold your Son, Behold your Mother" from the Seven Words of Jesus on the Cross. During the service Janet Crees was admitted to MU membership.

This was followed by the AGM, at which Jean Holden agreed to uphold interim responsibility as Enrolling Member. Total membership stands at twenty-two (having lost two but gained four!)

The speaker at our meeting on 10th April will be Marion Pettet from the Chelmsford Ballet Company. Non MU members welcome, see page 17 for details.

**Mary Hanmer**

## Coffee Morning



A big "thank you" to Beverley and Ed Kettell for hosting a coffee morning at their home on 24th February and for so willingly agreeing to hold it 10 hrs, after their return from holiday - quite miraculously, everything went to plan, delicious cakes were on offer, and we were so fortunate to be able to enjoy their home and hospitality on a bright, sunny morning just a few days before the arrival of "the Beast from the East" - brrhhh! Approx. £170 was raised for church funds and related charities.

We now look forward to our next get-together/coffee morning which will be held on Saturday, **21st April, 10.30 - 12 noon** at 15 Glen Avenue, by kind invitation of Sarah Orr. There will be the usual Bring & Buy of home produce, books, videos, CDs and jigsaws. If fine, there will be the opportunity to walk round her lovely garden.

Do come and bring friends - you will be made very welcome.

**Jean Hallett**

# CEDRIC LOXLEY – 1927 – 2018



Harry Cedric Loxley was born at his parents' home in Irlam on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1927, the youngest of four children. He attended Manchester Grammar School before studying dentistry at Manchester University. Following graduation in July 1950 Cedric was commissioned into the Royal Army Dental Corps, serving in Malaya during the Emergency and in Scotland.

Cedric and Jean Postlethwaite met at St John's Parish Church Sunday School in Irlam and 8 years later, were married there in September 1951 whilst Cedric was still in the Army. When he returned to civilian life they moved south to Chelmsford where John and Judith were born but in 1958 the family moved to Colchester where Cedric joined a practice in North Hill. Some years later he moved to East Hill and then in 1983 he set up his own practice in Creffield Road where he remained until retirement in 1994. In addition to his practice work he travelled to London each Monday where he was Tutor in Restorative Dentistry at Guys Hospital.

Cedric was active in various Dental Bodies, and was clearly a force for development both locally and nationally. He served as President of the Essex Branch of The British Dental Association and for 1981-82 he was elected President of The British Society for Restorative Dentistry and he was elected President of The British Endodontic Society for 1986-87 - Endodontics being the speciality concerned with root canal treatment.

Cedric's lifetime enthusiasm for hills and rocks really developed at university where he quickly joined the Mountaineering Club (MUMC) participating in their weekend trips to the Peak District and further afield.

Cedric also got involved in Scouting becoming Scout Leader of the 37<sup>th</sup> Colchester (1<sup>st</sup> Lexden) Troop which met in the 60's at a Scout Hut in

Chitts Hill near the level crossing and later at Lexden Primary School. The highlight of his time in charge was a Troop Camp in the Netherlands in which all the family participated.

Lexden Bridge Club was founded by him with John Kitson and Ralph Cook and still meets regularly in members homes around 50 years later. Cedric was a member of the Lexden Monday Walking Group and took over leadership around the Millennium. Cedric initiated the walking holidays of the group in Snowdonia and the Peak District.

Cedric's experience of climbing gave him all the knowledge of the terrain and hostelrys to enable him to introduce the group to these wonderful regions but the understanding was that we would be walking up the mountains or ridges rather than climbing them. However in 2005 we tackled the Nantlle Ridge on the western edge of Snowdonia and at one point the narrowness of the ridge path with sheer drops each side led one of our group to exclaim *'I thought this was the sort of place you **wouldn't** bring us, Cedric!*'. However this was a particularly memorable day visiting somewhere none of us would have been without Cedric and it seems most appropriate that the family intend to scatter his ashes from the Nantlle Ridge.

Cedric had extensive involvement with this church for nearly 60 years spanning the tenure of four Rectors. He held a number of Offices – PCC Secretary from 1966 to 1974, Churchwarden from 1976 to 1983, Covenants Officer and Stewardship Recorder from 1992 until 2011 and it is no exaggeration to credit him with persuading the congregation to embrace the concept of regular giving by standing order using Gift Aid where possible and he was especially proud of the £20,000 reclaimed annually from the Inland Revenue.

In all his church positions he was greatly aided by Jean's secretarial and bookkeeping skills and between them they also organised many other church activities of which these are just a few examples –

Supervising a Youth Club in the Hall together with Tony & Muriel Gurney.

Various Social Events - Parish Picnics, Car Treasure Hunts and Three Churches Outings into rural Essex and Suffolk.

Coach Trips to Cathedral cities including St Albans, Ely and Norwich.

Single-handedly producing the Weekly News Sheet for a number of years  
A series of Parish Weekend Coach Trips to locations such as Chichester, Winchester and Chester.

He was a great producer of marmalade and chutney and was often heard appealing for empty jars for the produce which he then sold for Church funds.

Cedric died 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018.

**Tom Scrimgeour**



Vivaldi  
**Gloria**

Handel  
Handel

The King Shall Rejoice  
Zadok the Priest

Bernstein  
**Chichester Psalms**

“Pre-Performance Talk”

An entertaining and illuminating talk, with musical quotations, to introduce this master work and enhance your enjoyment of the performance.”

Conductor: John Chillingworth  
Kingfisher Sinfonietta led by Beth Spendlove

**St. Botolph's Church, Colchester**  
**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – 7.30pm**

Tickets – £13.00 (£8.00 under 18 / full-time students)  
From: Mann's Music/Box Office 01206 543280

# Mouse Tails



One morning, Rupert rushed up to their balcony nest and shouted: “Hurrah, it’s snowing!” Molly looked vaguely interested but she felt that she was now a bit grown up to be playing in the snow, Mum just looked worried. She knew how hard it would be to feed the family during bad weather and she was very concerned for her Woods cousins. Snug and warm in their nests, Church mice would always survive with many social events taking place (usually involving food which could be sought out and stowed away) and being a prudent Mum, she always had stocks of dried foods available. Rupert was a bit disgruntled by their lack of enthusiasm for the snow and declared that he was going to round up his cousins and have some fun.

So it was that a happy, excited group of young mice scampered out into the churchyard planning what they would do. They decided that sledging was the first activity and had dragged out the sledge that Grandpa had made for them last year. It was a good solid little sledge, made from a small, damaged flower tray with string tied into holes to make the reins. They decided that the wooden ramp that runs alongside of the extension work site would be ideal for sledging as it had a downwards slope which seemed huge to the little mice! Also they were under strict instructions not to stray too far away from the church. What great fun they had racing down the slope.

After a while Dad appeared to check that all was OK and he had a surprise for them – he and Grandpa had been busy making two sets of skis using lolly sticks and string loops to slot their paws into and small twigs with pointed ends for ski sticks. Wow! They were thrilled by this invention and under strict supervision they took turns to whiz down the slope. Everyone was so excited and very grateful to Dad and Grandpa for their gift. It wasn’t easy and took some time for them to master the art of skiing but once they did there was no stopping them. “It’s like flying, Dad!” said Rupert.



*(Continued on p27...)*

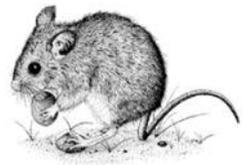
*(...continued from p25)*

After a couple of hours it was beginning to get dark and cold with heavy snow falling down. The mice looked at each other and started giggling hysterically, for they were all transformed into little white 'snow mice'! Apart from that they were all ravenously hungry so off they trooped back to the warm safety of their nests. Of course, once home Rupert relived the whole adventure again and again until Molly begged him to stop going on about it as it was becoming boring (secretly she rather wished that she joined in the fun and decided that if the snow was still there the next day she would go out and play too).

Mum and Dad were talking about the more serious aspects of the snow and they decided that the next day they would gather all of the Church Mice together and pool their resources of food, making sure that each family had enough to live on for the next few days or until the snow was cleared and normal scavenging could resume. They also wondered if many of the church events would be cancelled because of the weather, in which case they could not depend on finding more food that way. Fortunately, mice were not 'fussy eaters;' they had to eat pretty much anything to survive and if they had a bit less to eat on some days, so be it. Rather than continue this rather depressing conversation, they turned their thoughts to Easter and the traditional huge gathering of all their cousins and friends to attend a special service, led by Grandpa, followed by a feast in the Hall.

The next day all the Church Mice gathered and shared food with each other and then began to plan for their Easter gathering. Favourite hymns were put forward for the choir and Tommy Organ who accompanied them on his tiny mouth organ, what food they could hope to get together and where visitors would sleep.

Rupert couldn't resist telling the young mice of his adventures in the snow and those who hadn't known about it all wanted to go out to play the next day. Dad and Grandad showed the other Dads how to make sledges and skis so all the youngsters were equipped and couldn't wait to try them out.



*(Concludes on p29...)*

*(...continued from p27)*

Mice are very sociable creatures and didn't tend to allow their worries to weigh on them too heavily! The meeting finished with a prayer of thanks that they had such a good community of mice and asked God to keep their outdoor cousins and friends safe from the snow.

When the final Amen was said, they all retired to their own nests for a good night's sleep. Rupert could be seen twitching and laughing in his sleep as he dreamt of his skiing exploits!



CT

## Lexden Ladies' Group

Our first meeting of the year took place on Tuesday 6th March. Our speaker was Bob Finch who gave a most interesting talk on "The Colchester Talking Newspaper" which was set up many years ago to enable people who are visually impaired to have access to Colchester Gazette and Essex County Standard.

Bob described how the Newspaper came into being, originally with recordings made on cassette tapes which were posted to members each week. Nowadays recordings are downloaded onto memory sticks which members listen to on equipment provide free from the Talking Newspaper group.

If anyone knows of a visually impaired person who might benefit from this completely free service then please get in touch with me on **01206 579629** or e-mail: [howardml@btinternet.com](mailto:howardml@btinternet.com) and I will provide more details.

There will not be a meeting in April but we shall welcome Lisa Mitson from the Fire Service on **Tuesday 1st May** who will be talking about **Fire Safety**. All welcome.

**Margaret**



# Book Review



## 'Leaving Alexandria'

**Richard Holloway, *Canongate Books 2013***

In 'Leaving Alexandria', the Rt-Revd Richard Holloway, late Bishop of Edinburgh and Primus of the Episcopal Church of Scotland, traces the journey of his life from his working class background in Alexandria, Dunbartonshire, via Kelham College and the Society of the Sacred Mission, to Ordination and Parishes in Glasgow, Edinburgh, the United States, Oxford and thence to becoming the Senior Bishop in Episcopal Church of Scotland. It's a courageous and honest book in which he documents both his success and failures and how reflecting on his experiences often persuaded him to change his mind and move in a different direction. His style is thoughtful, sometimes forthright and earthy and in so being, a refreshing change from similar books in the genre.

One of his emerging themes is the centrality of the individual. Institutions, he argues, sometimes become obsessed with their own survival and quickly forget the individuals they are supposed to serve. 'All institutions over-claim for themselves and end up believing more in their own existence than in the vision that propelled them into existence in the first place.' (p151)

For Holloway, understanding the individual and their needs and having pity for the individual, is more important than the institution and it's rules. He illustrates this with the parable of the Good Samaritan. The Priest and the Levite were quite justified in what they did, he argues, they kept their rules. But as Jesus tells it, the hero is the Samaritan, the person who abandoned the rules for the sake of the individual for whom he had pity. Holloway further explores this theme with Jesus' comment about the 'The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.'

*(Continued on p37...)*

*(...continued from p35)*

and Holloway expands this further suggesting that the same can be said of the State, the Law and Religion. He concludes: 'Jesus's saying fixes the status of all institutional rules as useful but never absolute.' (p144)

Our Faith journeys all differ, Holloway's journey is not my journey, nor have he and I arrived at the same destination, but the more I read the more I realised that he and I have travelled in the same terrain - though he tells it much better than I ever could. But we have used many of the same reference points and landmarks and visited similar Oases and cliff tops. Sometimes when you travel on you think you're the only one on the road and it's comforting to discover that someone passed that way before you - and maybe others will come after.

There are many who would undoubtedly criticize this book for its lack of so called certainties but as we are often reminded - 'Doubt is not the enemy of faith - certainty is.' and our Christian journey is often a mixture of hope, surety, ambiguity and grey areas as we seek to understand the mind of God. I found 'Leaving Alexandria' enormously encouraging. Here is a Bishop who understands what it is to be on the journey and is honest about facing the same difficulties as many of the rest of us.

**Laurence Whitford**

# Vacancy Update

We know it will come as a disappointment to everyone that there have been no suitable applicants for the post of Priest in Charge at St Leonard's. The post will be re-advertised after Easter, and in the meantime information about the vacancy remains on the Diocesan website. Please continue to pray and trust that God will call the right person to come to Lexden.

**Esther and David, Churchwardens**

# Lexden War Memorial

## First World War Deaths January and April 1918



There are four deaths recorded on our war memorial for the first seven months of 1918 – W H Stork, Charles Dawes, Charles King and Frederick Hilliard.

2nd Lieutenant W H Stork of 3<sup>rd</sup> Dragoon Guards (Prince of Wales) died on 11<sup>th</sup> January 1918 and is buried in Tincourt New British Cemetery which lies 7 kms east of Peronne on the banks of the River Cologne, a tributary of the Somme. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website mentions that in early 1918 several casualty clearance stations were located in Tincourt. 2nd Lieutenant Stork was aged 37 and was the husband of Annie Stork of “Everton”, Cromwell Place, Bournemouth which is near Pokesdown railway station but neither Peter Poole nor myself have been able to establish his connection with Lexden or indeed his first name.

Another soldier who died in the Somme valley in the closing months of the war was Private Charles Bertie Dawes who died on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1918 aged 34 and has no known grave. He was serving with 8<sup>th</sup> King’s Royal Irish Hussars and is commemorated on Panel 3 and 4 of the Pozieres Memorial which lies 6 kms north-east of Albert. Charles was the son of James & Elizabeth Dawes of West Bromwich and the husband of Kate F Dawes of 13 London Road, Lexden and is believed to be a member of the Dawes Family who ran a shop near the Straight Road/London Road junction.

There were two Essex Regiment deaths on successive days in early April. Private Charles King who had been transferred to the Labour Corps died on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1918 and is buried in Colchester Cemetery. His widow Bridget had her ashes interred into the same plot with her name added to the base of his headstone.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1918 Private Frederick Hilliard of the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion died on

*(Concludes on p41...)*

*(...continued from p39)*

the Somme with no known grave and like Charles Dawes is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial, on panels 51 and 52.

There remain four more deaths in later 1918 and two in 1919 and I will cover these with two articles in due course.

**Tom Scrimgeour**