

St Leonard's Lexden



Ordinary people. Extraordinary God.



Parish Magazine

50p

July 2018



From the Curate



It takes time...

We are always told that good things come to those who wait, and there is great truth in that phrase. But, it is not always that easy to wait. It is particularly not easy to wait when the world is rushing around about us.

At our 'Light Summer Evensong' last month, Simon Eavery talked about waiting as an active pursuit. Waiting, he said is being like a waiter in a restaurant. It is not about sitting idly and doing nothing, it is actively looking and being attentive. I agree, there is a skill, an art to waiting: to waiting in hope, to waiting to truly sense God's presence, to waiting to understand God's desires for us.

I do hope we have all experienced the delight at least sometimes in our lives, of what it is to sit in the presence of wisdom, to sit in the presence of calming inspiration, to sit in the presence of God and recognise that he is here.

That recognition brings with it great joy; though, it does not come without some input from us. For us to delight in the presence of God, of Christ, of the Holy Spirit, takes an attentive act of trust and of letting go.

To delight in the presence of God means that we must trust that we know him, and we must let go of our reservations and fears, so as to let him be present in us.

But why do we not delight more in God, why do many more people not delight in God at all? The reason is, I think, that we do not take the time

to trust and to let go. The 20th century theologian and Trappist monk, Thomas Merton believed it is our lack of giving of time that most separates us from God.

“The reason we don’t take time,” he said, is a feeling that we have to keep moving. This is a real sickness. We live in the fullness of time. Every moment is God’s own time. The whole thing boils down to giving ourselves, in prayer, a chance to realise that we have what we seek. We don’t have to rush after it. It was there all the time, and if we give it time, it will make itself known to us.”

So, please try and take time out this summer to wait on God, feel his presence and know his love and desires for you...and may that give you strength.

God bless,

Fr David



Cover Photo and above -
Beer & Hymns & Barbecue
during the St Leonard’s Mission Weekend in June.

DIARY FOR JULY

SUNDAY 1st : Trinity 5

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am INFORMAL EUCHARIST

6.30pm Evensong and Sermon

Monday 2nd

7.45pm 'Jubilee' House group (Viv 513495)

Tuesday 3rd

10.30am Holy Communion at Wren House

2.30pm Lexden Ladies in the Nicholls Room

7.30pm 'Medley' house group

Wednesday 4th

10.00am The Eucharist with prayers for healing followed by coffee

10.45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

11.30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

Thursday 5th

8.00am The Eucharist

Saturday 7th

8.30am Men's Breakfast in the Nicholls Room

SUNDAY 8th: Trinity 6

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

3.00pm Messy Church

6.30pm Evensong and sermon



Tuesday 10th

2.30pm Mothers' Union in the Nicholls Room

Wednesday 11th

10.00am The Eucharist with prayers for healing followed by coffee

Thursday 12th

8.00am The Eucharist

2.30pm 'Constable' house group

Saturday 14th

11am-2.30pm St Leonard's Summer Fete



SUNDAY 15th: Trinity 7

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

6.30pm Evensong and sermon

Monday 16th

11.00 Holy Communion at Hill House

Wednesday 18th

10.00am The Eucharist with prayers for healing followed by coffee

Thursday 19th

8.00am The Eucharist

SUNDAY 22nd: Trinity 8, Mary Magdalene

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

6.30pm Evensong and sermon

Wednesday 25th : James the Apostle

10.00am The Eucharist with prayers for healing followed by coffee

Thursday 26th

8.00am The Eucharist

SUNDAY 29th: Trinity 9

8.00am The Eucharist (Common Worship)

9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

Followed by barbecue for Luisa's last Sunday

6.30pm Evensong and sermon



Saturday 5th August

8.30am Men's Breakfast in the Nicholls Room

SUNDAY 6th August: Trinity 10

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.45am Informal Eucharist

6.30pm Joint Evensong at St Barnabas Old Heath



Junior Church in July



1st July	All Age Service in Church
8th July	Strength vs Weakness 2 Corinthians 12: 2-10
15th July	Gathered in Christ Mark 6: 14-29
22nd July	Household of God Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56
29th July	Special session — Luisa's last Sunday

Dear Junior Children,

It has been wonderful to work with you and I hope you enjoyed the year as much as I did. 😊

Have a fantastic summer holiday in August. Luisa





Thank you...



It has been such a nice year here in England. Thank you so much everyone for being so welcoming and open. Also I wanted to say thanks for the many invitations I got during my year, they were wonderful and it was a great opportunity to get to know you even better. Also thank you for inviting me to the house groups, which I have really enjoyed and I just loved studying the Bible with you. Thanks to my host family with whom I got on really well. And thank you Jacquie for being my supervisor this year.

I just have to say that I really liked my gap year and it will be quite hard for me to go back as I like it so much here. I loved working with the children at the parents and toddlers group and the conversations with Pauline and Daphne. Moreover, I enjoyed working with the uniformed groups including Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Rainbows. And of course it was a wonderful experience to lead and prepare the Junior church or the Junior OMG sessions. It was great to have so many leaders who were always willing to help. And of course all the children who usually ask tricky questions or give cute answers.

I can just say that it was a great decision to do this gap year here at St Leonard's church!!!!

Luisa ☺

Coffee Mornings

All who went to on Sat. 9th June (about 60 people) were delighted to see a wonderful array of hanging baskets, pots, plants, cakes and craft items for sale, lovingly created and baked by Liz Adams and Jenny Cross. Thank you so much Liz and family for hosting this happy occasion and congratulations to you and Jenny and family for all your hard work and for raising £906, plus Gift Aid, for church funds and related charities - a truly remarkable effort! We were blessed with a lovely sunny morning so we were able to enjoy the pretty garden.

Our next get-together will be on **Saturday, 8th September** at 6 Glen Avenue from 10.30-12 noon, by kind invitation of Ann and Adrian Steward when there will be a Bring & Buy stall, home produce, plants, jigsaws, books and a Raffle.

We look forward to this and hope you will come and bring your friends.

Jean Hallett



Thank You

On behalf of myself and my sister, Jenny Cross, I would like to send a heartfelt thank you to everyone who came to our coffee morning which I hosted on Saturday, 9th June. The sun shone and it was a glorious day and a staggering £906 excluding Gift Aid was raised. Thank you so much for attending and for your support which enabled a very successful event. **Liz Adams**

The M U Summer Outing on 12 June



After a pleasant lunch at the Peldon Rose and, after much deliberation because of the cloudy weather, we adjourned to Brenda's Beach Hut at West Mersea. The sun came out for a while and we enjoyed the sea air and ate a delicious tea. Thank you very much, Brenda, for your hospitality.

At our next meeting on 10th July, the St Leonard's Youth Worker, Luisa, will be our speaker.

Jean Holden

stories

games

Messy church:
**SUMMER PICNIC &
OUR ENVIRONMENT**



Date: 8th July(Sunday)

Time: 3pm-5pm

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

arts & crafts

picnic outside



Everything is free, but please let me know if you are coming 😊
Contact Luisa : youthworker@stleonardslexden.org.uk

Lexden Ladies' Group

At our June meeting we welcomed again Margaret Brehaut who spoke to us about her experiences and observations when visiting the Amish Community in Lancaster County, USA.

The Amish, a group of originally Swiss Anabaptists from the 17th century, practised adult baptism which is the beginning of their church membership. In the early 18th century, for a number of reasons including religious persecution, many Amish immigrated to Pennsylvania to land given to them by Thomas Penn. They continue to speak Pennsylvania German.

The Amish live a simple rural life with little communication with the outside world. Family life is central with large families being the norm. Children have a rudimentary education, mainly in their own family with emphasis on farming skills for the boys and homemaking for the girls. All women and girls wear the same basic style dress of muted colour with no buttons or zips which might adorn them and they wear no jewellery, not even a wedding ring. The men likewise. They never cut their hair and the men do not shave. As well as the regulations on clothing, they have no electricity, telephones or motor vehicles.

Worship services are held every other Sunday in a member's home. They read from the Bible, sing very long hymns and have two very long sermons. The rules of the church must be obeyed and children are brought up very strictly.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 3rd July at 2.30pm** in the Nicholls Room, when our speaker will be Major Carol Frederiksen from the Salvation Army.

All welcome.

Margaret Howard



Mouse Tails



Molly, Rupert and a few friends were out in the Church wood, supposedly gathering anything edible, but in reality were playing hide and seek! Their old friend Mrs Blackie, the blackbird who had helped them often, was hopping around on low branches and making a terrific noise. Molly asked what was wrong so Mrs Blackie explained that she had one fledgling left to teach to fly but it seemed to be a lazy little bird, quite happy to sleep in the cosy nest and be fed by Mum; however on pushing him out of the nest he'd just dropped like a stone and hadn't made any attempt at flapping his little wings and now she couldn't see him anywhere, which was why she was calling out. Molly straight away offered to help, with her friends, to find the fledgling and soon they were all carefully creeping around the tree.

It was Molly who found him and called up to his mother who promptly flew down to the spot and was relieved to see that although her baby looked a bit dazed, after a couple of gentle nudges she encouraged the youngster to flap his wings, showing him how to do it. After a few false starts he eventually got the idea and flew straight back to the nest only to be nudged out again and this time flew to a different tree. Molly felt sorry for the little bird and thought it rather cruel to make him leave home but Mrs. Blackie explained that it wasn't cruel but nature's way of helping him to survive. As she said, the safest place for a bird was in the sky or in a tall tree and the rest of the fledglings had been happy to 'fly the nest'.



All of the Church mouse families and their nearby cousins had been looking forward to July for months. So many Church events were happening. They had all enjoyed the Beer & Hymns evening and had got as close to the big tent as they could without being seen.

(Continued on p21...)

The poster has a blue sky background with a bright yellow sun in the center. Three strings of colorful triangular bunting flags (red, green, blue, yellow, purple, and brown) are draped across the top, middle, and bottom of the page. The text is arranged in a festive, celebratory style.

St Leonard's Church

Summer Pete

SATURDAY 14TH JULY, 11AM-2.30PM

**UKES4FUN - REAL ALES - COCONUT SHY
CAKES - BRIC-A-BRAC - TOMBOLA
1ST CLASS BRASS - RAFFLE - ICE CREAMS
BOOKS - CROCKERY SMASHING - PLANTS
FACE PAINTING WITH BILLY - BBQ
PICTURES AND ARTWORKS - BOUNCY CASTLE
THE SMOOTHIE BIKE - CHILDREN'S GAMES
REFRESHMENTS IN CHURCH
GREETINGS CARDS - AND MUCH MORE**

(...continued from p19)

The Woods cousins came over, using their underground tunnel route and for the Halls and outside mice it was easy to join in.

Pablo, you may remember, the Spanish mouse who'd arrived last month, was thrilled to meet up with the Woods again.

They had all gathered in the Hall to decide on a plan of action and for the Mums to assemble all the food contributions and decide the best way of dealing with it while the Dads discussed what drinks they would have. Young Barty Hall was very embarrassed when someone recalled how last year he'd fallen into a plastic beaker containing strong ale and had got very drunk. However, he'd done them all a favour because they collected quite a lot of ale and had found their stock of plastic beakers very useful throughout the year. They were able to salvage quite a few bits and pieces of BBQ remains and, of course, more ale. Grandpa had also managed to get one of the hymn sheets too. Once all the humans had gone home they had their own little Festival in the marquee, as it was staying there overnight ready for a service the following day, and greatly enjoyed it.



The next big get together would be the Church Fete and, as previously, the mice would hold their own little event and much discussion had gone into the planning of the day. After such an exciting and busy day all of the mice slept soundly, dreaming of the happy time they'd had.

CT

Barbecue for Luisa's Last Sunday

Luisa's last Sunday will be the 29th July 2018 and we will be marking this with a lunch-time barbecue after the 9.45 service.



We would love it if you can attend and also if some of you could bring along salads to go with the barbecue. A list will be at the back of the church for you to put what you would like to bring along. Many thanks

Jacquie

Please sponsor us!

Ava and Jessica aged 3 and 5 who attend Junior Church really wanted to help their much loved pre school that Jessica still attends, They are walking 5k in a few weeks' time to help raise £250 to buy sensory toys/tent which will benefit all the children at Centre Pre School in Colchester. Centre pre School on Straight Road is a charity run pre school and relies heavily on fundraising.

Therapy for children using sensory toys has become an instrumental tool in helping them learn and develop. Sensory toys are designed to influence how a child's brain reacts to touch, sound, sight and movement. The significance of these toys is the way they help develop and refine the use of a child's senses. The positive benefits of sensory toys are unrivalled when it comes to looking for ways to help children develop the most important learning functions at a young age.

The girls have a just giving page and the link below will take you to it. Or if you prefer, there will be a sponsorship form at the back of the church. Any help will be much appreciated.

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/marie-manning?utm_id=2&utm_term=zpNYn4W8v

Marie Manning

Harvest Flower Festival



I am glad to tell you that we now have an adequate number of flower arrangers, but extra help would be good, please speak to me SOON if you are interested.

Here are some things that I would be glad of some help with:

Does anyone have or have access to a Tailor's or Dressmaker's dummy which they could loan? We also need a substantial length of cheap, filmy Navy or dark Royal Blue fabric (Not related!)

We will also need volunteers to act as Stewards on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th October. I am suggesting 2 hour shifts, with two people on each, so 8-10 people in all.

It would be good to have music in church during 'opening hours' so volunteers to play organ or piano, please. It doesn't have to be a Prelude and Fugue or a Sonata, just something simple, to lend atmosphere.

We will also need volunteers to deliver invitations to the whole parish, so that all know what is going on in their parish church!

Finally -for this magazine at least- we are looking for sponsorship toward the considerable cost of flowers - please speak to me!

Many thanks for bearing with all my 'needs' and please keep praying as I requested in earlier magazines.

Peter Hearsum



BRADWELL GATHERING

SATURDAY 7TH JULY 2018

**PILGRIMAGE FROM 10.30 AM
GATHERING FROM 12.00 - 4.00 PM**

**WORSHIP, PRAYER, TALKS, STORYTELLING
INSPIRATION, ENCOURAGEMENT, CELEBRATION
AND A FLOTILLA OF BOATS FROM LINDISFARNE**

The walk starts at
St Thomas's Church in the
village, following some
worship at 10.30am.

Pilgrims are advised to
bring a packed lunch.

More information at
www.bradwellfestival.com





Christian Aid Week 2018

Once again this year our church has supported the important cause of Christian Aid.

Because the charity gets most of its income from Christian Aid Week, we continue to carry out the annual house to house collection in our parish. By doing this we show that we care about the world's most vulnerable people - which in itself is an act of Christian witness.

We know that many people do not like going from door to door and it does get harder each year. Christian Aid is just one of many very worthy causes, and people have their own particular favourites. Television adverts whereby people can donate on line or by text have grown in popularity and big appeals like Children in Need and Sports /Comic Relief attract a huge number of donators. There are more and more householders who ask for no cold callers, or no junk / unaddressed mail, and we naturally respect their wishes. We know that some collectors felt dispirited that they had not had the response they hoped for, but please don't be put off. Every penny counts and what seems very little here can achieve a tremendous amount in poorer countries.

We are pleased to report that, thanks to an overwhelming response from the congregation, for the first time for several years we were able to deliver envelopes in *every* road in the parish. We were especially pleased to have several new collectors join us. Whilst this year's final amount was slightly down on last year's, we still managed to collect **£2310.48** of which **£917** was Gift Aided. The money will be used by CA in partnership with groups of people in various countries. The money always goes directly to the people. It does **not** go through the governments.

We are also very grateful for members of the congregation for giving up their time to help count the money after the 9.45 service. Without the support of the congregation, the task would take hours. As it is, many hands make relatively light work.

Once again, our grateful thanks for all your support and for the enthusiastic backing we received from Father David.

John and Rosemary

Thank You and Au Revoir

A very sincere thank you to all who welcomed me at the 9.45am Eucharist Service on Trinity Sunday. I was delighted to receive the beautiful card and the Icon of Jesus' Baptism, as a gift from Father David and the Church Wardens. I greatly appreciated Father David's kind words in acknowledging my Ministry over the years at St Leonard's and especially my Pastoral Role.

Lexden Church has been my Spiritual home for 40+ years, for me and my family and I had expected it to continue. I have greatly enjoyed my roles of involvement during that time, as, Altar Server, Minister of Communion, training Servers, introducing the role of young Acolytes and training them too. I undertook the role of Sacristan for a number of years. I was delighted to lead the M.U. for the past year.

Above all I have enjoyed my role as Pastoral Assistant during the last 16 years---visiting and ministering whenever and wherever needed. That has been a huge privilege and I thought it would continue. However, as you know, that was not meant to be. I experienced weeks, running into months of ill health--unusual for me---I had rarely been away. It was also a time of discerning and it became clear that I was to help at another Parish and also continue my Course in Spiritual Direction, whereby, I will be trained to help and guide others on their Spiritual and Discernment Journey.

I offer special thanks to Archdeacon Annette for her support on this journey, to Reverend Canon Hugh Beavan and Mary who have totally supported my Ministry since they arrived at St Leonard's. I thank the many church friends who have 'phoned, written and visited during this time---I am grateful for that. Above all, I thank Father David who has supported me Pastorally and Spiritually over many difficult months. I found his sermon about Nicodemus' faith journey and courage to move on, very challenging and it has certainly inspired me to know that it is right for me to have the courage to move on. Likewise the appointed Psalm for Trinity Sunday (29) "The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice, The voice of the Lord is a voice of Splendour."

I will keep in contact.

Pamela Higham

This detailed and beautiful icon of the Baptism of Christ was the gift to Pam from St Leonard's, chosen in recognition of her ministry, which for many years included Baptism Visiting.



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

What's On



Chelmsford Diocesan House of Retreat Pleshey

You may not know that The Retreat House at Pleshey has a full and diverse programme throughout the year; here are just two upcoming items. If you would like more information about them, or any other events, visit the website www.retreathousepleshey.com or ring 01245 237251 or email retreathouse@chelmsford.anglican.org

Garden Quiet Day

£28

Thursday 12th July 9:30am -4:00pm

Garden Quiet Day

Reflections on garden encounters in scripture, from the Garden of Eden to the Garden of Gethsemane and the Garden of the Resurrection. There will also be plenty of time to enjoy Pleshey's garden under the expert guidance of Val.

Rev'd Ruth Patten is a priest and musician, and is currently the incumbent of two parishes not far from Pleshey, Great Dunmow and Barnston. Whilst not "green-fingered" herself, she loves spending time in a variety of gardens - from the unkempt Vicarage garden to RHS Hyde Hall - and values them as places of beauty, fragility and creativity.

Individual Guided Retreat

£73/£80 per night

6pm Monday 16th – 2pm Wednesday 25th July

(Min. stay 3 nights)

If you are in need of some silence and looking for an opportunity to pray, this is for you. A time for those with a desire to deepen their relationship with God.

Rosemary Alonso leads a team of experienced spiritual directors.