

St Leonard's Lexden



Ordinary people. Extraordinary God.



Parish Magazine

50p

August 2018



From the Curate



Listen with the ear of your heart...

Many of you will know my love of anything that relates to St Benedict and our magnificent Benedictine monasteries and monks. The Benedictine way of life has at its core foundations of love, hospitality and kindness. One phrase used by Benedict goes a long way to encapsulate these core values. It is *Listen with the ear of your heart*.

The sentiment of the phrase is that we should not just set time aside to listen to those around us and to listen for the sound of God calling to us, but that we should listen with emotion. We should listen with our whole selves, not just our ears and brain. True listening is absorbing everything around you. It is being sensitive to the person who is talking. As they talk we must reach out with our hearts to welcome what they are saying. It is about being sensitive to God's presence everywhere and always.

Benedict says that we should treat everyone as if they are Christ, and listening with respect and love takes us a long way towards that goal. If we listen with the ear of our heart we listen with love, with Christ-given love in our hearts. By doing so, we will start to understand more clearly not only the desires, needs and passions of others, but begin to learn a lot about ourselves too.

By listening with the ear of our heart we can start to hear the unspoken, start to see more clearly God at work and understand more plainly his purposes for us. To listen does not require many words to be heard, it requires us to be sensitive with all our senses.

In Bill Bryson's beautifully observed book *Notes from a Small Island*, the American author humorously notes the peculiarities of the British and of Britain. In one episode he writes of an elderly couple, on holiday sitting down for dinner in an hotel on the south coast of England. They sit in silence, looking around the dining room and out at the view. Their first course, their soup is brought to the table and in silence they lift their spoons, sip the soup, look across at the table at each other and say together "nice soup" and return to their silence. As Bryson points out, in those two words "nice soup" is an understanding and love so deep that it can afford to be reserved in speech. Decades of shared experiences, hurts and loves are summed up in so very few words. And, we understand this if only we listen with our hearts.

Our Christian faith is one of the heart. It should be passionate and emotive, not dry and restrained. The Word of God comes alive in us only when we embrace and live it with all our emotions.

So, listen out for God with the ear of your heart; listen to all whom you meet with the ear of your heart; listen to God's Word with the ear of your heart, and you will certainly hear him and know him in your life.

And, enjoy the soup...

With God's love and blessing,

In David

Cover Photo (and right)

Messy Church in July was mostly outside, with games and a picnic in the summer sunshine.

More photos later in this magazine.



DIARY FOR AUGUST

Wednesday 1st

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

10.45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

11.30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

Thursday 2nd

8.00am The Eucharist

Saturday 4th

8.30am Men's Breakfast

SUNDAY 5th August: Trinity 10

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST WITH JUNIOR CHURCH

6.30pm Joint Evensong at St Barnabas Old Heath



Tuesday 7th

10.30am Holy Communion at Wren House

7.30pm 'Medley' house group (Rosemary 515245)

Wednesday 8th

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

Thursday 9th

8.00am The Eucharist

2.30pm 'Constable' house group (Hugh 564577)

SUNDAY 12th: Trinity 11

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

6.30pm Joint Evensong at Shrub End



Tuesday 14th

2.30pm Mothers' Union

Wednesday 15th

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

Thursday 16th

8.00am The Eucharist

SUNDAY 19th: Trinity 12

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

6.30pm Joint Evensong at Stanway



Monday 20th

11am Holy Communion at Hill House

Wednesday 22nd

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

Thursday 23rd

8.00am The Eucharist

SUNDAY 26th: Trinity 13

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

6.30pm Joint Evensong at Lexden

Tuesday 28th

3.00pm Lexden Ladies Garden Tea Party at 6, Scott Drive

Wednesday 29th

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

Thursday 30th

8.00am The Eucharist

Saturday 1st September

8.30am Men's Breakfast in the Nicholls Room

8.30am Big Autumn Clean in Church

SUNDAY 2nd September: Trinity 13

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST WITH JUNIOR CHURCH

6.30pm Joint Evensong at Wivenhoe



London Calling

I have been offered by the new Bishop of London, the Rt Rev'd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, and accepted the post of Priest-in-Charge of St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate. St Botolph's is in The City, almost next door to Liverpool Street Station, which is in the parish.

Set on the eastern edge of the City, the parish's principal parishioners are businesses large and small, professional services firms, retail outlets, and their staff and customers, most of whom are commuters. There are a few residents, together with an ever-increasing number of tourists visiting the City. There are now good hotels in the vicinity for the many tourists and business visitors. I will be just at the end of the train-line from Colchester, so if you are up in town, I hope you will call in whenever you are passing by.

As yet, I do not have a date for my installation, though it will probably be mid to late October, so there will be plenty of time to say good-bye properly.

Best wishes and God Bless,

Fr David



Junior Church

in August



5 th August	Gifts to all people <i>Ephesians</i> 4.1-16	No Informal Eucharist today. One Group Leader Jacquie
12 ^h August	Imitators of God <i>Ephesians</i> 4.25-5.2	One Group Leader Janice
19 th August	Party People <i>Ephesians</i> 5.15-20	One Group Leader Rachel
26 th August	Stand firm together <i>Ephesians</i> 6.10-20	One Group Leader Kirsty



THE DIOCESE OF CHELMSFORD
Colchester Episcopal Area



THE PARISH OF ST LEONARD'S LEXDEN

You are invited to
the Licensing
by the Bishop of Chelmsford
the Rt Rev'd Stephen Cottrell
and Installation
by the Archdeacon of Colchester
The Venerable Annette Cooper
of the
Rev'd Matthew Simpkins
as Priest-in-Charge of the
parish of St Leonard's, Lexden
at 7.30pm on Thursday 6 September 2018

RSVP to The Churchwardens
St Leonard's Church
Lexden Road
Colchester CO3 4BL
esther@stleonardslexden.org.uk

Refreshments will be served in the
Church Hall following the service
Clergy are requested to indicate if
they intend to robe (choir dress)



On Tuesday, 10th July, our Youth Worker, Luisa, gave a beautifully prepared presentation on her life in Northern Bavaria, including many photographs and information on her extended family, education, home town and churches, traditional food and places of interest to visit, such as Rothenburg ob der Tauber and Nurnberg, which is renowned for its Christmas market.

She explained how important a person's confirmation is in Bavaria, supported by family, close friends and general acquaintances. Her confirmation service was followed by a family lunch, then tea with a wider circle of friends. Another church service was attended in the evening and, the following day, another meal with neighbours! It is normal practice to receive a card and/or a gift and she has two boxes full of cards!

Luisa finished her presentation with a Quiz and, as she had baked us a delicious Marble cake, whilst enjoying this with tea, she was asked about her time in Colchester. She explained that she was involved not only with Junior Church but also with Rainbows, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and had even spent time with the German class at the Grammar school. She has enjoyed her time with us but is obviously looking forward to seeing her family and friends again before starting University. She has promised to stay in touch and reminded us that her contact details are in the July edition of the Church magazine.

At our next meeting on **14th August, at 2.30pm** in the Nicholls Room, David Ablewhite will be speaking about the life and work of Dorothy L Sayers, who was not only a renowned English crime writer and poet but, also, a student of classical and modern languages. This will be an open meeting and we welcome visitors at a charge of £2 per person, to include tea and biscuits.

Mary Hanmer

The Summer Fete



On a hot, sunny July day...

*...under
cloudless
skies, the
Fete was
kindly
opened by
Lexden
parishioner
Will Quince,
MP ...*





Some beautiful plants had been donated for sale...



... and of course there were real ales on offer!

Mouse Tails

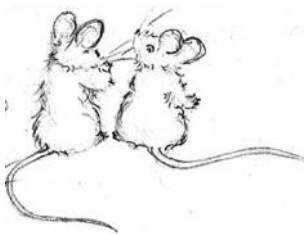


“Hurry up Molly,” said Rupert “It’s time to go and watch the Church Fete and get ready for our own mouse Fete afterwards!”

This was one of the favourite events of the year with the youngsters; all of the Church mouse community and their Wood cousins had held a meeting at their last get together and agreed upon a rough plan of action for the day which, of course, was always open to change and additions.

First and foremost, it was SUNNY and warm so they knew there would be lots of human visitors around but Grandpa and all the parents had drilled into their youngsters about the dangers and what safety measures they should take from when they were very young!

All of the mice had previously agreed where the safest places to hide and observe were. They waited till all of the awnings had been erected because it certainly wouldn’t be safe for them to be underfoot then.



Grandpa had told them that after the “official” opening the entertainment, food and drink (very important) would start. The families each had their own preferred viewing spot, hidden away under the bushes. Some of the youngest mice for whom it was their very first Fete, were trembling with excitement and had to be told firmly, but kindly, not to squeak so loudly.

They all loved the music, especially the instruments that Grandpa had told them were called Ukuleles, a stringed instrument; it was such jolly, foot-tapping music. The elder and most experienced, fastest scavengers watched for food which dropped to the ground, especially when in the hands of human toddlers, and darted back and forth collecting bits of bread, burgers, sausages and a fair bit of salad stuff that the children didn’t eat and threw to the floor, even tomatoes which were a rarity for mice!



(Continues on next page...)

Before the end of the Fete the mice all regrouped to the Hall, went into hiding under the stage and shared their spoils. Mums of course, took charge of any food stuff and huddled into a corner to decide how best to deal with it. Dads took care of any drinks that they had been able to scavenge: wine, beer and several half full cartons of soft drinks with their straws still in the box. Dad and Grandpa exchanged a little nod at their pleasure because they had a secret entertainment planned! The youngsters formed another group and looked over their 'spoils.' When all of the humans had left and the churchyard was quiet, all of the mice, young and old, went on a further hunt for anything that the humans may have missed.

Then came the time for the preparation of their own mouse Fete. Dads set up a little drinks area, Mums put out a small amount of food and all of them combined to make entertainments. They had the Maypole again which had been saved from the previous year and the smallest mice were thrilled to dance around it and make a pretty pattern with the coloured string, accompanied by little Tommy Organ on his miniature mouth organ, the mouse choir sang a few songs and the young mice danced. There was a raffle but, of course, no money was involved because mice just don't 'do' money, but as the prize was half a small bar of chocolate that was of great interest to everyone!



The youngsters played games: leapfrog, tag, musical chairs (except they had upturned plastic cups instead of chairs) pin the tail on the cat and many more of their favourites till they were quite worn out and the Mums gathered them up sat them down and supplied cold drinks.



Dad and Grandpa called for everyone to pay attention as they had an announcement to make. Little Tommy Organ came forward as did the choir, Dad and Grandpa disappeared behind a bush briefly by which time all of the mice were whispering and wondering what was to happen, being very curious creatures anyway, when the two of them reappeared holding strange looking

boxes, small drink cartons, complete with straw, but now with string tied to the top and the bottom of the straw. Tommy Organ blew a note and Dad and Grandpa began plucking the string and making a musical sound then the choir joined in, Tommy played along and the mice laughed and clapped at their interpretation of a ukulele! It was lively music and soon all of them were hopping around doing what mice described as dancing. Everyone was delighted and clapped until their little paws were sore. Once everything had been cleared away all of the mice plodded up the hill to the Hall to have their special feast.

It had been a wonderful day and after a good rest and a catch up on news with their friends and neighbours they were all very sleepy and went off to their own nests for a good night's sleep. Everyone agreed that it had been one of the best Fetes ever.



CT

Thank you

“Carols for Colchester”

I have recently handed over two cheques each for £1,045 to St. Helena Hospice and CAP (Christians Against Poverty) being the proceeds of “Carols for Colchester”, a CD so many people gave their time and talents to make. I wish all of you who sold, bought or took part in any way to create this CD could have been there to share the joy of giving – thank you very much for all your wonderful help.

There are still 133 CD's left! They will be on sale in the lead up to Christmas. It would be lovely to sell them all and hand over two more cheques. Do please contact me on sarah.blake186@btinternet.com if you would like to buy one.

Sarah



In July
We had
lots to do
inside the
church



Summer Fete—A Reflection

This article was started before the Summer Fete of 2018. How the event turned out and the result, was not going to be the concern of this piece; but it is impossible, as I write on Sunday, not to say how delighted I am that it was a success and to thank everyone for their support. It is difficult to imagine how much more we could squeeze out of this remarkable site. Two French people were walking towards the church on the Friday afternoon while I was finishing off. They said the French would be shocked at seeing a fete take place in a cemetery. I recited my usual bit about the residents being our friends and that we entertain them once a year and they continued their way perfectly happily.

I try to remind myself over the six months of planning and talking to people that this is a three and half hour event in the three hundred and sixty five day life of the church. Compared to the many activities which take place at St. Leonard's it barely registers on the Richter scale. Other activities clock up significantly more hours. The time given by those attending Men's Breakfast alone would be about 18 hours in the course of a year. If the various House Groups met 30 times in a year for a similar length of time it would come to several times that. If one were to calculate the total number of hours spent in worship and add to that the number of hours spent in prayer, a sense of proportion would properly be kept in respect of one single summer event. Yet there is something about the Summer Fete that showcases the church and its lively community and its desire to engage with the community at large.

It is evident to me that the event is viewed differently by different sections of the congregation. There are those who are always up for the event and behind it all the way; those who say they are not sure what they are doing and have to be reminded of the date [which could be interpreted as slightly less enthusiastic]; and finally some who say that the event makes unreasonable physical demands on those who volunteer their help, that we are a wealthy church and do not need to put people through the hard physical work that is involved.

(Continued on p25...)

(...continued from p23)

Let me say that I fall firmly into the first category but other voices need to be heard. Many people who have helped with the event for years would agree that the body understands what is being asked of it, but for how many years can they expect it to do so? This year there has been pressure on the available workforce in crucial areas. The holiday season, family commitments and commitments to other organisations have taken their toll. That, combined with a reluctance to rely exclusively on congregation members to do the hard physical work, has meant that I have had to pay for help this year, especially in the area of serving at table in the church café, and handling books and bric-a-brac.

Some years ago I tentatively suggested that the Summer Fete and the Arts Festival might take place in alternate years. That is clearly not a choice now and the PCC at the time stated they wanted a fete every year. If that is to be the case then it is absolutely right that people should occasionally have the year off. One person this year came up to me and said 'I have done the fete for ten years. We are having a year off'. I admired the decisiveness. The question is to what extent fete fatigue is setting in generally. Would we all like a year off?

If it helps, I find the event a huge challenge and I meet lots of lovely people. Of course, it has its gruelling moments. There is precedence for paying outsiders for their help, either in beer, or cash. The Arts Festival did. If this is what it takes to keep the event going without making unreasonable demands on some of us, I am up for it.

Earlier this year Sarah and I attended a concert in Dedham. Nothing could have been further from my mind than the Summer Fete. A member of the congregation spoke to me as we arrived. Baldly, he said I would end up with a heart attack. This was not the moment to point out that four grandchildren might give me a heart attack but not the summer fete. Enjoy a peaceful and restful August. **Robin Greateorex**



Lexden War Memorial Cross

First World War Death August 1918

After early April 1918 there is only one death recorded before October, that of Arthur George Jarrett who died in Baku on the shores of the Caspian Sea on 26th August 1918.

Neither Peter Potter, in his invaluable book 'The Real Lexden Heroes' nor my own internet researches have unearthed much information about Lance Corporal Jarrett who was serving with the 7th Battalion of The North Staffordshire Regiment when he was killed and sadly there is no obvious explanation of why he appears on the Lexden War Memorial.



However, this entry on the War Memorial has led me to investigate why British soldiers were fighting so far east in the final year of the First World War. The Gallipoli campaign in European Turkey is well known and I was also aware of fighting between the British (and French) army and the Turks in Palestine, Transjordan and Iraq but I had not previously realised that British forces were deployed in Baku.

What I have discovered that this British deployment arose following the 1917 Russian Revolution and the separate peace negotiated between the new Bolshevik government and the Germans and Other Central Powers at Brest-Litovsk in March 1918 which led to the Russian forces opposing the Turkish army to the east largely melting away. The Allies thus became very concerned at the Turkish desire to reach the Caspian Sea and secure the large oil producing region around Baku, the present-day capital of Azerbaijan.

A scratch British force was organised in Baghdad under the command of Major-General Lionel Dunsterville (a childhood friend of Rudyard Kipling and the inspiration for *Stalky*). The expeditionary force, soon called Dunsterforce, moved north through Persia (now Iran) to reach Baku and in due course a large Turkish army attacked on 26th August when the

North Staffordshire contingent lost 3 Officers and 13 other ranks, including Arthur Jarrett. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website records their names as being engraved on the Baku memorial which lists a total of 47 servicemen who lie buried in Azerbaijan but there are no details of the burial locations. The heavily out-numbered Dunsterforce had to be evacuated by sea in early September after losing a total of 180 men dead, wounded and missing.

I am planning to write to the Museum of The North Staffordshire Regiment in Lichfield to see if I can find out anything further about Lance Corporal Jarrett.

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

Tom Scrimgeour

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

FINAL DAY for items for the September edition:

SUNDAY 12th AUGUST

Please submit items to the Editor

email: magazine@stleonardslexden.org.uk

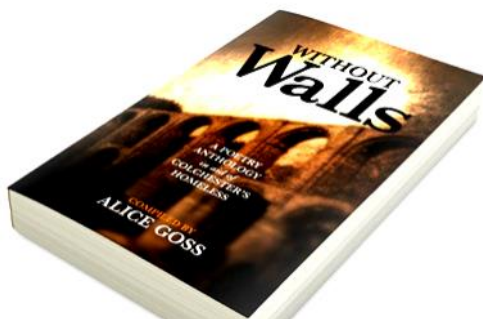
Please include your name with any submission.

Items from unknown sources cannot be used.

Please limit text to 500—600 words maximum.

Longer articles may be edited. Thank you

My Journey, My Project



By Alice Goss

The last two years haven't been the kindest to me, but the past is now in the past and I'm moving forward with my future, wherever that road takes me. For the past year, I've been driving buses and coaches, working long hours and at times antisocial hours, which includes Sundays! I became unemployed after selling my business and spent fifteen months searching for a full-time position, without any luck. I only retrained, obtaining my PSV licence because I was in danger of becoming homeless, through lack of income.

Whilst researching homelessness; I soon discovered what it meant to be homeless and the abyss of a system, which for too many is a long slow cycle of going nowhere fast. Reading their stories, I felt sorry for these people and wanted to raise awareness and funds to help them.

For the past two years, I've been working on a book to raise money for the homeless here in Colchester. What started out as a simple poetry book, has now grown into what will be a 300-page hardback book. Several of Colchester's charities and organisations will benefit from the proceeds including: Emmaus, St. Peter's Guest House Project, Colchester Rough Sleeper's Group, Emergency Night Shelter and the Colchester Foodbank. Will Quince M.P has written the book's foreword and supported this project from the outset.

(Continued on p37...)

(...continued from p35)

Several members of our congregation have also contributed. Keith Newton, Chris Newton, Ruth Windscheffel and Winifred Kenway have all written poems along with several poetry contributions from myself. Ruth Windscheffel and Francis Bonner have supplied artistic illustrations. The book now contains over fifty photographs, mostly my own work, but there are a few contributions from Chris Newton. Two of the poems relate to our church of St. Leonard's, along with photos and a short historical write up.

This book is more than just a poetry book, it's a history book of Colchester through verse. There is also a section at the back that looks at homelessness, with contributing articles from some of the organisations who actively support them. This project has become a major work and one I'm pleased to be able to say is now nearing its final stages of completion. The book is titled 'Without Walls' and will be in the shops mid-October. There is a book launch at Colchester's Arts Centre on Sunday 14th October with an evening of poetry and music, which will be compered by myself.

For more information on this project and how to donate and support the homeless in Colchester, please look at the Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ColchesterPoetryProject) which will give you all the details or just ask me. Last March's cold snap known as 'The Beast from the East' gave us an insight of what winter weather could be like this winter, and these conditions were horrendous for those sleeping rough. Yes, there were people sleeping rough, enduring wind chill temperatures of minus 12! With the rise in homelessness across the country, and the uncertainty of retail shops surviving, plus the related businesses which support them, homelessness is set to rise.

At least in Colchester I am trying to help by raising awareness of their plight through this project.

A.G.

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

Finding God in the wonder and reality of life **£28**

Tuesday 25th September 9:30am -4:00pm Quiet Day

The hope is that this day encourages you to practise connecting with God in different ways and have a deeper appreciation of him in every walk of life.

***Revd Jackie Sams** is Associate Minister at St Margaret's Colchester and also a Spiritual Director. She has discovered that life flows best if she connects with God in every aspect of life .*

Every place is hallowed ground **£28**

Thursday 11th October 9:30am -4:00pm Quiet Day

"Every place is hallowed ground" is a line written by the Olney Poet William Cowper and in this Quiet Day Jonathan will seek to use verse from Cowper and others to celebrate how, in Gerard Manley Hopkins words "the world is charged with the grandeur of God". There will be an opportunity for prayer and Eucharist.

***Ven Jonathan Smith** serves as Archdeacon of St Albans. He was first introduced to Pleshey at a Parish Weekend for Waltham Abbey where he was Assistant Curate in the early 1980's and subsequently has visited the House of Retreat for Quiet Days and Retreats over forty times. He describes it as "one of those thin places where the veil between earth and heaven is most transparent"*