

# St Leonard's Lexden



Ordinary people. Extraordinary God.



## Parish Magazine

50p    October 2018



# In a landscape of change and continuity



I'm quickly discovering that Lexden parish is a landscape of changes - both ancient and modern - but also of astonishing continuity. It is fascinating to discover which of the parish's shady lanes, contours and roads were Iron Age fortifications, burial sites, or tracks.

What would those who dug the defensive dykes, buried their kings, or built roads make of Lexden in 2018? No doubt they would be shocked by the large and increasing number of buildings; but perhaps they would recognise something of the shape of the land also. Perhaps they would be pleased to see that something of their handiwork has lasted, and that - as there is no longer any need to guard against marauders - their efforts have unexpectedly created a beautiful landscape where nature is enjoyed.

Surrounded by this landscape of change and continuity - of unanticipated beauty and transformation, we find ourselves amid an exciting time of endings and beginnings at St Leonard's.

In September we welcomed our new Assistant Curate, Viv: a familiar face, who has been called to a new vocation. Our ordinands, Jacquie and Maggie, began their training. During October we shall have the joy of Margaret's authorisation as Lay Pastoral Assistant, and the mixed emotion of saying farewell to Fr. David.

On a personal note: I knew of Fr. David by reputation before I arrived, and it is abundantly clear he has been a tremendous presence at St Leonard's. I have been especially grateful for his wisdom and graciousness during our brief time as colleagues. The applause David received at my licensing was very moving: a great testament to a much loved priest.

It's natural to feel a collective nervousness at times such as this. Christianity is not a faith characterised by fear of change, however. We live in the knowledge that we each participate in God's story: we participate freely, but the overall story is of God's shaping. Of course, this story is - and will be - full of change. But it is a story with two great certainties: the unchanging love of God, and the assured ending of the story – the final and complete triumph of God's love, which Christ has already won. If we keep those certainties before us, we can face change with hope and confidence.

As a community, all of us at St Leonard's must strive to help those whose roles are changing to let go of some existing responsibilities, so that they can be formed in the new responsibilities to which God has called them.

Wonderfully, this provides space for others to discover new and unexpected vocations: different ways of being part of God's story. God's calling to all is a third great certainty of Christian faith, of course. There is no hierarchy of vocation, however, and this doesn't mean being called to something with a job title or specified responsibilities – though it might! It simply means answering a call to use your gifts and being from the one who gave them to you. Such a vocation might be to focus on prayer, or to welcome people with coffee, or to be present with a grieving friend.

So, at this exciting time, I encourage us all to listen carefully for God's call, keeping before us the certainty of his love and its final triumph.

*Matt*

## Cover Photo

The choir sings the anthem *Prevent us O Lord* by William Byrd, at the service on 7<sup>th</sup> September of licensing and installation of The Reverend Matt Simpkins as our Priest-in-Charge.  
More pictures on p31.

# DIARY FOR OCTOBER

## Monday 1<sup>st</sup>

7.45pm 'Jubilee' house group (Viv 513495)

## Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>

10.00am Holy Communion at Wren House

2.30pm Lexden Ladies in the Nicholls Room

7.30pm 'Medley' house group (Rosemary 515245)

## Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>

10.00am The Eucharist with prayers for healing followed by Coffee

11.30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

## Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

## Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>

8.30 Men's Breakfast in the Nicholls Room

10.30am-5.00pm Flower Festival in church

7.30pm Lexden Choral Society Concert in church

## **SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup>: Trinity 19**

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

**9.45am HARVEST FESTIVAL and Church Parade,  
with offering of gifts for Colchester Foodbank**

**5.00pm Harvest Songs of Praise**

**6.30pm PARISH EUCHARIST (said)**



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

10.30am-5.00pm Flower Festival in church

## Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>

2.30pm Mothers' Union in the Nicholls Room

## Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>

10.00am The Eucharist with prayers for healing followed by Coffee

10.45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>

8.00am The Eucharist

2.30pm 'Constable' House Group (Hugh 564577)

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>

12.30pm Authorisation in Chelmsford Cathedral  
of Margaret Smith as Lay Pastoral Assistant



**SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup>: Trinity 20**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and Sermon**

Monday 15<sup>th</sup>

11.00 Holy Communion at Hill House

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>

10.00am The Eucharist with prayers for healing followed by Coffee

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>

8.00am Eucharist

**SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup>: Trinity 21**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and Sermon**

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>

7.15pm PCC corporate Eucharist

7.45pm PCC in the Nicholls Room

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>

10.00am Eucharist with prayers for healing followed by Coffee

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>

8.00am Eucharist

**SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup>: Trinity 22**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and Sermon**

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup>**

**10.00am Requiem for All Souls**

**followed by coffee**

**SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> All Saints**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am INFORMAL EUCHARIST**

**6.30pm Annual Memorial Service**



## **Chelmsford Cathedral Theological Society**

### **Study Day**

**Thursday 4th October, 10.00am to 1.00pm  
Chelmsford Cathedral Chapter House**

**Return to Sender: grappling with the Apostle Paul  
through his letter to the Galatians**

**led by the Rev'd Matt Simpkins**

Please register for this Study Morning on the 'book events' page of  
the Cathedral website.

Cost: £5 (payable on the day)

## **Owen's Cards**

Owen Shepherd will be selling his handmade Christmas cards in  
church after the services on 21<sup>st</sup> October and 18<sup>th</sup> November.

# Junior Church October



<b>7<sup>th</sup> October</b>	All Age Harvest Celebration Service in church
<b>14<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Unexpected answers - T he rich man and his possessions. <i>Mark 10: 17-31</i>
<b>21<sup>st</sup> October</b>	Power games - Being a servant first. <i>Mark 10: 33-45</i>
<b>28<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Unconventional discipleship - Blind Bartimaeus. <i>Mark 10: 46-52</i>

## Thank you

Sian, Martha, James and I would again like to extend our thanks for the warm and generous welcome we have received from all at St Leonard's. We are particularly grateful to all those involved in organising both the licensing service and the wonderful refreshments in the hall afterwards. The nibbles were delicious – James was particularly partial to the sausages!

**Matt**



On Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> October, Valerie Massey, a long time member of St Leonard's Church and a regular communicant, will give a talk entitled 'Musical Theatre.'

For many years Val was Head of Performing Arts at Philip Morant School, Colchester, and a leading figure in Colchester Operatic Society. She has given talks and lectures all over the United Kingdom and has worked in an advisory capacity with casts of West End shows such as 'Phantom of the Opera,' 'Les Miserables' and 'Cats'.

We are looking forward to hearing interesting information and anecdotes which she will relate.

This will be an open meeting and we extend a warm welcome to visitors at a charge of £2 per person, to include tea and biscuits.

### **Janet Crees**

Thank you Janet for an enjoyable Garden Party at your home on 11<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Jean Holden**

## **Thank you, Churchwardens**

Following on from Esther and David's thanks in last month's magazine I think it only right that we give them our thanks for all the extra work they have shouldered during the vacancy. It hasn't just been the day to day running of the church, or the overseeing of the new kitchen and other various works that have been undertaken, but they have had to take the lead in finding us a new priest. Others have helped but theirs was the final responsibility. I'm sure you will join me in sending our grateful thanks to both of them.

**JM**



St Leonard's Church, Lexden

invites you to a

# *Flower Festival*

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> October 2018

featuring

**Lexden Choral Society**

**Vivaldi - Gloria**

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30pm

admission FREE, suggested donation £10

## **Sat 6<sup>th</sup> October**

10.30<sub>am</sub>-5<sub>pm</sub> church open - light lunches available

7.30<sub>pm</sub> concert

## **Sun 7<sup>th</sup> October**

9.45<sub>am</sub> all age Harvest Thanksgiving Service

church open all day

5<sub>pm</sub> Harvest Songs of Praise

## **Mon 8<sup>th</sup> October**

10.30<sub>am</sub>-5<sub>pm</sub> church open

Tea, coffee and cake available throughout the festival

# Lunch in Nuremberg

By Alice Goss

I had already spent three days in Nuremberg looking at some of the local attractions and generally doing all the touristy things. There are a plethora of cafés and restaurants selling bratwurst and sauerkraut and I've been to a few. Even found a cake shop selling homemade strudel! Very tasty.

There are numerous museums catering for all interests with the Germanisches National Museum of particular note, containing a huge selection of interesting artefacts. The DB railway museum was also very interesting, discovering several exhibits which were manufactured in Newcastle upon Tyne!

Saturday was the high point of my trip as I had arranged to meet up with Luisa. She suggested that we should meet at the Dokuzentrum, which is the documentation centre at the former Nazi Party Rallying Grounds. As an added bonus to Luisa's mum, Daniella came along as well. It was lovely to meet her.



Up until now, Nuremberg was just another German town which had featured on the WW2 newsreels, so I was particularly interested in seeing this location for myself. The museum told the story of the socialist uprising, the development of the party and how as the dictator, Hitler converted the German people to the party's ideology. The whole story was well told but there was too much information to take in during a single visit.

We spent a couple of hours looking around the museum before going to a Bavarian restaurant. I was starting to enjoy Bavarian cuisine and was interested to see what other delights were on the menu. I wasn't to be disappointed. The local food really is tasty and worth sampling.

It was only two months since we said goodbye to Luisa and our friendship was immediately rekindled. A real pleasure to meet her again with the added bonus of meeting Daniella. I'm sure that although we recently said goodbye to her, it's really au revoir. I expect we will hear more from Luisa over the coming years and wish her well at university.

## **An Evening of Poetry and Music Colchester Arts Centre**

**14<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm**

Alice Goss hosts an evening of poetry and music, launching a new book entitled: Without Walls. All proceeds will be donated to various homeless charities including: Emmaus, St. Peter's Guest House Project, Colchester Rough Sleepers Group, Emergency Night Shelter and the Colchester Foodbank.

Come and hear new poetry works performed, all of which relate to Colchester's history along with a short history talk on vagrancy, plus some great music from the New Town Jazz Band.

Several members from the congregation have submitted either poems, or illustrations and photographs, with St. Leonard's being well represented in this book.

Tickets £6.50 each and available from Colchester Arts Centre.

# Mouse Tails



St. Leonard's Church looked at its very best, all decked out for Harvest Festival and the Flower Festival and the Church mice community were very proud of their church. On Saturday night, once the humans had all gone Rupert, Molly and all the families gathered to admire the flowers and see what could be scavenged for the wedding of Pablo and Daisy Woods taking place on Sunday evening.

Molly and Daisy's sister were to be bridesmaids and their Mums were on the lookout for bits of foliage and flowers to make small posies for the bride and bridesmaids. They found some lovely little carnations, enough to make matching posies and a bouquet for Daisy.

Grandpa had decided that it would be a good idea to have a wedding rehearsal including the mouse choir and Tommy Organ with his harmonica. Among much giggling from the bridesmaids and instructions from the Mums the rehearsal went quite well and everyone was looking forward to the event the next day.

On Sunday all of the Church mice were hiding away for as Dad told Rupert "we don't want a repeat performance of you being caught by a human again, you really had us scared!" They enjoyed the music throughout the day and were very tempted by all the lovely cake smells drifting through the church and hoping that there would be some tasty titbits left for their harvest/wedding feast.

Daisy and her bridesmaids were getting a bit twitchy and couldn't wait for all of the humans to go so that they could get on with their own celebrations.

Eventually the church was quiet but Dad and Grandpa were not taking any chances and very cautiously crept in to ensure that they were all alone. Once they were satisfied Rupert was sent to scamper up to the Hall where the rest of the mouse community were waiting.

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Grandpa had decided to conduct the wedding first and a very proud Pablo was wed to his Daisy. As all brides do she looked lovely and was glowing with happiness. There was a large congregation of mice as, apart from the wedding, Harvest Sunday was one of their favourite days. The

service which followed was enjoyed by all, Grandpa asked God's blessing on them all and said of prayer of thanks for all their blessings. Tommy Organ played music and the grand finale was the choir and all of them singing their most favourite hymn, We plough the fields and scatter...

After a final search for tasty cake morsels they all processed up to the Hall, led by the bride and groom, to enjoy their feast, and very hungry they all were too; it had been a long day (in fact, some of the youngest mice were so hungry they'd started nibbling on the bridesmaids' posies). They enjoyed a wonderful feast along with the special drinks that Grandpa and Dad had made plus the new sparkling wine that Daisy's brother had made with which they all toasted the bride and groom.

Pablo and Daisy led the dancing but everyone joined in quickly. After a few more drinks Pablo danced a Spanish dance in honour of his bride; he said it was called a Flamenco and with much hilarity many of the braver mice tried to copy his moves.



Eventually, everyone was nodding off to sleep (the youngest were already asleep). All agreed it had been a wonderful day and they took themselves off to their nests for a good night's sleep.

**CT**

# Lexden Ladies' Group

In late August, the Ladies and their friends enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon in Christine and Brian's lovely garden. The weather was fine and the food delicious. Thank you everyone for making it such a happy occasion.

We next meet on **Tuesday 2nd October at 2.30pm** in the Nicholls Room. Our speaker will be Lawrence Fryer Wood who will be telling us about his book. All are welcome, you do not need to be a member. Just come along. Entrance £2.

**Margaret**

01206 579629

email: [howardml@btinternet.com](mailto:howardml@btinternet.com)



## Coffee Morning

Thank you very much, Anne and Adrian for the warm welcome extended to all who went along to your home in Glen Avenue on Saturday, 8th September,

It was a very happy occasion and it was great that our newly-installed Priest-in-Charge, The Reverend Matt Simpkins, popped in. Many of us enjoyed their lovely garden on a warm and sunny late-summer day.

The sum of £221 approximately, plus Gift Aid, was raised for church funds and related charities.

**Jean Hallett**



# Thank you!



On 15<sup>th</sup> September at Chelmsford Cathedral, on a glorious sunny day, I was ordained as a deacon. I was overwhelmed by the number of people who came to the service, just to share that special occasion with me.

I have received around 60 beautiful cards, many thoughtful presents, some gorgeous flowers, lovely photos and even short snippets of videos. All these will remind me of a day full of joy.

Then on the Sunday I was so warmly welcomed by you all into my new role in church. Matt looked after me with gentle wisdom, Father David preached a special sermon, Simon played my favourite voluntary, the church flowers were stunning, and then there was cake!

Thank you all, for the encouragement, love and support with which you have surrounded me, for your cards and gifts, for the beautiful communion set towards which so many of you contributed, for baking cakes, and for all that you are, as the people of this wonderful church of St Leonard's.



***Archdeacon Annette  
vests me with my stole***

I look forward to serving faithfully as Assistant Curate and working with Matt and all of you to spread the Gospel in and from this place.

With love,

Viv

# Flower Festival

## 6th-8th October



Preparations are well under way, and I hope that by now all the invitations have been delivered. The arrangers are all primed and ready to do their bit on Thursday 5th October. The catering teams are all organised, and we have volunteers to provide music throughout most of Saturday and Sunday. All that remains is to make sure that we invite and, more importantly, bring along as many friends and relatives as possible. This is where the 'success' of the whole project lies! We want to show everyone that we are a friendly and inclusive Church and pray that through their visit they may come to realise the relevance of God in their lives.

On another note, I am grateful to all who have sponsored the flowers, as this reduces the expenses we have to recoup, before we can pass on donations to CAP. Donations from the concert will, again after expenses, be passed on to CAP, so again, please support Lexden Choral Society who have fitted an extra Concert into their busy schedule, to enhance the Festival.

Please embrace this occasion with enthusiasm, and may we all feel God's blessing on it!

**Peter Hearsum**

# Thank you

Ava and Jessica Manning would like to thank those who sponsored their fundraising for Centre Pre School. Mum Marie says they completed the 5k walk without too much moaning! They did not raise quite as much as they hoped but still did very well at £142. Well done, girls!



# A New Priest-in-Charge



On 7th September, surrounded by friends, family, colleagues, local dignitaries and well-wishers from his old and new parishes, The Reverend Matthew Simpkins was licensed and installed as Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of Lexden. Matt, we are delighted to have you here with us!





The Colchester Foodbank provides three days' emergency food and support to local people who are referred to them in crisis. The Foodbank is part of a nationwide network, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger in the UK.

Gifts brought to our Harvest Service at 9.45am on 7<sup>th</sup> October will be donated to Colchester Foodbank.

This is their 'shopping list' of the most needed items -

LOGLIFE MILK  
LOGLIFE JUICE  
SHAMPOO  
CARRIER BAGS/ REUSEABLE BAGS  
SQUASH  
TINNED FRUIT  
DEODORANTS  
TINNED POTATOES  
TINNED PUDDINGS  
TINS OR PACKETS OF CUSTARD  
JAM  
PEANUT BUTTER  
TOOTH BRUSH/ TOOTH PASTE  
RAZORS  
SHOWER GEL  
SMALL JARS OF COFFEE  
SMALL WASHING POWDER/LIQUID  
SMALL MULTIPACK SNACKS (Penguin/Club/Twix)

Please give what you can to help families who find themselves in difficulties and hardship. Thank you.

# It Starts with a Shoebox...

Leaflets and Boxes for **Operation Christmas Child** are now available in Church or by phoning us.

Please follow the instructions carefully; noting which items should NOT be included. The donation towards processing and transport this year is £5.00 to be put in the box or paid online. Secure the box lid with a rubber band.

The last date for delivery of filled boxes is Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

Thank you

**Tom and Kathleen Scrimgeour – 574797**



## Christmas Bazaar 2018

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

Planning is in hand for the Christmas Bazaar to be held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December and further details will appear in the November magazine.

In the meantime, if you can offer help please contact  
**Tom and Kathleen Scrimgeour on 574797**



# Tell us a Story, Mr Wagner

Neither Sarah nor I have had a very successful education in opera. A couple of summers ago we crashed out (to use a current expression) of a performance at Snape Maltings of Benjamin Britten's *Albert Herring*. We decided we had had enough by the end of the first half. Admittedly, we had had quite a concentrated day: a string quartet performance in Aldeburgh in the morning and a film in the afternoon, on the same theme as the Britten opera. It was a French film called *Le Rosier of Madame Husson* which told the story of a fictional French village which had traditionally sought out *une rosière* (a girl of the purest credentials) as their annual carnival queen. None could be found, but they discovered instead a young man - *un rosier* - who met the requirements perfectly. Whether justified or not, we decided the film had told the story better than the opera and we called it a day.

In August we made our annual visit to the BBC Promenade concerts. This included a concert performance of the first act of *Die Walküre* by Richard Wagner. It was clear from the programme note how important it was for Wagner to get the story across. We read that he insisted on the primacy of words over music. Despite this we braced ourselves for an impenetrable plot with endless characters and were not initially encouraged by 23 pages of dialogue generously provided in German and English (ultimately indispensable).

It turned out to be a cast of three, a perfectly transparent plot, words audible and a story superbly told. A young man seeks shelter from a storm. The lady of the house gives him water and they seem to be getting on well when her husband returns. The young man has been in a fight and it turns out he has been fighting the husband's own kith and kin. The husband is furious and says the young man had better get some rest and be prepared for swords at dawn. The young man appeals to his late father who had promised him a sword in his hour of need. The woman returns later, having drugged her husband, and tells the young man that a chap called Wotan had arrived at her wedding feast and plunged a sword into a nearby ash tree (as you do) and nobody had been able to pull it out.

*(Continued on p40...)*

*(...continued from p39)*

The young man succeeds where all others had failed and, as the music reaches its climax, the couple realise that they are none other than twin brother and sister. They embrace, but, it should be said, not in a brotherly or sisterly way.

I have read stories to the grandchildren before the older ones became digital hermits and disappeared down their Youtubes. I still read to the five year old and do the voices: a passable snake in the Gruffalo and convincing Shere Khan in Jungle book. What I lack is not only the ability to write my own story and set it to sumptuous music, but any sort of orchestra, let alone one with two harps, two sets of timpani, a brass section occupying the whole back row, woodwind and a vast string section. This was story-telling on a different scale. We could see where this story was going and that it would probably end in tears. Richard Wagner with his formidable skills has left us impatient for the next instalment.

**Robin Greatorex**

## **MAGAZINE DEADLINE**

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

**SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**

**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**