

# St Leonard's Lexden



Ordinary people. Extraordinary God.



## Parish Magazine

50p September 2018



# *From the Curate*



September always has an underlying sense of excitement about it. In most cultures in the northern hemisphere it is a time of regrouping and a time of starting afresh. It is a month in which, after going their own ways during the summer holidays, school children and students come together again, as do teachers, lecturers and all colleagues in whatever line of work. It is a time to come together again after refreshment and a time to look forward to the future months and what they might hold.

For creatures which are generally corporate and gregarious in nature, this coming together and sharing experiences is an essential part of our being. It is something we do each Sunday, if we are able, when we gather together in church. We come together to be reunited physically with God and our fellow followers of Christ to share our experiences and news from the week and to look to the week ahead.

What each of us brings with us is our unique bag of experiences, knowledge, faith and expectations. That is what makes the community of St Leonard's, and healthy Christian communities in general, so special. It is the recognition that we are each unique, yet have a love and respect for each other. We are each made in God's image and therefore share our being with God, but we are also each individual in our beings and backgrounds. This means that each person who comes to church each Sunday, whilst they come to be with God in community, they come too for their own personal, sometimes very personal reasons.

Some come to church each Sunday find strength in Christ, some come purely to worship God, some come primarily to confess,

some come to learn more about their faith, and some come mainly for the enriching experience of sharing in the nourishment given us in the body and blood of Christ. We each have our own priorities, needs and desires.

As the priest celebrating the Eucharist at St Leonard's, I have the great privilege to stand in the sanctuary at the distribution of Communion and look down through the choir into the nave as communicants come together to make their way to the altar rail to share together, in equality, at the Lord's Table. This sight quite often makes me feel quite emotional. I know if I were to ask each person why they are coming to share with fellow Christians and with Christ at his table I would receive a unique response from each one. There is a palpable strength and energy of emotion in the church at that moment as we all come together with our own thoughts, but with a common love of, and trust in God.

Regrouping each week helps us grow in faith, reflect in the context of Christ on our week just past, and look refreshed to the week that is to come. This September we regroup with a new Priest-in-Charge, as we welcome Fr Matt, so it will indeed be a great time of refreshment and starting anew.

God bless you and refresh you,

*Fr David*

## **Cover Photo**

On 6<sup>th</sup> September The Rev'd Matthew Simpkins will be licensed and installed as our new Priest-in-Charge. Here he is with his family, Siân, Martha and James, and what he describes as a standard Simpkins reaction to cake. They should fit in well at St Leonard's, then!

More pictures and words from Matt on page 8.

# DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER

## Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>

8.30am Men's Breakfast in the Nicholls Room

## **SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> : Trinity 13**

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

**9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Joint Evensong at Wivenhoe**



## Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>

11.00am Holy Communion at Wren House

7.30pm 'Medley' house group (Rosemary 515245)

## Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>

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

10.45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

11.30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

## Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

**7.30pm The Licensing and Installation of Rev'd Matthew Simpkins**

## Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>

10.30am Coffee Morning at 6 Glen Avenue

## **SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup>: Trinity 14**

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

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

## Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>

3.00pm Mothers' Union tea at 10, The Chantry

## Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>

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

## Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

2.30pm 'Constable' house group (Hugh 564577)

## Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>

2.00pm Ordination of Viv Mendham at Chelmsford Cathedral



**SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup>: Trinity 15**

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

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup>**

**11.00 Holy Communion at Hill House**

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>**

**10.00am The Eucharist and prayers for healing, followed by coffee**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>**

**8.00am The Eucharist**

**SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup>: Trinity 16**

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

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>**

**10.00am The Eucharist and prayers for healing, followed by coffee**

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>**

**8.00am The Eucharist**

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>**

**10.30 Macmillan Coffee Morning in Church**

**SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup>: Trinity VII**

**8.00am Holy Communion (Common Worship)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**

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

**HARVEST FLOWER FESTIVAL THIS WEEKEND IN CHURCH**

**SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**

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

**9.45am HARVEST FESTIVAL with offering of gifts for the Foodbank**

**6.30pm PARISH EUCHARIST**



# Junior Church September



A big WELCOME to David our new Youth Worker and of course to Matt!

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> September</b> <i>*Please note there is not an Informal Eucharist today*</i>	Does it matter? Connecting faith with everyday life. <i>Mark 7</i>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Taking notice - Reaching out to people who could easily be overlooked. <i>Mark 7</i>
<b>16<sup>th</sup> September</b>	What do you say? The power of words. <i>Mark 8</i>
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> September</b>	Arguing on the way - Being a servant first. <i>Mark 9</i>
<b>30<sup>th</sup> September</b>	God unlimited - Recognising how Jesus works through others to do good. <i>Mark 9</i>

# Greetings from our new Priest-in-Charge

Ahead of the excitement of joining you in September, I've been asked to tell you a little about myself and the family.

First, however, some words of thanks. Siân, Martha, James and I have been very aware of your prayers these past months and are extremely grateful for them. The exquisite flowers, wonderful hamper of food, and abundance of practical help we have already received has served to confirm Lexden's great reputation for generosity. We shall never take this for granted – thank you sincerely! We are thrilled now to join you in discerning how God plans to continue to use this generosity so that his love may be known by all in Lexden, West Colchester and beyond.



Preaching at St Peter Mancroft

Now for the potted biography: I was born in Wolverhampton, grew up in Sudbury and Ipswich, and then lived in Colchester - a town which has always held a particular attraction and fascination for me. I met Siân while at school in Colchester. Though she was distinctly unimpressed at first, thankfully we both moved to Oxford where I eventually managed to convince her otherwise! After studying music, I worked for music magazines in London before Siân and I married. We then settled in Colchester and had two children, Martha and James. Here we were active members of St Peter's Church while Siân worked for the Cabinet Office and Ministry of Justice and I was employed as Press & Marketing Manager of the Mercury Theatre and as a journalist. Eventually I became a classical music lecturer, teaching from primary school to degree level. This was a vocation I loved very much, and I remain passionate about education. Throughout this time, I also worked as a recording artist,

songwriter and orchestrator, releasing albums with various unusual rock and folk bands, appearing on national TV and radio, and collaborating with the former drummer of The Who and Small Faces. After discerning an unexpected call to ordination, we moved to Oxford where I trained at Ripon College Cuddesdon. Here I undertook research into Christian Ethics at the University, and I have subsequently published articles on democracy, nationalism, marriage and economic ethics.

Together, we Simpkinses enjoy music, messing around on the coast, walking, and reading. There was particular joy for us this summer, as Martha performed in Mahler's 8<sup>th</sup> Symphony at the BBC Proms. In addition to my passion for music, I am a keen writer, an avid reader of history, philosophy and theology, and an enthusiastic but bad footballer. I arrive in Lexden having served as Chaplain to the Bishop of Chelmsford and Curate in the Wickford & Runwell Team Ministry, of course. These have been inspiring and fascinating roles, and it has been a tremendous pleasure and privilege to work with Bishop Stephen and the people of Wickford & Runwell. After such happy years in Wickford, it is a wrench to up-sticks once again; but Siân, Martha, James and I are very excited about making our home in Lexden and meeting you all. The prospect of serving as your parish priest in a time of excitement, challenge and hope for the Church as a whole is thrilling!

Until the 6th September, we continue to remember Lexden and its people in our prayers, to give thanks to God for all that has been, and to hold all that lies ahead in great anticipation and hope.

With love,

**Matt (and Siân, Martha and James)**



With the church family in Wickford



# COME FOR COFFEE AND CAKE

WE ARE  
MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT



*COFFEE MORNING*  
*on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September*  
*at 10.30am in Church.*  
*All proceeds to Macmillan*

# Mouse Tails



You may remember the most recent addition to the Church mouse community – Pablo, the Spanish mouse. When he arrived he didn't know anything about God or Church worship at all but during the time he'd spent first with the Woods then staying with the Halls, he had become more interested and involved with the community activities. He had approached Grandpa to ask him to teach him about God and religion, of course Grandpa was delighted to so.

After several weeks of one to one teaching, Grandpa declared that Pablo was ready to be properly welcomed into the Church and to be baptised. All of the Church mice were delighted of course and it was agreed that the evening of Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September would be a good time to hold the Service as the human congregation would be attending a different Church on that day and the Church would be empty. News of the event was sent out to the Woods cousins, the Halls and the outside mice families. As you know the mice love any reason for a get together feast so plans were made accordingly.

When the day came hordes of mice gathered at the front of the church to witness the ceremony. It wasn't, of course, like a human baptism, although Pablo was anointed with Holy water, prayers were said, Hymns were sung and Pablo was welcomed into the Church mouse community.



After the service everyone scampered up to the Hall where, traditionally, all of their parties were held. As always everyone had brought contributions to the feast which the Mums turned into a wonderful buffet and the Dads, led by Grandpa had produced the drinks.

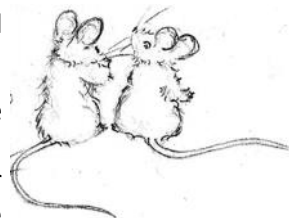
One of the Wood boys had experimented with making dandelion wine and it produced a rather nice sparkling wine, they were all very impressed and thought it an excellent drink to toast Pablo and congratulate him on his Baptism. *(Continued on p17)*



*(...continued from p15)*

During the feast the mice caught up with each other's news, swapped tales of their families, ate, drank and sang. The youngsters, as usual, were scuttling around the Hall like things possessed, until the Mums decided that enough was enough, settled them all down with drinks of water and some of the very young mice were already nodding off but desperately trying to keep awake in case they missed anything!

Rupert was sulking because he felt he was too grown up now to play with the youngsters and old enough to taste the wine. As it was a celebration he was allowed a thimbleful of wine to taste. He declared it was wonderful (although his sister Molly had seen his expression when he tasted it!) and he was certainly old enough now to be included with the grown ups. "We will see," said Mum.



During the evening Pablo had spent a lot of time talking to Daisy Woods; she was the first person on English soil that he'd met when she and her brother found him and took him home to live with their family until he joined the Hall family.

Daisy's father stood up and shouted that he had a announcement to make. There was immediate silence and rapt attention. He said he was happy and proud to announce that Pablo had asked for Daisy's paw in marriage and he had given his blessing. Everyone crowded around the couple, congratulating them and asking questions, like When?, Where? Where will you live? etc., etc. After discussion it was agreed that Grandpa would officiate at the Wedding and when better but on Harvest Sunday, (a day which no mouse would willingly miss) and also there was to be a flower festival so the Church would look beautiful.

It was a wonderful end to a lovely evening and lots to be arranged and agreed before the date although, thankfully. A mouse wedding was very quick and easy to arrange, unlike the preparation that goes into human weddings!



**CT**

# Hampers for Newwhythe

Once again this year we would like to give gifts of hampers to the residents of Newwhythe for Christmas.

Newwhythe is in our Parish and is situated on London Road. It is a supported housing scheme for young people aged 16 - 25 (single people and couples) who either have care of a baby or are expecting a child. Applicants are referred to the scheme by Colchester Borough Council and Social Services, having been assessed by them as being homeless and both needing and wanting the kind of support that the scheme can offer. Applicants are prioritised and normally there is a short waiting list.

The scheme has 16 self-contained units, offering temporary housing and support to young people whilst they gain confidence as parents and learn the skills to live independently and manage a permanent tenancy. The length of stay can be between six months and two years depending upon the individual needs. There is help for residents with all the aspects of day to day living skills and also support in their new role as parents.

A list of items for the Hampers will be in the weekly news sheet but things for the babies and the parents would be appreciated, such as toiletries for baby and mother, nappies, baby wipes etc. and a small toy for the babies and perhaps chocolate for the parents. NO talc or baby powder, please. The ages of the babies range from not yet born to 16 months and a lot of the residents have no contact with their families.



The idea is to collect the items, then make up the Hampers nearer to Christmas when we know the ages of the babies and whether they are with a lone parent or a couple.

Thank you.

**Judith Steele**

# Goodbye, Luisa



On Sunday, 29th July we said goodbye to Youth Worker Luisa, who has given us a wonderful year volunteering with our young people. There were gifts, of course, and then the 'barbecue' had to be indoors, as it was the first wet day in ages! Everyone enjoyed themselves nevertheless, as St Leonard's people always do.

Our thanks, love and best wishes go with Luisa, as she goes on to university back home in Germany.





# My Ordination



In Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, 15th September at 2.00pm, after almost three years of discernment, training and formation, I, along with ten other ordinands, will be ordained as a deacon. After that you will see me in a dog collar, and I will serve at St Leonard's under the supervision of Matt, the Priest in Charge. In the summer next year, God (and the Bishop) willing, I will be ordained priest.

I will be on pre-ordination retreat from 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> September, and during that time will not be answering emails, texts or phone calls.

All are welcome at the Cathedral. After the service we will all gather outside for greetings and photos with the Bishop. Please do come and say hello, and afterwards, if you can, come across the road to the Diocesan Offices Boardroom and join me to celebrate this special day.

Please hold me in your prayers at this time of preparation.

**Viv**

## **MAGAZINE DEADLINE**

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

**SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**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**

# Our new kitchen is blessed



On Sunday 29th July we welcomed Archdeacon Annette to preside and preach at the Parish Eucharist. At the end of the service, she graciously blessed our newly completed kitchen. Then it saved the day for what would otherwise have been a very wet farewell barbecue for Luisa!

## Thank you

As we come towards the end of the vacancy we would like to thank everyone at St Leonard's for their support and encouragement over the past 11 months. We have been blessed to have Father David with us throughout and we are very grateful to him for everything he has done for the parish but there are many others who have helped in countless ways, large and small. Thank you all, we couldn't have done it without you.

We look forward to welcoming Matt, Siân, Martha and James and have no doubt that with your support they will soon settle in and become part of our community here. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for their new lives in Lexden and we hope to see as many as possible of you on 6<sup>th</sup> September for Matt's installation.

**David and Esther**

# Church Dedications to St. Leonard in Essex

by Alice Goss

Churches all over the country show a dedication to one or more saints. Ever since the ninth century many churches have taken their dedication with influences from Rome, with St. Mary, St. Peter, St. Paul and St. Michael all being popular choices. Other churches took their dedications from a local saint, or one associated with a local industry, others because their founding or dedication ceremonies fell on a certain saint's day. In the County of Essex 107 churches are dedicated to St. Mary with 52 dedicated to the second most popular, All Saints. As to why the name All Saints, and its variations of All Souls and All Hallows, might be popular could lie with a church showing more than one possible association, opting for a general dedication rather than a specific one. Many parish churches were rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which gave them an opportunity to change their dedication to reflect a new chapter in the life of their church.

In contrast there are only four churches in Essex dedicated to St. Leonard with Colchester having two, the others being St. Leonard's in Southminster and St. Mary with St. Leonard in Broomfield, Chelmsford. Leonard died in the year AD559 and as well as being the patron saint of prisoners, he also the patron saint of: locksmiths, horses, coopers, blacksmiths, coal miners, grocers and farmers amongst numerous others. If you ever enter a quiz and a question comes up regarding the patron saint of something obscure, then St. Leonard is always a good guess!



St Leonard, Southminster



St Mary with St Leonard, Broomfield

# Open day invitation



The [redundant] Colchester church of St. Leonard-at-the-Hythe will be open on Saturday 8th September from 10.00 to 16.00 as part of this year's Heritage Open Day.



This offers a rare opportunity to view this magnificent church which was founded around 1430. Some of the points of interest include a magnificent rood screen, hagioscope, impressive stained-glass windows, parvis door, six fingered cherub and the original South door. This door still shows the musket ball and cannon ball impact marks from the 1648 Siege of Colchester.

Come along and discover the history of one of Colchester's most historic churches.

# The Great Garden Clear-up!

In late July a group of sixteen willing members of St Leonard's spent a hot Saturday morning tackling almost a year's growth in the Rectory garden, ready for the new occupants. We uncovered unseen paths and patios, got scratched by roses and brambles, and transported multiple car-loads of prunings to the tip. Just a typical example of St Leonard's renowned teamwork—and hard work, and always with good humour.

