

# St Leonard's Lexden



Ordinary people. Extraordinary God.



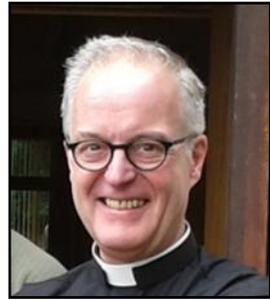
## Parish Magazine

50p

May 2018



# *From the Curate*



## **Christian Aid – Justice and Mercy**

Lord of all life,  
Help us to work together for that day  
When your Kingdom comes  
And justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth

These are words from Eucharistic prayer E which we at St Leonard's use at each Eucharist during Eastertide, until Pentecost on 20 May this year. They are words which draw me up, make me pause when I say them at the altar each week. This is because they are so fundamental to what we believe as Christians. In fact, more so than that, we are asking God to help us work together to bring justice and mercy to the world. If that shouldn't make us pause to stop and think, what should?

It is all very easy to agree with the sentiment of the words. It is somewhat more difficult for each of us to do our bit to ensure that justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. But, we do not have to do it all on our own. Each of us is not called to change the world's unjust and uncaring ways single-handedly. We are called in the prayer to work together for change; and in this respect we are each year handed a wonderful opportunity on a plate at this time of year. That is Christian Aid week, 13-19 May.

Archbishop Justin Welby in his message of encouragement to Christian Aid this year sums up the work of the week succinctly when he says: "Whether you do house-to-house collections, sponsored walks or church collections, or if you bring everyone together for Big Brekkies, bake sales or cake sales or quiz nights, you're stepping out in God's mission for the world's poorest people. Together we raise funds to help our poorest brothers and sisters around the globe to thrive abundantly, because we believe in life before death. This work brings the Kingdom close."

I remember as a young child being dragged by my mother along what seemed like endless streets as she delivered envelopes and went back to collect them during Christian Aid week. My eyes were opened, we would go to some of the richest and poorest areas of town – even on that small scale, I could see the injustice in society close at hand. But, as important as the act of collecting money, was the act of witness, the act of showing that someone cares about injustice and the need for mercy. If someone knocking at a single front door makes one person think about the needs of the underprivileged and disposed in this world, then that, in itself, is good. That, in itself, is a small step in making Christ's kingdom come.

*Jesus said: "...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."*

(Matthew 25.35-40)

We are presented with the most wonderful opportunity this month to help those in need in our world. We are presented with the chance to work together to bring justice and mercy to a world of need beyond our imagining. By being witnesses to Christ in the streets of Lexden we can help bring aid to the world, what better opportunity can we be given?

I would encourage you during this month's Christian Aid appeal to do whatever small or large act you can to help. Please speak to our Christian Aid co-ordinator, Rosemary Elden, or to me if you need any further information. And, help us all work together for that day when Christ's Kingdom comes, and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

God bless,

*Fr David*

# DIARY FOR MAY

## Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup>

10.30am Holy Communion at Wren House  
2.30pm Lexden Ladies meet in the Nicholls Room

## Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>

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>

8.00am The Eucharist

## Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>

8.30am Men's Breakfast in the Nicholls Room

## **SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup>: Easter 6**

**8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)**  
**9.45am Informal Eucharist**  
**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

## Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>

2.30pm Mothers' Union in the Nicholls Room

## Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>

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

## **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>: ASCENSION DAY**

**8.00am The Eucharist**  
**2.30pm Constable house group (Hugh 564577)**  
**7.30pm The Eucharist**



**SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup>: Easter 7**

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

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>**

8.00am The Eucharist

**SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup>: PENTECOST**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**



**Monday 21<sup>st</sup>**

11.00 Holy Communion at Hill House

7.45pm 'Jubilee' House Group meeting at 12 Landseer Road (Viv 513495)

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

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

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>**

8.00am The Eucharist

**SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup>: TRINITY SUNDAY**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**



**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup>**

8.00am The Eucharist

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

8.30am Men's Breakfast in the Nicholls Room

**SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> June: Trinity 1**

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

**9.45am: Informal Eucharist**

**6.30pm: Evensong and sermon**

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## *Our Next Priest in Charge*

We are very pleased to be able to share with you the good news that The Reverend Matt Simpkins has accepted the Bishop's invitation to become our next Parish Priest.

Matt is currently serving as Chaplain to the Bishop of Chelmsford and Assistant Curate in the Wickford & Runwell Team Ministry.

Prior to ordination, Matt worked as a professional musician, journalist and as a Lecturer in Music at Colchester Institute. Matt is married to Sian and they have two children: Martha and Jimmy.

The Bishop plans to licence Matt on 6<sup>th</sup> September. More details will follow. Please can we ask for your prayers for Matt, Sian and their family as they prepare to move to Lexden at this exciting time.

Thank you,

Esther and David  
**Churchwardens**

# HAVE YOU GOT a SPECIAL JOB or HOBBY?



Then you might want to come to Junior Church and talk about it. 😊

We are searching for people who have interesting jobs or hobbies, like policemen, teachers, nurses, etc. who would be happy to give a short talk about their profession.

We have realised how much the children appreciate it when someone from the congregation comes and talks to them.

If you are interested please contact Luisa

[youthworker@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:youthworker@stleonardslexden.org.uk)

And visit us in Junior church!

## **MAGAZINE DEADLINE**

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

**SUNDAY 13th MAY**

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

**games**

**stories**

You're invited to our



# Wedding Party

**crafts**

for children



**songs**

**DATE:** 20<sup>th</sup> May (Sunday)

**TIME:** 3pm- 5pm

**PLACE:** St Leonard's  
church, Lexden

**food and drinks**

**a lot of fun!**

Everything is free, but please let us know if you are coming 😊

Contact Luisa: [youthworker@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:youthworker@stleonardslexden.org.uk)

# Junior Church



## in May

6 <sup>th</sup> May	All Age Service in Church
13 <sup>th</sup> May	Jesus's Prayer (God's protection) John 17.6-19
20 <sup>th</sup> May	Life after Jesus John 15.26-27  Messy Church 3pm-5pm
27 <sup>th</sup> May	Children of God John 3.1-17

# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Almost a full house of members and several visitors were present for "There's No Business Like Show Business!" by our rescheduled speaker, Eve Regelous.

As always, our Meeting started with prayers, followed by a most interesting and lively account by Eve of her passion and participation, from the age of four, in dancing, theatre and show business. Eve and her husband, Peter, who is an entertainer and public speaker, are both actively involved locally and nationally. Eve also spoke about some of her favourite shows in London and recounted amusing anecdotes from meetings with famous actors of our time. Eve's visit was greatly enjoyed by all.

At the next Mothers' Union meeting, on **Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> May at 2.30pm**, our speaker will be Robin Blackmore on the theme of 'Street Pastors in Colchester'.

If you are not already a member but would like to know more, please come along for a visit.

**Mary Hanmer**      *See also the item about MU on p19*

## THY KINGDOM COME, 10-20<sup>th</sup> May

Once again this year between Ascension and Pentecost, the Archbishop of Canterbury asks churches to be part of a global wave of prayer for more people to come to know Christ.



Last year we at St Leonard's prayed every day for five friends to come to faith. Perhaps you could do the same this year, or you could go on a prayer walk in the parish, praying for the people you see and their needs. Or why not come to Morning or Evening Prayer? It's a quiet time spent with God, in the peace of our lovely church, and you will be adding your voice to the prayers that are said in the Lady Chapel during the week.

For lots of interesting ideas visit [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global)



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

# *Colchester Area Conference*

*February 2018*

Recently a few of us attended the Colchester area deanery conference. The title of the conference was Sounding Sweet, as in - Amazing Grace - How sweet the sound. What follows are a few extracts from the Bishop's opening address.

During his opening address Bishop Roger spoke about our Churches resounding with the sweet sound of God's grace and becoming the transforming presence that we long for them to be. He suggested five qualities or values that might help us to think about how we can enable our Church to become a community of grace.

## *Reckless or Courageous Hospitality*

From the early Church who offered hospitality 'heedless of the danger to themselves', to the monastic communities caring for the sick and suffering during the Great Plague, to the nurses and deaconesses who would establish infirmaries in theatres of war, to the care of patients with HIV and AIDS, the call has always been to offer 'reckless hospitality'. It is what we do. It is more than just welcoming people into a Church activity or service. It is about finding the courage to offer an invitation, to open up ourselves and our buildings and to boldly welcome all who cross our threshold.

## *A Will to Embrace*

At the core of the Christian faith lies the persuasion that 'others' need not be perceived as innocent in order to be loved but ought to be embraced even when they are seen as wrongdoers. The Will to Embrace is a stance prior to any judgement of the other. It is the default stance, the foundational position of the Christian person. All judgments and actions flow from this Will to Embrace.

## ***Receiving the Other as Gift***

Seeing the other as 'Gift' is about welcoming the gift of each person and recognises that we all have needs so each person is needed and each person brings something. We must welcome the gift of each person in their totality so that -

All of you *are* welcome,  
All of you *is* welcome.

## ***Anti-Excellence Pro Participation***

The Bishop spoke about an ethos of anti-excellence pro participation saying that loving people because of, not despite, their imperfections is vital. The shared understanding that none of us is perfect should combine with a genuine concern for the welfare of others and create an emotional safety net that will support us when we fail. Failure, far from being a feared and dreadful thing, should be seen as a natural feature of life. Losing one's fear of failure then opens the opportunity for greater and bigger adventures.

## ***Keeping an Open Table***

Finally the Bishop reminded us that Jesus doesn't blame people for their hunger; He doesn't punish them for being hungry. He doesn't charge the crowds a fee for their meal; He doesn't set up a velvet rope to keep some from the table until they are worthy enough to dine. He doesn't quiz them to see if they understand how to eat with Him. The only response Jesus makes to the hungry is to have compassion and feed them. This is why the Church has to do the same, to welcome the spiritually hungry with spiritual food for them to eat.

Please pray that St Leonard's will be a Church where God's grace resounds .

**EH**

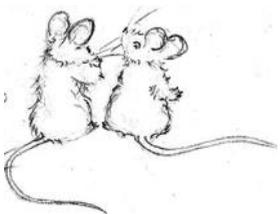
# Mouse Tails



“Happy Easter!” called Rupert and Molly in their balcony home. The twins had secretly made Easter cards for their parents and these were duly admired. Of course, the Church mouse community were looking forward to celebrating Easter together with as many family and friends that could manage to make it safely up to the Church, once the humans had all gone home, of course.

There had been the usual egg rolling competition after the service and the mice had darted out to collect up bits of broken boiled eggs as they did every year, and these were a special Easter treat for them all. The best ever treat however, was that a kind lady had left them a tiny card and a bag of mini chocolate eggs at the bottom of the stairs; this would be put towards the traditional feast in the Hall after the special Service, led by Grandpa. The little mouse choir were actually getting pretty good now. Well, to human ears it would have sounded like vaguely musical squeaking but to the mouse congregation it sounded very good. Their favourite hymns were All Things Bright and Beautiful and We Plough the Fields and Scatter.... Grandpa gave thanks for all the blessings that the good Lord gave them throughout the year and welcomed all the cousins who had survived and made it safely to the Service.

The Wood cousins were there, much to the relief of Mum who worried about their safety during winter but the biggest surprise of all among the



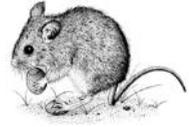
gathered mice was none other than little Jack Straw and his family; he was the field mouse that Rupert and Molly had rescued from a cat earlier in the year, and whom Blackie, their friend the blackbird, had flown home to safety. All of the Church mice were thrilled to see him and his dear little family and were eager to hear their news.

As was traditional after the Service, there was a walk around the church to admire the beautiful flowers, and, it has to be admitted, to scavenge any corn or berries that might have ‘accidentally’ fallen to the ground. Then the mice made their way up to the Hall.

Amidst much chatter and catching up on news, the Mums prepared the feast (to which everyone had contributed) and in no time at all the mice were settled and enjoying a grand meal washed down with Grandpa's homemade wines and beers, and elderflower cordial for the youngsters.

Mum was especially pleased to receive the watercress from their Wood cousins as it went so well with boiled egg mash and was a big favourite with all the mice. Jack Straw had brought a lovely selection of berries which the Church mice didn't usually get to enjoy.

All the youngsters were allowed to run around playing games and once the Mums decided that they'd had enough exercise and excitement everyone settled down to relax and exchange news.



Everyone agreed that, despite the bad weather, they'd had a wonderful Easter, and scurried off to find a comfortable nest for their families. Soon, all that could be heard was happy snuffling and snoring noises as the mouse community settled down to a peaceful night's sleep, dreaming happy dreams about their day. **CT**

## The Ducks are Back!

*Look out for this trio of mallards in the churchyard... two drakes and a duck. Every spring they spend their days peacefully dozing here. Maybe Lexden Park gets too noisy!*



# Flower Festival Update



I can now confirm that the Saturday evening concert will take place. The main work to be performed will be Vivaldi's inspiring Gloria. I can also tell you that the theme of the Festival will mainly be based on excerpts from the Benedicite plus one or two related Bible texts.

As well as this, the church will also be decorated for Harvest. In addition to our regular flower arrangers, members of Stanway Flower Club have offered their help, also I am inviting a few of my former flower arranging colleagues from Colchester Baptist Church, but this does not preclude any additional help from members of the congregation.

Rachel Burrage has agreed to oversee the catering arrangements and I am sure that she will be glad to receive offers of help with waiting at table and the provision of homemade cakes etc., in due course.

As I wrote in March, the success of this venture lies with us all, so PLEASE keep the dates in front of you and pray for its success, and for the people/friends you plan to bring along, that they may know something of God's blessing through their visit.

**Peter Hearsom**

*The Flower Festival will take place from 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> October*



# Happy Easter!



*We gathered outside at dawn for the lighting of the new fire, Fr David sang the Exsultet, then we had breakfast together.*



*Easter bonnets and egg rolling after the Parish Eucharist*

# *The wine trade in January*

The view in both directions from Waterloo Bridge is incontestably one of the best views in London. Upstream, your gaze is drawn to the London Eye and, beyond that, to the Palace of Westminster; downstream, to the dome of St. Paul's cathedral. From the third floor of the Institute for Engineering and Technology, you have all that and the view of Waterloo Bridge itself. It is easy to become distracted by the interesting and attractive locations chosen by large wine importers to display their range.

Wine tastings are held by the trade both in the early part of the year and in the autumn. Some firms become attached to one location. Liberty wines has always chosen the Oval cricket ground for their tastings. In January, one could be greeted either by a green sward of beautifully tended grass or a blanket of snow covering the entire ground. By the autumn there might even be cricket to watch. The grass will have yielded to the stress of bat and ball and the groundsman's uncompromising preparation of the season's wickets.

Tastings have also taken place at Chelsea football ground where the tasting room overlooked, on one occasion, the complete relaying of the pitch. No grass at all here; the pitch was a building site with piles of shingle and materials. Someone was heard to say that they now understood what was meant by a team 'winning on aggregate'.

Tobacco Dock, the old Billingsgate fish market, the Sky Bar and the Royal Horticultural Hall are all regular venues. Others include former, and indeed current, ecclesiastical buildings. These are interesting both for the sheer elegance of the buildings and the stories they have to tell. One in Marylebone Road, formally Holy Trinity Church, was built in 1826-28 to the designs of Sir John Soane to celebrate the defeat of Napoleon. It now hosts functions of all sorts.

The Nederlandse Kerk [The Dutch Church] in the City of London was tucked round the back in a small street called Austin Friars and dwarfed by enormous office blocks. The present building replaced the original medieval church which was destroyed by bombing in 1940.

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*(...continued from p33)*

It was re-built in 1950 and is an active church reaching out to the Dutch community in London and running weekly Dutch language services.

While the nation was enjoying [or enduring] what has become known as dry January, it was possible to be lurching from one alcoholic experience to another. One of the most frequent things my customers say is, 'I'd like your job. Do you need an assistant?' It could stretch the reader's credulity to suggest there is real work to be done and that most of what one tastes ends up in the spittoon. I give these tastings a concentrated hour and try to arrive with some idea of what I want to taste. I may find only one or two wines I can list and put on tasting.

With as many as 700 wines available to try, the best events are highly organised and relatively easy to navigate and no, I don't try them all. Sometimes I have come away with nothing. There was one occasion where the wines were not numbered and the occasion chaotic. Arriving late in the afternoon I was greeted by large crowds and what could only be described as an alcoholic fug. I returned, disappointed, to the less glamorous world of phone calls, traffic and deliveries.

**Robin Greatorex**

## **REGULAR SERVICES AT ST LEONARD'S**

### **Sunday:**

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP using Common Worship Lectionary)

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST and Junior Church

(Or Informal Eucharist on 1st Sunday in the month)

6.30pm Evensong and Sermon

**Monday-Wednesday:** 9.00am Morning Prayer

**Monday-Thursday:** 5.00pm Evening Prayer

**Wednesday:** 10.00am The Eucharist

**Thursday:** 8.00am The Eucharist